ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION
Full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - **ENQA**
Listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education - **EQAR**

Nr. de înregistrare: 5462/04.10.2021

Annex No. 3

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[1]

The evaluation has been carried out in the doctoral field of Philology of the "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia. Due to the Covid-19 I was not able to visit the university and all the meetings have been online from Monday 20th of September to Friday 24th of September.

The Internal committee composition is: Senior Lecturer Dr. Paul Nanu, the director of the Departament, Prof. Dr. Teodora Iordachescu, representative in the CSUD and the doctoral student Adina Botas. The external committee composition has been the following: as Coordinator Prof. Titela Vilceanu, from University of Craiova, the stuent Ingrid Orosz and myself, Prof. Veronica Pacheco as international expert.

The period under review comprises from 2016 to 2020 and the following aspects have been considered:
-Intitutional capacity
-Educational process and contents
-Teaching Staff
-Doctoral students (former and current)
-Scientific research (Staff's, students' and research centres)
-Material basis as infraestructures and books and online resources
-Quality management

In year 2000 Alba Iulia Univesity got the status of "institution organising University doctoral studies in History and in five years later the Doctoral School of Philology was created; in these years up to now 111 students have obtained the doctoral degree in Alba Iulia University. Currently, there are 36 students and 6 supervisors.

---

[1] Each time when applicable the information shall be presented gender-wise.

II. Methods used

The methods and tools used in my external evaluation process as international expert, before and during the evaluation visit, include the following:

• The analysis of the internal evaluation report of the doctoral study domain under review and its Annexes uploaded to the cloud plus some documents I asked for and have been sent to me;

• The analysis of documents made available by the IOSUD in the cloud;

• I did not visit buildings but the coordinator, prof. Vilcenau did and she confirmed that there are not problems so far wirh infraestructures and other information she was provided.

• 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 and meetings with the Council of the Doctoral School, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics;

All the meetings have been online and the staff, the students, the empoyers and everyone involved in them have been very open to all the questions; the meetings were more a dialogue in which everyone had the opportunity to participate. All the meetings have been very fruitful and meaningful.

III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY
*general description of domain analysis.

Criterion A.1. The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources
*general description of the criterion analysis.

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.
*general description of the standard analysis.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1. *The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain:*
(a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;

(b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct;

c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);

d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;

e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings;

f) the contract for doctoral studies;

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

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud I have reviewed several documents such as specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study (the internal regulations, methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), protocols for organizing and conducting doctoral studies, documents about the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;documents about functional management structures, the contract for doctoral studies and another internal procedures.

-Regulament doctorat IOSUD (61 articles that develop the regulation).

-Regulament FD Filologie that develops in 35 articles the fuctional management structure of the doctorate in Philology.

-Plenty of annexes of evidences on all the procedures explained (A111 a, b,c, d,e, f,g,h)

-In the different meetings these documents have been mentioned and explained when necessary.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

There are evidences of everything in the documentation reviewed that the institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the effective functioning mechanisms provided for in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies as well as regarding the follwing items: the internal regulations of the Doctoral School; 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; the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies); the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad; functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings; the contract for doctoral studies; internal procedures for

the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.

Regarding the proof of the regularity of the meetings maybe the meeting minutes could be included in the next review.

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

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-Regulament FD Filologie that develops in 35 articles the fuctional management structure of the doctorate in Philology (also included in the previous folder)

-There is no mention of this indicator in the internal report and I guess it is not necessary since the documentation in the cloud is quite complete.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The document develops the conventional regulation of doctoral studies.

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

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

*general description of the standard analysis.

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

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-Document SUMS
-Manual UMS 517 pages

-The internal report provides a link to the real time platform that includes the presentation of the software, the user manual and a print screen.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documents themselves provide a lot of information about procedures, with examples.

Maybe it could be useful to offer a quick guide, like a brochure to the specific groups of interest, uploaded in the web page of the university and/or doctoral school.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*
-description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-Evidences of antiplagiarism contracts and of service
-Documents from 2016 up to nowadays to have used antiplagiarism in the doctoral thesis

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documents clearly show the results after the verification of the percentage of similarity in all doctoral thesis. In the meeting with the Ethics committee and the Doctoral Board we were informed of one case of plagiarism in the Philology Domain and how it was detected. It seems that the software to detect plagiarism was not used since the original was not in the online data bases used for this type of programs. In the Ethics committee meeting and in the Philology Doctoral Domain meeting this issue of plagiarism was widely explained and all the mechanisms to detect plagiarism are in place and working.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.
*general description of the standard analysis.

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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-General agreements for 2015, 2017, 2018

-One agreement/resolution from UE to one student (2021)

-One professor obtained 2 UEFISCDI (2015-2017) and (2018) grants and one project is in progress.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the report only the 2 grants obtained by prof Teodora Iordachescu are mentioned and explained. I miss further development of the great importance of these two grants in terms of international perspective and financial support for the research centre.

It seems odd that the agreements are not for all the years, and that in 2021 only one student is awarded. This could be a weakness in order to engage students. The institution could implement some more effective actions to engage doctoral students, mainly international doctoral students.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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%.*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-The same document of the student (Popescu) in 2021 that appears in the previous indicator

-2 more agreements to hire doctoral students as research assistant

-One third student benfited from a funding through Progressio Project

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

According to the internal report it seems that 3 out of 36 student benefited fo the funding, so the percent is 8.33% and the indicator has been reached though it is very low. I consider this indicator is partially fulfilled and the institution has to improve it and to increase the funding to more students.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/<mark>partially fulfilled</mark>/not fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *A.1.3.3.*[2] *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.).*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Documents and evidences of the reimbursement of 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.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

For next evaluation there is need to upload a chart or figure to indicate the total number of students and how many 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.)

Meanwhile it seems clear that the students are given an annual grant of 4000 lei for the reimbursent of expenses for professional formation (participation to conferences, trips abroad, publish expenses, etc…). Furthermore, the students canne reimbursed the 5% tax . In the meetings we had with the former and current students the financial support is considered enough to keep their research activity. So, it seems that this indicator is fulfilled.

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

---

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

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

general description of the criterion analysis.

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

general description of the standard analysis.

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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud there are many documents that show evidence on the following:

-lists of books& journals in the library
-list of equipment bought in the last five years
-list of software bought
-list of equipment in the classrooms
-report of digital resources
-report of wireless wifi

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documentation provided shows that there are plenty of books, and resources to carry out the doctoral studies. My suggestion would be to increase:
-the number of books in other languages could be increased, and
-the access to international digital resources and data bases.

For next evaluation process there is need to show in a caption how easy the access to the Library is from the webpage of the University.

In the meetings with the students it was very clear if they have free access to other and international libraries (online) and databases such as: JSTOR and other sources very useful for the reseach.

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

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources
*general description of the criterion analysis.

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

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.*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-CVs of 6 advisors and their "abilitare" certificates

-in the internal report there is only one paragraph that could be further developed with more information.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All the advisors fulfill all the requirements. From the meetings with students and further students it was very clear that they are not only well prepared, they are excellent researches but their conection and close relationship with students is the key point and the strength of the Doctoral School in Philolgy at Alba Iulia University.

For next evaluation here is need to provide a list of all of them in a more clear way with more explanation in the report to highlight their strong points.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Copy of three of the six advisors contracts

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All three of them seem to have full time employment at the university so the indicator is fulfilled.

Recommendations:
<mark>**The indicator is fulfilled**</mark>*/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-Syllabuses of the courses taught in the last 3 years by 3 or 4 lecturers.
-Studies plan from 2013 up to now.
-A brief explanation in the internal report with links.
-The internal report includes a chart of the courses and proffesor names.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documentation shows that the study subjects 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.

Recommendations:
<mark>**The indicator is fulfilled**</mark>*/partially fulfilled/not 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[3] does not exceed 20%.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

---

[3] 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.

-In the cloud there is the list of the advisors and the PhD students from 2016 up to now.

-In the internal report there is an explanation and a chart of the no. of the doctoral students and their subventions.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Though thanks to the internal report I may understand the information provided. In the session 2020-21, each of the doctoral supervisors in Philology coordinate less than 8-12 doctora students at the same time. So 4 out of 6 supervisors coordinate less than 8 PhD thesis and none of the 6 supervisors coordinate more than 12, thus the indicator is fulfilled.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.**

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

*general description of the standard analysis.

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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud I may read the following:

-Document in which we can read the index of each of the 3 supervisors contributions in papers

-Document of the international awareness of the supervisors

-examples of papers published by the supervisor

-evidences of their role in journals scientific commitees.

In the internal report there is such a brief paragraph.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

Some of the 15 papers presented by the 3 supervisors were published some years ago, even back in 2004 and 2007, only 4 papers out of the 15 have been published in the last five years.

Even though the indicator is fulfilled the staff should be encouraged to publish more and to have more international links maybe with a more international web page and some financial support to publish.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/*partially fulfilled/not 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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-In the cloud we may read the CVs of all 6 supervisors.

-In the interal report there are only 3 lines to describe the situation.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All the supervisors continue to be active and they all meet the standards.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/*partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.*

Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
*general description of domain analysis.

Criterion B.1. The number, quality and diversity of candidates enrolled for the admission contest
*general description of the criterion analysis.

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.
*general description of the standard analysis.

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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-In the cloud there is a list of students from year 2015-16 that includes where they studies their MA.

-In the internal report there is a clear explanation and summary of all the information provided in the cloud and the rates already calculated.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

According to the documentation uploaded in the cloud it seems clear that from one year to the next one there is an increase in the number of students that come from other universities to study at Alba Iulia. And the ratio is the last five years is 0.53 so the indicator is fulfilled.

For next evaluation it could be interesting to have implemented a marketing strategy of the university to attract students from other international universities.

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

Standard B.1.2 Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance.
*general description of the standard analysis.

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

The self-evaluation report (p. 10) makes reference to the admission-related information posted on the website: http://doctorate.uab.ro/index.php?pagina=pg&id=74&l=ro.

The following information is available in the form of dedicated Annexes in the cloud:

Annex 2, http://doctorate.uab.ro/upload/74_2521_anexa_2_teme_admitere_filologie_2021.pdf, specifies the research topic proposals and the related bibliography / doctoral supervisor.

Annex 5 contains the Application proform, where details are requested in relation to prior academic performance (Bachelor's degree – field, specialisation, average grade, and Master's degree – field, specialisation, average grade).

Annex 6 provides the CV template to be filled in by the candidates. The template provides for the enclosure of Annexes: copies of diplomas; letters of reference; list of publications and research projects. Annex 9a, http://doctorate.uab.ro/upload/74_2528_anexa_9a_ghid_elaborare_proiect_doctorat_filologie_ro.pdf, contains a guide for writing the research proposal to be submitted and presented in front of the admission examination board - the research proposal should include: the rationale, research hypothesis and

objectives, problem statement and field of research, research methodology, provisional structure and organisation of the research (number and title of chapters research limitations and potential, use and citation of bibliography.

Annex 9b is the translated version of Annex 9a, http://doctorate.uab.ro/upload/74_2529_anexa_9b_writing_a_research_proposal_philology_en.pdf.
Annex 10a,
http://doctorate.uab.ro/upload/74_2530_anexa_10a_criterii_evaluare_proiecte_admitere_doctorat_ro.pdf, provides the criteria for the evaluation of the research proposal submitted by the candidates.
Annex 10b is the translated version of Annex 10a, http://doctorate.uab.ro/upload/74_2544_74_2057_anexa_10b_marking_scheme_for_admission_to_the_doctoral_school_en.pdf

In the internal report this point is not included and B.1.2.1 is the following one in this template B.1.2.2.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
The documents uploaded in the cloud and internal report show clearly that this indicator is fulfilled. Though the admission interview is not a structured one, the questions asked by the admission examination board members are closely linked to the research proposal submitted by the candidate, and following its presentation in front of the admission examination board, my coordinator panel explained to me that this is common parctice across Romanian universities / doctoral schools.
Therefore, I consider that the indicator is fulfilled.

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

Performance Indicator B.1.2.2. *The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission[4] does not exceed 30%.*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The document in the cloud is under the number B.1.2.1. There is no folder called B.1.2.2. An in the internal report this information is under B.1.2.1.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
The document shows that the expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission is 16.8% so it does not exceed 30%.
Maybe it could be useful no know the reasons of the dropping out and analyse them.

---

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

Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

general description of the criterion analysis.

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.

general description of the standard analysis.

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

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
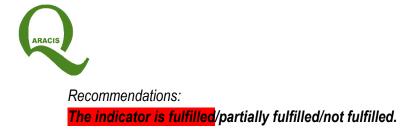
-In the cloud I may understand the whole plan of doctorate studies (plan sdf final), and it consists of 4 complusory courses, a package if 2 optional courses and one of 6 facultative course.

-Documents of the list of options chosen by some students within the course titled: 1. The hermeneutics of myths and archetypes. Cultural theories andlinguistic approachesOpțional 2. Criticism and the Cultural Contexts of Literary Texts Pachet discipline facultative(bifați cu X un singur curs din fiecare pachet)1.Teoriile comunicării șireflectarea lor în tehnicile de creație literară 2.Receptare literară și culturală 3.Limbaj metaforic în discursul mediatic contemporan 4.Poeți români canonici ai secolului XX și destructurarea canonului în secolul XXI. Reconsiderarea instrumentarului hermeneutic 5.Tipologia discursului academic. Aspecte cognitive, afective și acționale 6.Migrația conceptelor culturale europene. Identități centrale și periferice 7.Self-management șiabilitățifundamentale pentru dezvoltarea personalăsi profesionalăa studentului doctorand.

-syllabuses of 4 courses: Forme ale imaginarului cultural din perspectivă pluridisciplinară; Metode de cercetare științifică în domeniul criticii și istoriei literare. Etică și integritate academică; The mental lexicon in mother tongue and foreign language; Protocoalele discursului academic¸Self-management: abilită Ġifundamentale pentru dezvoltarea personalăúi profesionalăa studentului doctorand

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documentation and the information provided in the internal report and in the meetings show that the training program is 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.

Recommendations:
==The indicator is fulfilled==*/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud I may read the Syllabus of "Metode de cercetare ştiinţifică în domeniul criticii şi istoriei literare. Etică și integritate academică"

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

With the content of the syllabus and the brief explanation of the internal report it is clear this indicator is addressed.

Recommendations:
==The indicator is fulfilled==*/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.*

Performance Indicator B.2.1.3. *The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes", specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities[5].*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud I may read:
-Transcript or markings of the last three years regarding several courses
-And in B.2.1.1. we may find the syllabi of the courses.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

It seems clear that all the curricular documents have been elaborated according to national norms, that highlight the learning outcomes and the transversal competences. There is no need to include the markings, it is irrelevant. Though maybe a more clear explanation in the internal report could have been useful.

---

[5] 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.

There is no explanation on the mechanisms through which the IOSUD ensures that the preparation focuses on the "learning outcomes."

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/<mark>partially fulfilled</mark>/not 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.*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud I may read:
-Documents with the different committees for each student from 2016 up to now.
-18 reports of 18 students from different years

In the internal report there is a brief explanation on how this counselling activity works.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documentation provided in the cloud and the paragraph in the internal report is not enough to explain all the work carried out with the students. In the meeting with the former and current students it was clear to me that the staff is doing a great work and this is not shown in the documentation provided. It is a pity that precisely the strength of this doctoral domain is not explained with more details.

Recommendations:
<mark>The indicator is fulfilled</mark>/partially fulfilled/not 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.*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

-In the cloud: Documents of lists that indicate the ratio: 2016-2017 (3.1/1); 2017-2018 (2.7/1); 2018-2019 (2.9/1); 2019-2020 (1.6/1); 2020-2021 (1.3/1)
-In the internal report: the same information and facts.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The evolution in the last 5 years has been very positive moving from 3.1/1 to 1.3/1.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

*general description of the criterion analysis.

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

*general description of the standard analysis.

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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud:

-List of the names and the titles of 27 papers written by the students

-27 papers written by the students

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

All of them are clearly representative and relevant of the doctoral study review. Again the internal report had to highlight this excellence.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud: List of the contributions of the students: year 2016 with only one contribution, 2017 (5 contributions), 2018 (6 contributions), 2019 (9 contributions), and 2020 (10 contributions).

In the internal report just 3 lines to summarize the information.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

With the documents uploaded it seems that there is a clear and positive evolution from 2016 and 2020. Though the indicator is fulfilled there is need to have more financial support to the doctoral school in terms of internationalization that might help the students to submit contributions to international journals and/or international conferences.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled/*partially fulfilled/not 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.

 *general description of the standard analysis.

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.*

 - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud I may read:

-List of all the thesis submitted and the members of each commission.

-List of the participation of the external members per year.

-Documents of the creation of each commision.

In the internal report there are just three lines to summarize this indicator.

 - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documentation uploaded shows that the number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD do not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.

 Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled*/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.*

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

 - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud I may find:

-List of the thesis and the members of each commission.

-List and ratios.

The internal report explains that in the 30 commisions of doctoral public defense in the last five years none of the members has exceeded the limit of 0.3.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
The ratios do not exceed 0'3, and there is only one case with this limit of 0'3 so the indicator is fulfilled.

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

Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT
*general description of domain analysis.

Citerion C.1. Existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system
*general description of the criterion analysis.

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.
*general description of the standard analysis.

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.
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud I may find the following documentation:
-Reports of the scientific work of 5 doctoral advisors
-Protocols
-Reports and protocols of the infraestructure and logistics to carry out the research activity

-Staff evaluation reports
-Reports on the scientific activity of doctoral students (36 students)

The internal report explains the documentation provided and explains the procedures such as the fact that every month the doctoral students have to fill the activity form to explain what they have been doing related to their research.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
The documentation shows the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance procedures. In the meetings with the staff and the students some of the procedures and details of the daily routine were explained.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
-In the cloud I may read the reports of the staff evaluation and assessment (quite recent reports that do not cover from 2016).
-in the internal report there is just one paragraph that summarizes but does not explain the details.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself
Even though the meetings with staff and students and quality office were very interesting and explained some of this procedures and protocols, and there is evidence of the relevant procedure development and implementation and about data collection, there is an online questionnaire that students fill in anonymously. However, there is no sufficient evidence about data interpretation and how the students' feedback is turned into an action plan.

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

Criterion C.2. Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources
general description of the criterion analysis.

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

    *general description of the standard analysis.

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.

    - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

    In the cloud there are documents such as the Contract of doctoral studies (doctoral school regulation, admission regulation, doctoral studies regulation.

    In the internal report there is a brief explanation and the link to find everything in the university webpage.

    - analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

    The documentation provided shows that this indicator is fulfilled.

    Recommendations:

    The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

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

    *general description of the standard analysis.

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

    - description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

    -In the cloud there is no folder under this C.2.2.1.

    -In the internal report there is a paragraph that explains that the library "ensures access to bibliographical data bases…."

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

There is not evidence that the all doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of their thesis. In the meetings with the students it seemed clear that they had free access to these sources.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud there is documentation of antiplagiarism reports of several years and many students, which is repeated documentation of antiplagiarism reports uploaded in a previous indicator.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documentation uploaded shows that 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.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/partially fulfilled/not 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.*
- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud I may find the lists of equipment, software and classrooms (repeated from a previous indicator).

In the internal report there is full explanation of the three Research Centres and the link to them.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

It is very difficult to get access to the research centres from the general website, though the specific links provided work. The centres are not fully translated into English so the centres cannnot

benefit from the visit of international students and researchers, and viceversa. They are excellent centres and it is a pity that the access and the information is so hidden and mainly in Romanian language.

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

Criterion C.3. Internationalization
*general description of the criterion analysis.

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

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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud:
-Ten Erasmus agreements (mostly for cycle 1 and 2, that is Undergraduates, just a couple of them for Cycle 3)-
-6 agreements for international co-tutors - the joint doctoral programme agreements for the 3 graduates are outdated – do not cover the evaluated period; the other 3 are concluded on a permanent basis unless agreed otherwise.
-2 international conferences (one in collaboration with an abroad university)
-evidences of mobility to other countries (1 to South Africa, Erasmus Mundu, year 2017), (1 to Norway in a Erasmus internship, year 2015), (1 in Norway, year 2016)
-Lists of students papers in conferences (30 in 5 years)
-List of Erasmus agreements (53),. the ERASMUS agreements presented in the Annex C.3.1.1. do not provide for doctoral student mobility and/or training (they provide for the other 2 cycles).
In the internal report there is a brief summary of the documentation,

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documentation shows that there are erasmus agreements, but they are mainly for graduate studies and not for doctoral studies. 30 students submitted papers in conferences in 6 years. I am not

able to confirm that at least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences.

It seems there have been attempts to fulfill this indicator, and I know that the mobility in doctorate level is very difficult because the students have works, family etc… and they cannot move for 3 to 6 months with an Erasmus grant. So, the university should offer shorter mobility actitivie and provide with some incentives for the students to use other agreements for research, to visit other international libraries, etc… The internationalization of this doctoral domain is a weakness.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/==partially fulfilled==/not 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.*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud there are only two documents uploaded of two call for papers for 2 conferences.
In the internal report we may read a brief explanation that should have been more developed.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documentation does not show that this indicator is fulfilled. In the meetings I could learn that the support is granted, there is co-tutelage, invitations to experts to deliver courses and lecturers. But the documentation of this facts has not been provided. If the webpages of the research centres were fully translated into English, this indicator could be easier to get fulfilled.

Recommendations:
The indicator is fulfilled/==partially fulfilled==/not 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.).*

- description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

In the cloud:
-Reports of Erasmus grants used, doctorate contract of one student, list of committees.
-Reports of International Affairs office that summarize the international activity yearly
In the internal report there is a list of the fairs/conferences the university has attended.

- analysis of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself

The documentation uploaded, the year reports of international office clearly show the intense activity; I would suggest to increase the presence in EAIE, and NAFSA via presentation of sessions and/or posters; and the translation of the website into English.

Recommendations:

The indicator <mark>is fulfilled</mark>/partially fulfilled/not fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<u>Strengths:</u>	<u>Weaknesses:</u>
The staff is the big strength of the doctoral domain, their dedication and preparation. It is very clear the strong link between the doctoral school, the supervisors and the former students and schools in which these student work.	Internationalization is the big weakness, the website is not in English so the group of students is not international. The current students do not receive enough support to spend short periods in other universities.
<u>Opportunities:</u>	<u>Threats:</u>
The doctoral studies might have a potential future in the online and international market.	Other universities who have more international visibility might be a threat to the research centres and the doctoral centre since they could be more attractive to students.

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1.	PI	**A.1.1.1.** The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the Doctoral School of the respective university doctoral study domain: a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School; b) the Methodology for conducting elections for the position of director of the Council of doctoral school (CSD), as well as elections by the students of their representative in CSD and the evidence of their conduct;	**Fulfilled**	Regarding the proof of the regularity of the meetings maybe the meeting minutes could be included in the next review

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies (for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies); d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad; e) functional management structures (Council of the doctoral school), giving as well proof of the regularity of meetings; f) the contract for doctoral studies; g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.		
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**	
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**	Maybe it could be useful to offer a quick guide, like a brochure to the specific groups of interest, uploaded in the web page of the university and/or doctoral school. And this should be translated into English for the international students.
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.	**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	**Fulfilled**	The institution might implement some more effective actions to engage international doctoral students.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		domain within the past 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.		
6.	PI *	**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%.	**Partially fulfilled**	According to the internal report it seems that 3 out of 36 student benefited fo the funding, so the percent is 8.33% and the indicator has been reached though it is very low. I consider this indicator is partially fulfilled and the institution has to improve it and to increase the funding so it can reach more students or to help the students pursue some other grant schemes (private funding/sponsorships and scholarships/traineeships abroad at well-known universities) besides the home institution support. This low level of financing may become a weakness for the doctoral domain in the near future.
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.).	**Fulfilled**	
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**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
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**	
11.	PI	**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.	**Fulfilled**	
12.	PI *	**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%.	**Fulfilled**	
13.	CPI	**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	**Fulfilled**	Even though the indicator is fulfilled, the staff should be encouraged and offered incentives to publish more in indexed journals and to have more international links maybe with a more international web page and some financial support to publish.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
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**	For next evaluation it could be interesting to have implemented a marketing strategy of the university to attract students from other international universities.
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**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
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**	It could be interesting to know the reasons and motives of the drop-outs.
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 these disciplines is intended to study in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.	**Fulfilled**	
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**	There should be explanation on the mechanisms through which the IOSUD ensures that the preparation focuses on the "learning outcomes."
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**	Though this is fulfilled, there is need to provide more written documentation of the procedures and protocols.
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**	
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	**Fulfilled**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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		
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.	**Fulfilled**	
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 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;	**Fulfilled**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
		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.		
28.	PI *	**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.	**Partially fulfilled**	Even though the meetings with staff and students and quality office were very interesting and explained some of this procedures and protocols, there should be a protocol and a report to explain the actions taken that include the suggestions made by the students.
29.	CPI	**C.2.1.1.** The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as: a) the 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.	**Fulfilled**	
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**	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
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**	
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**	The webpages of the research centres are not fully translated into English so the centres cannnot benefit from the visit of international students and researchers, and viceversa. They are excellent centres and it is a pity that the access and the information is so hidden and mainly in Romanian language.
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.	**Partially fulfilled**	It seems there have been attempts to fulfill this indicator, and the mobility in doctorate level is very difficult because the students have jobs, family etc… and they cannot move for 3 to 6 months with an Erasmus grant. So, the university should offer shorter mobility actitivies and provide with some incentives for the students to use other agreements for research, to visit other international libraries, etc… The internationalization of this doctoral domain is a weakness.
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**	The institution has to increase its international visibility.
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.).	**Fulfilled**	I would suggest to implement an strategic marketing plan to improve this aspect.

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

My final suggestion would be to work and to improve the internationalization of the University in general and the Philology Doctoral Domain in particular by means of the following actions:

-translation into English of the web page

-translation into English of the research centres

-to include social media to promote their actions, conferences, publications etc...

-to promote international mobility with agreements different from Erasmus that include shorter periods abroad,

-to increase funding for supervisors and students to be spent in this international mobility

-to provide with fundings the publication of papers in international journals.

VII. Annexes

Since there was not any visit due to Covid restrictions, I include the timetable of the online meetings*:*

Monday 20th September

9:30: Online preliminary meeting for the preparation and harmonization of evaluation steps, in hybrid mode, of doctoral study domains and IOSUD

10:45: Online meeting with representatives of the institution and of the Council for Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD)

12:00 Domain: Online meeting with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review and the team who drafted the internal evaluation report

15:00 Domain: Online meeting with the academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain

Tuesday 21st September

9:00: Online meeting with the members of the Ethics Commission

10:00 Online meeting with the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) members/ Quality Assurance Department

12:00 Domain: Online meeting with PhD students

13:00 Domain: Online meeting with graduates for the respective doctoral study domain

16:00 Domain: Online meeting with employers of Doctoral graduates in the domain

Wednesday 22nd September

9:00 <u>Domain</u>: Online meeting with the Directors/ persons in charge of the research centers/laboratories within the doctoral study domain

11:00 <u>Domain:</u> Online meeting with Doctoral Schools Council (CSD members)

12:00 Online technical meeting to identify specific issues that need to be clarified, if necessary, during the on-site visit

Friday 24th September

11:45 Online meeting for conclusions

13:00 Meeting with representatives of the institution under review to discuss on the conclusions of the evaluation process and the main reccomandations