



External Evaluation Report (REE) for the procedure for obtaining a maintaining accreditation (MAC) of Doctoral Study Domain

Higher Education Institution / Education Provider Organization:	Transilvania University of Brasov
Doctoral School:	INTERDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL SCHOOL
Doctoral Domain:	MUSIC
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)



Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	VLAHOPOL GABRIELA	Expert evaluator	
2.	MORARU EMILIA	International Expert	
3.	NEGREA BOGDAN-MARIUS	PhD Student Evaluator	

I. Introduction

The context in which the external evaluation report was drafted (the type of evaluation, the period covered by the evaluation, membership of the external quality experts' panel, etc.);

The external evaluation report was drafted within the framework of the periodic external quality evaluation procedure for the doctoral field Music, organized by Transilvania University of Braşov within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. The evaluation aimed to assess the degree of compliance of the doctoral field with the applicable standards, criteria and performance indicators concerning institutional capacity, educational effectiveness and quality management, in accordance with the national quality assurance framework for doctoral studies.

The external evaluation visit took place between 22 and 23 June 2026. The evaluation process was based on the analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report and its supporting annexes, as well as on the information collected during the evaluation meetings and discussions held with representatives of the institution, of the doctoral school, of the doctoral field Music, doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, graduates, employers and other relevant stakeholders. The evaluation also included the examination of the institutional, academic, research and administrative framework in which the doctoral field operates.

The external quality experts' panel was composed of the following members: Gabriela Vlahopol, member – academic staff evaluator, registered in the National Register of Evaluators; Emilia Moraru, member – international evaluator, registered in the National Register of International Evaluators; and Bogdan-Marius Negrea, member – doctoral student evaluator, registered in the National Register of Student Evaluators. The contact person designated by the evaluated institution was Prof. Dr. Ignác Csaba Filip.

Description of the higher education institution / Romanian Academy (establishment, evolution, mission, governance, structure, study programmes / domains, external quality evaluation procedures applied);

Transilvania University of Braşov is a state higher education institution, accredited and operating on the basis of university autonomy, in accordance with the Romanian Constitution, Law no. 199/2023 on higher education, the national regulations on quality assurance in education, and its own internal regulations. The current name of the institution is documented by Order of the Minister of Education and Science no. 4894/22.03.1991. The institutional history of the university dates back to 1948, when the Forestry Institute of Braşov was established. Over more than seven decades, the institution has undergone a continuous process of development and diversification, becoming a comprehensive university with a broad academic and research profile.

The activity of Transilvania University of Braşov is grounded in the University Charter. Its mission is to generate and transfer knowledge to society through higher education programmes at bachelor's, master's and doctoral level, advanced scientific research, development, innovation and technological transfer, postgraduate education, and the strengthening of the relationship between the university and society through partnerships developed in accordance with the principles of a knowledge-based society. The strategic development of the university, reflected in the Strategic Plan for 2024-2029 and in the annual operational plans, is focused on increasing institutional performance, developing a dynamic academic community adapted to societal needs, fully integrating the university into the European Higher Education Area, and intensifying the internationalization process.

From the point of view of its academic structure, Transilvania University of Braşov is a comprehensive university comprising 18 faculties, covering both engineering and non-engineering fields, including humanities, sciences, economics, law, medicine and music. In the academic year 2025–2026, the university enrolled 21,857 students, of whom 17,522 were bachelor's students, 3,738 were master's students, and 597 were doctoral students. The educational offer included 98 bachelor's programmes, 85 master's programmes, and 24 doctoral fields, delivered in Romanian and in foreign languages, according to the specific profile of each programme. The university also includes medical residency training, with 621 residents active in clinical departments in Braşov.

Doctoral studies at Transilvania University of Braşov are organized within the Institution Organizing Doctoral Studies – Transilvania University of Braşov. The Rector is the legal representative of IOSUD-UNITBV. At doctoral level, governance is ensured by the Council for Doctoral Studies, led by a Director, while doctoral programmes are organized and carried out through the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School is led by the Director of the Doctoral School and by the Council of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, and is integrated into the structure of the Vice-Rectorate for Scientific Research and Informatization. The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School has functioned within IOSUD-UNITBV since 1 October 2010, following its establishment by decision of the Senate of Transilvania University of Braşov.

The doctoral activity of Transilvania University of Braşov has a longer historical background, connected to the development of the former higher education institutions in Braşov. Doctoral studies were organized as early as 1953, and the first doctoral theses were defended in the late 1950s. In line with the institutional development of the university and the evolution of the national legislative framework governing doctoral education, the doctoral fields organized by the university have progressively diversified. At present, IOSUD-UNITBV organizes doctoral studies in 24 doctoral

fields, grouped into six fundamental domains and 11 branches of science. The doctoral field Music is included in the fundamental domain Humanities and Arts, branch Arts.

At the level of quality assurance, Transilvania University of Braşov has developed institutional policies and procedures aligned with the values of transparency, performance, ethics, equity, recognition of merit and openness towards the community. The university is subject to periodic external quality evaluation at institutional level, at the level of bachelor's study programmes, master's study domains, the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School and doctoral study domains, in accordance with the specific methodologies applicable to each type of evaluation. The present periodic external evaluation of the doctoral field Music is therefore part of the institution's regular quality assurance processes and reflects the implementation of the national framework for the external evaluation of doctoral studies.

General description of the doctoral study domain (why it was established - in the case of a provisional authorisation to operate; evolution and/or changes since the last external quality evaluation procedure - in the case of procedures intended for accreditation or maintaining accreditation, as applicable).

The doctoral study domain Music was established within IOSUD – Transilvania University of Braşov in 2015, being recorded in the Official Gazette no. 723 bis/25.09.2015. Since the present procedure concerns the periodic external evaluation of an already accredited doctoral field, the analysis focuses on the evolution of the domain since the previous external quality evaluation procedures.

The mission of the doctoral study domain Music is to train highly qualified specialists capable of carrying out doctoral-level educational activities, as well as advanced scientific, artistic and musicological research. The field promotes artistic and musicological research in relation to national and European developments, interdisciplinary approaches connecting music with other artistic, humanistic and technological areas, and research directions with cultural, educational and socio-economic relevance.

At the time of the internal evaluation, the doctoral field Music included six doctoral supervisors and 22 doctoral students. The field operates within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School and benefits from the academic, research and administrative framework of IOSUD-UNITBV. The advanced university training programme includes both a discipline common to all doctoral fields and disciplines specific to Music, ensuring a balance between transversal academic training and specialized preparation.

Since the previous external evaluation procedures, the doctoral field has maintained its functionality and academic relevance. Between 2021 and 1 February 2026, 31 doctoral theses were confirmed by ministerial order, reflecting the continuity of doctoral supervision and research activity. According to the internal evaluation documentation, following the progress report submitted to ARACIS in 2024, it was concluded in 2025 that the measures proposed by ARACIS after the 2021 evaluation and the 2024 progress report had been implemented.

II. Methods used

Analysed documents (internal evaluation report and its annexes; additional documents requested before and during the on-site visit, if any; other documents or data);

The documents analysed by the external evaluation panel included the Internal Evaluation Report for the doctoral study domain Music and its annexes, submitted by Transilvania University of Braşov. The panel also examined relevant institutional documents concerning the organization and functioning of doctoral studies within IOSUD-UNITBV and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School.

The analysis covered documents and data regarding the doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, curriculum, research activity, quality assurance procedures, ethics and academic integrity, internationalization, infrastructure and support services. Additional information and clarifications provided by the institution during the on-site visit were also taken into account.

The documentary analysis was correlated with the discussions held during the evaluation meetings and with the observations made during the visit, in order to support a comprehensive and evidence-based assessment of the doctoral study domain Music.

On-site visit (general list of visited locations and categories of persons with whom debates have been organised);

The on-site visit conducted by the evaluation team between 22 and 23 June 2026 focused on visiting the facilities where the teaching activities of the *Doctoral School in Music* are carried out, as well as other related activities, such as those taking place in the performance hall or in specific laboratories. The visit also included meetings with representatives of the organizing institution and with other categories of stakeholders directly connected to the study programme, such as employers and graduates. The visit was carried out according to an organized schedule, established together with the institution and agreed upon by both parties.

An important role in the evaluation of the doctoral study domain Music was also played by the discussions held during the meetings with representatives of the university management, Dean of the Faculty of Music, The rector of The University, doctoral supervisors, doctoral students. The evaluation also included the visit of the material facilities and the direct observation of the spaces and resources available for doctoral training and research, in relation to the requirements of the doctoral field and to the information presented in the institutional documents.

The technical meetings of the evaluation panel contributed to the internal clarification of the findings, the formulation of verification points and the harmonization of the panel members' assessments.

III. Judgement on the extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity

Criterion A.1. Managerial and administrative structures and processes involving students and other stakeholders

Standard S.A.1.1. Organisational components and institutional processes

The HEI has organisational components in its structure, which function based on adequate competences, responsibilities, processes, and implementation procedures, and ensure an effective management system.

Indicator I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Transilvania University of Braşov (UNITBV) is an accredited state higher education institution, which organizes doctoral studies through the Organizing Institution of Doctoral University Studies – IOSUD-UNITBV, in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, the University Charter and the applicable internal regulations. IOSUD's activity is coordinated by the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), and the doctoral study programs are organized within the [Interdisciplinary Doctoral School \(SDI\)](#), a structure integrated into the Vice-Rectorate with scientific research and computerization activity.

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School has been operating since 2010 and currently coordinates 24 doctoral fields, including the field of Music. The organizational structure, the attributions of the governing bodies and the functional relations between them are regulated by the University Charter, the Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies, the [Regulation of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School and the other specific methodologies regarding admission](#), conduct of doctoral studies, evaluation of doctoral students' activity, defense of doctoral theses and quality assurance. These documents are regularly reviewed to reflect legislative changes and the evolution of the institutional framework.

The mission, objectives and strategic directions of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School are correlated with the institutional strategy of Transilvania University of Braşov and aim to develop scientific research, promote interdisciplinarity, internationalization and increase academic performance. The PhD field of Music benefits from this consolidated institutional framework and from the quality management and assurance mechanisms developed at IOSUD-UNITBV level.

During the external evaluation visit, the effective functioning of the management and coordination structures of the field was ascertained, as well as the existence of institutional mechanisms that support the management of the doctoral activity. Among other things, the implementation of an institutional methodology for evaluating the activity of doctoral students in order to reallocate doctoral grants, the use of performance indicators adapted to the specifics of the field of Music (which include artistic activities such as concerts, recitals and participation in festivals), the existence of an institutional platform for the management of documents and reports, as well as the support provided to doctoral supervisors and through transparent institutional mechanisms.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The documents analyzed and the information obtained during the visit confirm the existence of a functional organizational structure and an adequate management system for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies in the field of Music. The delimitation of responsibilities between the institutional structures (Senate, Board of Directors, CSUD and the Council of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School) is clear, and the specific processes are regulated by updated institutional methodologies and procedures in accordance with the legislative changes.

At the same time, the management of the field benefits from the support of the central structures of the university, which ensure the unitary coordination of doctoral activities, performance monitoring and implementation of transparent mechanisms regarding the financing, evaluation and reporting of doctoral students' activity. The issues discussed during the meetings with the management representatives confirm the institution's concern for the continuous adaptation of procedures to the specifics of the Music field and for the consolidation of a managerial system oriented towards performance, transparency and the development of doctoral research.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI proves that it engages the relevant stakeholders in developing methodologies and regulations, as well as implementation procedures.

Indicator I.P.A.1.2.1	The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension* and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

At the level of Transilvania University of Braşov and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, the development, application and revision of methodologies, regulations and institutional procedures is carried out through the involvement of the management and advisory structures provided by the legislation in force and [internal regulations](#). Representatives of the university's management, CSUD, the Council of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, doctoral supervisors and doctoral students are involved in the decision-making process, in order to ensure a participatory and transparent decision-making framework.

The doctoral field of Music benefits from institutional mechanisms for consultation of stakeholders, both within the internal structures of the university and through collaboration with representatives of the professional and artistic environment. During the evaluation visit, there were distinct meetings with employer's representative of the field – Brasov Opera, Brasov Philharmonic, Brasov County School Inspectorate and vocational music high schools – which highlighted the constant interest in the graduates of doctoral studies and the existing collaboration with the Faculty of Music. Employers have confirmed the good professional training of graduates and their involvement both in performance institutions and in pre-university and university education.

During the meetings with the management team and with the evaluators, it was highlighted that representatives of employers are part of the Council of the Doctoral School, contributing to the development of the field and to the dialogue with the socio-economic environment. Also, the consultations carried out in order to update the curricula and activities specific to the field were presented, even if some of them were informal and were not always recorded in minutes.

PhD students are involved in the academic life of the doctoral school by representation in the management structures and by participating in the evaluation and consultation processes on the doctoral activity. Communication between doctoral supervisors and doctoral students is permanent and takes place both within teaching and research activities, as well as through institutional mechanisms for monitoring and supporting the doctoral path.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the documents and information resulting from the visit highlights the fact that the opinions of the main categories of stakeholders are considered in the process of developing and revising the methodologies and procedures specific to doctoral studies. The involvement of academic structures, doctoral students and representatives of the professional environment contributes to the continuous adaptation of institutional processes to the requirements of the Music field and to the evolution of the legislative framework.

At the same time, the discussions held with employers and management representatives highlighted the existence of a functional and constant collaboration between the university and the professional environment but also highlighted the fact that some of the consultations with employers are carried out in an informal setting, without systematic documentation. Formalizing these consultations and using them consistently in the process of reviewing institutional documents would help to strengthen quality assurance mechanisms and increase the traceability of the decision-making process.

✓ **Recommendations**

It is recommended to systematically record consultations with employers and other stakeholders in order to strengthen the traceability of decision-making and quality assurance mechanisms.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. The material resources and optimisation of the use of the material resources

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources

The HEI owns adequate movable and immovable assets to enable it to carry out the study programme/domain.

Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

* The faculty, department, subsidiary, extension - hereinafter "organisational components"

The field of doctoral studies in Music benefits from the material base of the Faculty of Music and the Transilvania University of Braşov, which is adequate for carrying out didactic, artistic, research and administrative activities. The spaces intended for doctoral activities are used jointly with the other study cycles and are sized and equipped in accordance with the specifics of the field of Music.

The didactic and artistic activities take place in specialized rooms, equipped with acoustic and digital pianos, as well as other musical instruments necessary for the educational process and artistic research. The faculty uses the spaces of the Memo Complex, which include rooms dedicated to the orchestra, opera and singing class, as well as a recording and mastering studio equipped with professional equipment. Also, the spaces in buildings A and B of the university and the laboratories of the Research Institute for practical activities and workshops are used.

Starting with the academic year 2025–2026, the Faculty of Music will operate in a new headquarters (Building Z – University Hill), which offers modern conditions for the educational and research process. It includes a performance hall with a capacity of approximately 100 seats, lecture and seminar rooms, spaces for individual study, rehearsal rooms and studios dedicated to chamber music, providing the necessary infrastructure for the specific activities of the PhD.

PhD students have access to the [university's research infrastructure](#) and support services, including libraries, laboratories, secretarial, career counseling and guidance services, as well as facilities for extracurricular activities and student life. The spaces are accessible and organized in such a way as to meet the requirements of the educational and research process, including for people with disabilities, in accordance with institutional policies on inclusion and accessibility.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The material infrastructure made available to the doctoral field of Music is appropriate to the specifics of doctoral research and artistic creation activities. The diversity of available spaces, the existence of specialized facilities for interpretation, recording and artistic research, as well as the access of doctoral students to the university's research infrastructure and support services create favorable conditions for carrying out academic and artistic activities at high standards.

The relocation of the Faculty of Music to the new headquarters and the investments made in the educational infrastructure demonstrate the institution's concern for the continuous development of the material base and its adaptation to the current requirements of doctoral education. At the same time, the integration of the Music field in the university's research infrastructure facilitates the access of doctoral students to modern resources and equipment, contributing to the development of a competitive and research-friendly academic and artistic environment.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources

The organisational components manage the movable and immovable assets used for the evaluated study programme/domain in an optimal, sustainable manner.

Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1 The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Transilvania University of Braşov has institutional mechanisms regarding the administration, maintenance and development of heritage, which ensure the optimal functioning of the spaces intended for teaching, research and administrative activities. The management of the material base is carried out at institutional level, in accordance with internal regulations, by permanently monitoring the state of the infrastructure and by planning maintenance and modernization activities.

The movable and immovable assets used by the Music doctoral field are inventoried and maintained periodically, being replaced or modernized according to the needs of the educational and research process. Technical and IT support is provided at institutional level, through the university's specialized structures, which provide assistance for the use of the IT infrastructure and databases used in teaching and research activity.

The management of the Faculty of Music aims at the continuous modernization of the educational and technological infrastructure, as well as facilitating the access of teachers and doctoral students to the equipment and resources necessary to carry out activities specific to the field. In this regard, the investments made in the new headquarters of the faculty and in the research infrastructure reflect the institution's concern for the development of a modern educational environment adapted to the current requirements of doctoral education.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analyzed documents and the information resulting from the visit highlight the existence of a functional system of administration and maintenance of the material base, which contributes to the proper development of teaching, artistic and research activities within the doctoral field of Music. The inventory, maintenance and modernization processes are integrated into the institutional management of the heritage and support the efficient use of available resources.

The recent investments in the infrastructure of the Faculty of Music, as well as the constant concern for updating the facilities and developing the support services demonstrate the existence of an institutional policy oriented towards

the continuous improvement of the conditions of study and research. At the same time, the permanent monitoring of the infrastructure and the planning of modernization activities create the premises for maintaining an educational environment suitable for carrying out doctoral studies and adapting it to the evolution of the specific requirements of the Music field.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Adequate human resources and transparent staff recruiting procedures developed according to the law

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources

The HEI has the required human resources to organise and deliver the evaluated study programme/domain.

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1 The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.

✓ Presentation of the state of fact

The field of doctoral studies Music has the necessary human resources for the organization and development of the activities specific to the doctoral program. Currently, the doctoral coordination activity is ensured by six (6) doctoral supervisors, all of whom hold a habilitation certificate and have the quality of tenured professors of the Transilvania University of Braşov, which ensures a tenure rate of 100% at the level of the field. Doctoral supervisors meet the legal conditions regarding the coordination of doctoral studies and carry out teaching and research activities in accordance with their fields of competence.

The teaching staff involved in the doctoral program have the professional and scientific skills necessary for the disciplines and activities they coordinate, their experience being reflected both through their teaching and research activity, as well as through their artistic and professional contributions specific to the field of Music. The human resource is supported by the administrative and technical infrastructure of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School and the University, which facilitates the conduct of research activities, the monitoring of the doctoral path and the management of administrative processes.

During the external evaluation visit, institutional mechanisms that support the activity of doctoral supervisors and academic performance were highlighted. The representatives of the management presented the existence of transparent criteria for granting financial incentives for the teaching staff involved in the research activity, as well as the implementation of a methodology for evaluating the performance of doctoral students in order to reallocate doctoral grants. At the same time, the doctoral supervisors underlined the role of the steering committees, the continuous monitoring of the progress of doctoral students and the collaboration between generations of teaching staff, aspects that contribute to strengthening the quality of the doctoral training process.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The human resource related to the doctoral field of Music is adequate to carry out the didactic, artistic and research activities specific to doctoral studies. The existence of a body of tenured and qualified doctoral supervisors, together with their professional and scientific experience, provides the necessary framework for the coordination of doctoral research and the development of the academic and artistic skills of doctoral students.

The information resulting from the visit confirms the existence of a collaborative academic climate, characterized by the permanent monitoring of the progress of doctoral students, the active involvement of doctoral supervisors and the functioning of the advisory committees. Also, the institutional measures regarding the stimulation of research performance and the periodic evaluation of the doctoral students' activity contribute to strengthening the quality of the doctoral process and to the development of an organizational culture oriented towards academic and artistic excellence.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The teaching and research activity within the field of doctoral studies Music is supported by an academic body with relevant teaching, scientific and artistic experience, which participates both in the coordination of doctoral students and in the development of the training program based on advanced university studies. The doctoral supervisors and the teaching staff involved in the doctoral activity meet the conditions provided by the legislation in force and by the institutional regulations regarding the occupation of positions and the performance of activities specific to doctoral studies.

The doctoral training program is organized in such a way that the compulsory subjects are covered in the first semester by all doctoral students, and in the second semester the training is individualized, through support subjects adapted to the research theme, completed by evaluation. The doctoral supervisors ensure the coordination of research

and artistic creation activities, supporting doctoral students in the elaboration of scientific and artistic works and in participating in academic and professional events.

During the meeting with the doctoral supervisors, the active involvement of the steering committees, the permanent monitoring of the progress of doctoral students and the collaboration between experienced teachers and those from the younger generations were highlighted. At the same time, the concern for the permanent updating of the research topics and for their adaptation to the developments of the Music field was underlined, including through the development of theses in co-supervision and by [capitalizing on artistic research in national and international contexts](#).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the documents and information resulting from the visit confirms that the academic staff involved in the doctoral field of Music has the professional experience and skills necessary to carry out teaching, research and doctoral coordination activities. The organization of the [advanced university training program](#), together with the individual tutoring activity and the continuous monitoring of the progress of doctoral students, contributes to ensuring a coherent doctoral path adapted to the specifics of artistic research.

The involvement of the steering committees, the collaboration between doctoral supervisors and the orientation towards current research topics demonstrate the existence of an academic framework favorable to the development of research and artistic creation skills of doctoral students. At the same time, the concern for capitalizing on the research results through publications, artistic events and academic collaborations contributes to strengthening the quality of the activities carried out within the doctoral field of Music.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures

Teaching staff recruitment procedures compliant with the provisions of the law.

Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov applies procedures for the recruitment of teaching and research staff in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023 and with its [own methodology regarding the occupation of teaching and research positions](#). The competitions for filling vacant positions are organized periodically, in conditions of transparency and competitiveness, and the information regarding the positions put out to competition, the selection criteria and [the procedural stages are made public according to the institutional regulations](#).

As regards the activity within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, the affiliation of doctoral supervisors is based on institutional criteria and procedures that comply with the national legislative framework and the quality standards applicable to doctoral studies. The teaching staff involved in the field of Music doctorate meets the legal conditions regarding the occupation of positions and the conduct of teaching and research activities, being employed with an individual employment contract and evaluated in accordance with the internal regulations of the university.

During the evaluation visit, it was highlighted that, at institutional level, the criteria for staff recruitment and affiliation are analyzed and applied unitarily, including in terms of the distribution of resources and the support of academic performance. The university's management presented the existence of transparent mechanisms for granting incentives for research activity and for evaluating academic performance, thus contributing to the strengthening of a competitive and excellence-oriented environment.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The recruitment procedures applied at the level of the Transilvania University of Braşov and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School are in accordance with the legal provisions and are implemented in an institutional framework characterized by transparency, competitiveness and non-discrimination. The existence of clear methodologies regarding the occupation of positions and the affiliation of doctoral supervisors ensures the selection of teaching staff based on the criteria of professional competence and academic performance.

At the same time, the institutional mechanisms for evaluating and stimulating performance contribute to strengthening the human resource involved in the organization of doctoral studies and to maintaining a high level of quality of teaching and research activities carried out within the field of Music. The existing procedural framework provides the premises for the continuous development of the academic body and supports the institutional policy of promoting excellence in research and doctoral education.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.4. Digitalisation of institutional processes

Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation

The digital transformation process in the organisational component seeks to achieve administrative simplification and improve the quality of the services provided to the members of its own community, as well as to third parties.

Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1	The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov implements the [digital transformation process](#) in accordance with the Institutional Digitalization Strategy, aiming to simplify administrative processes, streamline academic activities and improve the services offered to members of the university community. At the level of IOSUD and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, integrated IT tools are used that facilitate the management of administrative, teaching and research activities.

All members of the academic community benefit from access, based on their [institutional account](#), to the IT platforms developed by the university. These include the intranet platform, which contains a section dedicated to doctoral studies and provides doctoral students with information on the disciplines of the advanced university training program, the forms and procedures specific to the doctoral internship, the study contracts, the minimum standards for awarding the doctoral degree and other information of interest. At the same time, the [e-learning platform](#), the Erasmus mobility portal, the institutional e-mail services, the document storage and sharing platform, as well as the platform dedicated to reporting the results of the research activity are used.

During the evaluation visit, the representatives of the management presented the existence of an institutional platform that facilitates the elaboration of documents, project management and reporting at university and national level. Also, the use of IT platforms for the evaluation of the teaching activity, under conditions of anonymity, as well as for monitoring the activity of doctoral students and managing the administrative processes related to doctoral studies, was highlighted.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the documents and information resulting from the visit confirms that the PhD field of Music benefits from the digital infrastructure developed at the level of Transilvania University of Brasov, which effectively supports the development of teaching, administrative and research activities. Institutional platforms facilitate quick access to information and documents, communication between doctoral students, doctoral supervisors and administrative structures, as well as monitoring of activities specific to doctoral studies.

The use of IT tools contributes to increasing the transparency and efficiency of institutional processes and supports the digitization of the activities carried out within IOSUD and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. At the same time, the continuous development of the digital infrastructure and the implementation of new applications dedicated to the management of research activity demonstrate the institution's concern for permanent adaptation to the current requirements of higher education and doctoral research.

The indicator is fulfilled.

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programmes

Standard S.B.1.1. Content of study programme/s*

The study programme is based on a curriculum designed so that students can acquire the expected learning outcomes.

Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The doctoral study programme in the field of Music is structured in relation to the expected learning outcomes and is organized according to the transferable credit system, fully aligned with the current legislation governing doctoral studies (Law no. 199/2023 and the Framework Regulation – M.O. no. 56/2024). The doctoral programme has a four-year structure and totals 240 ECTS credits, distributed over the advanced university training programme, the scientific research programme and the elaboration and defence of the doctoral thesis.

The advanced university training programme includes disciplines aimed at developing research competences, academic ethics and integrity, as well as specialized knowledge relevant to the doctoral field Music. Each doctoral

* The term “programmes” concerns the external quality evaluation for the study programmes contained in a master/doctoral domain. The term “programme” shall be used hereinafter.

student benefits from an individual doctoral programme, which combines a common training component with a personalized component adapted to the topic of the doctoral thesis.

The [curriculum](#) and [the subject sheets](#) include information regarding the number of hours, assessment methods, allocated credits and expected learning outcomes, expressed in terms of knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy. The programme includes compulsory disciplines attended by all doctoral students in the first semester (*Ethics and Academic Integrity, Applied Schenkerian Analyses, Musical Language Semantics & Hermeneutics, Musical Discourse Rhetoric*), while the second semester includes individualized training through specific support disciplines, completed through examinations. The programme is complemented by research activities, scientific reports, participation in academic and artistic events, and other forms of dissemination relevant to doctoral training in Music.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The PhD programme in Music DSUD_MZ is coherent and adequately structured in relation to the expected learning outcomes. Its organization combines common doctoral training, individualized research preparation and progressive development of the doctoral project. This structure is appropriate for a doctoral field in Music, where scientific, musicological and artistic research require both methodological training and personalized academic guidance. The programme reflects the specific profile of doctoral education in Music by integrating research methodology, ethics and academic integrity, specialized disciplines, individual study, scientific reporting and thesis development. The existence of individual doctoral programmes supports the adaptation of the training process to the doctoral students' research topics and contributes to the development of autonomy, critical thinking and advanced research competences.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.2. Alignment of the curriculum with the qualification

Standard S.B.2.1. Alignment with the qualification level and the intended competences

In the curriculum design and development process, the organisational component seeks to ensure the qualification level, as well as correlation with the envisaged occupations.

Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2	The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The curriculum of the PhD program in Music within IDS Transilvania University of Braşov is designed and continuously updated in alignment with the qualification requirements of the third cycle (EQF level 8) and the professional competencies specific to the music field. It follows European and national frameworks, ensuring consistency with occupational standards and the evolving demands of artistic and scientific doctoral training.

The curriculum and discipline sheets are structured to provide both theoretical and practical competencies, including advanced understanding of musical hermeneutics, the use of contemporary research methodologies, critical analysis such as Schenkerian and rhetoric methods, and the development of original artistic or scientific contributions.

The program supports the development of competencies relevant to a wide range of professional profiles in the music field, including teaching, research, performance, conducting, cultural mediation, and media-related roles. These competencies are developed through a combination of artistic and theoretical research, participation in academic and cultural events, project-based activities, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Learning outcomes are structured around advanced knowledge, professional skills, and transferable competencies such as academic communication, cultural management, and interdisciplinary work. They are directly correlated with the activities carried out during the doctoral program, including research, artistic creation, critical engagement, and project coordination.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The doctoral study programme is generally aligned with the qualification level required for doctoral studies and that the curriculum reflects the advanced academic and research profile expected at EQF/NQF level 8. The programme supports the development of competences relevant to doctoral training in Music, including scientific and artistic research, critical analysis, academic writing, ethical research conduct and the capacity to produce original contributions in the field.

The curriculum and subject sheets provide an operational framework for linking learning outcomes with competences, contents and assessment methods. This framework is appropriate for the doctoral level and for the specific nature of the field of Music. The individual doctoral programme further supports the adaptation of competences to the doctoral student's research topic and professional trajectory. International doctoral students are also enrolled, for whom translations of the discipline sheets and their content have been prepared in order to facilitate communication with them.

✓ **Recommendations**

Following the meetings, it is advisable to strengthen and formally document the involvement of employers, graduates, and other relevant stakeholders in curriculum review, in order to update the learning outcomes, competences, and training activities, and to better reflect the connection between doctoral training, professional practice, and research pathways.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.3. Student-centred learning, teaching and evaluation

Standard S.B.3.1 Principles

The organisational component implements the principles of student-centred learning.

Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1	The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

IDS-UNITBV implements the principles of student-centred learning in the doctoral study domain Music through the structure of the doctoral programme, the individual doctoral study plan and the supervision and monitoring mechanisms provided throughout the doctoral training period. The educational and research process is organized on the basis of the [Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies](#) and of the [Advanced University Training Programme](#). The training process is focused on the specific development needs of doctoral students and on their individual research trajectory. The curriculum and subject sheets include doctoral courses, research seminars, specialized laboratories, individual mentoring activities, mobility opportunities and participation in conferences.

A relevant element of student-centred learning is represented by the individual training programme carried out in the second semester of the first year. This component is organized exclusively under the coordination of the doctoral supervisor and includes three specialized disciplines, individualized according to the content and direction of each doctoral student's research. The completion of these disciplines takes the form of examinations held before the guidance committee, and the doctoral student receives a formal assessment result for each examination.

The student-centred character of the programme is also supported by regular monitoring mechanisms, so expulsion rate is very low (for the period 2021–2025, 1 (one) doctoral student withdrew from the programme). In the first and second years of study, doctoral students complete a monthly form regarding the fulfilment of doctoral research obligations. This form is endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and monitored by the Department for Quality Assurance in Education. At the end of the first year, all doctoral students are evaluated on the basis of general criteria included in the annex to the [internal methodology](#). The results of this evaluation are also used for the redistribution of doctoral scholarships.

During the evaluation visit, the discussions with doctoral students confirmed that the doctoral programme is accessible and that the relationship with doctoral supervisors is based on mutual involvement. Students indicated that their doctoral activity is materialized in articles and specialized studies, closely coordinated by the supervising teaching staff. The discussions with doctoral supervisors also confirmed the role of the guidance committees and the attention given to the progress of doctoral students.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The PhD study domain Music ensures the implementation of student-centred learning principles through a coherent combination of structured doctoral training, individualized research, close supervision and continuous academic monitoring. The organization of the second-semester individual training programme is particularly relevant in this respect, as it allows the content of the specialized disciplines to be adapted to the doctoral student's research topic and academic needs. The fact that the three specialized disciplines are coordinated directly by the doctoral supervisor and assessed before the guidance committee supports both the personalization of doctoral training and the academic validation of the student's progress.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P. B.3.1.2	The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

IDS-UNITBV and the Faculty of Music provide doctoral students in the field of Music with access to various forms of academic, research and artistic mobility, supported through Erasmus+, UNITA, doctoral grants, specific scholarships and international cooperation agreements.

Doctoral students may participate in Erasmus+ study mobilities, traineeships and research mobilities, both short-term and long-term. The Erasmus+ framework also includes Blended Intensive Programmes, which allow participation in

physical, virtual or hybrid formats. According to the Annex 5, doctoral students have benefited from BIP activities, including at the University of Zaragoza, Spain.

The university also supports research mobility and participation in scientific conferences through doctoral grants and mobility scholarships. Doctoral students have participated in international mobilities, scientific conferences and interdisciplinary activities developed with partner universities. A specific feature of the Music field is represented by artistic mobility. The documentation refers to international artistic activities and cultural diplomacy projects, including concerts and artistic events in several countries. During the evaluated period, doctoral students participated in mobilities in Dubai, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Havana, Panama, Costa Rica and Osaka.

UNITBV's membership in the UNITA Alliance creates additional opportunities for doctoral cooperation, including co-supervised doctorates. Within the CHORAL PhD project, a doctoral student in Music is carrying out a co-supervised research project with the University of Turin. The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School also organizes the [International Doctoral Student Conference DoCo](#), which facilitates the exposure of doctoral students to an international academic environment.

Doctoral students are informed about mobility opportunities and that financial support is available through Erasmus+ and UNITA for participation in conferences and international events.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The mobility framework is relevant to the specific profile of the Music field, as it combines academic, research and artistic dimensions. The existence of physical, virtual and blended formats confirms the flexibility of the mobility opportunities offered to doctoral students.

✓ **Recommendations**

It is recommended to continue strengthening the formal documentation of mobility participation and outcomes, especially for research mobilities, in order to better demonstrate their impact on doctoral training and learning outcomes.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness

The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students.

Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

IDS-UNITBV provide doctoral students with fair opportunities, in accordance with their academic potential, research interests and professional aspirations. The institutional framework is based on the *Code of Student Rights and Obligations*, [The Regulations on Doctoral Studies](#), the [admission methodology](#), and the regulations regarding scholarships and other forms of financial support.

Fairness is supported through transparent admission procedures, access to doctoral scholarships and research awards, mobility grants, laboratories, databases and other academic resources. Doctoral students benefit from personalized guidance provided by the doctoral supervisor and the guidance and academic integrity committee, according to the specific needs of each doctoral research project. Also, DSUD_MZ has concluded 2 scientific collaboration agreements within the framework of the national co-supervision procedure for the completion of the doctoral thesis for doctoral students.

The evaluation visit confirmed the existence of mechanisms for monitoring doctoral students' progress, including monthly and annual reporting tools and the use of the university's Academics platform. These mechanisms contribute to transparent and comparable evaluation of doctoral activity. In the case of foreign doctoral students, the Faculty of Music has also taken measures to facilitate communication and academic integration, including the translation of course-related contents.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The doctoral study Music domain provides fair opportunities for doctoral students through a combination of regulatory, academic, financial and support mechanisms. The admission procedures, scholarship regulations, monitoring tools and access to resources create a framework that supports equal treatment and transparent academic progression. The personalized guidance offered by doctoral supervisors and guidance committees is particularly relevant for doctoral education in Music, where research topics may differ significantly in methodology, artistic profile, documentation needs and professional orientation. The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms contribute to fairness by providing a structured basis for assessing doctoral progress and for making decisions regarding scholarships and academic support.

Documents consulted:

UniTBV [Charter and Code of Ethics](#)

[Regulation On The Organization And Conduct Of Doctoral And Postdoctoral University Studies](#)

[Regulation of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School](#)

[The Plan for ensuring gender equality](#)

[Regulations and methodologies of the Career Counseling and Guidance Center](#)

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.4. Accessibility and efficiency of the resources and support services, adequate for learning

Standard S.B.4.1. Access to resources and services

The organisational component provides access to adequate resources and support services, according to the needs of the students.

Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov provides doctoral students in the field of Music with access to educational, research, documentary, digital and support resources appropriate to the doctoral study cycle and to the specific needs of the field. UNITBV has an extensive teaching and research infrastructure, consisting of a new building with a concert hall, seminar rooms, specialized laboratories, workshops, teaching facilities, individual and group study spaces, as well as recreational and campus facilities. Doctoral education and research activities also benefit from the infrastructure of the Research and Development Institute of Transilvania University of Braşov, which includes [a research centre dedicated to the field of Music](#).

The material resources available to the Faculty of Music have been further strengthened through the recent acquisition of three Steinway pianos, which support both teaching and artistic research activities. In addition, the [Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov](#) hosts numerous events organized by the Faculty of Music, providing an important space for artistic dissemination, concerts, recitals and cultural activities. The university's Aula Magna is also equipped with a Steinway piano and is made available for recitals, chamber concerts and other artistic events relevant to the training and visibility of doctoral students in Music.

Access to documentary resources is ensured through the university library, which provides reading rooms, home loan services, physical and digital access, and access to international databases, including *Web of Science*, *Scopus*, *SpringerLink*, *ScienceDirect* and [other electronic scientific information resources](#).

Regarding accessibility, at the level of the doctoral field Music, there were no doctoral students with disabilities during the evaluated period. However, the institutional framework provides the necessary mechanisms for adapting resources and services should such needs arise. The university provides, where and when necessary, individualized support measures, assistive equipment and software, access to digital platforms, and timetable or assessment adaptations. The institutional commitment to accessibility is also reflected in projects dedicated to creating an accessible and inclusive academic environment for students with disabilities.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The research infrastructure made available through the university and the Faculty of Music is relevant for doctoral studies in Music, especially in relation to musicological research, artistic research, documentation, interdisciplinary projects and dissemination of research results. The resources observed during the visit confirm the existence of an appropriate material and research framework.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation

Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.

Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1	Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The doctoral study domain Music defines the expected learning outcomes both at programme level and at discipline level. The curriculum for the Advanced University Training Programme formulates the general objective of doctoral studies as the training of highly qualified specialists capable of conducting scientific research, research-development and innovation activities, and of integrating into highly qualified professional environments.

The curriculum includes professional competences and transversal competences, structured through learning outcomes expressed in terms of knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy. The professional competences cover advanced scientific research in Music, critical analysis and synthesis of musical theory, artistic practice and interdisciplinary contexts, scientific/artistic communication, the integration of digital technologies in research and

education, and interdisciplinary collaboration and research management. The transversal competences refer to self-assessment and lifelong learning, interpersonal communication and teamwork, and adaptation to complex professional contexts.

At the level of the discipline sheets, the situation is more nuanced. The subject sheets contain the required sections and provide useful information for both students and teachers. The objectives, contents, bibliography and assessment methods are, in general, relevant to the disciplines included in the curriculum.

However, the formulation of learning outcomes is not always sufficiently individualized at discipline level. In several discipline sheets, broad programme-level competences and learning outcomes are reproduced in extensive blocks, without a clear selection of those outcomes that are directly targeted by the specific discipline. This creates a certain imbalance between the general competence framework, which is very broad, and the actual contents and assessment activities of each course, which are more specific. The existence of different versions of the ethics-related discipline sheets, including a version in English with a stronger focus on scientific communication and international dissemination, suggests the need for clearer harmonization of titles, contents, competences and expected learning outcomes.

The assessment methods are generally connected to the discipline contents, especially where they involve written tests, musical analyses, practical applications, projects or case studies. Nevertheless, in some cases, the evaluation criteria should be revised in order to better assess the actual achievement of learning outcomes.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The learning outcomes are formally defined and generally aligned with the doctoral qualification level and with the competences stated in the curriculum. The curriculum provides a coherent general framework, covering both scientific research and artistic/professional dimensions specific to the field of Music. The use of knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy is appropriate for doctoral-level training and supports the alignment with the expected qualification level.

✓ Recommendations

It is recommended to revise the discipline sheets in order to make the learning outcomes more concise, discipline-specific and explicitly correlated with contents, teaching activities and assessment methods. The distinction between programme-level competences and discipline-level learning outcomes should be made clearer. Also, it is recommended that the learning outcomes be defined separately for the two types of doctoral studies, scientific and professional, in order to better reflect their specific objectives, research approaches and expected competences.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.B.5.1.2	Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The PhD program in Music uses several forms of assessment to verify the achievement of learning outcomes throughout the doctoral programme and at the completion stage, including examinations for the disciplines in the Advanced University Training Programme (AUTP), specialized examinations related to the individual doctoral research pathway, annual research reports, annual activity reports, validation of scientific and artistic outputs, and the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

In the first semester of the AUTP, the curriculum includes four disciplines named “general” such as Ethics and Academic Integrity, and specialized courses. Each discipline is completed through an examination and is allocated ECTS credits. The discipline sheets include assessment criteria, assessment methods, weight in the final grade and minimum performance standards.

In the second semester, the individual training programme is organized under the coordination of the doctoral supervisor and includes three specialized disciplines adapted to the research topic of each doctoral student. These activities are completed through examinations held before the guidance committee, and the form of examination may consist of papers that directly support the development of each student’s doctoral research.

During the Scientific Research Programme, the achievement of learning outcomes is monitored through the preparation and defence of scientific research reports before the guidance and academic integrity committee. The annual activity report is verified and supervised by the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee. In addition, doctoral students’ scientific activity, including publications, conference presentations and artistic events, is validated by the doctoral supervisor and/or by the members of the guidance committee.

The evaluation visit also indicate the existence of monthly and annual forms for monitoring doctoral research activity, introduced in addition to the mandatory reports. These mechanisms are intended to follow the academic progress of doctoral students and to ensure fairness in decisions concerning doctoral scholarships, redistribution and academic status. The reporting of doctoral activity is carried out through the university’s Academics platform.

At the completion stage, the doctoral thesis is first analysed within the guidance and academic integrity committee, then defended publicly before the doctoral committee, and subsequently submitted for validation according to the national procedures. The institution also applies internal procedures for similarity checking before the public defence.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The doctoral study domain *Music* has a functional and multi-level assessment system, which verifies the achievement of learning outcomes through both ongoing and final forms of evaluation. The assessment process is progressive and covers the main stages of doctoral training: coursework, individualized specialized training, research reporting, dissemination of results and thesis defence. The monitoring mechanisms identified during the visit contribute to the continuity and traceability of doctoral assessment. They also support institutional decisions regarding scholarships and student status. These mechanisms are useful, provided that the criteria used for evaluation remain transparent, consistently applied and clearly connected to the expected learning outcomes.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.7. Procedures and practices regarding the admission competition, the journey, recognition and equivalence of studies, and result certification

Standard S.B.7.1. Admission

The admission procedures and principles ensure access to higher education.

Indicator

I.P.B.7.1.1

The organisational component applies the admission procedures.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The admission procedure for doctoral studies at IOSUD-UNITBV is organized according to an admission methodology developed annually for each admission session. The methodology is proposed by the Council of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, endorsed by CSUD and the Board of Directors, approved by the University Senate and published on the university website before the admission period.

The public information available to candidates includes admission conditions, doctoral fields and proposed research topics, available places, calendar, required documents, online registration, fees and admission results. The admission conditions specify the categories of eligible candidates, including Romanian citizens, EU/EEA/Swiss candidates, third-country candidates and Romanians from everywhere, as well as the recognition procedure for studies completed abroad.

Registration for the doctoral admission competition is carried out exclusively online, through the university admission platform. Candidates upload the required documents, including the application forms, proof of previous studies, language certificate, CV, list of scientific works where applicable, medical certificate and other documents required by the methodology.

In the field of Music, the evaluation is differentiated according to the type of doctorate: the scientific doctorate includes two written tests, while the professional doctorate includes a written test and a recital. For both types of doctorate, candidates present the doctoral project. The admission commission is established for each doctoral topic and includes the doctoral supervisor and other specialists with a doctoral degree.

The admission procedure also provides flexibility for candidates from abroad, who may take the specialized examination/interview by videoconference, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor. Admission results are published publicly on the university website, by categories of candidates and funding forms.

During the evaluation visit, the doctoral supervisors indicated that the admission procedure has evolved over time and that the current form of the examination is practical and useful for identifying the candidates' competences. The discussions also highlighted that, in the field of Music, doctoral topics are dynamic and may reflect current research interests and interdisciplinary directions.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

IDS-UNITBV applies admission procedures that are transparent, publicly available and regulated through institutional methodology. The information provided to candidates covers the main elements of the admission process, including eligibility conditions, required documents, calendar, examination format, available places, fees and results. The admission procedure is appropriate for doctoral studies in Music, as it assesses both the candidate's academic and research potential and the specific competences required by the field. The differentiation between the scientific doctorate and the professional doctorate is relevant, especially through the inclusion of artistic-performance assessment for the professional pathway.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator

I.P.B.7.1.2

Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Admission to doctoral studies at IDS-UNITBV is organized in accordance with institutional regulations and with the principles of fairness, transparency and equal opportunities. The admission conditions are publicly available on the

university website. The university provides online registration for all candidates, which facilitates access to the admission process. In addition, candidates from other countries may take the specialized examination or interview by videoconference, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor.

Support measures are also provided for vulnerable candidates. The facilities offered by UNITBV for candidates with disabilities and/or special educational needs are clearly mentioned on the [dedicated admission platform](#) in the section [Candidates with disabilities](#). In special cases, including situations where physical presence is not possible, the admission methodology allows the specialized examination to be organized online. The documentation also provides for exemption from the registration fee for persons at risk of losing the ability to meet daily living needs due to illness, disability or poverty, based on a declaration on their own responsibility.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The admission procedure is organized in accordance with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities. The public availability of admission information, the online registration process, the clear definition of eligible candidate categories and the publication of admission results contribute to transparency and equal access.

The existence of specific support measures for vulnerable candidates, including fee exemptions and the possibility of online examination in justified cases, is relevant for ensuring access to doctoral studies for candidates with special educational needs, disabilities or social risk situations.

✓ **Recommendations**

It is advisable to continue making support measures for vulnerable candidates more visible and explicit in the admission documentation, especially regarding the practical steps through which candidates with special educational needs or disabilities may request adaptations.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.B.7.2. Academic journey of students

The organisational component carries out actions supporting the students' academic journey.

Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1	The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov applies a regulatory framework governing the academic and professional activity of doctoral students. The relevant documents are publicly available on the university [website](#) and include the *Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral and postdoctoral studies*, the *Regulation of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, specific doctoral school instructions*, methodologies for internal evaluation of each of the 24 domains in IDS, and the *Methodology regarding the evaluation of doctoral students' activity for the reallocation of doctoral grants*.

The professional activity of doctoral students is regulated through the curriculum and monitoring procedures, which define the structure and duration of studies, including general and specialty disciplines and the corresponding ECTS allocation. The monitoring process includes monthly research activity forms at doctoral school level and annual evaluations at institutional level, in addition to the mandatory research reports. The study contract is supplemented by an addendum concerning the doctoral student's activity, and the results of these monitoring processes may be used in decisions concerning the student's status, including budgeted places, scholarships, fee-paying status and grant reallocation.

Progress monitoring and quality assurance are ensured through the active involvement of the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee, which oversee the development of research and artistic activity. The framework also includes clear procedures for pre-defense and public defense of the doctoral thesis, incorporating mandatory originality checks. In addition, the regulations define explicit administrative procedures for extension, interruption, transfer, or expulsion, ensuring clarity and consistency in managing doctoral trajectories.

PhD students are regularly informed about the legal procedures applicable to them and about the deadlines for submitting documents, reports and other academic obligations. Doctoral activity is reported through the Academics platform, which centralizes information relevant to research activity and institutional decision-making.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The organisational component applies the regulations concerning doctoral students' academic and professional activity in a structured and functional manner. The regulatory documents are publicly available, and the doctoral pathway is clearly organized through successive stages: advanced training, scientific research, reporting, thesis preparation and public defence. The use of individual doctoral plans, annual activity reports, monthly monitoring forms and the Academics platform supports the traceability of doctoral students' progress. These mechanisms provide a documented basis for academic monitoring and for administrative decisions concerning scholarships, funding status and continuation of studies.

✓ **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the institution improve doctoral students' access to the minimum standards and requirements applicable to each type of doctoral programme, by clearly presenting the distinctions between the scientific doctorate and

the professional doctorate, in accordance with Ministerial Order no. 3018/2025. A dedicated guide or clearly visible section on the university website would facilitate transparent access to these standards for doctoral students, supervisors, graduates, and other stakeholders.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalisation

Improving the quality of education and research through internationalisation actions.

Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts

internationalisation in the doctoral field Music is supported by both the general institutional framework of UNITBV and by activities specific to the artistic and research profile of the Faculty of Music. *The Internationalisation Strategy 2024–2029* aims to increase the university's internationalisation level at all study cycles, including doctoral studies, and includes actions related to Erasmus+ KA131 and KA171 mobilities, UNITA, Blended Intensive Programmes, international cooperation projects, linguistic training, visiting professors and support for international students. The university also provides [doctoral mobility scholarships for Romanian and foreign doctoral students](#), as well as financial support for participation in training activities, scientific events and publications.

In the field of Music, internationalisation is documented through specific academic research and artistic mobility. Since 2017, students of the Faculty of Music have participated in concerts and artistic activities in more than 33 countries. Between May and October 2025, students, teaching staff and doctoral students of the Faculty of Music provided a daily musical programme within the Romanian Pavilion at the World Expo. During the evaluated period, 8 doctoral students participated in international mobilities in Dubai, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Havana, Panama, Costa Rica and Osaka (presented in [Annex 5](#))

The doctoral field Music included 4 foreign doctoral students during the evaluated period, from Germany, Serbia and Cuba. Internationalisation is also supported through co-supervised doctoral initiatives. Within the [CHORAL PhD project](#), a doctoral student in Music carries out a co-supervised research project with the University of Turin, in the framework of a *Horizon Europe MSCA-Cofund project*.

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School also organizes the *International Doctoral Student Conference DoCo*. In 2025 the conference brought together 140 doctoral students from 15 countries and included plenary lectures and workshops delivered by international academic and editorial specialists.

The documentation also refers to "internationalisation at home" actions. During 2020–2025, 52 international specialists were [invited](#) to the Faculty of Music, where they delivered lectures, workshops, masterclasses and artistic or scientific activities.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The internationalisation process is well represented at institutional level and is reflected in the doctoral field Music through a combination of academic, research and artistic mobility opportunities. The existence of an institutional strategy, Erasmus+ agreements, UNITA membership, doctoral mobility scholarships and international doctoral events provides a functional framework for supporting the international dimension of doctoral training. For the field of Music, internationalisation has a specific and relevant profile, by including most artistic mobilities, participation in international cultural events, conferences, masterclasses and collaborative projects. The *International Doctoral Student Conference DoCo* contribute to the visibility of doctoral research and to the development of international academic networks. The presence of foreign doctoral students and the support provided through Erasmus+ and UNITA further confirm the openness of the doctoral field towards international cooperation.

✓ Recommendations

It is recommended that internationalisation activities be strengthened, particularly with regard to teaching staff mobility, research mobility, and the concrete impact of these activities on doctoral training and research outcomes.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.9. Scientific research results

Standard S.B.9.1 Scientific research in the education process

Scientific research activities support students in achieving the learning outcomes.

Indicator I.P.B.9.1.1	Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The organizational component and the Doctoral School of Music ensure enhanced visibility of scientific and artistic research outcomes in the field of Music, in alignment with the objectives of the doctoral program, through a set of

coherent mechanisms. The REI identifies research directions such as the analysis of musical composition, musical styles and trends, historical, aesthetic and cultural contexts, performance and artistic reception. Doctoral students are guided towards both fundamental musicological research and applied research connected to performance practice, musical pedagogy and artistic-educational innovation. Research results are capitalised through participation in national and international conferences, publications in BDI or Web of Science indexed journals, and artistic events. UNITBV coordinates its own journal, [Bulletin of Transilvania University of Braşov](#), indexed in Scopus, Ebsco, ProQuest ErihPlus etc., providing a significant platform for the dissemination of research results. The visibility and impact of these outputs are reflected in citation metrics and academic recognition within the specialized community. The Faculty of Music also organizes scientific events with international participation, including *The Science of Music – Excellence in Performance*, the *International Conference on Contemporary Music – Iannis Xenakis*, and *Soundscape in the Balkans*.

The research infrastructure is supported by the Research Center “Music Science – Excellence in Musical Performance”. Doctoral students are involved in research projects and that their activity leads to articles, specialized studies and other research outputs. Thus, there is a policy of remuneration of teaching staff and financial support for doctoral students, focused on performance, materialized in: differentiated annual salary for publishing articles in Web of Science journals with impact factor, differentiated annual salary for project directors who obtain very good scores in national competitions, awarding publications in ISI journals with SRI>0.7 and results obtained in competitions for national and international grants (with amounts that can be used by authors for research activity).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

Research is functionally integrated into the doctoral training process and supports the achievement of learning outcomes related to documentation, critical analysis, research methodology, academic writing, artistic interpretation and autonomous research. The research directions are appropriate for the field of Music, covering both scientific and artistic dimensions. The participation of doctoral students in conferences, publications and artistic events shows that research results are used beyond internal evaluation and are disseminated in academic and professional contexts.

The research centre and the university infrastructure provide an adequate framework for doctoral research, while the inclusion of doctoral students in university projects is a positive element, especially for a specialized field such as Music.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research pertaining to the objectives of the study programme

The organisational component carries out scientific research activities aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study programme.

Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Scientific research in the doctoral field Music is carried out through the Research Center “Music Science – Excellence in Musical Performance”, integrated into the research infrastructure of Transilvania University of Braşov. The research directions are connected to music performance, musicological analysis, artistic research, pedagogical practices and the dissemination of research results.

Doctoral supervisors and doctoral students capitalize on research results through specialized publications, scientific communications, national and international conferences, and artistic events. All doctoral supervisors meet the minimum CNATDCU standards. Their visibility is supported by publications in indexed journals, participation in scientific committees and membership in editorial boards. UNITBV also provides financial support for conference participation, Open Access publication fees, doctoral training and research awards.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

Research activity is aligned with the objectives of the doctoral programme and with the specific profile of Music, combining musicological, artistic, pedagogical and interdisciplinary approaches.

The existence of a dedicated research centre, the high-visibility journal *Bulletin of Transilvania University of Braşov*, the involvement of doctoral students in projects, and the dissemination of results through publications, conferences and artistic events support the national and international visibility of the field.

The indicator is: fulfilled

DOMAIN C. Quality management

Criterion C.1. Quality assurance strategies and procedures, including in the field of academic ethics and conduct, which involve students, employers and other stakeholders and are applied in a consistent, transparent manner

Standard S.C.1.1. Application

Adequately implemented strategic directions, actions, and procedures

Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1	The organisational component consistently carries out actions and applies procedures, proving their impact on improving the quality of education at the level of the study programme
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov has an institutional quality assurance system, implemented in accordance with national legislation and its own internal regulations, which is applicable to all academic structures, including the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School and the field of doctoral studies in Music. Quality management policies and procedures are integrated into the institutional development strategy and are implemented through the [structures responsible for quality assessment](#) and monitoring at university and faculty level.

At the level of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, the activity is organized based on the [institutional regulations](#) and methodologies regarding the organization of doctoral studies, the evaluation of the activity of doctoral students, the monitoring of academic progress, university ethics and quality assurance. These documents are regularly updated to reflect legislative changes and the evolution of quality standards applicable to higher education.

During the external evaluation visit, institutional mechanisms that support the monitoring of the quality of doctoral activity were presented, including the methodology regarding the evaluation of the activity of doctoral students in order to reallocate doctoral grants, based on performance criteria adapted to the specifics of the Music field. At the same time, the university's management highlighted the use of IT platforms for the management of documents, reports and evaluations, as well as the existence of support mechanisms for the research activity and professional development of teachers.

In the field of ethics and academic integrity, the institutional procedures regarding the verification of doctoral theses, the prevention of deviations from the rules of ethics and the observance of integrity standards are implemented at the level of IOSUD and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, being coordinated in collaboration with the responsible institutional structures. The aspects related to the application of these procedures were confirmed during the meeting with the representatives of the University Ethics Commission.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the documents and information resulting from the visit confirms the existence of a functional internal quality assurance system, implemented in a unitary manner at the level of Transilvania University of Braşov and also applied within the doctoral field of Music. Institutional policies and procedures cover the main components of doctoral activity – organization of study programs, monitoring of doctoral students' progress, performance evaluation, compliance with university ethics and continuous improvement of academic processes.

The implementation of specific tools for monitoring the performance of doctoral students, the use of digital platforms for the management of activities and the involvement of quality management structures demonstrates the institution's concern for the development of an organizational culture oriented towards quality, transparency and continuous improvement. At the same time, the integration of quality assurance mechanisms in the current management of doctoral studies contributes to the efficient functioning of the field and to its permanent adaptation to the requirements of the academic environment and the legislative framework.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI proves that it engages the stakeholders who have relevant activity in applying the procedures.

Indicator I.P.C.1.2.1	The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov promotes the involvement of stakeholders of quality, through the periodic consultation of doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, graduates, employers and other representatives of the socio-economic and cultural environment. These consultations contribute to the evaluation and improvement of the teaching, research and managerial activities carried out within IOSUD and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School.

Within the doctoral field of Music, stakeholders are involved both by participating in the management and advisory structures of the doctoral school, as well as by regular meetings organized with representatives of the professional environment. During the evaluation visit, discussions were held with representative employers of the musical field – performance institutions, educational units and representatives of the school inspectorate – which highlighted the high level of preparation of the graduates and the good collaboration with the Faculty of Music. Employers have confirmed the professional integration of graduates in cultural and educational institutions and their contribution to the development of artistic and educational activities.

PhD students participate in the evaluation and monitoring processes of the teaching activity and benefit from a permanent dialogue with the doctoral supervisors and with the management structures of the doctoral school. During the meetings held during the visit, the existence of a direct and efficient communication between doctoral students

and doctoral supervisors was highlighted, as well as their involvement in monitoring academic progress and in organizing research and artistic creation activities.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The documents analysed and the information obtained during the visit confirm the existence of functional mechanisms for consultation and involvement of the main categories of stakeholders in quality assurance processes. The participation of doctoral students, doctoral supervisors and representatives of the professional environment contributes to the adaptation of academic activities to the requirements of the field and to the continuous improvement of educational and research processes.

The discussions held with employers highlighted the existence of an active collaboration and a good professional insertion of the graduates of the doctoral field of Music. At the same time, during the meetings with management representatives, it was mentioned that some of the consultations with employers take place in an informal framework and are not always recorded through specific documents. A more systematic capitalization and consistent documentation of these consultations could strengthen the traceability of the quality assurance process and the substantiation of decisions on the development of the doctoral field.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.2. Functionality of education quality assurance structures, including in the field of academic ethics and conduct, according to the law

Standard S.C.2.2. Operation

Quality assurance and academic ethics and conduct organisational structures adequately perform their specific role and functions.

Indicator I.P.C.2.2.2.	The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov has [institutional structures dedicated to quality assurance and the promotion of university ethics](#), organized and functional in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force and internal regulations. Their activity is carried out in a coordinated manner at the level of the university, the faculties and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, contributing to the monitoring and continuous improvement of educational and research processes.

Within IOSUD and the Music doctoral field, procedures are applied regarding the evaluation of teaching and research activities, monitoring the path of doctoral students, compliance with the norms of ethics and academic integrity, as well as the verification of doctoral theses before public defense. These activities are carried out in collaboration with the institutional structures responsible for quality assurance and the University Ethics Commission.

During the meeting with the representatives of the University Ethics Commission, the procedures used for the verification of doctoral theses and for the management of issues regarding ethics and academic integrity were presented. At the same time, the representatives of the faculty highlighted the fact that the evaluation of the teaching activity is carried out through institutional IT platforms, in compliance with the principle of anonymization of the answers.

During the visit, the institutional methodology regarding the evaluation of the activity of doctoral students in order to reallocate doctoral grants was also presented, as well as the documents used to monitor academic progress, these being additional tools for ensuring and monitoring the quality of the doctoral process.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the documents and information obtained during the visit confirms that the institutional structures responsible for quality assurance and the promotion of university ethics operate in an integrated manner and support the development of activities specific to the field of doctoral Music. The existence of clear procedures regarding the evaluation of academic activities, the verification of compliance with ethics norms and the monitoring of the progress of doctoral students contribute to the consolidation of an internal quality management system.

At the same time, the use of digital platforms for the evaluation of teaching activities and the implementation of tools for monitoring the performance of doctoral students demonstrate the institution's concern for the development of objective and transparent quality assurance mechanisms. During the discussions held during the visit, the possibility of increasing the degree of student participation in the evaluation of the teaching activity was highlighted, which could lead to a broader capitalization of the feedback in the process of continuous improvement of educational activities.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Procedures for the initiation, monitoring and periodic review of the study programmes and domains and of the performed activities, involving students, employers and other stakeholders

Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and implementation of procedures

The HEI has procedures for initiating, monitoring, and periodically reviewing the study programmes and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov applies institutional procedures regarding the initiation, monitoring and periodic review of study programs and doctoral fields, in accordance with the provisions of national legislation and [internal regulations on quality assurance](#). These procedures are implemented at the level of IOSUD and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School and aim at the permanent adaptation of the study programs to the developments of the academic, scientific and professional environment.

Within the doctoral field of Music, the monitoring of the doctoral program is carried out through the periodic evaluation of the doctoral students' activity, the analysis of [the research results and the updating of the content of the advanced university training program](#). The organization of the disciplines reflects both the existence of a common training core in the first semester and the adaptation of the training to the specifics of each research topic through individualized support disciplines in the second semester.

During the evaluation visit, the mechanisms used to monitor the progress of doctoral students were presented, including periodic evaluation sheets, annual monitoring documents and the methodology for the evaluation of doctoral students' activity in order to reallocate doctoral grants. At the same time, the doctoral supervisors highlighted the concern for updating the research topics and for adapting them to the developments of the Music field and to the interests of doctoral students.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The documents analyzed and the information obtained during the visit confirm the existence of functional procedures regarding the monitoring and review of the activities carried out within the doctoral field of Music. The organization of the advanced university training program and the continuous monitoring of the doctoral path allow the adaptation of teaching and research activities to the needs of doctoral students and to the developments in the field.

Also, the use of periodic evaluation tools and the involvement of doctoral supervisors in monitoring academic progress contribute to the continuous improvement of the educational process and to maintaining a high level of quality of doctoral training. The permanent dialogue between doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, as well as the updating of research topics in relation to current trends in the field are elements that support the development and relevance of the doctoral program.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.2	Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov applies mechanisms for periodic monitoring and evaluation of study programs doctoral degrees, in order to maintain their relevance and quality. The review of the activities carried out within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School is based on the analysis of academic and scientific results, changes in the legislative framework, feedback obtained from doctoral students and doctoral supervisors, as well as consultation with representatives of the professional and socio-economic environment.

Within the doctoral field of Music, the progress of doctoral students is monitored through periodic evaluations, progress sheets and annual monitoring documents, and the results are analyzed by the doctoral supervisors and the steering committees. The institutional methodology regarding the evaluation of the activity of doctoral students allows the assessment of their performances based on criteria adapted to the specifics of artistic research, which include both scientific results and relevant artistic activities, such as recitals, concerts and participation in specialized festivals.

During the meetings held during the visit, the doctoral supervisors highlighted the constant concern for updating the research topics, adapting the content of the disciplines to the developments in the field and using the results of the evaluations in guiding the doctoral path. Also, the contribution of the steering committees to monitoring the activity of doctoral students and to identifying the necessary measures to support them during their studies was highlighted.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the documents and information obtained during the visit highlights the existence of a systematic process of monitoring and reviewing the activities carried out within the doctoral field of Music. The periodic evaluation of the progress of doctoral students and the involvement of doctoral supervisors and advisory committees allow the early identification of possible difficulties and the adoption of support measures adapted to each doctoral path.

At the same time, the integration of the criteria specific to artistic research in the evaluation of the performance of doctoral students is a good practice, contributing to the balanced assessment of the results obtained in the field of Music. Consultations with doctoral students and representatives of the professional environment support the process of updating

academic activities, and the continuous monitoring of results facilitates the permanent improvement of the doctoral program and maintaining its relevance in relation to the developments in the field.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.4. Procedures for the periodic evaluation of the quality of the activities of teaching staff, auxiliary teaching staff, and administrative staff

Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures

Applying the methodologies and procedures contributes to improving the quality of the staff's activities.

Indicator I.P.C.4.1.1	The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Transilvania University of Braşov applies [institutional procedures](#) regarding the periodic evaluation of the activity of teaching, auxiliary and administrative staff, in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force and with the internal regulations on quality management. The evaluation of teachers follows both the teaching activity and the performance in research and involvement in institutional development, [the results](#) being used in the processes of human resources management and continuous quality improvement.

Within the doctoral field of Music, the activity of doctoral supervisors and teachers is monitored through institutional mechanisms that include the evaluation of the teaching activity by students, the evaluation of research results and the analysis of the fulfillment of the performance criteria established at the university level. The evaluation process is supported by the use of institutional IT platforms, which ensure the conduct of evaluations in conditions of confidentiality and anonymity.

During the evaluation visit, the university's management presented the existence of mechanisms to stimulate academic performance, including the granting of bonuses and prizes for the teaching staff involved in the research activity, based on transparent and quantifiable criteria. Also, the doctoral supervisors highlighted the constant involvement in monitoring the activity of doctoral students and in coordinating research, activities that complement the teaching responsibilities and contribute to the development of the doctoral field.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis of the documents and information obtained during the visit confirms the existence of functional and transparent procedures regarding the periodic evaluation of the activity of the staff involved in the organization of doctoral studies. The integrated evaluation of the teaching, research and managerial activity contributes to the monitoring of individual performance and to the continuous improvement of the quality of the educational process.

The use of IT platforms for the evaluation of teaching activity and the existence of institutional mechanisms for recognizing and stimulating research performance support the development of an organizational culture oriented towards quality and academic excellence. At the same time, the active involvement of doctoral supervisors in monitoring the progress of doctoral students and in the development of research activities is an important element of the internal evaluation and quality assurance system.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.5. Systematically updated databases on internal quality assurance

Standard S.C.5.1. Databases

The HEI uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.

Indicator I.P.C.5.1.1	The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Transilvania University of Braşov uses an integrated system of databases and IT platforms for the management of academic, administrative and research activities, which are systematically updated and used in institutional management and quality assurance processes. The digital infrastructure allows the management of information on the academic path of doctoral students, the activity of doctoral supervisors, documents specific to doctoral studies, research results and institutional evaluation processes.

At the level of IOSUD and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, dedicated platforms are used for the management of documents and information related to doctoral studies, including the intranet platform, the e-learning platform, the institutional e-mail services, the platform for international mobility, document storage and sharing services and the platform for reporting the results of the research activity. These tools facilitate quick access to information, communication between members of the academic community and management of processes specific to doctoral activity.

During the evaluation visit, the IT applications used for the elaboration of institutional documents, reporting of activities and monitoring of performance indicators, as well as the platforms that support the evaluation of the teaching activity and the management of administrative processes at university level were presented.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The documents analyzed and the information obtained during the visit confirm that Transilvania University of Braşov has functional databases and information systems, updated and currently used for the management of doctoral studies and for supporting quality assurance processes.

The integration of IT platforms in the activity of IOSUD and the Music PhD field facilitates the monitoring of academic activities, document management and the collection of data necessary for internal and external evaluation processes. At the same time, the continuous development of the digital infrastructure and the implementation of applications dedicated to research management demonstrate the institution's concern for streamlining administrative processes and for substantiating decisions based on updated and relevant information.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.6. Transparency of information of public interest, including those regarding the study programmes and domains offered, and transparency regarding the related certificates, diplomas and qualifications

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency

The organisational component ensures transparency of information, as required by the law.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov ensures the transparency of information of public interest by publishing and permanently updating institutional documents and information on the organization of doctoral studies on the [university's website](#) and on the electronic platforms dedicated to IOSUD and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. Information is available on the organization of doctoral studies, applicable regulations and methodologies, admission, conduct of study programs, doctoral supervisors, as well as other relevant documents for doctoral students and candidates.

Through the intranet platform, members of the academic community have access to the documents and forms necessary for the conduct of doctoral studies, including study contracts, procedures regarding the doctoral course, minimum standards for awarding the doctoral degree, information regarding the advanced university training program and other materials of interest to doctoral students. Institutional communication is also supported by the use of electronic postal services, the e-learning platform and other computer applications used at university level.

During the meetings held during the visit, the doctoral students confirmed access to the information necessary for carrying out academic activities and the existence of an efficient communication with the doctoral supervisors and with the administrative structures of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. At the same time, the university's management highlighted the use of digital platforms for the transmission of documents and the management of administrative processes related to doctoral studies.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the documents and information obtained during the visit confirms that Transilvania University of Braşov ensures an adequate level of transparency regarding the information regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral studies. The publication of institutional documents and the use of electronic platforms facilitate the access of doctoral students and other categories of beneficiaries to relevant information and contribute to the transparent conduct of academic and administrative processes.

The diversification of digital tools used for communication and management of doctoral activities supports the accessibility of information and the efficiency of the relationship between doctoral students, doctoral supervisors and administrative structures of IOSUD. These mechanisms contribute to strengthening institutional transparency and increasing the quality of services provided to the academic community.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov provides public access to information regarding the qualifications obtained through doctoral studies, as well as to the documents regulating their organization and completion. Information on the admission conditions, the conduct of the doctoral program, the defense of the doctoral thesis, the minimum standards for awarding the doctoral degree and the administrative procedures are available through the [institutional website](#) and the electronic platforms dedicated to IOSUD and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School.

PhD students benefit from permanent access to the documents necessary for the conduct of doctoral studies through the intranet platform, where the study contracts, addendums, forms used during the doctoral internship, the minimum national standards and information on the advanced university training program are available.

Communication with doctoral students is supported by the use of institutional e-mail services and digital platforms dedicated to academic and administrative activities.

During the meetings held during the evaluation visit, the doctoral students confirmed that the information necessary for carrying out the academic and administrative activity is accessible and communicated in a timely manner, and the relationship with the doctoral supervisors and the administrative staff facilitates the resolution of the specific aspects of the doctoral path.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the documents and information obtained during the visit confirms that Transilvania University of Braşov makes available to doctoral students and the public relevant information regarding the doctoral study programs, the qualifications awarded and the academic and administrative procedures associated with them. The use of institutional IT platforms and the permanent updating of information contribute to increasing transparency and facilitating access to the documents necessary for doctoral studies.

The communication mechanisms developed at the level of IOSUD and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School ensure the efficient transmission of information to doctoral students and other categories of beneficiaries, contributing to the transparent and predictable development of the academic and administrative processes related to the doctoral field of Music.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.8. Participation in external evaluation processes, according to the law

Standard S.C.8.1. Compliance with the external evaluation obligation

The HEI undergoes external quality evaluation as required by the law.

Indicator I.P.C.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.
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✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Transilvania University of Braşov complies with the legal provisions regarding the external evaluation of the quality of university programs and fields of study, periodically participating in the institutional evaluation and external evaluation processes organized by ARACIS. In this context, the field of doctoral studies Music has prepared the internal evaluation report in accordance with the ARACIS methodology and has made available to the evaluation committee the documents and information necessary to carry out the external evaluation process.

The internal evaluation report includes the analysis of the degree of compliance with the standards and performance indicators, the presentation of the measures adopted following the previous evaluations, the SWOT analysis and the development directions of the field. At the same time, the documentation reflects the institution's concern for the continuous monitoring of activities and for the implementation of improvement measures resulting from the internal and external evaluation processes.

During the external evaluation visit, the representatives of the university's management, IOSUD and the Faculty of Music actively participated in the meetings with the expert evaluators, presenting information on the organization of the field, its development and the measures implemented to increase the quality of teaching and research activities. During the final meeting, the evaluation commission appreciated the way of organization and functioning of IOSUD, the institution's concern for the permanent updating of the legislative framework applicable to doctoral studies, the support given to the field of Music and the involvement of the university in the development of the infrastructure and the educational process.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the documents and information resulting from the visit confirms that Transilvania University of Braşov complies with the obligations regarding participation in the external evaluation processes and uses these steps as tools for the development and continuous improvement of the activities carried out within the doctoral field of Music.

The documentation developed for the external evaluation is structured in accordance with the ARACIS methodology and highlights the existence of institutional mechanisms for monitoring and quality analysis. At the same time, the willingness of the university management and the representatives of the field to capitalize on the conclusions and recommendations formulated during the evaluation process reflects the concern for strengthening an institutional culture oriented towards quality, transparency and continuous development.

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

SWOT Analysis		
Strengths: ✓ The existence of a consolidated institutional framework for the organization of doctoral studies, supported by well-defined procedures and management mechanisms. ✓ Body of doctoral supervisors with relevant academic and artistic experience and 100% tenure rate. ✓ Modernized educational and research infrastructure, including the new headquarters of the Faculty of Music and access to specialized facilities for artistic research. ✓ Integration of artistic and musicological research in an interdisciplinary environment and the existence of a good collaboration with cultural and educational institutions in the region. ✓ Development of digital infrastructure and use of IT platforms for the management of academic and administrative activities.	INTERNAL FACTORS ⬇	Weaknesses: ✓ Relatively small number of PhD supervisors and doctoral students, which may limit the diversification of research topics and the development capacity of the field. ✓ Some consultations with employers and other stakeholders are carried out informally and are not systematically documented. ✓ The participation of doctoral students in the evaluation processes of the teaching activity can be strengthened in order to capitalize more broadly on the feedback in the quality improvement processes.
	SWOT analysis	
Opportunities: ✓ Extension of international collaborations and development of theses in co-tutelage. ✓ Capitalizing on the new infrastructure for the development of artistic research and attracting a larger number of doctoral students. ✓ Access to national and international projects dedicated to artistic research and innovation. ✓ Strengthening collaboration with cultural and educational institutions in the country and abroad.	EXTERNAL FACTORS ⬆	Threats: ✓ Demographic evolution and diminishing interest in doctoral studies in artistic fields. ✓ The competition exerted by other national and international IOSUDs in attracting candidates and high-performance human resources. ✓ Uncertainties regarding the funding of research and doctoral studies at national level. ✓ Frequent changes in the legislative framework regarding the organization of doctoral studies.

V. Extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled, and recommendations

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	
2.	I.P.A.1.2.1 The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and	F	It is recommended to systematically record consultations with employers and other stakeholders in order to strengthen the traceability of decision-making and quality assurance mechanisms.

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.		
3.	I.P.A.2.1.1 The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.	F	
4.	I.P.A.2.2.1 The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.	F	
5.	I.P.A.3.1.1 The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.	F	
6.	I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	
7.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	F	
8.	I.P.A.4.1.1 The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.	F	
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
9.	I.P.B.1.1.1 The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.	F	
10.	I.P.B.2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).	F	Following the meetings, it is advisable to strengthen and formally document the involvement of employers, graduates, and other relevant stakeholders in curriculum review, in order to update the learning outcomes, competences, and training activities, and to better reflect the connection

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			between doctoral training, professional practice, and research pathways.
11.	I.P.B.3.1.1 The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.	F	
12.	I.P.B.3.1.2 The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.	F	It is recommended to continue strengthening the formal documentation of mobility participation and outcomes, especially for research mobilities, in order to better demonstrate their impact on doctoral training and learning outcomes.
13.	I.P.B.3.2.1 The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.	F	
14.	I.P.B.4.1.1 The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.	F	
15.	I.P.B.5.1.1 Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.	F	It is recommended to revise the discipline sheets in order to make the learning outcomes more concise, discipline-specific and explicitly correlated with contents, teaching activities and assessment methods. The distinction between programme-level competences and discipline-level learning outcomes should be made clearer. Also, it is recommended that the learning outcomes be defined separately for the two types of doctoral studies, scientific and professional, in order to better reflect their specific objectives, research approaches and expected competences.
16.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	
17.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	F	
18.	I.P.B.7.1.2 Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.		
19.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	It is recommended that the institution improve doctoral students' access to the minimum standards and requirements applicable to each type of doctoral programme, by clearly presenting the distinctions between the scientific doctorate and the professional doctorate, in accordance with Ministerial Order no. 3018/2025. A dedicated guide or clearly visible section on the university website would facilitate transparent access to these standards for doctoral students, supervisors, graduates, and other stakeholders.
20.	I.P.B.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.	F	It is recommended that internationalisation activities be strengthened, particularly with regard to teaching staff mobility, research mobility, and the concrete impact of these activities on doctoral training and research outcomes.
21.	I.P.B.9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.	F	
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.	F	
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
23.	I.P.C.1.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
24.	I.P.C.1.2.1 The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.	F	
25.	I.P.C.2.2.2. The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	
26.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
27.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	F	
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	I.P.C.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.	F	

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

Evaluation Domain	Number of Performance Indicators		
	Fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Unfulfilled
Domain A. Institutional capacity	8	0	0
Domain B. Educational efficacy	14	0	0
Domain C. Quality management	10	0	0
Total	32	0	0

Other, general recommendations that were not given within the analysis of a specific performance indicator can be presented here.

Sum up the number of analysed performance indicators, and specify how many were assessed as fulfilled, partially fulfilled, and unfulfilled, if any.

A total of [32] performance indicators were analyzed within the evaluation process. Of these:

- [32] indicators were assessed as fulfilled
- [0] indicators were assessed as partially fulfilled
- [0] indicators were assessed as unfulfilled

Overall, the results indicate a high level of compliance, with most indicators fully achieved and a limited number requiring further improvement.

VI. Conclusions

A number of important aspects noted during the evaluation are reiterated here, and general conclusions are made about the quality of education delivered within the evaluated doctoral study domain.

The external evaluation highlighted the fact that the field of doctoral studies in Music within IDS – Transilvania University of Braşov has the institutional capacity necessary for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies, benefiting from a functional managerial and administrative framework, adequate human and material resources and institutional quality assurance mechanisms implemented in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force.

The documents analyzed and the information obtained during the visit confirm the institution's concern for the continuous development of the field, by modernizing the infrastructure, supporting artistic research, developing digitization processes and strengthening collaborations with the professional and academic environment. At the same time, some directions for improvement were identified regarding the formalization of consultations with stakeholders and the systematic use of feedback in the review and institutional development processes.



Overall, the field demonstrates an adequate level of compliance with the ARACIS standards and performance indicators applicable to the accreditation maintenance procedure and provides favorable premises for the further development of doctoral research and artistic creation activities.

Propose and substantiate a decision.

Following the completion of the accreditation*/maintaining accreditation procedure, the decision of the evaluation panel shall be one of the following:

- a) **maintaining accreditation** (MAC);

VII. Annexes

* When the external quality evaluation for accreditation is performed with undergoing the procedure for obtaining a provisional authorisation to operate.