

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

The subject of this Report is a Program Domain Evaluation for the Doctoral Studies Domain in Visual Arts at the National University of Arts in Bucharest (NUAB). The evaluation has been conducted in hybrid mode, and signatory of this Report was virtually collaborated with the rest of the Domain evaluation team. The Evaluation Team consisted of the following experts:

- **Prof. univ. dr. Laura Codrina IONIȚĂ**, UNAGE, Team Coordinator
- **Dr. Marko Savic**, Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), Abu Dhabi – UAE, International Expert (**Report signatory**)
- **Cornelia-Florina FECHETE**, Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara, Student Representative

The Hybrid Evaluation Visit (Virtually attended by the signatory of this Report) to the National University of Arts in Bucharest (NUAB) has been organized by ARACIS, in period November 08-12 2021. Domain host was Prof. Prof.Univ.Dr. Eugen Alexandru Gustea.

As per official web site (<https://unarte.org/prezentare/>) NUAB is the only Bucharest higher education institution in the field of visual arts, with a national reputation. “The University provides an adequate training for future practitioners and theorists, the essential premise of the education offered being the connection to the requirements of the current Romanian society”. This training includes doctoral studies.

The NUAB Doctoral studies have been established in 1990. The doctoral – third-cycle university studies allow the attainment of a Level 8 qualification from the EQF/CEC and from the National Qualifications Framework, obtaining the doctoral title.



At NUAB, the doctoral university studies are carried out at the Doctoral School, that qualifies the institution as IOSUD (Abb. From Romanian for the “Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs”). The doctoral school is focused on scientific and artistic research and learning through research, and its’ activity is completed by doctoral theses, scientific publications, and various art production.

As per Self Evaluation, “The doctoral school assumes the size of a national artistic and cultural center, which should contribute to the training, development, transmission and dissemination of specific artistic, cultural and scientific values”. As per same document, NUAB Doctoral school aims to optimize the educational process according to the requirements of modern and efficient education, and to to promote the culture of quality. Additional priority of the doctoral school is for Ph.D. students to acquire research skills in the field of visual arts and art history and theory.

NUAB Doctoral School has only one Domain: Visual Arts. The objectives of the Domain are merged with IOSUD mission, and include:

- Training of highly advanced professionals in the field of visual arts, performing nationally and internationally;
- Training of artists and researchers adapted to requirements of contemporary art, science and society;
- Ongoing update of the content of the educational offer according to the current requirements in the field of visual studies, art history and the evolution of theories and research methods in the field;
- Encouraging the training of students from other countries and the participation in the building of European unity;
- Carrying out fundamental and applied artistic and scientific research activities.

The common duration of the doctoral program is 3 years. The cycle of doctoral studies has two compulsory components:

- a) Training program based on advanced university studies, within the doctoral school;
- b) Individual Scientific Research Program.

As per Self Assessment Report, in the period 1990-2021, 382 doctoral titles were granted in NUAB, 15 until 1999, 126 between 2000-2010 and 241 between 2011-2021. During the last thirty years, NUAB records constant increase of the number of Ph.D. students and doctoral titles granted.

II. Methods used

The External Evaluation that is subject of this Report (Virtual Evaluation by the International Expert) has included the following activities:

- The thorough analysis of the Self Assessment Report of the Doctoral study domain Visual Arts and appropriate Annexes provided via ARACIS Cloud;



- The analysis of documents, data and information available at the official NUAB web site <https://unarte.org/> and provided via ARACIS Cloud;
 - Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study domain Visual Arts;
 - Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study domain Visual Arts;
 - Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study domain Visual Arts;
 - Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the NUAB Doctoral School;
 - Meeting/Discussions with the Head and doctoral advisors in the doctoral study domain Visual Arts;
- Arts;
- Meeting/Discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the NUAB Doctoral School, including the Council of the Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD), the Ethics Committee, the Quality Assessment and Assurance staff.
 - Inputs from External Evaluation team collected during physical visit.



III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The National University of Arts in Bucharest has a long tradition. Institution has been established as an “Beaux Arts” School in 1864, following the model of Parisian art schools of that time. In 1931 it has gained University status (as Academy of Fine Arts). During the Post-war communist period, university has passed through several transformations. In 1998, Art Academy gains its’ formal accreditation, and finally, in 2002 it changes its’ name to the National University of Arts.

The Doctoral studies at NUAB have been launched in 1990, and since then, 382 Doctoral titles have been awarded.

Criterion A.1.

The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources

NUAB is a part of the Romanian Higher Education system. It is a Public university, and as such majorly funded by the state budget. University has provided set of the regulatory documents (via ARACIS Cloud) proving its’ overall institutional administrative capacity and financial viability.

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

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1.

The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain

The structure and content of the internal regulatory framework (provided at ARACIS cloud) includes all required elements by Performance Indicator A.1.1.1.:

- The institutional regulation for the organization and development of Doctoral programs
- The methodology for Doctoral School Council elections;
- The methodology for organizing and conducting Doctoral Studies;
- Mechanisms for recognizing status of a PhD supervisors;
- Mechanisms for the equivalence approval of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;
- Functional management structure of the Doctoral School;
- The Contract for Doctoral Studies

In addition, some Meeting minutes have been provided to prove the existence of practices.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remark:

The outstanding issue that requires clarification is related with the status of Doctoral students who exceed the study duration as stipulated in Contract, specifically who covers financial dues for the resources



engagement during the extended period for students financed from budget (as Contract stipulates that they, in contrary of self-financing students) do not have financial obligations.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.2. *The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the ` 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 internal Doctoral Study-related Regulation document (REGULAMENTUL INSTITUȚIONAL DE ORGANIZARE ȘI DESFĂȘURARE ALE PROGRAMELOR DE STUDII UNIVERSITARE DE DOCTORAT, nr. 140/15.11.2019, ammended nr.144/09.06.2021 is provided via ARACIS cloud and available at NUAB website (<https://unarte.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Regulamentul-de-organizare-si-desfasurare-a-programelor-de-studii-universitare-de-doctorat-2021.pdf>) is aligned with the following national and institutional legislature:

- The Romanian Law of National Education no. 1/2011;
- Romanian Law 288/2004 on organization of university studies;
- The Romanian Government Decision 681/2011, The Code of doctoral studies;
- The Ministry Order no.3482/2016,
- The Ministry Order no. 5110/2018 on the approval of national minimum standards for granting the doctoral degree;
- The Ministry Order no. 3131/2018 on the inclusion of courses in ethics and academic integrity in the curricula, for all university study programs organized in higher education institutions in the national education system;
- Regulation (EU) 679/2016 ("RGPD") on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of these data; and
- The Charter of the National University of Arts Bucharest.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remark:

Self Assessment Report emphasizes that Regulation includes tenured professors from the university who passed the habilitation exam, with the key purpose to enable them to participate in the advising and cordination of Ph.D. students. Having in mind the character of Professional programs, this is considered as very useful practice.

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

According to the provided documentation and links, NUAB and it's Doctoral Studies School (IOSUD) possess necessary logistical resources to carry out Doctoral studies.

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.*



Self Assessment Report claims that at IOSUD, there is the UNArte XE Teaching Information System that ensures the records of the academic development of Ph.D. students. External evaluator was not able to access it from any of open source addresses, however, functionality of the System has been observed by other team members during the physical visit.

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.

Doctoral Studies School at NUAB utilizes Sistemantiplagiat.ro tool to inquire extent of plagiarism in student dissertations. However, as dissertations are published on Romanian, it is questionable up to what extent the system may identify similarities with other dissertations or resources that have been published in other languages (e.g. English), especially if the most references are in foreign language.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially 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.

As a public institution, NUAB receives most of the necessary Doctoral School related funding from the state budget.

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.

The UNAB has provided evidence regarding sixteen national grants obtained in period 2015-2020, with overall in-fund value around 800,000 euro. However, grants related with in particular Doctoral studies were not specified. In addition, the clear evidence was not provided regarding Doctoral students being beneficiaries of those grants

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remark:

IOSUD team shall establish a dedicated unit to work on program marketing and grant applications.

*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%.*



Self Assessment Report indicates that the Performance criteria is not met due to the specificity of doctoral studies domain.

Recommendations:

The indicator is not fulfilled.

Remark:

Historically, art production and artists were highly dependable of mecenas. NUAB shall engage additional efforts to promote its' activities and production to those individuals who appreciate art and are ready to financially support it.

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

The provided statement in Self Assessment Report refers to encouragement and support for Doctoral students to “attend profile conferences, symposia, exhibitions, training internships, as well as to participate as editors in specialty publications” and mention that they are “in most cases” financially supported by the institution. Provided evidence does not justify the claim. However, during the meeting with students, regardless they have indicated that they have to finance their art work fully by themselves, they mentioned that some have received general financial support through performance-related grants or scholarships. According to financial report factsheets (Annex 27 at ARACIS cloud), the overall revenues of IOSUD in 2020 were 2,139,344.92 lei, and annual profit was 861,972.59 lei. Additionally provided document by IOSUD liaison during the same year lists expenditures of only 17,036.31 lei for conference organization and digital library subscriptions (where second item does not address this Indicator requirements).

Recommendations:

The indicator is not fulfilled.

Remarks:

University shall develop stimulative and transparent financial mechanism for the budget re-distribution in order to fulfill this Performance Indicator.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

NUAB Visual Arts Doctoral studies Domain has provided descriptive information regarding the available research resources.

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

The emphasis of Doctoral students' remarks regarding research-related infrastructure was on availability and suitability of library and e-library resources.



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.*

NUAB has provided, on request, detailed specifications regarding lab spaces & equipment, and the evaluation team has witnessed that lab resources during the visit. The provided video material shows key labs and studios, but it is notifiable that some of equipment are slightly outdated (e.g. slide-library, chalk blackboards). Even the media library fundus is highly praised regarding the uniqueness and value of historical resources, it is not clear if conditions for preserving slides and other rare items are proper and suitable.

Doctoral students have commended availability and suitability of library and e-library resources.

NUAB Self Assessment Report has mentioned recent investments, but hasn't provided specification of research infrastructure that was purchased and developed during the last five years.

Video material shows that the University is undertaking expansion project and it is believed that the Doctoral studies will benefit from the additional spaces.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

There is a need to ensure preservation of valuable, non-replaceable resources. In addition, following the inputs provided after the physical visit, Visual Arts may consider improving lab support to ensure full utilization especially of advanced digital technology.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

The structure and competence of the Doctoral School supervisors in the field of Visual Arts is evaluated following the statements from the Self Assessment Report and number of Annexes addressing their research records and achievements.

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

The Visual Arts Domain engages sufficient quality staff for the conduction of the Doctoral program within the program scope and comparing with the current enrollment numbers. This has been confirmed during discussions with students and graduates.

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.*



Domain currently have 15 Doctoral supervisors. Provided documents (CVs) justify that Doctoral supervisors in the field of Visual Arts are respected academicians in the field of Visual Arts, as well as reputed artists, and that they meet required CNATDCU standards.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

Some of CVs of Doctoral supervisors provided via ARACIS cloud do not have faculty name in header, so the only identifier is the file name and some of references where author's name is mentioned. It would be also advisable to provide CVs in English to improve international footprint.

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.

Out of 15 faculty members at the Visual Arts IOSUD Domain, 11 are tenured, and 4 are associates. Accordingly, 73% of supervisors are in a full-time employment.

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.

All theoretical courses in the first year of the Doctoral Studies are taught by doctoral supervisors. In addition, all Doctoral dissertation supervisors are in status of university professors.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

Better presentation of the standard requirement would be advisable (e.g. table of supervisors stating areas of expertise, and indicating who are those with habilitation) in order to support efforts of evaluators to fully understand faculty credentials and expertise.

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 does not exceed 20%.

Fourteen out of fifteen doctoral supervisors currently mentor doctoral students. Out of them four supervise more than 8 active mentees. The percentage of "overloaded staff" as per this standard requirement is 26.67%. Evaluators have requested batch analysis for last five years to analyze trends but NUAB hasn't provided that evidence.



Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

NUAB may consider overcoming objective obstacles mentioned during the evaluation (lack of national specialists in a field) by engaging international experts through co-tutelage.

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

Submitted documents (shared via ARACIS Cloud) provide evidence regarding this Standard.

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.

As per provided evidence, all NUAB faculty members who are engaged as PhD supervisors are respectable artists and researchers in their fields, with continuous and consistent activity at the national and international level, and as such, having in mind the study domain, address the requirements of this indicator.

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.*

The vast majority of UNAB doctoral supervisors in the Visual Arts field are continuously active in their fields of research and/or art production, that has been proven by references listed in their CVs that originate from last 5 years (provided by ARACIS cloud).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.



Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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

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

UNAB Doctoral Program in Visual Arts is enrolled in balance with its' capacity, and attracts fair number of candidates from outside the institution. That has been confirmed during meetings with Students and Graduates.

*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.*

Self Assessment Report and provided anexes prove diversity of the enrolled students, as sufficient number of graduates from other institutions in Romania (56 out of 71 in last five years) enrol UNAB Visual Arts Doctoral program as per requirements of this Performance Indicator.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

Better exposure at the international scene and provision of transparent information in English or other foreign languages may lead towards enrollment of the candidates from other countries.

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

Analyzing study duration record, and discussing with Faculty, Students, Graduates and University Council members provide clear scope regarding this Standard.

*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.*

UNAB Senate has recently (15.04.2021.) approved the procedure that addresses organization of admission to the Doctoral cycle at UNAB tertiary programs (METODOLOGIA DESFĂȘURĂRII CONCURSULUI DE ADMITERE ÎN CICLUL III STUDII UNIVERSITARE DE DOCTORAT) The stated document stipulates evaluation of the candidates' research interest and performance via reviewing admission documents and via interviews.



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 does not exceed 30%.*

As per Self Assessment report and provided Annexes (via ARACIS cloud), during the last five years, 20 of 140 (as per Annex 36, in other documents 402) admitted students have dropped out within the three-year program duration (14%), that apparently fulfills this Indicator.

However, student numbers are not clearly presented, especially with distinction of those who have been approved to extend their studies. This requires detailed longitudinal analysis.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

Students' evidence at doctoral studies is expected to be presented in more robust way to help evaluators understand size of batch and extent of faculty load (year-by-year, status, year of study etc.)

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

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

Evidence has been provided by Self assessment Report and on request (by Domain liaison), and consolidated with findings during the meetings at the Domain level.

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.*

Doctoral Study program is provided for both streams (Scientific & Professional), however there are just slight differences in the theoretical part conducted during the 1st year of study. Analysis of syllabi shows insufficient emphasis on research methodology, especially in comparison between scientific research, research by design and artistic research. In addition there is a gap in area of academic writing.

Another concern is credit value of courses, where courses with 24 contact hours only have been listed under 10 ECTS value, without sufficient justification regarding overall student load during the course delivery.

Second & third year of studies are not described within study program, but rather within regulations regarding PhD dissertation and study contract.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:



Current 1st year study program shall be improved in order to provide students with stronger methodological foundations for their individual research. In addition, it is recommended to expand course-based program for at least one semester, and include elective courses that may be taken even at other higher education institutions in case of multidisciplinary research topics.

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 academic 2018-19 UNAB has introduced compulsory course in Ethics for all Doctoral students.

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.*

Provided course materials briefly indicates competences that are expected to be gained at the end of each course. Program learning outcomes are not provided at all. In addition, there is certain discrepancy between descriptors in course syllabi and standard expectations at the Level 8 of the qualification framework (e.g. course “Doctoral Seminar” - in measurability: “the ability to look and to think in terms of interdisciplinarity...”, or level-wise: “- to define the categories, fundamental concepts and specific issues of current configuration in art research”).

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

The original submission, driven by Accreditation standards, do not stipulate mapping of Program Learning outcomes (PLO) against NQF, neither mapping Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) against PLOs. Specifying PLOs and CLOs (including those related with the independent research , in a addition to theoretical courses), their mapping to PLOs, and finally mapping PLOs to NQF descriptors is suggested to be added to the accreditation standards as a stipulative requirement.

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.*

Along duration of their studies, and in alignment with study protocols, Doctoral students are provided with continuous guidance by the Supervisors and other faculty members – specialists in their fields. Affirmative Self Assessment statements have been strongly confirmed by students and graduates during the meetings.

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.

Overall number of teaching staff included in guidance at the Doctoral Domain Visual Arts during the last 5 years (including Supervisors) is 51. Overall number of students at the Program for the same period is 140 (Annex 36 at Aracis cloud.

140/51 equals 2.74:1 that is less than 3:1.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

Analysis of research and artistic outputs of Domain students (Annexes, links) provide partial evidence required to assess the Standard.

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.

Self study Annex 42 provides a list of relevant PhD graduates' papers and artistic works, but in the form that is not easy to assess (non-standardized list, different fonts, insufficient data). None of the art works or papers have been provided by NUAB, however, assessor was able to retrieve some of works from the achievements lists and to confirm the fulfillment of Indicator.

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.

Without doubt, NUAB doctoral graduates are highly productive in their fields, what is proven by the provided evidence (Annexes 43, 44 & 45).

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.



Evidence is provided within Self Assessment Report.

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.*

The Self Assessment Report provides detailed distribution of external referees that have been engaged on dissertations during last 5 years. During the stated period, external evaluators have been engaged in 161 occasions. There were minor breaches of this indicator, as follows:

2016-2017: One external evaluator with same mentor, 3 times

2017-2018: No such cases

2018-2019: One external evaluator with same mentor, 4 times

2019-2020: Five external evaluators with 3 mentors, all 3 times

2020-2021: One external evaluator with same mentor, 3 times

Alltogether, five NUAB mentors have engaged external evaluators in these 8 cases, that indicates that the breach of the Indicator requirements was unlikely intentional.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

NUAB may consider overcoming objective obstacles mentioned during the evaluation (lack of national specialists in a field) by engaging international experts.

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.*

During the last five years, 88 doctorands have graduated at the Study Domain Visual Arts.

The most engaged external evaluator Prof. univ. dr. LETER IOAN BOGDAN has been engaged 20 times. 20/188 index value is equal to 0.23 that is below stipulated maximum of 0.3.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.



Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

Standard C.1.1. There are an institutional framework and procedures in place and relevant internal quality assurance policies, applied for monitoring the internal quality assurance.

Key resources for evaluating this Standard are Internal Evaluation Report (with Annexes at ARACIS Cloud) and meeting with Quality Committee Members.

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:

Neither the Self Assessment study, nor the meeting with Quality assurance (QA) team, has convinced this Evaluator that NUAB possess solid and structured quality assurance system. While document "Institutional Regulation for the organization and development of doctoral syllabuses" (Annex 4) in Article 14 (not 11 as stated in Self Assessment Study) stipulates periodical assessment of PhD supervisors, provided documents and meetings did not confirm existence of any other measures, manuals or guidelines related with Quality assurance.

In addition, during the meeting, NUAB QA team did not provide any substantial response regarding proper understanding of the QA processes in Academia, and have admitted very low response rate of doctoral students participating in faculty evaluation.

However, NUAB coordinator has provided on request Quality Commission the latest annual report that proves existence of some practices in this field.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

In order to ensure robustness of the procedural and factual processes at the University, NUAB has to develop solid QA system and implement it accordingly. Key QA stakeholders' responsibilities and processes have to be clearly defined, the full PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) cycle implemented, and "closing the loop" ensured through proper actions documented between two accreditation cycles.

*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.*

Self Assessment Report did not provide sufficient evidence regarding the stated Indicator. The questionnaire provided in Annex 47 address quality of teaching only, and as per statement of the QA team, level of student responsiveness is very low, thus even this single mechanism does not result with any substantial action (except, as per statements of QA team in case if serious disciplinary issue occurs).



Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

In addition to comment above, QA Manual has to be supported by functional tools and mechanisms (e.g. Student Satisfaction surveys) in order to enable collecting of the accurate and relevant students' feedback, analyze it, develop action plans and implement it.

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

Standard C.2.1. Information of interest to doctoral students, future candidates and public interest information is available for electronic format consultation.

Key information regarding Standard have been found at the Doctoral Studies Web site.

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) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences, to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc.
- (j) 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 UNAB Web site (<https://unarte.org/>) and few of its' relevant subpages (<https://unarte.org/regulamente/#metodologij> and <https://unarte.org/departamente/iosud/>) provide necessary information regarding Study regulations, admission process, study contract, graduation requirements and structure and outcomes of the doctoral programs.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

University may consider digital presence of IOSUD beyond the current web-page, by e.g. translating content to some of foreign languages, and better utilizing social media for additional (up-to-date) information.

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.*

Doctoral students have enabled access to the electronic library resources subscribed by NUAB (international JSTOR database: Arts & Sciences VIII, Arts & Sciences III, Artstor collections). As per student statements, resources are proper and sufficient for their research.

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.*

NUAB is subscribed and providing access to anti-plagiarism platform Sistemantiplagiat.ro. The extent and regulations for use are explained in Self Assessment Study and during the meeting with the members of the NUAB Ethic Committee. Anti Plagiarism reports have been provided on request and illustrate functionality of the tool.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

Sistemantiplagiat.ro by its' model, can't recognize potential plagiarism patterns from other languages. In addition, it is unlikely to identify adequate tool that may recognize plagiarism in artistic work.

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.*

NUAB Doctoral students have access to all key NUAB research and art facilities.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

Standard C.3.1. *There is a strategy in place and it is applied to enhance the internationalization of doctoral studies.*

Standard has been assessed based on Self Assessment Report (with Annexes) and confirmed at sample level during discussions with Graduates.

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.

NUAB has signed partnerships with 12 European Art schools under the Erasmus + program. Partnership agreements include student mobility at the tertiary level. During the last five years, 15 Doctoral students have participated in various international activities abroad.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

In a today's globalized world, art presents one of the key universal languages. Accordingly, it would be recommendable to enhance efforts towards internationalization through introducing pieces of study program delivered in foreign languages, engaging co-supervisors from schools abroad and improving student and faculty mobility rates.

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.*

NUAB aims to increase international engagement by organizing and participating in various international events. However, the evidence was not provided that the Domain Visual Arts has engaged any international faculty members to participate in study activities during the last five years.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

Current activities mentioned in Self Assessment study need additional effort to improve NUAB international footprint.

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.).*

As per Self Assessment study, NUAB has prepared and presented several projects aiming to enhance and improve internationalization. Projects have been promoted at the international scene and led to certain international agreements. However, the outcomes are not sufficiently evident.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>High quality and diversified faculty</i> - <i>High rate of students' satisfaction</i> - <i>Diverse Art production</i> - <i>Resources</i> 	<p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Inefficient Quality Assurance system</i> - <i>Finances (IOSUD funds distribution)</i> - <i>Internationalization</i> - <i>Study program: lack of methodology courses, PLO's & CLO's</i>
<p><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Seeking mecenass to financially support students' art production</i> - <i>Engaging more international supervisors/tutors</i> - <i>Enhance usage of foreign language(s) in informations and program delivery for improving international footprint</i> 	<p><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Status of students extending study duration</i> - <i>Preserving rare, valuable non-replacable resources fundus</i>

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;</p> <p>b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct;</p> <p>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);</p> <p>d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;</p>	Fulfilled	<p><i>The outstanding issue that requires clarification is related with the status of Doctoral students who exceed the study duration as stipulated in Contract, specifically who covers financial dues for the resources engagement during the extended period for students financed from budget (as Contract stipulates that they, in contrary of self-financing students) do not have financial obligations.</i></p>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings; f) the contract for doctoral studies; g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.		
2.	PI	A.1.1.2. The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.	Fulfilled	<i>Self Assessment Report emphasizes that Regulation includes tenured professors from the university who passed the habilitation exam, with the key purpose to enable them to participate in the advising and coordination of Ph.D. students. Having in mind the character of Professional programs, this is considered as very useful practice.</i>
3.	PI	A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	Fulfilled	
4.	PI	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.	Partially fulfilled	
5.	IP	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.	Partially fulfilled	<i>IOSUD team shall establish a dedicated unit to work on program marketing and grant applications.</i>
6.	PI *	A.1.3.2. The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at	Not fulfilled	<i>Historically, art production and artists were highly dependable of</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		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%.		<i>mecenas. NUAB shall engage additional efforts to promote its' activities and production to those individuals who appreciate art and are ready to financially support it.</i>
7.	PI *	A.1.3.3. At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).	Not fulfilled	<i>University shall develop stimulative and transparent financial mechanism for the budget re-distribution in order to fulfill this Performance Indicator.</i>
8.	CPI	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	Fulfilled	<i>There is a need to ensure preservation of valuable, non-replaceable resources. In addition, following the inputs provided after the physical visit, Visual Arts may consider improving lab support to ensure full utilization especially of advanced digital technology.</i>
9.	CPI	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.	Fulfilled	
10.	PI *	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
11.	PI	<p>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.</p>	Fulfilled	<p><i>Better presentation of the standard requirement would be advisable (e.g. table of supervisors stating areas of expertise, and indicating who are those with habilitation) in order to support efforts of evaluators to fully understand faculty credentials and expertise.</i></p>
12.	PI *	<p>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 does not exceed 20%.</p>	Partially fulfilled	<p><i>NUAB may consider overcoming objective obstacles mentioned during the evaluation (lack of national specialists in a field) by engaging international experts through co-tutelage.</i></p>
13.	CPI	<p>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</p>	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.		
14.	PI *	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	Fulfilled	
15.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	<i>Better exposure at the international scene and provision of transparent information in English or other foreign languages may lead towards enrollment of the candidates from other countries.</i>
16.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
17.	PI	B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission does not exceed 30%.	Fulfilled	<i>Students' evidence at doctoral studies is expected to be presented in more robust way to help evaluators understand size of batch and extent of faculty load (year-by-year, status, year of study etc.)</i>
18.	PI	B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of	Partially fulfilled	<i>Current 1st year study program shall be improved in order to provide students with stronger methodological foundations for their</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.		<i>individual research. In addition, it is recommended to expand course-based program for at least one semester, and include elective courses that may be taken even at other higher education institutions in case of multidisciplinary research topics.</i>
19.	PI	B.2.1.2. At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	Fulfilled	
20.	PI	B.2.1.3. The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	Partially fulfilled	<i>The original submission, driven by Accreditation standards, do not stipulate mapping of Program Learning outcomes (PLO) against NQF, neither mapping Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) against PLOs. Specifying PLOs and CLOs (including those related with the independent research , in addition to theoretical courses), their mapping to PLOs, and finally mapping PLOs to NQF descriptors is suggested to be added to the accreditation standards as a stipulative requirement.</i>
21.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	
22.	CPI	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.	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
23.	CPI	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	Fulfilled	
24.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
25.	PI *	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.	Partially fulfilled	<i>NUAB may consider overcoming objective obstacles mentioned during the evaluation (lack of national specialists in a field) by engaging international experts.</i>
26.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
27.	PI	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	Partially fulfilled	<i>In order to ensure robustness of the procedural and factual processes at the University, NUAB has to develop solid QA system and implement it accordingly. Key QA stakeholders'</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		<p>the level of the IOSUD, the following assessed criteria being mandatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		<p><i>responsibilities and processes have to be clearly defined, the full PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) cycle implemented, and “closing the loop” ensured through proper actions documented between two accreditation cycles.</i></p>
28.	PI *	<p>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.</p>	Partially fulfilled	<p><i>In addition to comment above, QA Manual has to be supported by functional tools and mechanisms (e.g. Student Satisfaction surveys) in order to enable collecting of the accurate and relevant students’ feedback, analyze it, develop action plans and implement it.</i></p>
29.	CPI	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 	Fulfilled	<p><i>University may consider digital presence of IOSUD beyond the current web-page, by e.g. translating content to some of foreign languages, and better utilizing social media for additional (up-to-date) information.</i></p>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		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.		
30.	PI	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.	Fulfilled	
31.	PI	C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.	Fulfilled	<i>Sistemantiplagiat.ro by its' model, can't recognize potential plagiarism patterns from other languages. In addition, it is unlikely to identify adequate tool that may recognize plagiarism in artistic work.</i>
32.	PI	C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.	Fulfilled	
33.	PI *	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.	Fulfilled	
34.	PI	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.	Partially fulfilled	<i>Current activities mentioned in Self Assessment study need additional effort to improve NUAB international footprint.</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
35.	PI	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.).	Partially fulfilled	

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

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

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The Review of the Visual Arts Domain at the National University of Arts in Bucharest Doctoral Studies has confirmed that program, research, physical and human resources generally fulfill Accreditation Standards. Considering Accreditation not as audit but rather as quality enhancement process, reviewer has identified several areas of improvement that are recommended to be implemented by the University and by the Domain. In addition there are few recommendations to ARACIS in order to improve Standards and Review procedure.

Recommendations to NUAB: IOSUD / Domain Visual Arts:

- 1) *Restructuring of Doctoral Studies funds distribution in order to provide much more support to Doctoral students research, internationalization and exposure.*
- 2) *Stipulate defining Learning outcomes for all Doctoral study activities.*
- 3) *Extend theoretical courses over Year 1 of Doctoral studies (with additional focus on methodology) and provide more opportunities for cross-disciplinary research (e.g. taking electives at other HE institutions).*
- 4) *Explore additional opportunities for program internationalization (e.g. delivery & dissertation in English).*
- 5) *Enhance robustness in internal processes, with specific focus on Quality Assurance and building of Quality Culture*
- 6) *Consider establishment of Promotion/Marketing department to enhance IOSUD visibility and attract external funds*
- 7) *Strengthen and streamline strategic partnerships through Advisory Boards*

Recommendations to ARACIS:

- 1) *Emphasis on Learning Outcomes (Los) and their comprehensive mapping (Program LOs against National Qualification Framework descriptors; Course LOs against Program LOs in order to explore and confirm study program coherence.*



- 2) *Stipulate more robust requirements for internal Quality Assurance and consider risk-based assessment*
- 3) *Encourage HE institutions towards strategic partnerships through establishing obligatory program or school-oriented Advisory boards.*
- 4) *Develop and provide unified templates for quantitative data requested within external evaluation processes (or online submission system)*

VII. Annexes

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