

# The External Evaluation Report of a Doctoral Study Domain

## Contents

I. Introduction

II. Methods used

III. Analysis of performance indicators

IV. SWOT Analysis

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

VII. Annexes

## I. Introduction

This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at the **Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB)**, periodic evaluation for the maintenance of accreditation of the doctoral field of Economics. The evaluation visit for this program was during 02-05 November, 2021 and the Experts Committee was comprised by Coordinator Prof. dr. CISMAS Laura from Univ.de Vest din Timisoara, International expert Prof. univ. Eglatina HYSA from Epoka University, Albania, and PhD student Mecu Andra Nicoleta from Academia de Studii Economice din Bucureşti.

The Babeş-Bolyai University is an Institution authorized to Organize Doctoral Studies (IOSUD - UVT) and operates under the Romanian Constitution and the National Education Law no. 1/2011 and other laws such as GEO no. 75/2005 on ensuring the quality of education, approved by Law no. 87/2006 and supplemented by GEO no. 75/2011, as well as in accordance with internal regulations and decisions of the university.

The university applies a specific Quality Policy, assumed by the Rector on 25.07.2012, based on the quality principles, criteria and indicators adopted in 2014 and revised in 2020, as well as the performance standards and indicators. The institutional structure in charge of supervising the application of the provisions of this Code is the UBB Ethics Commission. This is an independent structure in relation to the Senate and the Rectorate, it operates on the basis of the provisions of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, as amended and supplemented, of the Law no. 206/2004 on good conduct in scientific research, technological development and innovation.

The University has organised research units with funding from the University budget, with partial funding or self- financing, which comprise research institutes, centres, collectives and laboratories and which, according to the Charter, are managed by the Scientific Council at the level of each independent research unit. The University also organises self-funded units for consultancy, technology transfer and service provision. The consultancy, technology transfer, production and service units are research/design

institutes, centres, collectives and laboratories. The Directorates and Services of the University include: the General Administrative Directorate, which is organized by directorates, departments, services. The decision-making structures at University level are the Senate and the Administrative Board. At faculty level there is the Faculty Council and at departmental and extension level there is the Departmental Council and the Extension Council.

UBB has a multicultural character given that programmes are offered in different languages, such as: Romanian, Hungarian, German, English, and French. In 2020, at undergraduate level UBB offers 250 study programmes, and at Master level a total of 253 programmes.

Doctoral studies are, according to the Bologna Process, level 8 qualification according to the European Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications Framework. At Babe -Bolyai University, doctoral studies are carried out on the basis of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, Law 49/2013, the Code of Doctoral Studies approved by GD 681/2011, the UBB Charter, the UBB Regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies approved by Senate Resolution no. 483/2020, the regulations of the UBB doctoral schools, as amended and supplemented. Doctoral studies are currently carried out in 31 doctoral schools covering 32 doctoral fields.

The Institute for Doctoral Studies is a structure established on 1 May 2006, with the mission to administer, through appropriate regulations and measures, the doctoral schools of BBU. The Institute of Doctoral Studies operates on the basis of a Statute and organization approved by the Senate of the BBU. The Institute for Doctoral Studies of BBU coordinates all administrative activities within the doctoral studies cycle, under the guidance of the Council for Doctoral Studies and together with the councils of the doctoral schools.

Each doctoral school is governed by a doctoral school council, composed of doctoral supervisors, doctoral students and personalities or experts whose scientific work has significant international recognition.

The organisation of doctoral studies in our University started in 1966 with 50 PhD supervisors from 14 branches of science and 119 enrolled candidates. BBU reorganized the doctoral study programmes in 2002, which comprised 210 doctoral supervisors in 24 doctoral fields. In 2005 BBU conducted doctoral studies in accordance with the Bologna system, by offering in 22 doctoral schools.

Currently, there are 31 doctoral schools with 32 doctoral fields. UBB has more than 85 buildings under administration, more than 75 of which are allocated as teaching spaces, with a developed area of approximately 210,000 sqm, of which 71,185.08 sqm is teaching area. Within the educational premises there are 54 lecture halls, 157 classrooms, 383 seminar rooms, 565 laboratories and 124 reading rooms.

The BBU has the logistical resources necessary to fulfil the mission of doctoral studies, our university having, among other things, one of the most successful similarity analysis programs at international level. Since 2016, IOSUD - UBB has purchased and annually renewed the software license to check the similarity percentage in all PhD theses (iThenticate textual similarity detection software provided by Turnitin), and since 2019 Turnitin similarity analysis software is also used.

The University offers, through its libraries, impressive documentation resources. The number of printed volumes held in the BCU in 2020 was 3,927,795, of which 25,986 entered during 2020. Audiovisual and multimedia documents amount to 13,481 and electronic collections total 2,282,465 items, of which 86 databases, 36,452 electronic periodicals, 38,130 e-books, 149,713 rare documents and 2,058,084 other digital documents. The number of open access documents on the shelf is 332,584.

The Quality Assessment and Assurance Committee(CEAC-UBB is an advisory body to the Rectorate. In this capacity, the CEAC-UBB formulates points of view, draws up strategies, regulations and concrete proposals for specific measures concerning the evaluation and quality assurance process, which can be implemented following approval by the UBB Board of Governors. Curriculum Commission (CC) is the specialized structure of the Senate with attributions in the harmonization and compatibility of the study programs. In its work, the CC collaborates with the Commission for Quality Assurance and University Development and the Commission for Regulations and Legal Affairs , which are also structures within the Senate, as well as with the permanent curricular evaluation commissions and the evaluation and quality assurance commissions at faculty level.

The Qualitas Centre (QC) is an administrative unit operating under the direct coordination of the Vice-Rector responsible for Quality and Competitiveness. The scientific supervision of the use and valorisation of the data collected by the QC is the responsibility of the Scientific Council of the Qualitas Centre.

The internal regulations on the organisation of the doctoral studies cycle are contained in the UBB Regulations for the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies, revised in early 2020. Admission of candidates to doctoral studies is done in compliance with national legislation, internal regulations and the UBB Doctoral Admission Methodology. Regardless of the field, the admission competition for doctoral studies in the IOSUD UBB Schools consists of at least two tests: a written examination based on a topic announced by the doctoral supervisor at least two months before the date of the admission competition; and an interview in which the candidate's scientific/artistic interests, research/artistic creation skills and the proposed topic for the doctoral thesis are analysed.

The majority of admitted PhD students receive budget funding through doctoral grants (with or without scholarships), but at the same time an average of 80 PhD candidates with fee-based funding participate in the PhD admissions at Babes-Bolyai University.

Annually, on average 450 candidates from Romania and the European Union and more than 20 non-EU candidates are admitted to the PhD program, and annually there are about 420 PhD students who can be enrolled on places funded by the budget through doctoral grants(with or without scholarships) or on places with tuition fees as shown in the Table no 1:

Table no. 1 The number of PhD Students in period 2015-2021

Academic year	Number of PhD students enrolled	Number enrolled with funding from the state budget	Number of doctoral students enrolled per place with fee (lei)	Number of doctoral students enrolled on a fee-paying basis - own currency account
2015-2016	434	333	84	17
2016-2017	437	339	77	21
2017-2018	443	345	71	26
2018-2019	399	338	45	16
2019-2020	405	330	62	13
2020-2021	436	342	79	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>108</b>

The records of doctoral students and all their activity in the doctoral programme are kept in personal paper files and electronic records applications, AcademicInfo.

At SDSEGA, a scientific doctorate is obtained in one of the 7 fields of Economic Sciences, namely: Cybernetics and Statistics; Accounting; Economics; Economics and International Affairs; Finance; Economic Informatics (the accreditation of this field is considered, as there are human resources in the SDSEGA); Management Marketing. **The field of Economics was established as a field in which doctoral studies can be organised in 1964**, with a long tradition. The most recent proof of the establishment of the doctoral field of Economics is that of 2006, namely by OMEC no. 4843 of 2006 (Annex A.1.1.2 OMEC 4843- 2006). In the field of Economics, there are currently two supervisors, prof. Silaghi Monica Ioana has 3 PhD students enrolled till 30.09.2020 while starting with the year 2020/2021 there are enrolled 4 more students, 3 under supervision of prof. Silaghi Monica Ioana and 1 under supervision of prof. Zsolt Sandor.

**The curricula of the doctoral schools** include in their content: compulsory subjects such as: General research methods and methodology of scientific work, Ethics and academic integrity, as well as specialist subjects. Each doctoral student has his/her own plan of doctoral studies (preparation), elaborated together with the doctoral supervisor, in which at least 3 courses are chosen from the offer of the doctoral school in which he/she is registered or of the other doctoral schools. Within the individual plan it is mandatory to select for attendance - the course of Ethics and Academic Integrity (the hours of this course are either integrated in the discipline of: General Research Methods and Methodology of Teaching Paper Development, or constitute a separate subject within the Curriculum).

## II. Methods used

This external evaluation report is drafted based on the evaluation visit for this doctoral program in Economics was during 02-05 November, 2021. All the Experts Committee members had the opportunity to join the meetings online and the group Coordinator Prof. dr. CISMAS Laura from Univ.de Vest din Timisoara, could join the institution by consulting during a site-visit at the premises of the Babes-Bolyai University.

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.

Lastly, the PhD student participating as external evaluation team member, student Mecu Andra Nicoleta from Academia de Studii Economice din București, delivered a questionnaire to the actual students of the PhD program in order to find out more about their opinion and experience during their studies.



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

The doctoral programme in the field of Economics at the Babes-Bolyai University is an accredited programme. This external evaluation report is drafted in the framework of the Doctoral School of Economics at the Babes-Bolyai University, 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 criterions 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 [IOSUOICSUO/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;*
  
- *The Doctoral School of Economics and Business Management (SDSEGA) has a total of 7 fields and operates based on regulations. The UBB regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies are given in Annex A.1.1.1a. The Regulations of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies can be found in Annex A.1.1.1b. The Regulations include mandatory criteria, procedures and standards for the design and writing of doctoral and habilitation theses. The fundamental objective of the Economics doctoral field in the School of Economics and Business Management is in line with that of the SDSEGA and aims to promote high quality, internationally visible and recognized fundamental and applied research.*
  
- *The election of the Doctoral School Board members took place in September 2017. The SDSEGA Board consists of 3 Doctoral supervisors, 2 Representatives from outside the doctoral school, and 1 PhD student.*
  
- *The validation of the SDSEGA Board and the Director was carried out by the UBB Senate, according to Annex A. 1.1.1c and Annex A. 1.1.1d. IOSUD has implemented a mechanism for the recognition of the quality of the supervisor and the equivalence of the PhD obtained in other countries. At the level of IOSUD the main governing structure is the IOSUD Council. All decisions are taken by simple majority.*
  
- *The contract for doctoral studies can be found in Annex A. 1.1.1e and Annex A.1.1.1f. and the additional contract for the extension of doctoral studies in Annex A. 1.1.1-g. The plan of doctoral studies can be found in Annex A.1.1.1h Plan of doctoral studies. (example). SDSEGA operates on the basis of national legislation, and of the Babe - Bolyai University Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies no. 483/2020 of 13 January 2020 (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/RegulamentDoctorat-final-Senat-1-2020.pdf>); other UBB regulations concerning doctoral studies (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/ro/reglementaii-ale-universitatii-babes-bolyai/>). In order to promote ethical conduct, at UBB level there are:
  - *Ethics Committee ([https://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/despre/organizare/comisia\\_de\\_etica](https://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/despre/organizare/comisia_de_etica))**



- code of ethics to prevent fraud 111 scientific research, including plagiarism (<https://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/despre/organizare/files/etica/Codul-de-etica-si-deontologie-profesionala.pdf>)
- code on combating gender discrimination ([https://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/despre/organizai-/efiles/etica/Ghid pentru combaterea discriminarii UBB. QQ f](https://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/despre/organizai-/efiles/etica/Ghid%20pentru%20combaterea%20discriminarii%20UBB.%20QQ%20f))
- guidelines for UBB students, (<https://www.ubbcluj.ro/ro/despre/organizare/files/Comisia-de-etica- Etica-si-onestitate-academica-ghid-pentru-studenti.pdf>)
- The methodology for admission to doctoral studies was approved by HS UBB no. 5938/16.04.2020 (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/ro/metodologia-de-admitere-la-studiile-universitare-de-doctorat>). It sets out the admission procedure for citizen students: EU, European Economic Area, Swiss Confederation, non-EU and Romanians - from abroad.
- The methodology for the completion of doctoral studies can be found both in the Regulations of the Babe -Bolyai University for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies, Articles 48-60 (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/ro/reglementari-ale-universitatii-babes-bolyai/>), and in the SDSEGA Regulations, Articles 43-55. The SDSEGA Regulation additionally brings some elements to increase the quality of the evaluation of doctoral theses. Thus, in Art. 47 (3) under point c), all members of the committee for the public defence of the doctoral thesis must meet the CNATDCU requirements for the position they hold. The admission criteria and conditions for 2019 and 2020 can be found online at: <https://www.econ.ubbcluj.ro/n2.php?idc=24&idm=4>

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 SDSEGA includes all mandatory provisions related to criteria, procedures and standards concerning the issues specified.



- *The acceptance of new doctoral supervisors is based on additional criteria to the national or UBB criteria for entry into the SDSEGA. These additional criteria have been introduced in the SDSEGA Regulation in Art. 15 (2).*
- *In essence these criteria supplement the national habilitation requirements (as per OM 6129/2016). Thus, a candidate for entry to SDSEGA must: have all ISI publications in journals ranked in JCR Core Economics; have a minimum score of 6 (and not 4); the two publications with AIS>15 with grant director do not equalize, etc.*
- *The withdrawal of the PhD supervisor status falls within the powers of the SDSEGA Board, according to Art. 21. The decision to withdraw this status can be made after the annual evaluation of the PhD supervisors, according to Art.65. This evaluation is carried out in May-June of each year to determine the distribution of doctoral places among supervisors.*
- *The internal evaluation criteria consider the scientific activity of the last 5 years, with a great importance given to ISI publications in journals indexed in one of the fields of Economic Sciences.*
- *The way of carrying out the activities in the advanced degree-based training program is regulated in Articles 33-38. In the advanced training program for doctoral students in the first year, a common core curriculum has been introduced for all doctoral students, regardless of field, with two compulsory subjects.*
- *The first discipline is Research Methodology and Academic Writing Techniques, and the second is a quantitative discipline to be chosen from a basket of Advanced Statistics and Econometrics disciplines, depending on the PhD student's background. The annual content of the Curriculum is determined by the Council of the SSEGA after consultation with the members of the SSE.*

*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 - of Babes - Bolyai University, ACADEMIC INFO, allows keeping track of the doctoral students and their academic background. It stores the courses in which the students are enrolled, and the situation of the grades and credits accumulated.*

*The Single Matric Register (rei.gov.ro) includes information stored in the platform at national level, related to the personal data of PhD students, data about their PhD status, interruptions, extensions, etc. Starting*



from 2012, the record of doctoral dissertations (information on the names of doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, doctoral field, dissertation title and abstracts) is done electronically via the UBB online platform.

The FSEGA SIS (Student Information System) application includes a number of functionalities such as: direct access to the latest announcements of interest, the possibility of submitting applications for the issue of certificates, and choice of optional subject.

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 IOSUD has shown ongoing concern for ensuring the necessary resources to check the similarity percentage for all the works elaborated by students, including PhD theses, which is in accordance with the National Council for Validation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates. IOSUD has adopted a Decision on the approval of the Procedure for the generation and analysis of the Similarity Report No 12327 dated 29.06.2016. The procedure defines how to use the programs for determining the degree of similarity (anti- plagiarism) at UBB in accordance with the technical specifications of the programs recognized by CNATDCU. This procedure applies to all doctoral theses that are defended at UBB, using the software iThenticate (available at <http://www.ithenticate.com>) through which all Ph.D. theses are analyzed, according to internal procedures, before being defended in front of the guiding commission, and before the public defense, respectively.

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.*

*As the Self-evaluation report states, for the domain of Economics during the period 2015-2020 there is only one project of research or institutional development/human resources, in which PhD supervisor Prof. Zsolt Sandor is involved. The details of this project are found in the Annex A 1.3.1.*

*It is found that the performance indicator is met by the existence of at least one human resources development grant in implementation at the time of submitting the self-assessment file, which is carried out with the involvement of doctoral students (doctoral scholarships).*

*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%.*

*As for the evaluated domain, 1 of the 3 PhD students have undergone through doctoral training in the field of ECONOMICS within the Doctoral School of Economics 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 above the lower limit of 20% provided by standards.*

*Specifically, during the period evaluated (2015-2020), PhD student Laura Avram carried out Erasmus mobility both in France at Aix en Provence University (period 19.03.2018-27.06.2018) and in Seoul, South Korea (period 23.08.2017-15.12.2017), reaching the threshold of 6 months in total as funding (Annex A.1.3.2 \_C.3.1.1).*

*The program ensures some other mobilities to be conducted for the year 2021, of which two of the first year PhD students, are among the winners of an Eiffel scholarship for a PhD in co-supervision, awarded*



by the French government. They will carry out research internships in France at the University of Clermont Auvergne and the University of Orleans for 3-4 months per year for 3 years.

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 self-evaluation report, at the level of the economic-financial department of the Babeş-Bolyai University, there is no analytical breakdown of the amounts allocated for the mobility of Ph.D. students on funding sources. Even though it is stated that the PhD students are paying for participation in international conferences, publication of specialist articles and other training expenses, this does not confirm the requirement in which at least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university under institutional contract and tuition fees collected from fee-paying doctoral students shall be used to cover the doctoral students' training expenses (participation in conferences, summer schools, courses, placements abroad, publication of scholarly articles or other specific forms of dissemination, etc.).

According to self-evaluation report, at least 10% of the total amounts related to doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contract and tuition fees collected from doctoral students in the form of paid education are used to reimburse the training costs of doctoral students (participation in conferences, summer schools, courses, internships abroad, publication of specialized articles or other specific forms of dissemination, etc.). Until now, every year, PhD students in the field of Economics have settled for participation in international conferences, publication of specialized articles as well as other professional training expenses. (Annex A.1.3.3).

We randomly checked the evidence of the settlement of these expenses for 2 doctoral students and we attach Annex A.1.3.3. Evidence of doctoral student settlement fees, which includes the Settlement

---

<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.



*Request Report (2 papers) and supporting documents (copy of articles from the conference program, published article, if applicable, invoices). The proof of their collection by the doctoral students exists, being proved at the time of the visit through their account statements. Also, in the folder for the annex there is the situation of doctoral grants by year with details by types of expenses, in the field of Economics as an example in 2018, 61.2% were allocated to training expenses. From the discussions with the doctoral students it emerged that they were financially supported whenever they requested funds for participation in conferences, publication of scientific papers, travel for trainings or other forms of training and formation. This was also confirmed by some of the PhD students in Economics who answered the questionnaire applied by the evaluation team.*

*From the analysis of the state of affairs, it is found that there is interest in supporting the reimbursement of vocational training expenses from ŞDSEGA of doctoral students, by appealing to the reimbursement of expenses with publication fees and participation in prestigious international conferences, whose articles were indexed in WoS (CPCI).*

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled***

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

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

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

*The Doctoral School provides a sufficient material base to ensure an adequate conduct of doctoral studies in accordance with the general and specific objectives set. The institution has resources allocated to each research area according to the nature of the work carried out by doctoral students, meeting the requirements of volume, quality, technical condition and safety standards.*



The research activities specific to the doctoral program in the field of Economics are carried out in teaching premises equipped with the appropriate research equipment. The rooms exclusively for PhD students are 508 and 522. Both, rooms 522 and 508 are equipped with computers; an inventory list of the computers of the room 508 is given in Annex A.2.1.1.4 room 508. PhD students in Economics have access to the Euromonitor and Statista databases through a subscription available at the faculty. PhD students also have access to a laboratory (room 411) where licences for various econometric software and software packages (Eviews, SPSS; Stata etc.) are available. PhD students in the field of Economics can access through the institutional email address the BCU resources and the EBSCO database, as well as the international databases that are available through [www.e-nformation.ro](http://www.e-nformation.ro), to which the UBB is subscribed. Specific details can be found in in Annex 2.1.1.1, Annex 2.1.1.2., and Annex 2.1.1.3.

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, only two doctoral thesis advisors who carry out doctoral supervision activities in the field of ECONOMICS, within the IOSUD 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. The advisors who meet the criteria are Prof. Silaghi Monica Ioana and Prof. Zsolt Sandor. Details are found in Annex A. 3.1.1a., Annex A.3.1.1b., Annex A.3.1.1c., and Annex*



A.3.1.1d. However, since October 2021, an Ass. Prof. Habil. from Spain, Schiopu Ioana Cosmina, and 3 other professors are supervising in the field of Economics.

*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.

Currently, in the field of Economics, Prof. Dr. Silaghi Monica Ioana is a permanent PhD supervisor and Prof. Dr. Zsolt Sandor is a fixed-term PhD supervisor (Annex A.3.1.2). However, the institution is aware of the situation and it envisaged that in the future other colleagues from the Department of Economics will become affiliated to the Doctoral School and contribute to the achievement of the indicator of more than 50% of PhD tenure supervisors.

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is partially 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. The experience in the field of the Ph.D. advisors in charge of the disciplines offered to first-year Ph.D. students is proven by their teaching and scientific activity and their CVs (Annex A.3.1.3).

*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. In here we include those in extension and also in interruption. In this case this indicator does not exceed 20% (0%). (Please refer also to the details given in Annex A.3.1.4).*

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

*Standard A.3.2. The Doctoral advisors within the domain are carrying out a scientific activity visible at international level.*

*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.*

*Th two thesis supervisors have a minimum of 5 ISI publications in Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics) rated journals with impact factor calculated according to ARACIS criteria. The CVs and the scientific*

---

<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.





activity of the PhD supervisors in the field of Economics, which includes the most representative publications, can be found in the annex related to the list of scientific works of the PhD supervisors ((Annex A.3.2.1a , Annex A.3.2.1 c and Annex A. 3.2.1b).

Membership in professional associations, visiting professorships and review articles published in prestigious international scientific journals can be found in the CVs of the two PhD supervisors.

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.

Both PhD supervisors in the field of Economics, have achieved the scores required by the CNATDCU, which means that more than 25% 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 their Publons profile, google scholar profile, and the number of citations that both PhD supervisors accumulated.

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.*

*According to the information and supporting annexes included in the Self Evaluation Report of Economics, the ratio between the total number of candidates who entered the admission competition in the period 2015-2020, who are graduates of master's degree programs conducted outside IOSUD-BB, and the total number of places with funding from the budget for the period 2015-2020 (Sept.) is 0.5 (at least 0.2), as follows: number of doctoral students graduating from master's degrees in other university centers than IOSUD-UBB / number of places funded from the budget = 0.5 master's graduates other university centers / budget places in the period 2015-2020 = 0.5 being higher than 0.2. Or the ratio between the number of candidates in the last five years, and the number of places financed from the state budget put up for competition in the field of doctoral studies is 1.11. Annex B.1.1.1.1. and Annex B.1.1.1.2..*

*The indicator is met for both components: the ratio between the total number of candidates who entered the admission competition in the period 2015-2020, who are graduates of master's degree programs conducted outside IOSUD-UBB, and the total number of places with funding from the budget for 2015-2020 (Sept.) exceeds 0.2, being 0.5; the ratio between the number of candidates in the last five years and the number of places financed from the state budget put up for competition within the field of doctoral studies Economics is 1.11.*

*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.*

*Admission to the PhD programs and in the field of Economics is based on selection criteria including: previous professional performance of candidates, an interest in scientific research, publications in the field and a proposal for a research topic. Starting with the academic year 2015-2016, every year and up until now the admission test consisted of 2 parts:*

- (1) Specialized written exam from a program made public in advance;*
- (2) Oral presentation of a research project by the candidates.*

*The interview is a compulsory part of the admission procedure (for details refer to the Annex B.1.2.1).*

*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%.*

*According to the statistics made at the IOSUD-UBB level (Annex B.1.2.2 -a.) the dropout rate of PhD students 3 years after admission at the level of SDSEGA is between 1-4%, at the level of the period analyzed, as follows: 7.69% (2015), 3.85% (2016), 9.38% (2017), 17.39% (2018), 8% (2019). In conclusion, the dropout rate is well below the 30% benchmark required by ARACIS standards. In the field of Economics, we had only one PhD candidate who dropped (from a total number of 2 students enrolled in 2016), otherwise during entire analysed period the drop-out rate was 0%.*

*In order to prevent dropout, IOSUD UBB promotes an institutional culture of quality education for all students through policies and strategies to support dropout prevention Annex B.1.2.2-b Dropout risk monitoring.*

---

<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.



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 archive of all Curriculums from the 2016-2020 evaluation period can be found at: [https://econ.ubbcluj.ro/n3.php?id\\_s=178&id\\_c=106&id\\_m=3](https://econ.ubbcluj.ro/n3.php?id_s=178&id_c=106&id_m=3). Also included in ANNEXESB are annexes with the Education Plans for the whole period under evaluation Annex B.2.1.1 Curriculum. In the advanced training program for first-year PhD students, a common core curriculum has been introduced for all PhD students, regardless of field, with two compulsory subjects.

PhD students are familiarized with the Research methodology and academic writing techniques and also with the usage of databases for specific purposes or writing in Latex with precise or specific preferences of scientific requirements. As such, some advanced topics in microeconomic, macroeconomics, statistics and econometrics, are essential in the formation of doctoral students in the domain Economics.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.2.** *At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.*

In the SEGA curriculum there is no separate subject dedicated to ethics in scientific research but there are well-defined themes on these topics within a discipline taught in the doctoral programme. The



discipline Research Methodology and Academic Writing Techniques (in English) in Chapter 4 contains aspects of ethics in scientific research.

*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>.*

For PhD students in Economics it is absolutely essential to acquire expert knowledge from some quantitative disciplines, in the study plans PhD students choose such a discipline in addition to the common core discipline. The choice of the two specialized courses in the individual scientific research program is made by the doctoral student in consultation with the doctoral supervisor. The quantitative disciplines blend harmoniously with the discipline of Advanced Topics in Micro- and Macroeconomics, a discipline in which empirical studies that heavily involve the use of quantitative tools are also analyzed. All the disciplines in the SDSEGA offer for the advanced undergraduate-based training program have specified competences, skills and abilities that PhD students should acquire after completing each discipline.

Research Methodology and Academic Writing Techniques (in English) is taught by our colleagues Prof. Gheorghe Silaghi and Prof. Szasz Levente, both with internationally relevant publications (Q1 and Q2 publications after AIS in Core Economics journals). In the second basket of quantitative disciplines are: Advanced Econometrics; Advanced topics in applied statistics and econometrics; Introduction to econometrics; Advanced statistics for academic research in business.

The Research Methodology and Academic Writing Techniques discipline in Chapter 4 contains aspects of ethics in scientific research. (For more details see Annex B.2.1.3). In the field of Economics, PhD students so far, through their study plans follow quantitative subjects combined with subjects such as Advanced Topics in Micro and Macroeconomics, whose subject sheet is attached in Annex B.2.1.3, so that learning outcomes are optimal and they can acquire fundamental and specific knowledge.

---

<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.



By completing the advanced undergraduate-based training program in Economics, any PhD student will be familiar with basic and advanced knowledge of Micro and Macroeconomics, learn to think critically, be able to conduct a coherent review of the literature and differentiate themselves from the existing literature through their own relevant contributions.

*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.*

*There are functional guidance commissions, which provide doctoral students with counseling / guidance during the doctoral internship, provided in the study contracts concluded with the doctoral students. (please refer to Annex B.2.1.4a\_ Guidance commissions and for the doctoral field Economics, and the guidance commissions from Annex B.2.1.4b\_Silaghi\_Sandor\_guiding commissions). These commissions are composed of members with scientific expertise, and the meetings take place regularly, in which feedback is provided both in writing and orally on the occasion of supporting scientific research projects / reports. At each steering committee, there have been appointed experts in the field, so that they can provide quality feedback.*

*Throughout the doctoral training period, doctoral students in the field of Economics benefit from the counseling / guidance of some functional guidance commissions, aspect reflected by guidance and regular meetings. From the discussions with the graduates and doctoral students of the Economics field resulted the importance of the guidance commissions during the elaboration of the doctoral reports but also of the preparation of the public defense of the thesis. During the pandemic, the role of these commissions was amplified through guidance and interaction with PhD students.*

*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.*

*The mentoring committees and for the PhD field Economics are listed in Annex B.2. J.4b Silaghi\_Sandor\_ Mentoring committees. They are composed of members with scientific expertise, meetings take place regularly, feedback is provided both in writing and orally during the presentations of scientific research projects/papers. On each mentoring committee, there have been appointed*



experts in the field so that they can provide quality feedback.

Additionally, in the self-evaluation report it is highlighted the fact that the program prepares an organizational chart for each year, showing the loading of the professors. For PhD students in the field of Economics, the 8 PhD students are supervised by a number of 12 distinct teaching staff, resulting in a ratio of 0.66, the ratio being much smaller than 3 to 1.

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*This criterion analysis 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.*

*The list of works of Mera Valentina Ioana is presented in Annex B.3.1.1a Mera Valentina Joana and the works are found in the electronic archive Annex B.3.1.Jb. It is noted that the PhD candidate has published since her PhD in Web of Knowledge -listed journals such as Applied Economics and Eastern European Economics, has made relevant contributions to the literature and practically this earned her an excellent grade at the public defense of her PhD thesis which took place in May 2019.*

Recommendations:

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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



of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.

The doctoral candidate Mera Valentina Ioana as a doctoral student who completed her thesis in the last 5 years in the field of Economics. The list of the presentations at prestigious international scientific conferences is shown in Annex B.3.1.2. It is noted the participation of Ms. Mera Valentina in conferences such as EEFS, INFER which are internationally prestigious with articles and as a discussant.

The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies in the evaluated period (2015-2020), made at prestigious international events (held in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies in the evaluated period (1 student) is higher than the limit imposed by 1.

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.

In the field of Economics for the period assessed in Annex B.3.2.1, the scientific referees for the only thesis assessed during this period are listed. Thus, this criterion does not apply to the doctoral field evaluated in this report.

Recommendations:

**The indicator does not apply for this program.**

**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.





*The criterion B.3.2.2 states that it has to be analysed by fields in which a minimum of 10 doctoral theses have been defended in the last 5 years, thus, it does not apply to the doctoral field evaluated in this report.*

*Recommendations:*

***The indicator does not apply for this program.***

## **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 procedures for internal evaluation and monitoring of the activities of the Doctoral School of Economics and Business Management (SDSEG) extend to the field of Economics. The quality assurance programme is given in Annex C.1. UBB 1.3.0.1.*

*The procedures for evaluation and internal monitoring of the activities within UBB also so apply to IOSUD, SDSEGA, and the economics domain.*

*Other procedures and mechanisms of periodic development of internal quality assurance for the doctoral studies, at level of the Economics Domain are listed below:*

- annual review of the content of the specialized disciplines offered within the Domain, by integrating the latest information and professional standards;*
- teaching one subject in English*

*The scientific activity of doctoral students is constantly monitored by their coordinators, according to the needs of each student and the teacher's own methods.*

*For the Domain, the evaluation procedure of the activity of PhD students is described in the Art. 64 of the Regulation of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration regarding the Organizing and Development of Doctoral Studies and follows explicit all the competencies which a PhD student should develop within the doctoral study program, according to Qualification Level 8 from the European Qualifications Framework and National Qualifications Framework. The evaluation of the activity of PhD students is performed periodically, based on the decision of the Council of SDSEGA, by committees approved by the same council. The procedures and evaluation criteria are established by the Council of SDSEGA and follow to ensure:*

- the correct measurement of the performance of PhD students, including the differences in performance between them*
- the progress analysis of PhD students in acquiring the knowledge and skills associated with professional qualification concerned;*
- the administrative and academic check for assuring the correctness of procedures*
- the transparency and information on the criteria for assessing the PhD students*
- informing PhD students regarding evaluation strategy, methods, evaluation criteria and expected performances.*

*The evaluation criteria for the PhD Thesis can be found in the Art. 45 from the Regulation of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration regarding the Organization and Development of Doctoral Studies, and the procedure regarding public defense of the PhD Thesis is described in Art. 50-55 from the mentioned document. All this information is made available to students in advance, and the PhD*



coordinators elaborate customized development plans for coordinated students, in order to meet scientific requirements (e.g. minimum number of publications and their type).

The way in which students are examined and graded is laid down in the subject descriptions which detail the general requirements for passing the subjects, as well as the assessment methods, which are diversified and encourage critical thinking, creativity, innovation and the ability to gather and interpret information (Annex B.2.1.3 for example, the subjects Research Methodology and Academic Writing Techniques and Advanced Topics in Micro and Macroeconomics).

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.

At the SDSEGA level, each doctoral supervisor establishes with his doctoral students their needs for equipment, consumables, access to databases in addition to those offered by the institution and other acquisitions. These are found in the annual estimate formalized in specific documents (Annex C.1.1.2.).

PhD students provide feedback to doctoral supervisors through regular meetings. For the courses they follow within the university training program, the doctoral students have the possibility to evaluate each discipline holder at the end of the course according to the UBB Evaluation Procedure (Annex C.1.1.2.2).

While this is a good incentive, we recommend the institution to use some questionnaires and gather some more information on the students' feedback, and additionally to draw an action plan in order to enhance the issues and concerns coming up from this questionnaire.

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;(g) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented.*

*Institute of Doctoral Studies publishes on its own website all the information useful to PhD students, potential candidates and other information of public interest (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/eng/>).*

*With regard to transparency of information of public interest, the SDSEGA website (<http://econ/ubbcluj.ro>) provides comprehensive, up-to-date and easily accessible public information on objectives, teaching-learning process, resources, results and management system. All publicly available information can be consulted in summary form via the website map ([https://econ.ubbcluj.ro/harta\\_site.php](https://econ.ubbcluj.ro/harta_site.php)).*



The SDSEGA publishes on the FSEGA website general information on doctoral studies, in compliance with the general data protection regulations. This information is available by accessing the functional link found on the Faculty website (<https://econ.ubbcluj.ro/n2.php?idc=106&idm=3>).

Within FSEGA, PhD students have at their disposal a direct, dedicated, integrated and digitized information system that allows everyone to manage their administrative relations with the faculty through their own electronic devices (laptop, smartphone) with Internet access. The FSEGA SIS application (Student Information System) (<https://econ.ubbcluj.ro/sis>) includes a series of functionalities such as: direct access to the latest announcements of interest, the possibility of submitting applications for issuing certificates, choosing disciplines optional, direct access to the Academic Info application system.

Some of the main links related to the above-mentioned issues are available in the self-evaluation report.

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.

UVT offers doctoral students the opportunity to access the following databases: : ScienceDirect Freedom Collection Journals ACCES, Springe/ink journals, Thomson Web of Knowledge, American Institute of Physics Journals, American Physical Society Journals, Oxford Journals, IEEE I IEL, SCOPUS, Sage Journals HSS, Wiley Journals, American Chemical Society, Cambridge Journals, Institute of Physics Journals, MatSciNet, EBSCO Academic Search Complete, EBSCO Business Source Complete , EBSCO Art Full text, NATURE, ScienceDirect NATIONAL ARCHIVE, Springer Archive, Wiley Archive, Institute of Physics Journals Archive, ScienceDirect Current Archive 2016. Additionally, UVT is part of the Anelis+ consortium, which brings together the main higher education institutions and research institutes in Romania, interested in access to the top scientific bibliography.

The Doctoral School uses the Faculty's Moodle platform for organizing online PhD admissions and for ensuring the accessibility of information necessary for PhD training. Primary sources of information and other solutions for accessing research resources are posted here for the various core and specialist disciplines organized in the first year of the PhD. Other information of interest to PhD students, useful for their training in the other years of the program (Annex C.2.2.1).



PhD students can access the BCU resources and the EBSCO database, Discovery Services (EDS), through the institutional email address. The EDS portal allows the selection of titles and their direct export in its own database management applications such as EndNote, Zotero, RefWorks, an option required for the documentation and research process. In parallel, the DSpace platform, [www.dspace.bcuculuj.ro](http://www.dspace.bcuculuj.ro), was configured, which allows the full text query of the digital library, where this was possible. Students also have access to international databases that are available through [www.e-information.ro](http://www.e-information.ro), to which UBB subscribes.

They also have access to the most important databases with information about companies and markets (Thomson Reuters Eikon, Euromonitor International Passport and Statista, respectively). Thomson Reuters Eikon can be consulted through dedicated computers in the FSEGA library "Aurel Negucioiu", based on a valid library permit, and Euromonitor International Passport and Statista can be consulted through any electronic device connected to the FSEGA Internet network, through accessing the portals <https://www.portal.euromonitor.com/>, <https://www.statista.com/>.

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: Ithenticate program. 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.

SDSEGA provides access to thesis originality verification through the Turnitin application that the Faculty manages (Annex C.2.2.2.2 ) upon request.

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. Additionally, the SDSEGA, through the Faculty, organizes access for doctoral students to its own library, statistical laboratories, rooms and equipment providing connection with scientific journal and financial databases (STATA, Eikon and others) (Annex C.2.2.3.1-a. Annex C.2.2.3.1-b and Annex C.2.2.3.1-c).*

*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.*

*The IOSUD/SDSEGA strategy on internationalization is in line with the UBB Internationalization Strategy, which is a part of the Strategic Plan of UBB. The application of the UBB internationalization strategy is carried out through a series of actions. One of the issues considered important for the internationalization strategy is the number of publications of doctoral students in international journals, including as a result of participation in international conferences organised in the country or abroad (Annex C.3.1.1) an increase in the number of theses written in international languages (Annex C.3.1.2. ). In the field of Economics, the only thesis defended so far for 2019 was written in English and as a member of the public defense committee they had invited an external referee, Professor Camelia Turcu from the University of*



Orleans, France. The theses currently in progress are foreseen in total 6 (out of 7 per field) to be defended in English. Moreover, two of them will be organised in co-tutelle with the University of Orleans and the University of Clennont, Auvergne, both in France, and will be written in English.

At the level of SDSEGA and the field of Economics, students are encouraged to apply for ERASMUS, CEEPUS, UEFISCDI, AUF or other mobility for research internships, participation in conferences, workshops and courses (Annex C.3.1.1.1).

Doctoral students benefited in a percentage of over 35% significant number in the evaluated period of mobility for participation in training courses abroad and scientific conferences abroad (Annex C.3.1.1.2, Annex C.3.1.1.3).

Among the PhD students in the field of Economics, Mera Valentina Ioana went on Erasmus mobility to the University of Orleans and Avram Laura Augustina to Aix en Provence. Laura Avram also went to Seoul for 4 months with Erasmus Study partner countries. At the time of their mobilities, these two PhD students represented 66% of the PhD students we had enrolled in the field who went on mobility. At present, the PhD student Tomoiaga Ecaterina has to go on an Erasmus mobility to Orleans (stopped due to the pandemic) and the two first year PhD students will go every year on a co-tutelle PhD mobility with funding from the French government won after an intense international competition.

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.

The PhD students that are co-supervised are given in Annex. C3.1.2.1. In the Economics field, starting with the academic year 2021/2022 there will be 2 PhD students that will start joint PhD with prestigious universities from France, as winners of Eiffel scholarships this year. SDSEGA and the Faculty regularly invite renowned researchers and professors to give useful lectures to doctoral students. Evidence of these events can be found on the FSEGA website (<https://econ.ubbcluj.ro/eveniment.php>). One of the regular events is the CEBSS, which brings added knowledge to PhD students, who are invited on a priority basis (<https://econ.ubbcluj.ro/cebss.php>). Other professors have been invited, for the benefit of students, including PhD students, for different specific PhD areas, projects, conferences or workshops, for the Domain.

Recommendations:





**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator C.3.1.3.** *The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).*

The internationalization of the activities within the doctoral studies is supported through specialized structures and their actions at the level of UBB, IOSUD and SDSEGA. Internationalization is also supported by other concrete measures such as the inclusion of international experts in guidance commissions or in support of doctoral theses (AnexaB.3.2.1). Doctoral supervisors are co-opted in doctoral dissertation support commissions in foreign universities (Annex A.3.1.3). PhD students are enrolled in European doctoral programs for an international opening (Annex C3.1.3.).

*Recommendations:*

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

#### IV. SWOT Analysis

<u>Strengths:</u>	<u>Weaknesses:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The current 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 facilities the university offers with regard to specific programs and software that the PhD students need for the advancement of their scientific studies and works.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some information are not valid on the websites. The English version of the website is missing, which is a barrier to attract foreign students and staff.</li> <li>- Institution has to increase the number of professors involved in the program.</li> <li>- Institution has to ensure a better strategy of promotion and attraction of PhD students.</li> <li>- Institution has to ensure a better strategy of promotion and attraction of foreign students.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The involvement of foreign staff for co-tutelle is another important strength for the program.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the existence of a good strategy of internationalization, the programme can push ahead the academic staff together with the PhD students to acquire 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, as well as the attraction of Romanian and foreign students to be part of the programme.</li> <li>- The BBU 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 acquiring external funds and being involved in research projects.</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>

## 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 fulfilled.</i>	N/A
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 partially fulfilled.</i>	<i>The institution has to ensure that at least 50% of all doctoral advisors to have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.</i>
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 does not apply.</i>	N/A
25	*	B.3.2.1.	<i>The indicator does not apply.</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 fulfilled.</i>	N/A
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 the Babes-Bolyai University, 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 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 is only 1 indicator that has been identified as partially fulfilled, which is classified in the category with “\*”. Specifically:*

- *Standard A.3.1. “At the level of each domain there are sufficient qualified staff to ensure the conduct of doctoral study program.”, indicators \*A.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 draw some clear strategies to offer to advisors' full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.*
2. *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.*
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.*



## VII. Annexes

*The following types of documents are attached:*

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