Annex No. 3

The External Evaluation Report of an
Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD)
Philosophy Domain
Evaluator: Prof. Dr. Claudia Marsico

Contents

I. Introduction[1]

This report is oriented to inform about the institutional evaluation profess of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi as an external evaluator for the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS). The assessment was conducted from September 9th and September 17th 2021, in the online modality because of the restrictions related to the COVID19 pandemic. It is based on the activities of the Experts Committee of the Philosophy Domain and the common meetings. The doctoral studies of Philosophy of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi have a long story, beginning with the establishment of the Faculty of Philosophy in 1856, as a basis for the foundation of the University of Iasi in 1860. Following national regulations, in 1990 became an autonomous Faculty within Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi and changed its name to Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences in 2008. Doctoral degrees in Social Sciences have been issued since the beginning of the twentieth century. Other domains in the field of Philosophy have been added after 1960, with new additions after 1990, organised in a single Doctoral School in 2005, keeping a strong tradition.

II. Methods used

The assessment was focused on the Philosophy domain. It was based on the analysis of the internal evaluation report and its Annexes conducted before the contact with the University and the interviews with the representatives of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi and the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies, the Ethics Commission, representatives of the Quality Assurance area, and, in the Philosophy area, the officers in charge of the internal evaluation report, the academic staff, a group of PhD students, a group of Graduates of the PhD programme, representatives of the research area, and employers of

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[1] Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise

some doctoral graduates. In all the cases, the interviews were carried out together with a national expert and a PhD student also designated by ARACIS, appealing to a set of questionnaires apt to get information relevant to analysing performance indicators. Due to the blended format of the evaluation, all the interviews have been conducted online. Still, relevant data about functioning and infrastructure were included in the questionnaires to obtain an overall view of the institutional capacities.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators[2]

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Under this criterion, the quality of the institutional structures is taken into account, paying attention to managerial procedures, the profile and abilities of the academic staff, and the situation of research and internationalisation within the PhD programme.

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.

> The Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi has a clear regulatory framework to allow the proper advancement of academic activities. Its mission is clearly stated in the Charter of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi. It is suitably oriented to contribute to the development and dissemination of knowledge, to educate for the exercise of professions and functions in an ethical framework, to preserve and extend the expression of scientific and cultural creation, and to promote the ideas of a free society for the purpose of development. The general regulations of the Doctoral level are explicit and operative, including normative frameworks according to current binding standards, with clear provisions about the election at the level of the Council for University Doctoral studies, the parameters for admission to the doctorate, the expected tasks and requirements, the features of the doctoral thesis, and the management and administrative regulations.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s):
(a) the internal regulations of the administrative structures (the institutional regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies programs, the regulation(s) of Doctoral School(s);
(b) the Methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), respectively at Doctoral School(s) including elections by the students of their representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (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);

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[2] Each time when applicable the information shall be presented genderwise

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 CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School with evidence of the regularity of meetings;

f) the contract for doctoral studies;

g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals about doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.

The general regulations of the Doctoral level are explicit and operative, including normative frameworks according to current binding standards.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.2. *The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.*

The regulatory framework meets the requirements.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator* A.1.1.3[3]. *Doctoral schools included in IOSUD are organized as disciplinary or interdisciplinary disciplines/thematic, according to Article 158, paragraph (7) of the Law of National Education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.*

The regulatory framework meets the requirements.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The program has adequate logistical resources to conduct the doctoral studies, including proper monitoring of each student's situation, together with adequate software to verify the similarities in all doctoral theses, in line with the compromise against plagiarism. It also has e-learning platforms, having been the first university in Romania to invest in this kind of resource.

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

There is consistent attention to the relevance of scholarships and mobility experiences. During the last years, the latter have been considerable in number and show diversity in the countries and universities, in line with the good number on current international agreements. During the interviews, the academic staff underlined that it should be convenient to strengthen this aspect to reinforce the internationalisation of the program.

The dimension of the program is adequate, and the management staff provides adequate justification of the benefits of this scheme related to the balance between the critical mass of students to have a strong program and the conditions to conduct high-quality customised education. The academic staff noted that there are some demands for more robust connections with other institutions among the students, underlining that there have been relevant advances in this realm during the last period. In the same line, there is general agreement about the positive results in problem-solving related to different students' situations.

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

The program has adequate logistical resources to conduct proper monitoring of each student's situation.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The program has adequate software to verify the similarities in all doctoral theses, in line with the compromise against plagiarism.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

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

The program has a substantial compromise with research, with suitable infrastructure, including a multimedia laboratory, a computer science laboratory, an important library and two research centres associated with the Doctoral School. One of them is oriented to Hermeneutics, Phenomenology and Practical Philosophy, and the other to Discursive Logic, Argumentation Theory and Rhetoric. The research fields are very well connected with the doctoral courses, allowing potent feedback between both areas. Since a decade ago, the members of the academic community have access to online resources and databases. It is worth noting that five important

academic journals are directly related to the philosophy program. The activities also include disseminating actions to spread research results through social media and the initiative to articulate with other educative levels.

Performance Indicator A.2.1.1. *The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of posessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)*

From the information in the internal evaluation report and the testimony of the person in charge of the philosophy domain, the academic staff, the students and the graduates, the spaces for reseach activity are adequate and cover the needs.

Recommendation: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.2.1.2. *The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) has/have collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, research networks for joint partnerships and have access for using various research infrastructures; the offer for research services is presented publicly using a dedicated platform.*

The academic staff is fully aware of the achievements in the research field. The administrative obstacles to developing research projects and the lack of proper institutional support in preparing applications were indicated among the pending matters to be solved. Given the important scientific background of the team, this is an aspect to be taken into account.

During the interview, the director of one of the units accounted for the interdisciplinary approach, the number of members, including academic staff, graduates and some PhD students. He underlined the quality of the main publication, a well-ranked journal, indicating that the PhD students often collaborate as part of their formative activities.

He also provided suitable information about periodical conferences and staff meetings in which current research topics are discussed. It is important that these activities were not interrupted during the pandemic, showing a solid institutional functioning. Institutional support was underlined. Regarding the question about the obstacles for getting funding, different strategies to participate in projects were appropriately described, underlining that even if the context is difficult, especially in the cases of mature groups, there is whole awareness of the situation and serious work to face the issue and reinforce the association with other institutions to enhance the relative position.

Recommendations:
- *Strengthen funding for scholarships and mobility activities.*
- *Support the initiatives related to develop stronger connections with other institutions.*
The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.2.1.3. *The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) proves that it is/are concerned with permanent renewal of the research infrastructure to provide doctoral students access to up-dated*

research resources, by applying to various funding competitions and using own university resources for acquiring new research infrastructure.

From the information in the internal evaluation report and the testimony of the person in charge of the philosophy domain, the academic staff, the students and the graduates, the spaces for reseach activity are adequate and cover the needs.

Recommendation: -.
The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resource

Standard A.3.1. At the level of each Doctoral School there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure a quality educational process.

The teaching staff has excellent profiles, fully aligned with the discipline and the main topics taught in the program. All of them have maximal qualifications, fulfil the standards of the National Council for the Recognition of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates, and have important scientific achievements and international activities. The number of publications in international indexed journals with impact factor is very good. The international visibility is well-attested in tasks related to membership on scientific boards of international publications, conferences and international professional associations, editorial tasks, and participation in international scientific networks and doctoral defence commissions. The scientific contribution of the academic staff to the development of relevant fields within philosophy is appropriately described. The ratio of students by supervisor is adequate to produce good results.

During the interview, the management staff emphasised the outstanding quality of the supervisors, the broad range of topics covered by their expertise, and the excellent overall performance. The academic staff described the main tasks and perspectives of the doctoral training. They defined their pedagogical perspective emphasising the work with philosophical sources, underlining the tradition of the Faculty in this matter. The flexibility of the university programs was challenged worldwide by the COVID19 crisis. Still, the results were considered positive for all the academic community members, given that the activities continued and the institutional response was adequate and dealt with all the problematic cases. They also emphasised the benefits of promoting the early development of research activities by reinforcing the publication of articles in reputed journals.

The PhD students expressed themselves satisfied with the work of the academic staff both in their courses and their supervising activities, considering the scheme flexible enough to include different topics emerging from individual research interests. They showed themselves fully aware of the importance of specialisation and provided valuable examples of the development of this aspect.

Performance Indicator * A.3.1.1. *The share of Doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies[4] does not exceed 20%.*

> *There are no cases of soctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students.*
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> *Recommendation: -.*
> **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Performance Indicator A.3.1.2. *At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.*

> *According to the information supplied, the contract scheme is adequate and meets the needs of the performance indicator.*
>
> *Recommendation: -.*
> **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

> *Under this criterion, the quality of the PhD programme is taken into account, paying attention to the enrolment procedures, the content of the programme, the outcomes and evaluation protocols, and the quality of the doctoral theses..*

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

Standard B.1.1. Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance and are diversified as social representation and by gender.

> *The philosophy program follows proper regulations for the admission of students. No obstacles related to a low number of candidates affect the process.*
> *The retention ratio is adequate and indicates effective overall measures.*

Performance Indicator * B.1.1.1. *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.*

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

The admission criteria are clear and meet the requirements. The origin of the students is diverse, and some students have no previous specific studies in philosophy. Notwithstanding, the academic staff provided suitable answers regarding the mitigating measures related to this situation, underlining the existence of complementary courses that can be recommended if it is necessary, the appeal to strategies to fiend interdisciplinary topics that enhance the dialogue between disciplines in the framework of a positive view of diversity within the area, considering that the objective is not to teach the full range of topics covered by previous levels, which is impossible in a limited period oriented to different goals, but to reach the expected outcomes on the basis of the combination of disciplines.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.1.1.2. *The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organsing support programs to prevent drop-outs.*

A scheme of grants ans scholarships is at disposal of the candidates. During the interviews, the PhD students were well-aware of these opportunities.
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.

The training programme is properly based on the standards of the discipline. It offers relevant courses based on up-to-date perspectives, with possibilities to upgrade content. The evaluation follows the European Credit Transfer System related to a broad range of relevant activities. The fulfilment of these requirements is done under the advice of the supervisor and guidance commissions in charge of monitoring the due process oriented to the doctoral thesis.

The common courses are adequately oriented to methodology, focusing on adequate procedures to improve the PhD students research skills and academic ethics and integrity, following the institutional regulations, seeking to enhance good practices. Participation in academic activities and publication of papers are part of the requirements to complete doctoral studies. The managerial and academic staff showed a strong willingness to improve this aspect to reinforce early compromise with professional activities.

During the interviews, the students and graduates showed themselves satisfied with the structure and content of the PhD programme, considering that it provides adequate knowledge of the main philosophical areas and significant professional skills. At the same time, it is flexible enough to contemplate the students' individual interests, with a broad range of topics and careful

academic guidance. Even if the work was defined as intense, this was not considered as something to be changed. The procedures oriented to monitoring and supervision were described as regular as part of the everyday life of the program. In various interviews, the PhD students' interest in enhancing contacts with members of other doctoral programmes was emphasised, mentioning ongoing activities oriented to this end.general description of the standard analysis.

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

The training program is adequate and provides a suitable covering of basic disciplines, including sound mechanism to strengthen methodological skills.

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 field of Ethics is addressed adequately. The academic staff showed proper skills to teach in the area and the PhD students and graduates informed about the good standards in the area.

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[5].*

The philosophy programme pays due attention to the learning outcomes, and its members have clear ideas to enhance this aspects with further development.

Recommendations:
- It would be desirable to strengthen and accompany the initiatives oriented to connect the doctoral program with similar structures in other universities, following the interest manifested by academic staff and PhD students.
The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

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

The PhD programme of Philosophy includes proper attention to the outcomes. They are related to the acquisition of strong professional abilities, reflected in the production of academic results. The articles published by recent graduates offered as part of the report are of excellent quality, and most of them are published in renowned journals. Participation in academic events is also remarkable.

Concerning the overall results, the group of graduates claimed, during the corresponding interview, that the PhD programme is valuable and provided them with excellent tools to face the labour market. This aspect was confirmed by the employers, where the person in charge of an NGO claimed that the graduates working there reached all the expectations. The graduates underlined the importance of early participation in academic projects as a formative element that prepares the students for different kinds of labour activities. They considered it possible and desirable to develop an alumni association to strengthen contacts within and beyond the institution.

The monitoring of the learning outcomes is adequate and based on proper measures, including follow-up of the development of the students' progress. The PhD thesis reviewers are mostly external to the university to ensure proper control procedures, and they are reputed scholars in the field. general description of the standard analysis.

Performance Indicator B.3.1.1. For the doctoral school there are in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the particular domain (i.e. technologial transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services for social sciences and humanities; festivals, contests, recitals, sports competitions; cultural-arts orders in the vocational domain; presentations ar national and international conerences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctroal students in writing research-development projects etc.)

The overall development of the Doctoral studies offers enough opportunities to produce relevant outcomes previous to the PhD thesis.

Recommendations:
Promote the development of an alumni association to strengthen contacts within and beyond the institution, according to the initiative already existing in the academic community.
The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses

Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards

The procedures to ensure the high quality of the doctoral theses are within accepted standards and fulfil the institutional procedures and parameters. The theses already sustained are at disposal at the webpage, and the overall quality is remarkable. During the interviews, the managerial officers, the teaching staff, the students, and the graduate expressed no troubles related to the associated aspects.general description of the standard analysis.

Performance Indicator B.4.1.1. *At the level of IOSUD, the percentage of theses non- validated, at the level of General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNADTCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years.*

The needed standards are met.
Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

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.

The higher education institutions have adequate structures oriented to quality management. At the level of the Doctoral School, the tasks of quality assurance are responsibilities of the Doctoral School Council together with a subcommittee. They present periodical reports including the self-assessment de supervisors, feedback mechanisms, number of public defence of PhD theses, scientific activities, and special needs concerning research. These results are taken into account to improve the current conditions in a virtuous process of planning, implementing, checking and acting. This structure has the functions of an ethical committee and conducts monitoring oriented to anti-plagiarism policies.

During the meeting with the Ethics Committee, several questions about anti-plagiarism measures, regulations, annual reports, protocols to deal with specific cases, and gender issues were adequately answered. At the level of the philosophy program, the procedures for quality assurance, and this point was emphasised during the interviews with graduates. Protocols for decision-making are adequate.general description of the standard analysis.

Performance Indicator C.1.1.1. *The IOSUD 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 doctoral school(s), 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 academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.

> *The mechanisms for quality assurance regarding the scientific work of the supervisors, the required infrastructure, the procedures and regulations and the academic standards and outcomes is adequate and well-developed.*
>
> *Recommendations: -*
>
> **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Performance Indicator C.1.1.2. Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students, for positions in the CSUD, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral studnets having the right of electing or being elected.

> *The representation of the students is adequate. The students are well-aware of the mechanisms show adequate participation, with suitable offering of ideas for further development.*
>
> *Recommendations: -*
>
> **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Performance Indicator C.1.1.3. Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students at the level of each doctoral school, for positions in the councils of doctoral schools, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.

> *The representation of the students is adequate. The students are well-aware of the mechanisms show adequate participation, with suitable offering of ideas for further development.*
>
> *Recommendations: -*
>
> **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Performance Indicator * C.1.1.4. Following the internal evaluation, IOSUD and the doctoral schools draft strategies and policies aiming to eliminate the identified deficiencies and to stimulate scientific and academic performance of IOSUD.

> *The results of internal evaluation are taken into account to ensure proper enhancing of the institutional capacities.*
>
> *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.

> *The channels for institutional communication are efficient and consistent with the general regulation of the Doctorate studies level.*

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 IOSUD/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 the training study 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) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences,to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.
(j) links to the doctoral theses's 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.

> *The webpage is complete and consistent, with proper details about different aspects of academic life. Relevant information about grant opportunities is also at disposal. It provides accurate information on the rules and regulations of the Doctoral School, the admission guidelines, the doctoral study contract, the content of the program, the research areas, the expected tasks and activities during the studies, the features of the PhD thesis, the procedure for the public defence, and the list of PhD students. The dates of defence of particular theses are properly disseminated and can be accessed freely.*

> *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.

> *The academic community members have access to learning resources, e.g. databases and systems for the verification of similarities, as well as research infrastructure. During the interviews, the general opinion of all the members agrees that the relevant information and enough resources are at their disposal.*

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 the their thesis.

The access to academic databases is adquate.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The philosophy programme has access to electronic systems for verifying the degree and similarity and it is at disposal of the doctoral students.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

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

The access to research facilities is adequate and enough to ensure the proper development of the academic activities.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

Standard C.3.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.

Internationalisation is one of the program's main goals, and there are specific strategies to enhance this area. They are based on Erasmus mobility agreements, with a considerable amount of them destined for doctoral studies and other modalities also oriented to mobility. Periodical announcements for the selection of PhD students are carried out according to suitable regulations. The managerial staff underlined the objectives related to this aspect, describing the existing schemes where the students are able to participate. The academic staff addressed the same aspect, claiming that the strengthening of these activities should be expected. The benefits of the development of frameworks for joint supervision were also discussed as a way to multiply opportunities for internationalisation, taking into account the existing networks. general description of the standard analysis.

Performance Indicator * C.3.1.1. *IOSUD, for every doctoral school, 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%, wich is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.

> *The number of number and quality of mobility agreements are adequate and a suitable rate of doctoral students has conducted mobility experiences during their studies.*

> *Recommendations: -*
> **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Performance Indicator C.3.1.2. *IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.*

> *The philosophy programme offers adequate opportunities for internationalisation with suitable financial support.*

> *Recommendations: -*
> **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Performance Indicator * C.3.1.3. *At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral schools of the IOSUD are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage.*

> *The doctoral school has adequate regulations oriented to promote the submission of theses in an international foreign language. During the interviews a considerable number of students informed about international joint-work, which has raised the need for stronger opportunities for joint-supervision that should be enhanced.*

> *Recommendations:*
> *It would be convenient to deepen the strategies of internalisation, exploring the format of joint-supervision.*
> **The indicator is fulfilled.**

Performance Indicator C.3.1.4. *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[6] etc.).*

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[6] Doctoral studies are completed by presenting the doctoral thesis in public session in front of a committee whose members hear and judge the final public presentation of the thesis

The international activities of the doctoral school, on the basis of the excellent profile of its academic staff, are numerous and high-quality.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

Criterion C.4. System for assurance of ethical and academic integrity

Standard C.4.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a functional and efficient system in place for prevention and assuring ethical and academic integrity norms

The area of ethical and academic integrity is well covered within the philosophy programme through suitable courses and overall attention to the issue.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.1. *IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed:*
- *policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postioinings, studies, analyses or measures taken;*
- *practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students;*
- *practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community;*
- *administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions;*
- *mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind;*

IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes, and the results of the monitoring is made public yearly or whenever it becomes necessary.

All the policies related to ethics and academic are clear, consistent and public. The interviews showed a proper presence of the aspect in the institutional culture of the doctoral school.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.2. *All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received.*

According to the information provided, plagiarism has not been a major issue at the philosophy programme, and in the case of such kind of issues the regulations and procedures of the Ethics Commission for Scientific Research are clear and appropriate.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.3. *Annual Reports of the Ethics commission of the IOSUD contain information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-intiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies. description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.*

The annual reports of the Ethics commission meet the requirements about information of cases.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.4. *The measures taken by IOSUD after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU's decision and in the current legislation.*

The regulatory framework is adequate.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.5. *The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be:*
a) Suspension of the right to advise newly enrolled doctoral students, for a period of 3 years, in the case of doctoral advisors having coordinated a doctoral thesis with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism;
b) Exclusion from the IOSUD of the doctoral advisor having coordinated at least two doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism;
c) Suspension of the right to organize the admission process of new doctoral students in the Doctoral studies domain, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective domain a doctoral thesis has been finalized and defended with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism.

The regulatory framework is adequate.

Recommendations: -
The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *C.4.1.6. *The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism, have not been nominated in other commissions for public defence of doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.*

The regulatory framework is adequate.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.7. IOSUD has a database open to the public containing all the *doctoral theses defended in the institution beginning at least in 2016 in a format including: the domain, author, doctoral advisor, title of the thesis and the thesis in electronic format (if there is an agreement of the author).*

The regulatory framework is adequate.

Recommendations: -

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<u>Strengths:</u> * The teaching staff is excellent and has outstanding credentials, scholarly production and international visibility. There are strong research units with important outcomes. The program has a strong tradition. All the members have clear ideas about the strengths of the program and the aspects to be improved.	<u>Weaknesses:</u> * The support for the research groups in order to get funding could be enhanced. More funding to improve the current very good standards of internalisation would be desirable..
<u>Opportunities:</u> * The program is excellent and able to enhance its international visibility. Current research networks could be the basis for further development.	<u>Threats:</u> * Lack of enough support to develop research and internationalisation activities could produce stagnation.

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	**PI**	**A.1.1.1.** The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s): a) the internal regulations of the administrative structures (the institutional regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies programs, the regulation(s) of Doctoral School(s);	**Fullfilled**	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		b) the Methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), respectively at Doctoral School(s) including elections by the students of their representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (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 CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School with evidence of the regularity of meetings; f) the contract for doctoral studies; g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals about doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.		
2.	PI	**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.	**Adequate**	-
3.	PI *	**A.1.1.3.** Doctoral schools included in IOSUD are organized as disciplinary or interdisciplinary disciplines/thematic, according to Article 158, paragraph (7) of the Law of National Education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.	**Adequate**	-
4.	PI	**A.1.2.1.** The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	**Adequate**	-
5.	CPI	**A.1.2.2.** The existence and use of a software program and evidence of its use	**Adequate**	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.		
6.	PI	**A.2.1.1.** The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of posessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)	**Adequate**	-
7.	PI	**A.2.1.2.** The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) has/have collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, research networks for joint partnerships and have access for using various research infrastructures; the offer for research services is presented publicly using a dedicated platform.	**Need of additional support**	Strengthen funding for scholarships and mobility activities. Improve conditions for the development of research through more agile procedures and better support for presentations of the local teams on the basis of their excellent qualities
8.	PI	**A.2.1.3.** The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) proves that it is/are concerned with permanent renewal of the research infrastructure to provide doctoral students access to up-dated research resources, by applying to various funding competitions and using own university resources for acquiring new research infrastructure.	**Adequate**	-
9.	PI *	**A.3.1.1.** The share of Doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies does not exceed 20%.	**Adequate**	-
10.	CPI	**A.3.1.2.** At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	**Adequate**	-
11.	PI *	**B.1.1.1.** 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	**Adequate**	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.		
12.	PI	**B.1.1.2.** The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organsing support programs to prevent drop-outs.	**Adequate**	-
13.	PI	**B.2.1.1.** The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.	**Adequate**	-
14.	PI	**B.2.1.2.** At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	**Adequate**	-
15.	PI	**B.2.1.3.** The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses "the learning outcomes", specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	**Convenience to deepen current initiatives**	It would be desirable to strengthen and accompany the initiatives oriented to connect the doctoral program with similar structures in other universities
16.	PI	**B.3.1.1.** For the doctoral school there are in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the particular domain (i.e. technologial transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services for social sciences and humanities; festivals, contests, recitals, sports competitions; cultural-arts orders in the vocational domain; presentations ar	**Adequate**	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		national and international conerences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctroal students in writing research-development projects etc.)		
17.	CPI	**B.4.1.1.** At the level of IOSUD, the percentage of theses non- validated, at the level of General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNADTCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years.	**Adequate**	-
18.	PI	**C.1.1.1.** The IOSUD 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 doctoral school(s), 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 academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.	**Adequate**	-
19.	PI	**C.1.1.2.** Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students, for positions in the CSUD, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral studnets having the right of electing or being elected.	**Adequate**	-
20.	PI	**C.1.1.3.** Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students at the level of each doctoral school, for positions in the	**Adequate**	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		councils of doctoral schools, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.		
21.	PI *	**C.1.1.4.** Following the internal evaluation, IOSUD and the doctoral schools draft strategies and policies aiming to eliminate the identified deficiencies and to stimulate scientific and academic performance of IOSUD.	**Adequate**	-
22.	CPI	**C.2.1.1.** The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as: a) the IOSUD/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 the training study 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) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences,to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc. j) links to the doctoral theses's 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.	**Adequate**	-
23.	CPI	**C.2.2.1.** All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of the their thesis.	**Adequate**	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
24.	PI	**C.2.2.2.** Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.		
25.	PI	**C.2.2.3.** All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.	**Adequate**	-
26.	PI *	**C.3.1.1.** IOSUD, for every doctoral school, 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%, wich is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	**Adequate**	-
27.	PI	**C.3.1.2.** IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.	**Adequate**	-
28.	PI *	**C.3.1.3.** At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral schools of the IOSUD are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage.	**Opportunity to enhance internationalisation actions**	It would be convenient to deepen the strategies of internalisation, exploring the format of joint supervision.
29.	PI	**C.3.1.4.** The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in	**Adequate**	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).		
30.	PI	C.4.1.1. IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed: - policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postioinings, studies, analyses or measures taken; - practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students; - practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community; - administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions; - mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind; IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes, and the results of the monitoring is made public yearly or whenever it becomes necessary.	**Adequate**	-
31.	PI	C.4.1.2. All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally	**Adequate**	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received.		
32.	PI	**C.4.1.3.** Annual Reports of the Ethics commission of the IOSUD contain information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-intiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies. description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.	**Adequate**	-
33.	CPI	**C.4.1.4.** The measures taken by IOSUD after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU's decision and in the current legislation.	**Adequate**	-
34.	PI	**C.4.1.5.** The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be: a) Suspension of the right to advise newly enrolled doctoral students, for a period of 3 years, in the case of doctoral advisors having coordinated a doctoral thesis with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism; b) Exclusion from the IOSUD of the doctoral advisor having coordinated at least two doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism; c) Suspension of the right to organize the admission process of new doctoral students in the Doctoral studies domain, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective domain a doctoral thesis has been finalized and defended with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism.	**Adequate**	-
35.	PI *	**C.4.1.6.** The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism, have not been nominated in other commissions for public defence of	**Adequate**	-

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.		
36.	PI	**C.4.1.7.** IOSUD has a database open to the public containing all the doctoral theses defended in the institution beginning at least in 2016 in a format including: the domain, author, doctoral advisor, title of the thesis and the thesis in electronic format (if there is an agreement of the author).	**Adequate**	-

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The PhD programme of Philosophy has excellent features, with remarkable institutional capacities, a strong structure and suitable regulations and protocols for quality management. The documents and the materials gathered during the interviews indicate that the program is mature and high-quality. All its members have a sound critical capacity regarding the values and strengths and the aspects that could be enhanced to reach even better outcomes. The overall situation complies with the expected performances indicators very satisfactorily.

VII. Annexes

- Schedule of the evaluation activities.

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Faculty of Philosophy and Literature

Annexes
Schedule of the evaluation activities

Assessment period: Sept. 9th, 2021-Sept. 9th, 2021

September 9th
9:00-9:45: Harmonization meeting
10:00-10:45: Online meeting with representatives of the UAIC institution and of the Council for Academic Soctoral Studies
11:00-12:00: Online meeting with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report
12:15-14:00: Individual evaluation activities
14:30-15:30: Online meeting with the academic staff of the doctoral study domain
15:30-18:00: Individual evaluation activities

September 10th
Individual evaluation activities

September 13th
9:00-10:00: Online meeting with PhD students
10:15-13:00: Individual evaluation activities
14:00-15:00: Online meeting with the members of the Ethics Commission
15:15-16-15: Online meeting with graduates of the doctoral study domain
16:30-18:00: Individual evaluation activities

September 14th
9:45-10:45: Online meeting with the directors in charge of the research centres within the doctoral study domain
11:00-14:00: Individual evaluation activities
15:30-16:30: Online meeting with the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance/Quality Assurance Department
17:00-18:00: Online meeting with employers of doctoral graduates

September 15th
Individual evaluation activities

September 16th
Individual evaluation activities

September 17th
9:00-10: Completion of the evaluation documents

10:00-11:00: Online meeting for conclusions

12:00-13:00: Online meeting with representatives of the institution under review to discuss on the conclusions of the evaluation process and the main reccomandations.