

# **The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain of Theatre and Performing Arts, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu / Universitatea "Lucian Blaga" din Sibiu**

## **I. Introduction**

The evaluation took place from July 19th to 24th 2021. It was in a hybrid surrounding, and I was able to participate in a virtual way, via zoom.

## **II. Methods used**

The methods and tools employed in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, including the following:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and some of the Annexes, because all of them were in Romanian;
  - The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
  - Visiting was not possible for me, because I was a part of the virtual surrounding evaluation, but the colleagues were there on site, and the overall context was grasped from the conversation with different participants;
  - 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;
- Application of questionnaires to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review

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

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

The mission of the doctoral programme submitted for evaluation is to train specialists (Doctors) in Theatre and Performing Arts, that will be able to conduct their activities in the highest levels of scientific research, artistic creation and also practical activities. This way, the institution intends to provide the labor market specialists in artistic creation and scientific research, with an important professional experience that is cumulated with the doctoral title. PhD candidates are provided with the appropriate training framework consisting of an inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge enhancement course pack in Theatre and Performing Arts.

The curriculum plan reunites fundamental and specialised disciplines with courses centred on disciplines such as, among others, Research Methodologies and Academic Ethics and Integrity; the acquisition of core knowledge and skills in Theatre and Performing Arts, which

serves as a basis for the development of the superior capabilities and competences required to occupy decision-making positions within organizations, academia and also independent sector; the compilation and the qualitative/quantitative analysis and interpretation of data and information with which the primary doctoral field and the subfields operate or which originate from various artistic environments, real-life professional and artistic scenarios and related studies, with a view to formulating the proper arguments, decisions, strategies, solutions and artistic projects; the development and promotion of the research and artistic creation skills required to fill a position in a research/education and research institute, etc.

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

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:

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

“Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu / Universitatea “Lucian Blaga” din Sibiu (ULBS) organises university-level doctoral studies through the Institution for Organising Doctoral Studies within LBUS (Instituția Organizatoare de Studii Universitare de Doctorat ULBS – IOSUD-ULBS). The doctoral studies are organised and conducted in accordance with the Regulations for organising and conducting doctoral studies within LBUS the last version in force having been approved through the Senate Resolution no. 2542 from 26.06.2020. The regulating document consists of 16 chapters stipulating different principles and fields of application, IOSUD, the interdisciplinary doctoral school, the admission and registration of doctoral students, the doctoral thesis agreement, doctoral advisors, doctoral students, finances, the completion of doctoral studies, and so on. The regulations were formulated in accordance with the following: The National Education Law no. 1/2011, with its subsequent changes and additions; the doctoral studies Code published in Government Decision/HG no. 681/2011, together with its subsequent changes and additions; the MEN Order no. 514012019 regarding the approval of the students’ academic mobility; The Charter of the “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu.

IOSUD-ULBS is led by the Council for Doctoral Studies (Consiliul pentru Studiile Universitare de Doctorat – CSUD). The current CSUD–ULBS is appointed for a 4-year term, from 2020 to

2024, and consists of 8 members: the CSUD director, 1 (one) member chosen through the universal, direct, secret, and equal vote of the doctoral advisors belonging to the interdisciplinary doctoral school of IOSUD, 1 (one) member chosen through the universal, direct, secret, and equal vote of doctoral students belonging to the interdisciplinary doctoral school, and 5 members appointed by the University's Rector according to the following documents: the Methodology regarding the appointment of CSUD members.

The existing doctoral programmes are organised and conducted within IOSUD through the doctoral schools exclusively. There is a single active doctoral school within IOSUD-ULBS, namely the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School (Școala Doctorală Interdisciplinară – SDI-ULBS), led by a director of the doctoral school, as well as the Council of the Doctoral School (Consiliul Școlii Doctorale Interdisciplinare – CSDI). The Director of SDI-ULBS is appointed by CSUD-ULBS from among the doctoral advisors of SDI-ULBS and is a full-righted member within the SDI-ULBS council (CSDI-ULBS).

The members of CSUD and CSDI, who are doctoral advisors, must fulfil the minimal mandatory requirements for the bestowal of the habilitation degree for the field in which they are entitled to advise doctoral theses in effect at the time of their appointment or election as members in CSUD or CSDI.

The completion of a doctoral program within IOSUD-ULBS is regulated through the Regulations regarding the organization and conducting of doctoral studies at LBUS and through the Operational Procedure regarding the evaluation and defence of doctoral theses.

The doctoral thesis agreement/ contract stipulates the rights and obligations assigned to IOSUD-ULBS, to the doctoral students, and to the doctoral advisors. The agreement is signed individually for each doctoral student, regardless of the type of position he is admitted on, for the entire period of the doctoral student's training, and includes the clauses regulated by the Doctoral Studies Code. For the extension of the enrolment period or for the granting of a period of grace, which are among the regulations currently in force, additional documentation is signed and added to the doctoral thesis agreement.

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.

IOSUD-ULBS possesses internal analysis and approval procedures regarding proposals on the topics and themes of the doctoral programmes. At the level of each doctoral field, the field coordinators (as appointed by CSUD, according to Resolution discuss with the doctoral advisors affiliated to the corresponding field about the training programme founded on advanced university studies and about the different themes pertaining to each particular training programme, in order to ensure the novelty, the clarity, and the impact of the themes which are therewith put forward for research.

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.

LBUS has implemented a university-wide digital system for the registration of all enrolled students, the UMS–University Management System, which the students themselves can access with their personal usernames and passwords. The office for doctoral studies has implemented an independent information system in order to keep track of the doctoral students, considering the clear distinctions between the BA, the MA, and the doctoral programmes. Since the number of individual study programmes is equal to the number of enrolled doctoral students, a bespoke system was required.

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.

LBUS has acquired the following software for verifying the similarity percentage of doctoral theses: sistemeantiplagiat.ro and Check for plagiarism. All the doctoral theses which are submitted to the doctoral schools for verification are passed through both software in order to determine the similarity percentage. The theses whose percentages fall outside of the allowed limits are not approved for public defence.

During the period submitted for evaluation, (the past five years), the doctoral advisors affiliated with the doctoral programme in Theatre and Performing Arts managed 16 grants. Information about the grants that were being carried out when the present report was drafted or managed by doctoral advisors.

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.

During each academic year, LBUS grants a total of 10 full-tuition scholarships to the candidates enrolled on paid positions who obtain very good results during the admission trial, but who do not succeed in occupying a tuition-free position. These scholarships are allotted for the entire period of the doctoral studies (3 or 4 years). The proportion of doctoral students who receive financial support through research or institutional development grants surpasses 10%. The number of doctoral students enrolled in the 2020/2021 academic year was 90, out of which 10 (11,11%) receive full financial support during the period of their doctorate.

Among other funding sources apart from governmental funding for doctoral scholarships are the following:

- (a) Scholarships for the reward of research results;
- (b) Mobility grants;
- (c) Employing doctoral students in the IOSUD;
- (d) Employing doctoral students in research grants;



Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.).

The revenue from the doctoral scholarships granted to the university through an institutional contract and the revenue from the doctoral students' tuition fees are centralized university-wide. ULBS allocate 15% percentage on average for the doctoral students' professional training (conference attendance, mobilities abroad, publishing papers in peer-reviewed journals and other forms of scientific dissemination, etc).

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.

The doctoral programme is supervised by a doctoral advisor and comprises: an advanced academic study programme within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School;; an individual research or artistic innovation programme.

Doctoral programs provide doctoral candidates with the opportunity to develop their professional (content, cognitive, and research) competences in the chosen field of study and acquire interdisciplinary competences.

Training programme based on advanced university studies First-year doctoral candidates are required to take courses in 4-5 disciplines.

The successful completion of the courses within the advanced academic study programme results in 30 ECTS credits.

The advanced academic study programme complies with the approved curriculum plan.



**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.

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.

1 advisors are teaching staff members with proven research experience whose role is to supervise doctoral candidates' degree progress in compliance with Article 166 of the Education Act No 1/2011. Eight doctoral advisors are currently supervising theses in Theatre and Performing Arts, of whom five are tenured at IOSUD.

As is evident from the research summaries, the doctoral advisors in Management are engaged in various scholarly activities, participate in conferences, and regularly publish articles or books.

**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.

Fully fulfilled, according to the contracts seen. Of all eight doctoral advisors in Theatre and Performing Arts, four are tenured at IOSUD, averaging 50%.

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 courses included in the doctoral study programme based on the advanced academic study programme are delivered by academics or researchers holding a degree of: doctorate / habilitation, full professor / research scientist or associate professor / research scientist II endowed with experience testified expertise in the fields of the specific courses delivered. In the case of the transversal courses or with highly specialized chapters, these may be taught / the course coordinator may also invite other tenured academics or scholars who are not affiliated to higher education institutions or research institutes.

The courses within the advanced academic study programme in Theatre and Performing Arts are taught only by the doctoral advisors within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, who meet the national minimal requirements in force.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.4.** The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs<sup>1</sup> does not exceed 20%.

The percentage of doctoral advisors coordinating more than 8 doctoral students simultaneously (however, not more than 12) enrolled in the doctoral study programme (3-4 years, according to the doctoral field, subject to prolongation with the due legal period) as well as maximum 15 doctoral students all in all, shall not exceed 20%.

Three doctoral advisors in Theatre and Performing Arts supervise more than eight students enrolled in a doctoral programme (three years, supplemented, if need be, by extensions), but less than twelve.

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.





At least 50% of the doctoral advisors from the doctoral field subject to assessment submitted minimum 5 scholarly papers published in WoS or ERIH indexed journals with impact factor or other scientific outcomes with high significance for the respective field, capitalizing significant international contributions testifying to advanced output in scientific research – development – innovation. The afore-mentioned doctoral advisors enjoyed international reputation and expertise for the past 5 years, testified by: affiliation to scientific committees and advisory boards of international conferences and journals; membership to international professional associations; guest professor / scholar to international conferences or expert groups abroad or nomination as member to doctoral theses defence committees jointly organized with a foreign university. As regards the fundamental doctoral fields of: Arts and Physical Education the doctoral advisors shall testify their international scientific visibility, for the past 5 years, by their board membership to international professional association, affiliation to organizing committees of artistic events or international sports competitions, or the membership to the jury of referee of artistic events or international sports competitions.

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.

As is evident from the research summaries, the doctoral advisors in Finance are engaged in various scholarly activities, participate in conferences, and regularly publish articles or books, meeting thus the 25% threshold of the national minimal requirements established by CNATDCU during the past five years

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

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

\*general description of the criterion analysis.

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

\*general description of the standard analysis.

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



Recommendations: **NOT ENOUGH DATA**

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.

For the cycle of doctoral university studies, the admission is made based on competition, in the fields of doctoral university studies approved within them, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of doctoral university studies, approved by Government Decision no. 681/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions and the Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at the University "Lucian Blaga" in Sibiu.

The doctoral university studies, at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, are carried out in the form of full-time education and in the form of part-time education.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.1.2.2.** The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission<sup>2</sup> does not exceed 30%.

The dropout rate of doctoral students within two years from admission does not exceed 30% and averages 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 advanced academic study programme in Theatre and Performing Arts comprises three courses which are relevant to the doctoral candidates' training in the chosen field of study: Contemporary Cultural Management, Theory and Practice in the Contemporary Performing

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<sup>2</sup> 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.



Arts and Cultural Management, Theory and Practice in Researching the Performing Arts and Management.

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.

There is one subject dedicated to ethics in research and intellectual property or related topics included in one of the disciplines taught in the framework of the doctoral programme.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.3.** The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities<sup>3</sup>.

These include courses: Contemporary Cultural Management, Theory and Practice in the Contemporary Performing Arts and Cultural Management, Theory and Practice in Researching the Performing Arts and Management.

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.

Doctoral candidates are counselled by a Doctoral Advisory Committee, which consists of their doctoral advisor and three other members of the academia who possess proven expertise in the research area of the prospective theses. Supervision and feedback are provided via electronic means (by telephone, e-mail, Google Meet, etc.) or face-to-face meetings, when the public health context allows it.

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.

To ensure that doctoral theses, the end result of the doctoral programme, are qualitative, the members of the Committee are selected in accordance with their experience in related research areas and capacity to effectively serve as member in multiple such committees simultaneously.



Between 2016 and 2020, 32 doctoral candidates were enrolled in IOSUD's three-year doctoral programme in Theatre and Performing Arts. A total of 6 teaching staff members provided their degree progress. The ratio was 32:6, ie., 5,33.

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 past five years, 15 doctoral theses were defended, as is evident from Table B.3.1.1. [Anexa B.3.1.1. Teatru și Artele spectacolului Listă lucrări + Articole doctori](#) lists the articles published and scientific contributions made by the doctoral candidates who defended their theses in the past five years.

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 15 doctoral candidates who were awarded a Doctor's degree in the past five years participated with papers in at least one international conference, abroad or in Romania.

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.

It exceeds it.

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.

It doesn't exceed it.

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.

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.

Specifically, the importance shown to this process is reflected in the responsibilities, specific to the quality assurance system, of:

- the Director of IOSUD, who:
  - o manages the implementation of the procedures and evaluation and quality assurance activities approved by LBUS Senate with regard to:



- the institutional capacity specific to the doctoral school,
- educational efficiency of the doctoral school,
- quality assurance within IOSUD;
- o informs the organizers and beneficiaries of doctoral studies on the criteria, standards and reference standards, performance indicators and qualifications, as well as the quality assessment procedures approved for each field of the doctoral school;
- o plans, specifying the responsibilities and deadlines, and manages the evaluation process with a view to external periodical authorization/ accreditation/ evaluation;
- o puts forward suggestions with a view to improving the educational process and to ensuring the allocation of necessary resources for drafting, implementing, preserving and constant improvement of activities;
- o drafts an annual report of internal evaluation on educational quality within IOSUD, which is then submitted to the University's Council; following approval, the report is made public.
- the Director of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, who manages and oversees the process of quality assurance within all 15 doctoral fields;
- doctoral advisors and doctoral students who actively engage themselves in complying with the applicable contractual provisions and regulations specific to the quality assurance system (in particular, by complying with deadlines and resolving the conflicts that may arise during specific processes in a manner that avoids their becoming risk factors).

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.

Proof of the existence and of the proper functioning of these processes is available on IOSUD's website (<https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/>); thus, the section titled Documents (<https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/documente/>) provides the necessary forms for registering



proofs of functioning in accordance with the regulations of the quality assurance system within IOSUD, while the section title Legislation (<https://doctorate.ulbsibiu.ro/ro/legislatie/>) makes available internal and national regulations in force applicable to the processes run with IOSUD.

The aforementioned regulations in force are as follows:

- Procedure on rewarding scientific output;
- Methodology on the Approval of Grants for External Mobility from Hasso Plattner and LBUS Funds, containing:
  - Regulation on the Organization and Execution of the Competition for Admission to Doctoral Studies for the 2021-2022 Academic Year;
  - Operational Procedure for Online Admission to Doctoral Studies;
  - The Operational Procedure for The Execution of Online Examination Activities Within LBUS Interdisciplinary Doctoral School;
  - LBUS Regulation on the Organization and Execution of Doctoral Studies, approved at the Senate meeting of 26 June 2020;
  - Order No. 5229 of 17 August 2020 regarding the approval of methodologies on granting the habilitation certificate, the title of doctor, as well as on the handling of complaints concerning the violation of quality standards or of professional ethics, including plagiarism;
  - Order No. 5110/ 2018 regarding the approval of minimal national standards for granting the title of doctor;
  - Operational Procedure – the Organization and Execution of the Process of Earning the Habilitation Certificate;
  - Order No. 6129/ 2016 regarding the approval of necessary minimal standards required for granting academic degrees in the higher education system, of professional titles in research and development, of doctoral advisor status and of the habilitation certificate, with the following mention: For filing an application form for earning the habilitation certificate, please consider the provisions stated in the Notification No. 364363 issued by the Ministry of National Education on 25 July 2017;
  - Operational Procedure – the Automatic Recognition by LBUS of Doctoral Advisor Status Granted by Accredited Foreign Academic Institutions;
  - Operational Procedure – the Automatic Recognition of Academic Degrees Granted by Accredited Foreign Academic Institutions;
  - The Operational Procedure on the Evaluation and Defense of Doctoral Thesis;
  - Order No. 3482 of 24 March 2016 regarding the approval of the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU);
  - Law No. 49 of 14 March 2013 regarding the organization of higher education studies;
  - National Education Law No. 1/ 2011;
  - Ministerial Decree (HG) 681 of 29 June 2011 – The Code of Doctoral Studies (with all further amendments and supplements);
  - Law No. 316 of 12 July 2006 regarding the tuition fees applicable to foreign citizens of EU member countries.

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 Doctoral School, by means of the IOSUD, posts on the website of the organizing institutions, in keeping with the general regulations regarding data protection, such information as:

- a) the doctoral school regulation;
- b) admission regulation;
- c) regulation regarding study graduation including the procedure for public defence of doctoral theses;
- d) the study programme curriculum and syllabus etc.

All relevant information for doctoral students, potential candidates, would-be doctoral holders and doctoral advisors are available online

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.

Each doctoral student, subsequent to the approval of the doctoral advisor, has access to the two electronic systems of plagiarism checking: [sistemeantiplagiat.ro](http://sistemeantiplagiat.ro) and [checkforplafiarisma.net](http://checkforplafiarisma.net).

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.

All doctoral students have access to the laboratories for undertaking research activities, other academic facilities, the research centres or the third-party research infrastructure, according to the specificity of the field(s) included in the doctoral school, subsequent to a request, approved by the doctoral advisor and in keeping with the availability of the research infrastructure

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.

Taking into account the prerequisite that all doctoral students are required to attend international conferences prior to the defence of their doctoral thesis, this criterion is 100% accomplished. LBUS has concluded partnerships and mobility agreements with universities abroad, research institutes, companies operating in the specific field of study, aimed at the academic mobility of doctoral students and scholars.

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.

All throughout the timeframe subject to the assessment and in the framework of the advanced academic study programme, several top ranking experts and scholars have been invited to deliver lectures and speeches addressed primarily to doctoral candidates.

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.).

Doctoral students benefited from financial support enabling their participation to international conferences or facilitating access to the thd-party infrastructure, based on the UEFISCDI research mobility projects. Doctoral students are rewarded for their authored scientific papers published in Web of Science – Clarivate or SCOPUS indexed journals or volumes. Employment of doctoral students (full time, in some situations) in the framework of excellence research grants (ULBS-HPI-ERG 2020) won and coordinated by some doctoral advisors. Doctoral advisors are encouraged, supported and rewarded for their outstanding scientific activity with international impact and visibility.

Recommendations: **The indicator is fulfilled.**

#### **IV. SWOT Analysis**

<p><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <p>The configuration and sustainability of the research infrastructure; openness to other cultural paradigms which may enrich and really foster the pathway to performance in the Theatre and Performing Arts Field; dialogue with institutions working in the field of performing arts and research, and they often try and successfully convince them to open up to cooperation with doctoral students and graduates of the Theatre Doctoral School, and to integrate the latter's professional excellence in their own institutional objectives; actions to permanently ensure research excellence and indisputable originality.</p>	<p><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <p>Not so much foreign grants and projects; students seem to be not so eager to internationalize the activities; journal is not indexed yet.</p>
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <p>Great implementation in community.</p>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <p>Closing in local community issues; difficult to raise awareness on interdisciplinary work and contemporary cultural vocation in scientific research and artistic creation.</p>

## V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

All fulfilled.

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.		A 1.1.1.	<b>fulfilled</b>	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.).
2.		A 1.1.2.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
3.		A 1.2.1.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
4.		A 1.2.2.	<b>fulfilled</b>	There should be more workshops on how to process and interpret software results.
5.		A 1.3.1.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
6.	*	A 1.3.2.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
7.	*	A 1.3.3.	<b>fulfilled</b>	
8.	C	A 2.1.1.	<b>fulfilled</b>	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.	NOT ENOUGH DATA	
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	Doctoral workshops on ethics should be implemented where PhD students could exchange case studies experience.
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 indexed, because it already has a great tradition.
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	