

# Draft The External International Evaluation Report

**”Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi (UAIC)  
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration**

## **Doctoral Study Domain – Economics and International Affairs<sup>1</sup>**

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### **I. Introduction<sup>2</sup>**

The International External Evaluation Report of Doctoral Study Domain International Economics and Business, represents the result of analyses of the Self-Assessment Report (SAR), documents uploaded online on <https://cloud.aracis.ro/owncloud/index.php/login> (ARACIS cloud), documents posted on the web page <https://www.uaic.ro/en/>, and outcomes from the online site visit in the period September 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 2021.

#### Members of the Expert Panel

Doctoral study domain Economics and international Affairs				
1	Prof. univ. dr. Mihaela Mariana LUTAS	Cordinator	Universitatea Babes-Bolyai din Cluj-Napoca	
2	But Dedaj	International expert	University of Prishtina	
3	Andra Nicoleta MECU	Student	Academia de Studii Economice din București	

<sup>1</sup> In the SAR, the title of the PhD study program is: “INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS”. However in the university web page as well as in the official documents that were sent by the ARACIS related to time table of the evaluation and domain composition of the panel members, there is used the title “ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS”. In this document, there will be used an official title as is set in the university web page: <https://www.uaic.ro/en/studies/doctoral-schools/>.

<sup>2</sup> Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.



According to the SAR, as well as the information uploaded on the official web site, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi is the oldest university in Romania established in 1860, with a tradition of over 161 years. In 2021, there were 24047 students registered in all three levels (17551 BA, 5600 MA and 896 PhD) and 716 teaching staff.

The doctoral studies by the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University IOSUD take place within the 14 doctoral schools covering in total 27 different fields. Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration was established on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 and offers PhD study programs in 8 domains (<https://www.uaic.ro/en/studies/doctoral-schools/>, SAR p., 4.):

- 1) Cybernetics and Statistics,
- 2) Accounting,
- 3) Economics,
- 4) Economics and International Affairs,
- 5) Finance,
- 6) Economic Informatics,
- 7) Management, and
- 8) Marketing.

Between academic year 2016/17- 2020/21, in the domain of Economics and International Affairs, there were admitted 21 doctoral students:

No.	Doctoral Programme	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
1	Economics and International Affairs	2	5	6	5	3

Source: SAR, p. 27.

Meanwhile, in the period 2016-2020, 8 students have accomplished their studies as presented in the table below:

#### List of public defenses in the 2016-2020 period

PhD student name	Advisor	Date of enrollment	Date of public defense	PhD title order no.
BORTA M. LUDMILA	prof.univ.dr. S. Pralea	2012	13.05.2016	5470/12.10.2016
LISNYAK M. SERGEY	prof.univ.dr. G.C. Pascariu	2014	30.06.2017	5298/5.10.2017
SHARIPOV M. ILKHOM	prof.univ.dr. G.C. Pascariu	2014	30.06.2017	5298/5.10.2017
GUȚU I. IOANA	prof.univ.dr. S. Pralea	2013	13.07.2017	5298/5.10.2017
POSTOLACHI P. ANDREI-TEOFIL	prof.univ.dr. S. Pralea	2010	24.11.2017	3356/21.03.2018

MAVRICHI S. LOREDANA căs. JITARU	prof.univ.dr. S. Pralea	2014	12.09.2019	5345/25.11.2019
ȘORCARU L. SERGIU- LUCIAN	prof.univ.dr. S. Pralea	2016	28.09.2020	6245/21.12.2020
BLĂJUȚ M. LUCIA- PETRONELA	prof.univ.dr. S. Pralea	2013	28.09.2020	6245/21.12.2020

Source: SAR, p. 28-29.

According to SAR, within the Doctorial School of Economics and Business Administration, currently there are 51 active doctoral advisors. Meanwhile, in the domain Economics and International Affairs, there are 4 active doctoral advisers as follows:

No.	Doctoral Study Domain	Doctoral thesis advisor
16	Economics and International Affairs	Lecturer Adrian Vasile HORODNIC, PhD Habil.
17	Economics and International Affairs	Professor Liviu-George MAHA, PhD Habil.
18	Economics and International Affairs	Professor Gabriela Carmen PASCARIU, PhD
19	Economics and International Affairs	Professor Spiridon PRALEA, PhD

Source: SAR, p. 8-9 & 26.

## II. Methods used

Due to Pandemic situation caused by the virus COVID 19, the evaluation process to the UAIC was organized in combined form. Some of the meetings were organized online, with the presence of the international evaluator, while visit to classrooms, library and other facilities, were fiscally performed by the local experts. In this regards, the international external evaluators did not have opportunity to visit physically the infrastructure, nor to have face to face meeting with management, teaching staff, students and other relevant stakeholders. The impressions and conclusions related to the infrastructure, were made based on the SAR, documents uploaded on the ARACIS cloud, and discussion form the online meetings.

The evaluation period was scheduled according to the following program (Romania local time):

Thursday, 09.07.2021

- 09.00 – 09.45 Online meeting for the preparation and harmonization of evaluation steps, in hybrid mode, of doctoral study domains and IOSUD
- 10.00 – 10.45 Online meeting with representatives of the UAIC institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD)
- 12.15 – 13.15 Online meeting with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report
- 15.45 – 16.45 Online meeting with the academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain

Friday, 10.09.2021

Site visit to UAIC , Face-to-face working meetings, visiting the educational and research infrastructure



Monday, 13.09.2021

- 10.15 – 11.15 Online meeting with UAIC PhD students
- 14.00 – 15.00 Online meeting with the members of the Ethics Commission
- 16.30 – 17.30 Online meeting with graduates of the respective doctoral study domain

Tuesday, 14.09.2021

- 11.00 – 12.00 Online meeting with the Directors/persons in charge of the research centers/laboratories within the doctoral study domain
- 15.30 – 16.30 Online meeting with the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) members/Quality Assurance Department
- 17.00 – 18.00 Online meeting with employers of UAIC doctoral graduates

Friday, 17.09.2021

- 10.00 – 11.00 Online meeting for conclusions
- 12.00 – 13.00 Meeting with representatives of the institution under review to discuss on the conclusions of the evaluation process and the main recommendations

In general, the SAR is professionally developed. It is well structured and provides sufficient information to create objective opinion for evaluation. The communication and discussion during the evaluation process with the domain representatives has been very professional and of the expected level for a serious institution such as UAIC.

It is worthwhile mentioning the fact that the coordination by the ARACIS team was faultless, the documents were posted on time on the ARACIS cloud, credentials for access to documents were generated, the instructions were very fruitful and the translation was good.

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

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

##### **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.*

Referring to SAR and impressions generated during the online meetings, the UAIC, is very structured institution that has established tradition in offering the doctoral programs, as well as has developed a very functional legal framework in full compliance with the National and international standards. The mission statement and vision are clearly defined with the strong target in developing the modern PhD study programs to contribute the development of the society.

***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.*

According to the information provided in the SAR p. 47-50, discussion during the evaluation process as well as the annex documents posted on ARACIS cloud (<https://cloud.aracis.ro>) the UAIC have a very developed and functional legal framework, in full compliance with all lawful requirements for offering doctoral study programs.

The annex documents uploaded in ARACIS cloud, gives overview about the regulations and principles for functioning of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, including for the domain of Economics and International Affairs. The legal framework is highly developed, refers to all points included in this performance indicator and meets all official requirements for offering doctoral study program in the domain of Economics and International Affairs.

*Recommendations:*

- *Relevant legal documents to be translated into English language.*

***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.***

1. legea educatiei nationale nr. 1/2011;
2. the code of university studies and doctorate, hereinafter referred to as COD, approved by the Decision of the Romanian Government n3. 681/2011;
3. Regulation of doctoral university studies at IOUSD level - AL Cusa University, approved in the Senate meeting of 24. 04. 2013.

According to SAR p. 50-51., as well as the regulations uploaded into ARACIS cloud under annex 6a and 6b, this performance indicator is fully compliant with the legal framework.

In this regards, in the Regulations of the Doctorial School of Economics and International Affairs, that are approved in the Senate session of 18. 07. 2013 (annex 6a), and the Senate session of 07. 03. 2020 (annex 6b), the Chapter 1., Preamble, sets that the Regulation is in full compliance with The Code of Doctoral Studies, approved by the Decision of the Romanian Government n3. 681/2011.

*Recommendations:*

- *Relevant legal documents to be translated into English language.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

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

According to SAR p52., discussions that took place online, the UAIC has implemented functional and reliable IT system for all study levels: BA, MA and PhD. Surely, not being part of the University, in the provided link of the SAR <https://www.uaic.ro/en/> the information are very difficult to be checked. Furthermore, the English part of webpage is quite weak with information and uploaded documents. It would welcome some information to be translated, of course if there is a target by the University to attract foreign students.

*Recommendations:*

- *Relevant legal documents to be translated into English language.*

***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.***

According to SAR, p. 52-53., and discussion that took place during online meetings, the UAIC has installed, and it is functional a system for detecting the similarities of the scientific work. In this regards, UAIC was the first higher education in Romania that has functional “eLearning platform Blackboard - SafeAssign” since 2006 and onward. Based on legal framework, prior public defense of the doctoral thesis, there should be performed the check about % of similarity and avoid plagiarism.

***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.***

According to information provided in the SAR, p. 53-54., the following projects/grants were developed and supported by the different funders:

- 1) Research project: Advancing ground-breaking research in regional growth and development theories, through a resilience approach: towards a convergent, balanced and sustainable European Union, project code: PN-III-P4-ID-PCCF-2016-0166, implementation period: 2018-2021,

- 2) Jean Monnet project: European Union and its neighbourhood. Network for enhancing EU's actorness in the eastern borderlands, project code: 587848-EPP-1-2017-1-ROEPPJMO-NETWORK, implementation period: 2017-2020,
- 3) Project POCU/380/6/13/123623: Doctoranzi și cercetători postdoctorat pregătiți pentru piața muncii! [PhD students and postdoctoral researchers ready for the labor market], implementation period: 2019-2021;
- 4) Proiect SHARE-ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium): Main Survey SHARE Wave 8 in all 26 continental EU Member States, Grant Agreement Number – VS/2019/0332, implementation period: 2020-2021,
- 5) Project POCU/380/6/13/125015: Dezvoltarea abilităților antreprenoriale pentru doctoranzi și postdoctoranzi în domeniul științelor economice [Developing entrepreneurial skills in PhD students and postdoctoral researchers in the field of economic sciences] –implementation period: 2019-2021, UAIC coordinator:
- 6) Research project: Integrated system for reducing poverty and social exclusion in rural areas, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, implementation period: 02.11.2018-10.12.2019,
- 7) Research project: Methodology for continuous monitoring of the quality of care in institutions providing long-term care services, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, implementation period: 28.09.2018-16.12.2019,
- 8) Jean Monnet Chair Ad Personam Grant No. 2013-3015 / 001 - 001 "EU sustainable development, regional cohesion and European policies", European Commission, implementation period: 2013-2016,

Although the performance indicator is fulfilled, these numbers are very symbolic taking into consideration the prestige that UAIC has as the oldest university in Romania. There should be more local and international projects present. Additionally, encouraging approach would be supporting logistically and financially doctoral students, with joint efforts with their supervisors to develop and submit project proposals to difference local and EU funded programs, in particular promoting the partnership agreements with local stakeholders for joint research activities.

*Recommendations:*

- Active presence in the EU funded projects (ERASMUS +, Horizon 2020, etc),
- Logistic and financial support for development of project proposals,
- Partnership agreements for joint research projects with the international higher education institutions,
- Partnership agreements with local stakeholders for joint research activities,
- Partnership agreements with local and international stakeholders for internship placement of doctoral students for performing doctoral thesis.

*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%.*

According to SAR, p. 55-56., the performance indicator has been fulfilled. The additional funding sources besides government funding reached 34.78% which is higher than required minimum of 20%.



*Recommendations:*

- Active presence in the EU funded projects (ERASMUS +, Horizon 2020, etc),
- Partnership agreements for joint research projects with the international higher education institutions,
- Partnership agreements with local stakeholders for joint research activities,
- Partnership agreements with local and international stakeholders for internship placement of doctoral students for performing doctoral thesis.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.3.<sup>3</sup>*** *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

According to SAR p. 56-59, there have been given a lot of efforts to support the students in their career development and participation in different training programs as well as in the local and international conferences. However, with the investments for fulfilling this performance indicator with only 4.37% in the period 2015-2019, was less than half of demanded threshold of 10%. As explained in the SAR, the Pandemic situation caused by the virus Covid 19, might be one justification for this low level of financing the research and professional advancement of the PhD students. Nevertheless, more efforts should be given on this topic.

*Recommendations:*

- Logistic and financial support of PhD students for development of project proposals, and their involvement in project implementation,
- Active presence in the EU funded projects (ERASMUS +, Horizon 2020, etc),
- Partnership agreements with local stakeholders for joint research activities,
- Partnership agreements with local and international stakeholders for internship placement of doctoral students for performing doctoral thesis.

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

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



## 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.*

In comparison to hard sciences that needs large laboratories and very expensive equipment, the doctoral study program in the field of Economics and International Affairs, doesn't request to much infrastructure to perform research activities. The collection of the adequate books, access to online libraries and adequate software would be sufficient.

**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.*

According to SAR, p. 60-61., UAIC stand very well with research infrastructure. There is well equipped library, possibility for getting access to online books and scientific journal, as well as the functional research center with the possibility for the students of the domain Economics and International Affairs to be also involved in the activities of the Research Center in Economics and Business Communication.

*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.*

According to provided documents and SAR, there are 4 doctoral theses advisers who meets the national minimal standards to supervise doctoral theses:

No.	Doctoral thesis advisor	Document certifying the quality of doctoral thesis advisor
1.	Professor Spiridon PRALEA, PhD	OMECT 1805/20.08.2007 (Annex 8)
2.	Professor Gabriela Carmen PASCARIU, PhD	OMECT 1805/20.08.2007 (Annex 8)
3.	Professor Liviu-George MAHA, PhD Habil.	OMEN 4188/21.06.2017 (Annex 10) HS 26/27.07.2017 (Annex 11)
4.	Lecturer Adrian-Vasile HORODNIC, PhD Habil.	OMEN 4651/30.07.2019 (Annex 13) HS 7/02.04.2021 (Annex 14)

Source: SAR p. 62.

Further, the following 3 out of 4 doctoral theses advisers, meets minimal standards *of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU)*

No.	Doctoral thesis advisor	CNATDCU minimum standards met	Publications score (P)	Citations score (C)	Total score (S)
1.	Professor Gabriela Carmen PASCARIU, PhD	Yes	17,18	4,50	<b>21,68</b>
2.	Professor Liviu-George MAHA, PhD Habil.	Yes	8,52	6,50	<b>15,02</b>
3.	Lecturer Adrian-Vasile HORODNIC, PhD Habil.	Yes	26,29	8,75	<b>35,04</b>

Source: SAR p. 62.

In this regard, the doctoral advisers meets the threshold of 50% as requested by the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

According to SAR, p. 63, and annex documents uploaded on the ARACIS cloud, 2 out of 4 doctoral advisers in the domain of Economics and International Affairs, as presented in the following table, are tenured.

No.	Doctoral thesis advisor	Status
2.	Professor Gabriela Carmen PASCARIU, PhD	Tenure (IOSUD – UAIC) (Annex 32)
3.	Professor Liviu-George MAHA, PhD Habil.	Tenure (IOSUD – UAIC)

Source: SAR p. 63.

In this regards, the basic requirement of: "at least 50% of all doctoral advisers have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD", is fulfilled.

***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 advisers / certified doctoral thesis advisers, 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.***

According to SAR, p. 63-65., the teaching staff is highly professional and competent to deliver courses on the doctoral studies. Furthermore the impressions created during the evaluation process, leads to conclusion that the teaching staff represents quiet strong part and guarantee quality of the doctoral program in the domain Economics and International Affairs. Their CVs are quite rich in scientific



publications and it can be concluded that they are very competent for the teaching and research process at this level of studies.

As far as can be searched in the web page, and the documents that are uploaded on the ARACIS cloud, there is not developed the Student Guidebook for doctoral students that might contain:

- Learning outcomes of the doctoral program in domain Economics and International Affairs,
- Structure of the study program:
  - Compulsory courses,
  - Elective courses (group of elective courses, students to make choice of courses that they want to follow and accumulate ECTS)
  - Seminar obligations,
  - Participation in the conferences,
  - Details about doctoral thesis
- Short description of the courses,

*Recommendations:*

- *Relevant documents related to doctoral studies to be translated in English language and uploaded in web page,*
- *Student guidebook to be developed and published on web page,*

***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>4</sup> does not exceed 20%.*

According to SAR, p. 65-66., and provided table related to number of doctoral students coordinating at same time by the doctoral thesis advisors is as follows:

No.	Doctoral advisor	PhD Students	PhD Students (in 'extension')	Total number of PhD Students
1.	Professor Spiridon PRALEA, PhD	3	3	6
2.	Professor Gabriela Carmen PASCARIU, PhD	4	2	6
3.	Professor Liviu-George MAHA, PhD Habil.	7	0	7
4.	Lecturer Adrian-Vasile HORODNIC, PhD Habil.	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>

Source: SAR p. 66.

*In this regards, none of the doctoral thesis advisers exceed set maximum.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

*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.*

Based on the information provided in SAR, p. 66-68, as well as the annex documents uploaded on the ARACIS cloud, the CVs of teaching staff are quite rich with satisfactory number of publications, as well as they are part of scientific boards of international publications.

However, from the point of international evaluator, there is very difficult to make correct judgment about "international awareness". Publishing in the international scientific journals, doesn't represent automatically also active engagement in the international academic life. There might be research work performed in local language, finalized and translated to foreign language by the professional translator. Thus, there are no data provided in the SAR about how many experts performed lectures abroad, in which universities they delivered/are delivering lectures outside Romania, in which levels of study. Having these data would give capability to make accurate judgment about this performance indicator.

*Recommendations:*

- Financial support for higher presence in the intranational conferences outside Romania,
- Promoting lectures outside home university,
- Active participation within ERASMUS + Academic Mobility Program
- Partnership agreements for joint research projects with the international higher education institutions,

***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.*

Related to this performance indicator, according to the SAR p. 468., as well as uploaded annex documents on ARACIS cloud, the situation related this performance indicator is as follows:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Doctoral advisor</b>	<b>Publications score (P)</b>	<b>Citations score (C)</b>	<b>Total score (S)</b>
1.	Professor Gabriela Carmen PASCARIU, PhD ( <i>Annex 9</i> )	14,63	4,50	<b>19,13</b>

2.	Professor Liviu-George MAHA, PhD Habil. ( <i>Annex 12</i> )	5,04	6,50	<b>11,54</b>
3.	Lecturer Adrian-Vasile HORODNIC, PhD Habil. ( <i>Annex 15</i> )	26,29	8,75	<b>35,04</b>

Source: SAR p. 68.

Consequently, 75% of the doctoral thesis advisors (3 out of 4) in the domain of Economics and International Affairs continue to be active in their scientific field, as well as fulfills minimal CNATDCU standards.

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

*\*general description of domain analysis.*

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

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

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

Based on presented data in the SER, p. 69., the situation in last 5 years related to centralized situation of the candidates for admission to doctoral studies in the field of International Economics and Business, for the reported period, is as presented in the following table:

Admission session	Total number of seats on contest	Number of candidates	Number of master program graduates from other national or foreign higher education institutions enrolled for the doctoral admission contest
September 2016	2	3	3
September 2017	4	5	2
September 2018	6	8	0
September 2019	3	7	3
September 2020	2	3	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>

Source: SAR p. 69.

The detailed situation of the candidates graduating from master programs from other higher education institutions in the country or abroad who registered, during the last five years, in the contest for admission to doctoral studies in the field of Economics and International Affairs is presented in the following table:

No.	Admission session	Candidate	Higher education institution graduated
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1.	September 2016	ȘORCARU SERGIU-LUCIAN	UNIVERSITATEA „DUNĂREA DE JOS” GALAȚI
2.	September 2016	IONESCU IONUȚ-BOGDAN	SNSPA BUCUREȘTI
3.	September 2016	CORNEA VLADISLAV	ACADEMIA DE ADMINISTRARE PUBLICĂ DIN MOLDOVA
4.	September 2019	LEONTIE L. VLAD	UNIVERSITATEA TEHNICĂ „GHEORGHE ASACHI” DIN IAȘI
5.	September 2019	MISTREANU D. DUMITRU - SILVIU	YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY (USA)
6.	September 2019	BAR LEV Z. ELDAD	HAIFA UNIVERSITY (ISRAEL)
7.	September 2020	STARK STEFAN	SBH BERLIN (GERMANY)
8.	September 2020	BEJENAR G. SILVIU	ACADEMIA FORȚELOR TERESTRE „NICOLAE BĂLCESCU” SIBIU

Source: SAR p. 69-70.

In conclusion, 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 0.47 (minimum value is 0.2), for the reporting period, while 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 1.53 (at least 1.2.).

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

The admission contest to the doctoral study programs within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, including the International Economics and Business field, takes into account criteria related to the academic, research and professional performance of the candidates, their interest in scientific research, publications in the field, etc. Prior to admission students must suggest a research topic. Thus, based on the information presented in the SER, the evaluation of the research project accounts for 50% of the average in the admission contest, the remaining 50% being allocated to the interview, a mandatory component of the admission process.

However, according to information provided on the SAR p. 27., the situation about number of admitted students is as follows:

**Table no. 1.11. Doctoral studies in Economics and International Affairs – Admission**

Admission year	Number of applicants	Admitted candidates
2016-2017	3	2
2017-2018	5	5
2018-2019	8	6
2019-2020	7	5
2020-2021	3	3

Source: SAR p. 27.





Referring to table above, Analyzing the number of applicants and number of admitted students, might be generated impression that everyone who applies, will be admitted. In the academic years 2017-2018, and 2002-2021 all applicants were admitted. Thus, the selection criteria might be irrelevant, or not applicable at all. Consequently, the Doctorial School of Economics and Business Administration, should make action plan for attracting more applicants and have solid base for applying adequate admission selection procedures.

Recommendations:

- Action plan for attracting more applicants,
- The relevant documents to be translated in English language,
- The knowledge on English language to be compulsory criteria for admission,
- Student guidebook to be developed and published on web page

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>5</sup> does not exceed 30%.*

*According to the table provided in the SAR, p. 71., the situation related to drop out rate is very stands as follows:*

Admission year	Admitted PhD students	Number of PhD students after the first year	Number of PhD students after the second year	Expelling rate
2014-2015	5	5	4	20%
2015-2016	3	3	3	0%
2016-2017	2	2	2	0%
2017-2018	4	3	3	25%
2018-2019	6	6	6	0%
TOTAL (2015-2019)	20	19	18	10%

Source: SAR, p. 71.

In this regards the dropout rate for the period 2015-2019 is 10% and does not exceed the threshold set by the ARACIS.

However, based in all meeting that took place, there were comments and discussion about length of studies. Many students doesn't accomplish their studies on time, as it is foreseen for 3 years, but they are interrupting, respectively they are prolonging for several additional years. Consequently, there is mismatch between the study program that is designed to be finished for 3 years, and students workload.

Based on Bologna System, the doctoral studies are foreseen to have at least 180 ECTS, respectively if we talk about full time studies, that means 3 years \* 60 ECTS per year. Further, if we start elaborating in hours of students workload, that would be between 1500-1800 hours students workload (1 ECTS = 25-30 hours student workload). Referring to many cases that were presented, the students doesn't accomplish thier studies on time, those looks like:

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<sup>5</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.





- Either the doctoral programs need to be re-designed, and student workload to match requirements by the Bologna System, or
- Due to the fact that if the students are working and studying, thus they doesn't devote full time for studying, the doctoral study program to be accredited for longer period of time, let say for 5 years and students will accomplish on time their studies.

*Recommendations:*

- Either to make structural changes in the doctoral study program or to extend length of the studies.

***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.***

Based on the information presented in the SER, p. 25 & 71-72, and Annex 7, the doctoral program contains the following compulsory subjects.

- Epistemology
- Scientific Research Methodology
- Research and Analysis Methods for Qualitative Data;
- Research and Analysis Methods for Quantitative Data;
- Ethics of scientific Research;
- Academic Writing.

The doctoral program on Economics and International Affairs contains at least three subjects relevant to their training in scientific research, at least one of these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.

***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.***

As presented in the performance indicator B.2.1.1. as well as the uploaded annex on ARACIS cloud the compulsory course Academic Ethics and integrity ( SAR p. 25), is among obliged courses that students should undergo during their studies.

***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>6</sup>.*

According to SER, p. 72, and annex 36, UAIC has created mechanisms to ensure that the advanced university studies training program in Economics and International Affairs aims at "the learning outcomes", specifying the competencies, skills and attitudes that PhD students should acquire after graduating from each discipline or through research activities. For each discipline, the course syllabus makes specific references to the knowledge, skills, competences, responsibility and autonomy acquired by doctoral students after graduating the course.

Recommendations:

- The structure of doctoral program to be clearly defined, including all tasks and duties that students needs to undergo for accomplishment of the doctoral program,
- Student guidebook to be developed and published in foreign languages.

***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.*

Based on the information given in SER, p. 72-76, and accompanied annexes, doctoral students enrolled in doctoral studies in Economics and International Affairs, benefit from the advice and guidance of functional guidance commissions. There are four reports considered the path of doctoral students: an initial report at the end of year I, two progress reports (intermediate I and intermediate II) during year II and a final report (at the end of year III). The progress reports have four distinct sections: one completed by the doctoral student, one completed by the doctoral supervisor, one completed by the members of the guidance commission (each of the three members provides separate feedback) and an administrative one.

Additionally, PhD candidates, who publicly defended their doctoral thesis in Economics and International Affairs or completed the doctoral training period in the evaluated period, published scientific articles or participated with presentations in various scientific events in collaboration with one of the members of the guidance commission.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

The ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance in Economics and International Affairs is 1.1, lower than the standard set by ARACIS. This is based by considering that there are 19 PhD candidates in the ECONOMICS doctoral field and the 18 members of the guidance commissions.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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<sup>6</sup> Or by what the graduate should know, understand and to be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology of 17 March 2017 regarding inscription and registration of higher education qualifications in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order No.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.



### **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.*

The papers listed in SER, p. 77, for the PhD students in INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS who have completed in the last 5 years the doctoral studies in the evaluated period were checked if available online:

- Cristian INCALTARAU, Ilkhom SHARIPOV, Gabriela Carmen PASCARIU, Teodor Lucian MOGA – Growth and convergence in Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries since the dissolution of the USSR - embarking on different development paths?, in Development Policy Review, 2021 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/dpr.12547?af=R>
- Ludmila BORTA – The Current BRICS Trade Barriers on EU's Exports, in CES Working Papers, vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 344-358 <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=190350>
- Sergey LISNYAK – The Relevance of EaP with Regard to Regional Economic Resilience Capacity Building, in CES Working Papers, vol. 8, no. 3, pp. 364-375 <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=598654>
- Andrei POSTOLACHI – Ensuring Security of Supply of Natural Gas in the European Union's Common Energy Policy, in OECONOMICA, vol. 9, no. 4, pp. 377-387 <https://econpapers.repec.org/article/dugacta/13y3a377-387.htm>
- Ioana GUȚU – Multinational Companies and the Management of Corporate Diplomacy, în Expert Journal of Business and Management, Volume 7, Issue 2, 2019, pp. 263-270 [https://business.expertjournals.com/ark:/16759/EJBM\\_718gutu263-270.pdf](https://business.expertjournals.com/ark:/16759/EJBM_718gutu263-270.pdf)
- Loredana JITARU – The Importance of the European Union in International Trade, in "Ovidius" University Annals, Economic Sciences Series, Volume XVII, Issue 2, 2017 <https://ideas.repec.org/a/ovi/oviste/vxviiy2017i2p29-33.html>

The papers are professionally developed and published. However, there might be more support to publish papers in highly ranked scientific journals.

*Recommendations:*

- Logistic and financial support to publish in more prestigious scientific journals.

***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 8 doctoral candidates who were awarded a Doctoral degree in the past five years participated with papers in at least one international conference, abroad or in Romania. In total they have published/participated in 26 papers/conferences/events.



Recommendations:

- Promoting and supporting doctoral students to publish in the international scientific journals and conferences outside Romania,
- Logistic and financial support to publish in more prestigious scientific journals.

***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.*

According to SAR, p. 80, and annex 38., uploaded on ARACIS cloud, "The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD does not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor. In this regards, number 2 is not exceeded and the indicator is fulfilled.

***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.*

According to SAR, p. 81., for the doctoral field of Economics and International Affairs, only eight doctoral students have obtained the title of doctor in the last five years, so this performance indicator is not necessary to be assessed.

## ***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.*



*As presented in previous performance indicators, related to the legal framework the ULSB stand very well. There are developed and in force the following regulations:*

Based on the information provided in SAR, p. 83, at the IOSUD level the following documents are available:

- The Operational Procedure regarding the evaluation and internal monitoring of the doctoral schools within the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași
- The Institutional Regulation for the Organization and Functioning of Doctoral University Studies
- The Regulation of Operation of the Doctoral School and represents one of the objectives in the Strategic Plan of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration).

Further, there seems to be missing a regulation related to point “f”: “social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students”. Parts foreseen to regulate the social and academic life of the doctoral students, are incorporated in any the above listed regulations.

*Recommendations:*

- Relevant legal documents to be translated in English language and uploaded on web page of the UAIC
- A clearer regulation about social and academic services to be developed (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.).

***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.***

Based on the information in SAR, p. 83 – 84, at the level of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, the Questionnaire for Assessing the Quality of Doctoral Studies is administered annually. The conclusions drawn from this mechanism for collecting feedback from doctoral students are mentioned in the report devised by the internal commission for evaluating the activity of the doctoral school. Additionally, there was a report, the SDEAA Report for the 2012-2017 period (Annex 5c) that includes the results of an analysis conducted between March-April 2017 on 31 graduates (31 valid answers out of the 33 received). It was carried out by distributing a questionnaire to obtain feedback from doctoral students on the quality of the doctoral process and the quality of doctoral guidance, as follows.

- doctoral student's decision to enroll in the SDEAA study program - alternative to plan "0";
- quality of the program - according to expectations, with too much emphasis on other activities;
- research environment - more competitive than collaborative;
- pressure to work - stress and loneliness;
- final customer satisfaction - grade 4/5;
- quality of doctoral guidance– normal, with emphasis on autonomy and independence of the doctoral student.

***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.*

According to SAR p. 85-86, the website of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration is <https://doctorat.feaa.uaic.ro/Pages/Home.aspx>. The section presenting doctoral studies is quite informative and includes information on:

- the regulation regarding the activity of doctoral studies at the level of the doctoral school;
- the list of active members of the doctoral school with the contact details and the research field of interest;
- the minimum standards for obtaining the enabling certificate;
- the content of the advanced university training program.
- the second section contains information on admission to doctoral studies:
- the admission methodology, elaborated annually;
- the topics for admission;
- the manner of conducting the admission exam;
- information on the admission contest schedule, fees, number of seats and the content of the file.

The Doctoral School's website also includes sections for announcements regarding the presentation of research reports and the doctoral theses, which are public according to the school's regulations.

Further, as presented in the SAR p. 86., "Students and academics have free access to the most important online scientific documentation resources worldwide, including: Clarivate Analytics (Web of Science + Derwent Innovation + Journal Citation Report), Science Direct, SCOPUS, MatSciNet, SciFinder, ScinceDirect National Archives, ScinceDirect. Free access is allowed as a result of UAIC's participation as a contributing member in the project "Electronic National Access to Scientific Literature to Support the Research and Education System in ROMANIA - ANELIS PLUS 2020" (ANELIS PLUS 2020 - 2017 Contract Annex)."

*Recommendations:*

- Relevant legal documents to be translated in English language and uploaded on web page of the UAIC.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*





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

According to SAR , p. 86., "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi offers doctoral students the opportunity to access the following databases: Science Direct Freedom Collection, Scopus, SciFinder (CAS), MathSciNet, etc., while through the "Mihai Eminescu" Central University Library in Iasi they also have access to other representative databases, such as: SpringerLink Journals, ProQuest Central, Emerald Journals, Science Journals, Thompson Reuters, Oxford Journals, SAGE Journals HHS Collection, EBSCO, Wiley Journals etc.

*Recommendations:*

- Web page information, regulations, and instructions for students to be translated in English language.

***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.*

According to information provided in the SAR, p. 87., and annexes 27, 28 and 29, the students have access to check the percentage of similarity of their research work. Thus, since 2006, at IOSUD-UAIC, the special module for this functionality has been used within the e-learning platform Blackboard – SafeAssign. In 2018 and onwards the Turnitin application was purchased being available for doctoral students, as well

*Recommendations:*

- Relevant legal documents to be translated in English language and uploaded on web page of the UAIC

***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 enrolled in the International Economics and Business doctoral program have access to the research infrastructure available within IOSUD.

***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.*

According SAR, p. 88 – 90 and relevant annexes in the process of internationalization of studies, the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi concluded 845 agreements with 386 universities in 31 European countries. Since 2015, 68 inter-institutional collaboration agreements have been concluded with universities and research institutions. Based on these agreements, doctoral supervisors and doctoral students of doctoral schools within IOSUD-UAIC can benefit from teaching, study and practice mobilities.

The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration has concluded mobility agreements with 25 universities abroad (Annex 39), which offers doctoral students the opportunity to develop their professional skills and scientific research, as well as the international dimension of doctoral studies. During the reporting period (2016-2020), 11 doctoral students of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration carried out study mobilities within the Erasmus Program and four doctoral students carried out internship mobilities within the Erasmus Program.

Further, within the SAR, there are presented the conducted mobilities and duration, but there are not presented in %.

Recommendations:

- Knowledge of English language should be, must criteria in the student enrollment process for the doctoral studies;
- Courses in English language to be promoted in all levels, and in doctoral studies to be compulsory;
- In near future, the complete doctoral study program to be delivered in English language;
- Promotion of the double degree and joint degree doctoral study programs;
- Update of web page with translated documents in international language;
- Logistic and financial support to professors and doctoral students for project development and application in local and international programs/projects;
- Logistic and financial support for inviting visiting professors for a longer period of stay; semester or even academic year,
- Logistic and financial support for doctoral students for participation in the international conferences in foreign countries.

*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.***

In the SAR, p. 90-91, it has been admitted that the financial support is always a struggle for the institution. Despite this, based on the data provided the institution is actively involved in inviting guest lecturers from abroad specifically for the doctoral program Economics and International Affairs. The institution has presented some selected guest lecturers in the period 2016-2020 that counts for 14 international guest lecturers hosted within this doctoral program coming from different European countries and overseas.

However, these numbers of inviting lecturers, 14 lecturers for 5 years, is not sufficient for the program which has content international affairs, as well as doesn't represent the sufficient number of guest lecturers for the institution that symbolizes the oldest one in Romania.



One of the main targets of the doctoral program in the domain Economics and International Affairs should be internationalization. In this direction, would be preferable to be promoted and implemented the co-teaching methodology for majority courses of the study program, including co-advisership for the doctoral theses.

Further, according the legal framework, numerically this performance indicator is fulfilled. However, taking into consideration the comments provided above, lack of courses offered in English language, symbolic numbers of guest lecturers, it is very difficult to be considered as a fulfilled indicator.

Recommendations:

- Recommendations are provided in the Performance indicator C.3.1.1., are applicable also for this performance indicator.
- Co-teaching methodology for majority courses of the study program, including co-advisership for the doctoral theses.

*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.).*

According to the SAR, p. 91-92, there were some internationalization of activities during the evaluated period, both at the level of IOSUD - "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, and within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration. Efforts were made and concrete measures were taken to internationalize the activities within the doctoral studies. Thus, Prof. Elio BORGONOV, PhD, from Bocconi University, Italy was coopted in the Doctoral School Council, as numerous conferences and scientific events with a very important international presence were organized during the evaluated period.

At the same time, the number of the foreign candidates at the admission contest for doctoral studies in INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS increased significantly in the recent period: Vladislav CORNEA, Cristin MURAF, Cristian CARAMAN – Rep. of Moldova; Sergey LISNYAK – Kazahstan; Ilkhom SHARIPOV – Uzbekistan; Tanya TRAIATA – Mongolia; Stefan STARK and Vlad LEONTIE – Germany; Hak Je YU – South Korea; Eldad BARLEV – Israel; Dumitru – Silviu MISTREANU – studies in USA.

Moreover, at the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, Center for European Studies and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration levels, conferences and other scientific events which support the internationalization of doctoral studies in Economics and International Affairs (for example, the Globalization and Higher Education in Economics and Business Administration and EURINT series of international conferences) are organized regularly.

Since 2017, Professor Adriana Zaiț, Director of SDEAA, has participated in the regular meetings of the Doctoral Studies Group within the Coimbra Network, of which UAIC is part, the information obtained being disseminated and used to improve SDEAA's internationalization strategies.

A very symbolic number for such old and prestigious University, especially related to involvement of the international experts in committees of doctoral thesis.



*Recommendations:*

- Recommendations are provided in the Performance indicator C.3.1.1. and C.3.1.2., are applicable also for this performance indicator.

*The indicator is fulfilled.*

#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The oldest university in Romania,</li> <li>• Higher Education Institution within the European Union</li> <li>• Very advanced legal framework in the higher education system</li> <li>• Modern regulations for performing doctoral studies,</li> <li>• Clear procedures and measures for all possible cases - promotion and penalties,</li> <li>• Medium size University with well established reputation</li> <li>• Very enthusiastic and highly professional staff,</li> <li>• Trained staff for supporting the research activities</li> <li>• Equipped library and online access to international journals and books,</li> <li>• Existence of the functional research institutes within UAIC.</li> <li>• Cheap Study Cost for attracting international students.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient number of applicants for enrolment at doctoral studies,</li> <li>• Courses and study program offered in local language,</li> <li>• Information on web page mainly published in local language</li> <li>• Lack of logistic and financial support for professors and doctoral students for development of the project proposals</li> <li>• Insufficient participation in different locally and internationally funded projects,</li> <li>• Insufficient partnership agreements with local stakeholders for internship placement of doctoral students as well as for joint research activities</li> <li>• Lack of partnership agreements for development of double and joint degree study programs</li> <li>• Insufficient financial support for participation in the international conferences</li> <li>• Insufficient engagement of students in curriculum development</li> <li>• Insufficient engagement of graduated students (Alumni) in development of strategic documents as well as in renewing the study programs</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion and participation in local projects</li> <li>• Promotion participation in the international projects</li> <li>• Partnership agreements with international universities for development of double and joint degree doctoral study programs</li> <li>• Memorandum of understanding with local stakeholders for joint research projects</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of students enrolled in doctoral programs,</li> <li>• Hesitation of professors to offer courses in international languages</li> <li>• Luck of interest from abroad to continue their studies at UAIC</li> <li>• Local companies not interested for cooperation and hosting doctoral students for internship</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorandum of understanding with local stakeholders for internship placement of doctoral students</li> <li>• Establishment of Advisory Board for doctoral studies</li> <li>• Promoting and attracting foreign students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International universities not interested for double and joint degree study program cooperation</li> <li>• Graduated students (Alumni) not interested to contribute to advancement of UAIC</li> <li>• Local stakeholder not interested to be part of. Advisory. Board</li> <li>• Lack of students interest to follow courses and study programs in international language (weak English skills competences).</li> </ul>
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## V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1	PI	A.1.1.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant legal documents to be translated into English language</li> </ul>
2	PI	A.1.1.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant legal documents to be translated into English language</li> </ul>
3	PI	A.1.2.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant legal documents to be translated into English language</li> </ul>
4	PI	A.1.2.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
5	PI	A.1.3.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active presence in the EU funded projects (ERASMUS +, Horizon 2020, etc),</li> <li>• Partnership agreements for joint research projects with the international higher education institutions,</li> <li>• Partnership agreements with local stakeholders for joint research activities,</li> <li>• Partnership agreements with local and international stakeholders for internship placement of doctoral students for performing doctoral thesis.</li> </ul>
6	PI*	*A.1.3.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active presence in the EU funded projects (ERASMUS +, Horizon 2020, etc),</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership agreements for joint research projects with the international higher education institutions,</li> <li>Partnership agreements with local stakeholders for joint research activities,</li> <li>Partnership agreements with local and international stakeholders for internship placement of doctoral students for performing doctoral thesis.</li> </ul>
7	PI*	*A.1.3.3.	The indicator is partially fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logistic and financial support of PhD students for development of project proposals, and their involvement in project implementation,</li> <li>Active presence in the EU funded projects (ERASMUS +, Horizon 2020, etc),</li> <li>Partnership agreements with local stakeholders for joint research activities,</li> <li>Partnership agreements with local and international stakeholders for internship placement of doctoral students for performing doctoral thesis.</li> </ul>
8	PI	A.2.1.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
9	PI	A.3.1.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
10	PI*	*A.3.1.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
11	PI	A.3.1.3.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant documents related to doctoral studies to be translated in English language and uploaded in web page,</li> <li>Student guidebook to be developed and published on web page,</li> </ul>
12	PI*	*A.3.1.4.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
13	PI	A.3.2.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support for higher presence in the intranational conferences outside Romania,</li> <li>Promoting lectures outside home university,</li> <li>Active participation within ERASMUS + Academic Mobility Program</li> <li>Partnership agreements for joint research projects with the international higher education institutions.</li> </ul>
14	PI*	*A.3.2.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
15	PI*	*B.1.1.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
16	PI*	*B.1.2.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action plan for attracting more applicants,</li> <li>The relevant documents to be translated in English language,</li> <li>The knowledge on English language to be compulsory criteria for admission,</li> <li>Student guidebook to be developed and published on web page.</li> </ul>
17	PI	B.1.2.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Either to make structural changes in the doctoral study program or to extend length of the studies</li> </ul>

18	PI	B.2.1.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
19	PI	B.2.1.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
20	PI	B.2.1.3.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The structure of doctoral program to be clearly defined, including all tasks and duties that students needs to undergo for accomplishment of the doctoral program,</li> <li>• Student guidebook to be developed and published in foreign languages.</li> </ul>
21	PI	B.2.1.4.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
22	PI	B.2.1.5.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
23	PI	B.3.1.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logistic and financial support to publish in more prestigious scientific journals</li> </ul>
24	PI*	*B.3.1.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting and supporting doctoral students to publish in the international scientific journals and conferences outside Romania,</li> <li>• Logistic and financial support to publish in more prestigious scientific journals.</li> </ul>
25	PI*	*B.3.2.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
26	PI*	*B.3.2.2.	Not necessary to be assessed.	//
27	PI	C.1.1.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant legal documents to be translated in English language and uploaded on web page of the UAIC</li> <li>• A clearer regulation about social and academic services to be developed (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.)..</li> </ul>
28	PI*	*C.1.1.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
29	PI	C.2.1.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant legal documents to be translated in English language and uploaded on web page of the UAIC.</li> </ul>
30	PI	C.2.2.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web page information, and instructions for students to be translated in English language</li> </ul>
31	PI	C.2.2.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant legal documents to be translated in English language and uploaded on web page of the UAIC.</li> </ul>
32	PI	C.2.2.3.	The indicator is fulfilled.	//
33	PI*	*C.3.1.1.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of English language should be, must criteria in the student enrollment process for the doctoral studies;</li> <li>• Courses in English language to be promoted in all levels, and in doctoral studies to be compulsory;</li> <li>• In near future, the complete doctoral study program to be delivered in English language;</li> <li>• Promotion of the double degree and joint degree doctoral study programs;</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update of web page with translated documents in international language;</li> <li>• Logistic and financial support to professors and doctoral students for project development and application in local and international programs/projects;</li> <li>• Logistic and financial support for inviting visiting professors for a longer period of stay; semester or even academic year,</li> <li>• Logistic and financial support for doctoral students for participation in the international conferences in foreign countries.</li> </ul>
34	PI	C.3.1.2.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations are provided in the Performance indicator C.3.1.1. and are applicable also for this performance indicator.</li> <li>• Co-teaching methodology for majority courses of the study program, including co-advisership for the doctoral theses.</li> </ul>
35	PI	C.3.1.3.	The indicator is fulfilled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations are provided in the Performance indicator C.3.1.1. and C.3.1.2., are applicable also for this performance indicator.</li> </ul>

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

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

## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

### Recommendations:

The recommendations provided in the table above, might be summarized as follows:

- Development of action plan for attracting international and local doctoral students,
- Development of Strategy Quality Assurance,
- Development of the Strategy for Research and Development.
- Development of study program with involvement of all relevant stakeholders (management, teaching staff, students, administration, alumni, and representatives from economy,
- Increase of participation in the ERASMUS+ academic mobility projects (KA1), Horizon 2020 and other, international projects,
- Promotion of the double degree and joint degree doctoral study programs,
- Increasing partnership agreements with local and international stakeholders,
- Co-teaching methodology for majority courses of the study program, including co-advisership for the doctoral theses.
- The complete doctoral study program to be delivered in English language.





## VII. Annexes

*The following types of documents shall be attached:*

- *The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – MANDATORY.*
- *The survey questionnaire applied to doctoral students or academic staff in the doctoral study domain under review, the results - optional (e.g., in graphic form) and their interpretation - if applicable.*
- *Scanned documents – any document requested from the IOSUD during the evaluation visit and received, which is not found in the internal evaluation file received before the visit and referred to in the report.*
- *Pictures – if relevant issues are raised regarding the condition of the student residences, cafeterias, premises for teaching and learning activities, library etc.*
- *Screenshots/Print screens of the Doctoral School/IOSUD website proving specific claims in the report, accompanied by the date when they were accessed and saved.*
- *Any other documents relevant to the evaluation process referred to in the report.*