

## The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

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### I. Introduction

This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration at "**Alexandro Ioan Cuza**" University of Iasi, periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The evaluation visit for this program was during 09-17 September, 2021 and the Experts Committee was comprised by Coordinator Prof. univ. dr. Gabriela Prelicean from Universitatea Stefan cel Mare din Suceava, International expert Prof. univ. Eglatina Hysa from Epoka University, Albania, and PhD student Iureş Nugur Victor Constantin from Universitatea din Craiova.

Comprising 9 Doctoral programmes, (**Cybernetics and Statistics, Accounting, Economics, International Economics and Business, Finance, Economic Informatics, Management, Marketing, and Administrative Sciences**), the **Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration**, is organised by the "**Alexandru Ioan Cuza**" University IOSUD in 2005. Currently, in total there are involved 49 doctoral thesis advisors, 104 guidance commission members and 152 enrolled PhD students.

The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration is a separate department within the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, with its own regulations and structure and comprises 9 doctoral study domains: **Cybernetics and Statistics, Accounting, Economics, International Economics and Business, Finance, Economic Informatics, Management, Marketing, and Administrative Sciences**. The doctoral activity is overseen by Council for Doctoral Studies (CSD), consisting of 8 members: the Director of CSD, 5 doctoral advisors, and two representative from PhD students.

*Table 1: Available seats, applicants, PhD students enrolled within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (2011-2020)*

Academic year	Available seats	Applicants	Enrolled PhD students
2011-2012	77 state budget, 35 paid tuition	69	51
2012 - 2013	55 state budget, 24 paid tuition	63	47



2013 - 2014	44 state budget, 25 paid tuition	42	36
2014-2015	31 state budget, 2 paid tuition	49	33
2015-2016	30 state budget, 5 paid tuition	38	32
2016-2017	26 state budget, 15 paid tuition	31	31
2017-2018	23 state budget, 15 paid tuition	47	39
2018-2019	25 state budget, 15 paid tuition	41	40
2019-2020	28 state budget, 15 paid tuition	44	42
2020-2021	25 state budget, 20 paid tuition	43	37

The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration (DSEBA) has a clear mission and vision. DSEBA aims to support and develop high quality doctoral researches by adopting and covering two perspectives: methodologically rigorous and socially relevant.

Regarding the Quality Issues, the DSEBA follows the principles stated in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. Furthermore, since April 10, 2014, the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University IOSUD holds the HR Excellence in Research quality certificate.

In total, there are currently 51 doctoral thesis advisors within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration.

Institution provides the necessary infrastructure and environment for a good foundation and conduction of the PhD studies. All rooms are provided with modern equipment: smart table, laptops, sound systems, internet etc. Library of Faculty of Economics and Business Administration is specialized in economics but, given the numerous disciplines it relates to, it also gathers publications in socio- politics, history, geography, as well as a generous number of reference works (encyclopedias, dictionaries, monographies, legislation), with approximately 25.000 volumes. Except other online subscriptions, DSEBA has subscription-based access granted through the project ANELIS PLUS 2020 - National electronic access to scientific literature to support the educational and research system in Romania, co-funded by the Regional Development European Fund through the Competitiveness Operational Program 2014-2020. Furthermore, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza University" of Iasi is subscribed to: Science Direct Freedom Collection, Scopus, SciFinder (CAS), MathSciNet.

During 2016-2020, DSEBA has organized 42 national and international scientific events, in which PhD students get the opportunity to discuss and receive useful feedback on their doctoral research as well as to compare their own research efforts with those of senior researchers.



The **ECONOMICS doctoral study domain** has clear objectives, mission, and vision. The curriculum of ECONOMICS doctoral study domain, is available in the Doctoral School site, portal, <http://doctorat.feaa.uaic.ro/documente>. PhD students of Economics have to select **4 compulsory disciplines** and from the list of **optional disciplines, they have to choose between 2 and 4** (so as to complete the required number of credits) depending on their specialization.

#### **Compulsory disciplines:**

1. Scientific Research Methodology (with 3 distinct modules):
  - a. Epistemology
  - b. Scientific Research Methodology
  - c. Academic Writing I
2. Research and Analysis Methods for Qualitative Data
3. Research and Analysis Methods for Quantitative Data
4. Academic Ethics and Integrity

#### **Optional disciplines (modules in the 12 disciplines list below, total number of hours – 60):**

1. Technology and society in economy (20 hours)
2. Doctoral research sustainability (20 hours)
3. Categorical data analysis (10 hours)
4. Current research trends in accounting and financial analysis (30 hours)
5. Empirical banking (20 hours)
6. Banking economics (20 hours)
7. Advanced research in finance (30 hours)
8. Academic writing II - specific elements for various doctoral study domains (30 hours)
9. Doctoral research in management & marketing - quantitative branch (30 hours)
10. Doctoral research management & marketing - qualitative branch (30 hours)
11. Independent modules: ethnographic, social-media and new-media research (6 hours); evidence based research in social sciences (8 hours); branding, image, reputation, relationship management (6 hours); latent processes and variables in social researches (8 hours); PLS and SEM in economics and social sciences research (6 + 6 hours).
12. International Economics and Business advanced research (30 hours)

In the doctoral field of Economics at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University are affiliated a total of five doctoral advisors, out of which four of them fulfil the minimum criteria of National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU). Due to his age, one of the academics involved in the doctoral field of Economics is an associate doctoral thesis advisor only, without being involved in doctoral admission, coordination or teaching.



The admission contest is organized at the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration level, according to doctoral study domains, and the number of seats for each domain is decided based on doctoral advisors' and students' performance.

Table 2. Doctoral studies in ECONOMICS - Admission

Admission year	Number of applicants	Admitted candidates
2016-2017	5	5
2017-2018	8	8
2018-2019	2	2
2019-2020	1	1
2020-2021	6	4

Table 3. Current doctoral students in ECONOMICS

Year of study	UAIC Scholarship	MEN Scholarship	State Budget	PAID TUITION	Total
1(2020)	1	1	1	1	4
2(2019)		1			1
3 (2018)	1	1			2
4(2017)	1		1		2
5(2016)		1			1
Extension (2015-2016)			2		2
	3	4	4	1	12

Table 4. Total number of PhD students in *ECONOMICS* (including those who defended their thesis)

Year of study	No. of PhD students
1(2020)	4
2(2019)	1
3(2018)	2
(2017)	6
(2016)	5

In total nine students have been graduated by awarding the PhD degree, and four other students have been expelled from their studies.

In the support of the PhD studies in ECONOMICS, there is also the **Center for Research in Economics and Business Communication**, which functions within the Department of Economics and International Relations (DERI), Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (<http://www.feaa.uaic.ro/cercetare/centre/>) and its research is focused on the following sub- domains:

- Microeconomics;
- Economics of enterprise;
- Macroeconomics;
- Institutional economics;
- International economics;
- Business communication.

The Center for Research in Economics and Business Communication considers short, medium- and long-term strategies in order to fulfil its' mission to support the PhD program.



The ECONOMICS domain has its own research plan. The main scientific research topics are:

- Human capital in new democracies;
- Economic development and its result's distribution;
- The role of the state in the economic development process;
- Austrian School of Economics;
- Economic cycle and markets' instability;
- Institutional quality and entrepreneurial development;
- Trends, challenges and perspectives in sustainable development;
- Economic and development growth models;
- Companies' business strategies.

Research plan and strategies are supported through different scientific activities, such as: organization of national and international seminars, conferences, involvement in projects and students' clubs.

Regarding scientific output of the staff involved in the PhD studies of ECONOMICS, they have been involved as Guest editors in two Special issues of Web of Science indexed journals. Additionally, there is an extended list of published articles in journals with AIS, books and chapters in volumes published by prestigious international publishing houses, research projects, national and international conferences, etc.

At central level, in "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, there is Commission of Quality Management, which is organized and functions in agreement with stipulations in the National Education Law and Law no. 87/2006 for the approval of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2005. The Commission reports to the University Board of Governors, is run by a Chair and operates on the basis of its own Regulations. The Faculty of Economics and Business Administration has a Quality Management Subcommittee, which is subordinate to the central committee. The institutional practices and policies in the field of quality are adapted to the requirements specified in the Methodology on Quality Assurance, Provisional Operating Authorisation and Accreditation of Study Programs and Higher Education Institutions, drawn by ARACIS, in accordance with the provisions of Government Emergency Ordinance No. 75/2005 on Quality Assurance in Education and Law No. 87/2006, as amended.

The webpage of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration presents regular information on the regulation on the activity of doctoral studies at doctoral school level, the list of active members of the doctoral school with contact details and area of research interest, minimum standards to obtain the habilitation certificate, content of the advanced training program, admission criteria, timetables, fees, etc. In addition to this information, the website publishes announcements on the public defense of habilitation theses, doctoral theses and the public defense of research as part of the individual scientific research program of doctoral students.

## **II. Methods used**

This external evaluation report is drafted based on the evaluation visit for this doctoral program in Economics was during 09-17 September, 2021. All the Experts Committee members had the opportunity



to join the meetings online and the group Coordinator Prof. univ. dr. Gabriela Prelipcean from Universitatea Stefan cel Mare din Suceava, could join the institution by consulting during a site-visit at the premises of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi.

Specifically, the methods and tools used in the external evaluation process, before and during the evaluation visit, include the following activities:

- The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its respective annexes;
- The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD, in physical format, during the evaluation visit;
- The analysis of documents, data and information available on the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) website, in electronic format;
- Visiting the buildings included in the institution's property, spaces and capacities (by Coordinator of the External Evaluation Experts);
- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating;
- Meeting/Discussions with the doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain under review;
- Meeting/discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the IOSUD/Doctoral School(s) in which the doctoral study domain under review is operating:
  - The Council of the Doctoral School, the Board of Directors, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission (including with the student representatives of these structures).

Additionally, the Experts Committee members asked to the university some additional documents that helped to clarify and ensured a correct evaluation of each criteria.

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

The doctoral programme in the field of Economics at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi is an accredited programme. This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. Each evaluation criteria stipulated by ARACIS have been analysed from the self-evaluation group preparing the Self-Evaluation Report, and in this external report the External Experts Committee will evaluate the respective criteria. The three main Domains to be evaluated are A. Institutional Capacity; B. Education Effectiveness; and, C. Quality Management.

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



In this Domain, the External Experts Committee will investigate (1) The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources; (2) Research infrastructure; (3) Quality and human resources. Each of these criteria is based on some specific standards to be fulfilled by the institution.

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

*This criterion is to analyse the existing of the administrative and managerial structures in the institutional level that are in support of the doctoral studies in the field of Economics. Additionally, this criterion considers the financial resources available to maintain the above mentioned programme.*

*Standard A.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.*

**Performance Indicator A.1.1.1.** *The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUO body and the doctoral school, respectively, considering the past five years as period of reference*

- *The internal regulations of the administrative structures (The Institutional Regulations regarding the organization and implementation of doctoral studies, the regulations of each doctoral school);*
- *The Methodology regarding the voting process at the level of CSUO, of each doctoral school, and proof of its occurrence;*
- *The methodology regarding the competition for occupying the position as director of CSUO and proof of the competition process;*
- *Methodologies regarding organizing and conducting doctoral studies (the admission of students into doctoral programmes, the completion of the programmes);*
- *The existence of mechanisms for acknowledging the title of doctoral advisor and the validation of doctoral titles obtained abroad;*
- *Functional management structures [IOSUO/ICSUO/The Council of the Doctoral School (the regularity with which the meetings are held)];*
- *The doctoral thesis agreement;*
- *Internal procedures regarding the analysis and approval of proposals for topics and themes to be included in the doctoral programmes;*
  
- *At the level of IOSUD - "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, and therefore also within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, including for the field of ECONOMICS, according to the legal provisions in force, doctoral studies are conducted on the basis of their own regulations, adopted by the Senate of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi (Annex 16). The activity of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration is carried out on the basis of its own regulations, corresponding to the period evaluated. The latter are (Annex 6).*
  
- *The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration is managed by a Director appointed according to legal provisions (Annex 17) and a Council of the Doctoral School, elected by the General Assembly of doctoral advisors, respectively by the PhD students working within it, the results of these procedures being validated by the Senate of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi by Decision no.3 of 27.07.2017 (Annex 4). Additionally, two graduated doctoral students were elected as members of this council.*



- Admission examinations for doctoral studies were held each year based on a specific methodology. With regard to the completion of doctoral studies, there are specific provisions in the Institutional Regulation to Organize and Operate Doctoral Studies, with a separate regulation on the online public defence of doctoral dissertations. Due to the pandemic-related restrictions, there was a specific regulation on the submission of doctoral dissertations for online public defence.
- At the level of "Alexandro Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, specific mechanisms have been adopted and applied for the recognition of the capacity of PhD advisor and for the equivalence of the PhD degree obtained in other countries follow two specific procedures, as detailed in Annex 20, and Annex 21.
- Based on Annex 22, there is a regular functioning of management structures (of Council of the Doctoral School, specifically, the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration).
- The doctoral thesis agreement/ contract (Annex 23) stipulates the rights and obligations assigned to IOSUD - "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, to the doctoral students, and to the doctoral advisors. The agreement is signed individually for each doctoral student, regardless of the type of position he is admitted on, for the entire period of the doctoral student's training, and includes the clauses regulated by the Doctoral Studies Code. For the extension of the enrolment period or for the granting of a period of grace, which are among the regulations currently in force, additional documentation is signed and added to the doctoral thesis agreement.
- IOSUD- ULBS possesses internal analysis and approval procedures regarding proposals on the topics and themes of the doctoral programmes. At the level of each doctoral field, the field coordinators discuss with the doctoral advisors affiliated to the corresponding field about the training programme founded on advanced university studies and about the different themes pertaining to each particular training programme, in order to ensure the novelty, the clarity, and the impact of the themes which are therewith put forward for research.
- PPUA is monitored and evaluated periodically (every 5 years) by the CDS - DSEBA, according to the School Regulation (art 6.1.2 and 6.1.3). The CSD initiates each year debates to endorse the possible change of subjects in the curriculum and the introduction of new subjects in the PPUA, in order to ensure the adaptation of the doctoral training offer to the needs of doctoral students and to the national and international educational context as in Annex 6.

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 aspects specified in Art. 17 (5) of Government Decision no.681/2011 are also specified in the Regulations of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration) includes all mandatory provisions related to criteria, procedures and standards concerning the issues specified (Annex 6):

- a) the admission of new doctoral advisors, as well as regulations regarding the manner





*in which the membership of a doctoral advisor can be revoked if needed (Art. 3.1.(2), Art. 3.1.(4) and 3.1.(5));*

*b) the decision-making process in regard to the opportunity, the structure, and the content of the training program of the doctoral studies (section 6.2. of the Regulation, specifically dedicated to the Advanced University Studies Program, art. 6.2(4), art. 6.2(5).).*

*c) the procedures in place regarding changing a doctoral advisor with another and guidelines regarding conflict mediation (art. 3.1.(8) and art. 3.1.(9), and 3.1.(11));*

*d) the circumstances in which the doctoral program can be discontinued (Art. 5.3(1), Art. 5.3(2));*

*e) the prevention of fraud in scientific research, including instances of plagiarism (The Regulation of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, Chapter 8.);*

*f) ensuring the access to research resources (in in Art. 4.3(1) of Regulation of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, which refers, and Art. 16 of the Institutional Regulation for the Organization and Operation of Doctoral Studies);*

*g) the doctoral students' attendance obligations, according to a Methodology authored by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth, and Sport (Art. 5.1.(1), and Art. 5.1.(2));*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*This standard ensures the existence of a good system which maintains all the necessary data and details of the doctoral student academic background.*

**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 informatic system of IOSUD - "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, eSims, allows keeping track of the doctoral students and their academic background. This system is the implementation of the project „Integrated informatics system for the students' professional activities management within the context of the changes triggered by the Bologna process”, financed by the Ministry of Education and Research.*

*This system can be used by two categories of users: occasional users (students and professors), who have access to individual data and use the system when they need information, and "professional" users, who use the application on a daily basis, to carry out student management activities (secretariat, databases, faculty and university management, etc.).*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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



The "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi has shown ongoing concern for ensuring the necessary resources to check the similarity percentage for all the works elaborated by students, including PhD theses (Annex 27). Since 2006, within IOSUD-UAIC, a special module has been used for this function within the eLearning platform Blackboard - SafeAssign. In 2018, they adopted another technical solution based on Moodle in order to secure the eLearning platform for the distance learning and part-time learning, resulted in the annual purchase of the Turnitin application. This ensures the access of the teaching staff from the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, including PhD advisor, to the application, and grants PhD students the opportunity to use an informatics program to verify the similarity percentage in PhD theses.

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

*Standard A.1.3. The IOSUD makes sure that financial resources are used optimally, and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies are supplemented through additional funding besides governmental funding.*

*This standard ensures the availability of financial resources and other internal and external opportunities arising for the doctoral students. This is important to enhance capacities of research and to extend the outcome in a larger target group.*

***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.*

*Upon submission of the evaluation file, IOSUD "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi is implementing a number of grants/ research projects or institutional development projects, which involve PhD students in the field of ECONOMICS, as follows:*

- *Project POCU/380/6/13/123623: PhD student s and postdoctoral researchers ready for the labor market, project value: 1.5 million EUR; implementation period: 2019-2021; project director: Professor Liviu-George Maha, PhD habil.*
- *Project POCU/380/6/13/125015: Developing entrepreneurial skills in PhD students and postdoctoral researcher s in the field of economic sciences- acronym: InoVant, project value 6,874,227.91 RON, implementation period 2019-2021, UAIC coordinator: Professor Mircea Georgescu, PhD*

*At the same time, throughout the reporting period, the PhD thesis advisors in the field of ECONOMICS have implemented other research projects, such as:*

- *Research project: Perspectives for Promoting Sustainable Development in Romania and the Republic of Moldova through the Operationalization of Relevant European Good Practices, PN-III- CEI-BIM-PM - Competition Romania-Moldova, DEVEUROMD - ID BM42/2016, project value 58,530 RON, implementation period 2016-2018, Project coordinator UAIC: Professor Ion Pohoata, PhD;*



*Scientific Convergence and Interdisciplinarity in EU Environmental Research (SCIENVIR), Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Project, reference number 575254-EPP-1-2016-1- RO-EPPJMO-PROJECT, project value 78,564 EUR, implementation period 2016-2018, Implementation team member (expert): Professor Ion Pohoata, PhD.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled**

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

*Three PhD students from the doctoral studies in the field of ECONOMICS, have undergone doctoral training benefitted from financial support for a period of 12 months (October 2019 - October 2020), within projects carried out by the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi. Moreover, three PhD students benefit from a monthly scholarship equivalent to the MEN scholarship, for the entire duration of the doctoral training, from the funds of the IOSUD - "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi.*

*Thus, 5 of the 12 PhD students have undergone through doctoral training in the field of ECONOMICS within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration benefit (or benefitted), for a period of at least six months, from sources of funding other than government funding, through scholarships granted by natural or legal persons, or are financially supported by research or institutional development/ human resources grants, which represents a share of 41.11% of the total number of PhD students in this field, above the lower limit of 20% provided by standards.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled**

**Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.3.1** *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

*The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration has financially supported the training of all doctoral students, including those enrolled in doctoral studies in the field of ECONOMICS. Concretely, each doctoral student within IOSUD - "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi has the right to benefit,*

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<sup>1</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.



annually, from an amount of 3,000 RON for participation in prestigious scientific conferences in their field of specialization.

As per detailed calculations reported in the Self-Evaluation Report, the percentage computed over the total evaluation period is 2.98%, meanwhile, the percentage for the period 2015-2019 was 4.37%. This decrease in 2020, was due to pandemic (drastic fall in physical travel, and the significant cut in spending on online conferences, plus the organization of free access conferences). Even though this criterion is not fulfilled, it is obvious that the institution is trying to support as much as possible the enrolled students.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is partially fulfilled**

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

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

**Performance Indicator A.2.1.1.** *The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.*

*PhD students can use individual offices/ study rooms equipped with 10 Lenovo All-In-One desktop systems, laptops and multifunction printers. Equally, the same modern building accommodates the activities organized by DSEBA: courses, seminars, workshops, conferences, public defenses of doctoral theses, etc.; all rooms are equipped with the most modern facilities: smartboards, laptops, sound system, Internet connection, etc.*

*In addition to the mini-library set up in the individual study room (R41 I) for the exclusive use of doctoral students, in which they also have access to the resources offered by the two libraries of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. This is also confirmed from the meeting held with the PhD students.*

*The document collections consist of approximately 25,000 volumes (books and serial publications - Romanian and foreign), subscriptions to foreign and Romanian periodicals on traditional support, electronic documents and other specialized audio-visual materials; database subscriptions (InfoTrac-Custom Journals; Encyclopedias Britannica online and Universalis online). Logistics includes a network of 100 computers, 3 photocopiers, 3 printers, an e-mail server, video surveillance system, fire and security surveillance system, fingerprint access system, electronic anti-theft system for each volume. Students have access to ANELIS PLUS 2020 - National Electronic Access to Scientific Literature to Support the Research and Education System in Romania.*



*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*This criterion is devoted to the doctoral thesis advisors and the teaching staff for the doctoral school. It mainly deals with their expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, their expertise on the thesis topics, and their capacities to support this programme.*

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

*According to this standard, the institution has to ensure sufficient qualified staff supporting the program in teaching and research activities. Their specialization has to be in line with the domain of the programme.*

**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.*

*For the academic year 2020-2021, there are 5 doctoral thesis advisors who carry out doctoral supervision activities in the field of ECONOMICS, within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi. All the thesis advisors obtained this quality under the regulations in force.*

*Out of five, four of them meet the CNATDCU minimum standards in force at the time of this evaluation report, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate in the field of ECONOMICS. Only one of the academics involved in the doctoral field of Economics is an associate doctoral thesis advisor, who does not fulfil the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*Three PhD supervisors out of five affiliated scientific supervisors at the time of the self- evaluation report in the field of Economics are being full-time employed within IOSUD-"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi (maintaining the required percentage of 50%, exactly 66.67%).*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator A.3.1.3.** *The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.*

*The supervisors of PhD students are experts in the field, and they show a good track of their academic performance. The teaching activities pertaining to the subjects included in the curriculum are carried out by faculty or researchers experienced in the area of study; most of them are professors or associate professors or they are certified doctoral thesis advisors.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.4.** *The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs<sup>2</sup> does not exceed 20%.*

*None of the PhD supervisors has more than 8 PhD students at the same time. Respectively, one supervisor has a total of 7 PhD students, two supervisors have 2 students, one supervisor has only 1, and the other one supervisor does not have PhD students for the moment. The details are found in Table 5.*

*Table 5: Doctoral advisors in the field of Economics and number of PhD students*

No .	Doctoral advisor	PhD students	PhD students (in 'extension')	Total number of PhD students
1.	Professor Ion POHOATA , PhD	4	3	7
2.	Professor Andreea -Oana IACO BUTA.-MIHAITA , PhD	2	0	2
3.	Professor Cristian POPESCU, PhD	1	0	1
4.	Professor Laura DIACONU (married MAXIM), PhD	0	0	0
5.	Professor Ion IGNAT, PhD	0	2	2
	TOTAL	7	5	12

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

Besides the proper academic profile of the doctoral students' supervisors, they have to ensure an international integrity with networking and scientific research output.

**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.

From 5 PhD supervisors in Economics, four of them have more than 5 papers indexed in Web of Science impact factor journals (Table 6.). In the meantime, all PhD supervisors have other relevant achievements - books or book chapters published in international publishing houses, Web of Science indexed papers, papers presented at international scientific conferences. Additionally, all these professors are having international recognition, such as inclusion in the editorial board members or reviewers in the indexed journals and conferences.

Table 6: Web of Science Publications

No.	Doctoral advisor	Web of Science Articles with IF	Web of Science Articles without IF & Web of Science Proceedings
1.	Professor Andreea-Oana IACOBUTA - MIHAITA, PhD	8	11
2.	Professor Laura DIACONU (maTied MAXIM), PhD	6	19
3.	Professor Cristian POPESCU, PhD	9	7
4.	Professor Ion POHOATA, PhD	9	7

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.2.2.** At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.

From seven PhD supervisors in the field of Economics, four of them have achieved the scores required by the CNATDCU, which means that more than 25% (in this case 57.14%) of the score required by the CNATDCU minimum standards in force at the time of evaluation, necessary and mandatory for being awarded the habilitation certificate, based on the scientific achievements. This is verified from the Annex A3.2.2. provided on the self-evaluation report.

Four of the five (66.67%) doctoral advisors assigned to the doctoral field ECONOMICS have been scientifically active over the past five years, obtaining, throughout this time, a score higher than the standards (on each criterion and overall) according to the CNATDCU minimum standards in force at the time of assessment, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate in the field of economic sciences. This is verified from Table 7. provided on the self-evaluation report.

Table 7: Publication Scores and Citation Scores.

No.	Doctoral advisor	Publications score (P)			Citations score (C)			Total score (S)		
		total	last 5 years	%	total	last 5 years	%	total	last 5 years	%
1.	Professor Andreea-Oana IACOBUTA - MIHAITA , PhD (Annex 12)	4.81	2.63	54.67 %	7.00	6	85.71 %	11.81	8.63	73.07 %
2.	Professor Laura DIACONU (married MAXIM), PhD (Annex 13)	5.70	1.75	30.7%	6.00	6	100%	11.70	7.75	66.23 %
3.	Professor Cristian POPESCU, PhD (Annex 14)	4.09	3.57	87.28 %	5.50	5.5	100%	9.59	9.07	94.57 %
4.	Professor Ion POHOATA, PhD (Annex 15)	3.79	1.02	26.91 %	4.50	3.5	77.7%	8.29	4.52	54.52 %

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

This domain is composed of three main pillars, (1) The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest; (2) The content of doctoral programs; and (3) The results of doctoral Studies and procedures for their evaluation. Each of these pillars is supported by standards and criteria to be fulfilled.

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

This criterion is related to the program capacities and attractiveness to enroll a considerable number of students, that present a good quality and demonstrate a good academic, research and professional performance.





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.

Through this standard we look at the institutional/program capacities to attract students in order to increase the competitiveness and ensure a good quality by selecting the applicants.

**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.

During the period submitted for evaluation, 22 Master's graduates applied for admission to the doctoral programme in Economics, of whom 2 were alumni/alumnae of higher education institutions other than "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi. A total of 16 seats were financed from the national budget. The ratio of Master's graduates of other higher education institutions who applied for admission to the doctoral programme in Economics in the past five years to the number of seats financed from the national budget is 1.38 (22:16).

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

This standard is related to the quality of the enrolled doctoral students and their capacities to follow up with the research thesis.

**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 ECONOMICS domain, 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. At the same time, candidates have to suggest a research topic and carry out a research project based on a unitary structure at the doctoral school level. 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. The details are found in Annex 18.



*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*Analyzing the number of doctoral students enrolled in the first year and the number of those who are still enrolled in the third year, we see that the expelling rate does not exceed 30% for any of the graduate promotions analyzed, this being 0% in the case of two of them. In this context, the average of the four annual expelling rates is 8.12%, while the rate calculated for all doctoral students considered for the four cohorts analyzed is 10%, both values being lower than the upper limit of 30% provided by the above standard.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*This criterion is devoted to the academic program offered to the students, including scientific research training, in-depth research, scientific methodology applied that supports the doctoral thesis, etc.*

*Standard B.2.1. The training program based on advanced university studies is appropriate to improve doctoral students' research skills and to strengthen ethical behavior in science.*

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

The training program curriculum for doctoral students enrolled in the ECONOMICS study domain includes at least three subjects relevant to their training in scientific research, including a subject for in-depth study of research methodology, as well as a subject aimed at statistical data processing. Specifically, the courses are as following:

1. Scientific Research Methodology (with 3 distinct modules):
  - a. Epistemology
  - b. Scientific Research Methodology
  - c. Academic Writing I
2. Research and Analysis Methods for Qualitative Data
3. Research and Analysis Methods for Quantitative Data
4. Academic Ethics and Integrity

*Recommendations:*

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<sup>3</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.



**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 same courses mentioned above are dedicated to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property, specifically the course “Research and Analysis Methods for Qualitative Data”, the course “Research and Analysis Methods for Quantitative Data” and the course “Academic ethics and integrity”. Details are found in Annex 7.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.3.** *The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities<sup>4</sup>.*

The institution has mechanisms in place to ensure that the training programme are based on advanced university studies, related to the field of Economics. This is evident from each syllabus provided as in the self-evaluation report which specifically refer to knowledge, skills, competences acquired by doctoral students after completing the training programme.

Course syllabuses feature the structure of the courses/seminars and the competences doctoral candidates will acquire upon completion (Annex 36).

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.4.** *All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.*

*The doctoral training is organized in a way that the students receive regular consulting and guidance through one-to-one meeting with the supervisors and also during the meetings with mentoring committees.*

*Within DSEBA, four reports are considered for following 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. Details of the presentation and guidance commission members are presented in the Self-Evaluation Report.*

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<sup>4</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.



Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

For the doctoral field of study Economics, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching/research staff providing mentoring is **1.4 (35:25)**. The calculation is performed by taking into account the 35 PhD candidates in the ECONOMICS doctoral domain and the 25 members of the guidance commissions.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

This criterion analyzes the procedures to measure the output of the research activities of the PhD students. This is at the same time quantitative and qualitative measure of the output of the scientific work for this domain.

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.

A minimum of one article or other relevant contribution for each PhD students who obtained their PhD degree in the period 2015-2020 is made available to the evaluation committee for the evaluated field. Annex 37 provides a clear picture of the quality of the papers and the topics, which contain significant original contributions in the respective domain. The PhD students in the field of ECONOMICS have constantly sought to capitalize on their research results by publishing articles, studies, books, book chapters and participating in national and international scientific events.

In addition to WoS and SCOPUS, the articles can be published in other databases. Among the international databases acknowledged, there are: Repec, EBSCO, CEEOL, EconLit, DOAJ, ProQuest etc. The articles published by the doctoral graduates in the Economics field have been published in journals indexed in at least 3 international databases, journals with a good scientific level, which assure the review with the help of individual reviewers.



Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.1.2.** *The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.*

*During their doctoral studies these students participated in at least one international conference, abroad Romania. Annex 38 shows that Doctors present, on average, a minimum of 5 conference papers each. The list of papers presented in renowned international events (in the country or abroad) by the PhD candidates completing their doctoral studies in the evaluated period is presented in Annex 38. In total, 9 PhD students having completed their doctoral studies in the evaluated period presented, as single authors, 32 papers. To these are added 9 presentations in collaboration with other PhD students, with members of the guidance commissions or with their PhD advisor.*

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Standard B.3.2.** *The Doctoral School engages a significant number of external scientific specialists in the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses in the analyzed domain.*

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.2.1.** *The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.*

*None of the cases does not exceed two (2) for theses coordinated by the same doctoral supervisor in one year. Starting with the 2015-2016 academic year, within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, 10 doctoral students enrolled in the ECONOMICS study domain have completed and publicly defended their doctoral thesis. For each of the doctoral supervisors assigned to this field, the number of doctoral papers allocated to a certain scientific specialist from a higher education institution, other than "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, was a maximum of two for thesis coordinated by the same PhD advisor (Annex 39).*

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.2.2.** *The ratio between the doctoral theses allocated to one scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the institution where the defense on the doctoral thesis is organized, and the number of doctoral theses presented in the same doctoral study domain in the doctoral school should not exceed 0.3, considering the past five years. Only those doctoral study domains in which minimum ten doctoral theses have been presented within the past five years should be analyzed.*



*For the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration enrolled in the field of ECONOMICS, only nine doctoral students have obtained the title of doctor in the last five years, so this performance indicator is not relevant in this evaluation process.*

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

*The third domain of this report is devoted to quality management that is related with the institutional procedures and mechanisms to ensure a good quality of the program. This is composed by three main criterions, (1) Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system; (2) Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources; and (3) Internationalization aspect of the institution and programme.*

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

*This criterion looks for procedures of timely and periodically implementations of the internal quality assurance and how these internal audits impact to the programme enhancement.*

*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.*

*The IOSUD relies on and observes a number of regulations and procedures enabling the internal quality assurance and assessment.*

- At the IOSUD level, based on the Operational Procedure regarding the evaluation and internal monitoring of the doctoral schools within the "Alexandro loan Cuza" University of Iasi is established the procedure of internal evaluation of the doctoral schools and of the domains of doctoral studies in order to accredit and periodically evaluate them according to the Methodology of Evaluation of Doctoral University Studies elaborated in accordance with the legislation in force. The application of the procedure is materialized in the form of periodic reports made at the level of the Doctoral School.*
- The Institutional Regulation for the Organization and Functioning of Doctoral University Studies establishes internal quality assurance policies that apply to all doctoral schools at UAIC.*



- *At the level of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration, 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.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator \*C.1.1.2.** *Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.*

*LBUS has designed a questionnaire to collect feedback from all students, including doctoral students regarding the overall doctoral programme. As regards the academic year 2019-2020 such a questionnaire was disseminated via Google Forms to 278 students enrolled in the doctoral training programme; in the end, 183 responses from doctoral students were validated. About 80% of the respondents were content or very satisfied (on a scale from 1 to 5) with the overall doctoral programme. In terms of the identified needs, mention should be made of the limited access to the research infrastructure (triggered by the pandemic context) as one of the major problems (especially to such fields as medicine or engineering) encountered in abiding by the timeframe and requirements of the individual research programme. On the other hand, the pandemic context provided access to a series of open access sources - available free of charge from an institutional account - to other fields of doctoral studies, such as: economics, philology or law. The survey was made at IOSUD level and the results are found at Annex C.1.1.2. Survey on doctoral satisfaction.*

*The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration applies an annual Questionnaire for Assessing the Quality of Doctoral Studies. Through this survey, the program administrators collect some feedback from doctoral students that serves for evaluating the activity of the doctoral school. Based on the students feedback, the internal evaluation commission prepare a report, which contains a series of recommendations and followed in the action plan proposed within the strategies and procedures implemented at the level of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration as measures to continuously improve, beyond the minimum standards, the quality of the ECONOMICS doctoral study program.*

*This is a good practice of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration which reflects also on the quality measurement and the improvement of the ECONOMICS doctoral study program.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*This criterion involves the transparency of the information and accessibility of learning resources that the institution and the specific program has to follow.*



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.

The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, all the below mentioned information such as:(a) the Doctoral School regulation;(b) the admission regulation;(c) the study completion; (d) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;(e) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data; (f) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;(e) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented. All the links are available in the self-evaluation report and in the annexes provided.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

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

"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:





**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

Each doctoral student, subsequent to the approval of the doctoral advisor, has access to the two electronic systems of plagiarism checking: e-learning platform Blackboard - SafeAssign. This plagiarism software is recognized by the CNATDCU, used to analyze the degree of similarity of the doctoral students' works in relation to other existing scientific creations. Additionally, each doctoral student has access, upon request and with the agreement of the supervisor, to the electronic system for checking the degree of similarity with other existing scientific works. The students have the possibility to use also Moodle and Turnitin. Thus, access is ensured for all professors, including doctoral advisors, at the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, as well as for doctoral students (with the consent of their doctoral advisor) to an electronic system which can be used to verify the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic creations.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

All doctoral students have access to the laboratories for undertaking research activities, other academic facilities, the research centers or the third-party research infrastructure, according to the specificity of the field(s) included in the doctoral school, subsequent to a request, approved by the doctoral advisor and in keeping with the availability of the research infrastructure. This is one of the rights of the doctoral student, as they are formulated in art. 16 of The Institutional Regulation for the organization and functioning of doctoral studies, which stipulates that during the doctoral studies, the doctoral student has the right ... (d) to benefit from center the logistics, documentation centers, libraries and equipment of the University for the elaboration of research projects and doctoral thesis. For DSEBA laboratories and the research infrastructure available to its doctoral students in general, there is an appropriate access and conduct regulation displayed in each room.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

### **Criterion C.3. Internationalization**

*This criterion analysis includes the strategies toward the internationalization, the available agreements for mobility, projects, networks and so on.*

**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.

*Based on the prerequisite that all doctoral students are required to attend international conferences prior to the defense of their doctoral thesis. 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 40), which offers doctoral students the opportunity to develop their professional skills and scientific research, as well as the international dimension of doctoral studies. In total 5 of the 12 PhD students have undergone through doctoral training in the field of ECONOMICS within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration benefit (or benefitted), for a period of at least six months, from sources of funding other than government funding, through scholarships granted by natural or legal persons, or are financially supported by research or institutional development/ human resources grants, which represents a share of 41.11% of the total number of PhD students in this field, above the lower limit of 20% provided by standards.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator C.3.1.2.** *In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.*

*There are no international joint PhD programmes during 2016-2020. In the meantime, there are no co-tutelage with foreign professors.*

*In the self-evaluation report are reported 16 academicians who have delivered courses or lectures, including doctoral students in the ECONOMICS domain within the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration.*

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is partially 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.).*

There are some attempts to involve foreign professors in organizing conferences, such as the case of Prof. Elio BORGONOV, PhD, from Bocconi University, Italy, but these are limited.

Additionally, since 2017, Professor Adriana Zait, Director of DSEBA, 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 DSEBA's internationalization strategies.

*Recommendations:*

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

#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<u>Strengths:</u>	<u>Weaknesses:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The PhD supervisors are showing good track of their expertise and they have a considerable visibility even internationally.</li> <li>- The involved staff in the study field of Economics was enthusiastic and they showed a lot of concern to the students' progress and willingness to support them in any stage of their studies.</li> <li>- The organization of many scientific events and the involvement of staff and students.</li> <li>- There is a transparency and clear information available on the websites as well as clear procedures for the ongoing process on this programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are limited funding opportunities for the research activities and support of PhD student to extend the professional network and being exposed internationally.</li> <li>- The inclusion and the support of international professionals in activities such as co-advisership, is limited in this programme.</li> <li>- The inclusion and the support of international professionals in lecturing, workshops, co-advisership, etc. is limited in this programme.</li> <li>- The English version of the website is missing, which is a barrier to attract foreign students and staff.</li> <li>- Institution has to ensure a better strategy of promotion and attraction of foreign students.</li> <li>-The staff in the Center for Research in Economics and Business Communication is the same with the staff involved in the doctoral school of Economics, which does not bring significant contribution to the scientific research.</li> </ul>

<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the existence of a research center, such as the Center for Research in Economics and Business Communication, the doctoral programme in Economics can implement a new strategy of internationalization that will help the PhD students with external funding for their research and results dissemination</li> <li>- Additionally, the program has all the infrastructure capacities to extend collaborations with other universities abroad Romania, that will help in inclusion of international co-advisership, jury members, and common academic activities.</li> <li>- "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi has all the opportunities to find our more funding opportunities for the research activities and support of PhD student to extend the professional network and being exposed internationally.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The lack of a clear strategy for internationalization and acquiring external funds.</li> <li>- There are many challenges that staff and students may face while applying for different projects.</li> <li>- The challenges due to high competition among universities to attract more foreign and experienced staff to join this programme.</li> </ul>
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## V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (*, C)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1		A.1.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
2		A.1.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
3		A.1.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
4		A.1.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
5		A.1.3.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
6	*	A.1.3.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
7	*	A.1.3.3.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</i>	<i>The institution/programme has to ensure a better support of doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system to be used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students such as, conference participations, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers, etc.</i>
8	C	A.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
9	C	A.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
10	*	A.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
11		A.3.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A

12	*	A.3.1.4.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
13	C	A.3.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
14	*	A.3.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
15	*	B.1.1.1	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
16	*	B.1.2.1	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
17		B.1.2.2	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
18		B.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
19		B.2.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
20		B.2.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
21		B.2.1.4.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
22	C	B.2.1.5.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
23	C	B.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
24	*	B.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
25	*	B.3.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
26	*	B.3.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
27		C.1.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
28	*	C.1.1.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
29	C	C.2.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
30		C.2.2.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
31		C.2.2.2.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
32		C.2.2.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
33	*	C.3.1.1.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A
34		C.3.1.2.	<i>The indicator is partially fulfilled.</i>	<i>The institution/programme has to ensure a better inclusion of the leading professors and international co-tutelage to this programme.</i>
35		C.3.1.3.	<i>The indicator is fulfilled.</i>	N/A

## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

Drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, this external evaluation report is a periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The **Doctoral School in the domain of Economics** has the full legal bases and it is conferred by the Ministry of Education and by the National Council for Attesting Titles, Diplomas and Certificates.

**The Doctoral field of Economics** counts 35 PhD candidates in the ECONOMICS doctoral domain and the 25 members of the guidance commissions. This is a good number of students for a PhD programme. The institution together with the programme administration bodies are using the proper procedures to support the ongoing process of the doctorate field of study in Economics.

In the framework of the periodical accreditation, the institution provided us with a detailed Self-evaluation report which included respective information and attached documentation in support each criteria requested by the accreditation agency. Additionally, during this evaluation process, the *Experts' Panel* had the opportunity to have online meetings with stakeholders and different supportive bodies of the programme. The details of the meeting are attached as in **Annex EE.1.** Furthermore, the lead expert of the external evaluation group had the opportunity to visit the institution.



Out of 35 indicators to be fulfilled, there are only 2 indicators that have been identified as partially fulfilled, which are classified in the category with “\*”. Specifically:

- 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”, indicator \*A.1.3.3;
- Standard C.3.1. “There is a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies”, indicator C.3.1.2.

As **general recommendations**, we recommend the following:

1. The institution and/or the doctorate programme in the field of Economics has to establish a Strategy related to Acquisition of External Funding. As such, the respective staff of the programme can have clear targets to apply for project and they can increase the applications. They need to find out the national and international opportunities for funding. The projects should be target to the focus of the research topics the PhD students will deal/are dealing with.
2. The institution and/or the doctorate programme in the field of Economics has to establish a Strategy related to Internationalization. This will help in attracting foreign professors, foreign students, finding more networking opportunities, enhancing the publication opportunities, increasing the mobility and students’ exchange cases, finding more opportunities for co-tutelage of PhD dissertations, etc. Additionally, this strategy supports the involvement of international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees.
3. The Institution/Programme has to ensure a better strategy of promotion and attraction of foreign students. Additionally, it is advised they include the English version of the website, which helps increase the visibility of the program and make possible the attraction of foreign students and staff.
4. The Doctoral School of Economics at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi has to be different from the staff involved in the Center for Research in Economics and Business Communication. This would increase the quality and quantity of the scientific research and projects.

## VII. Annexes

The following types of documents are attached:

- The detailed schedule of the evaluation visit – **Annex EE.1.**