

The External Evaluation Report of an Institution Organizing Doctoral Study Programs (IOSUD)

Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Methods used
- III. Analysis of performance indicators
- IV. SWOT Analysis
- V. Recommendations
- VI. Conclusions
- VII. Annexes

I. Introduction

The subject of this Report is the Doctoral School (IOSUD) at the “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest (UAUIM). The evaluation has been conducted in hybrid mode, and the signatory of this Report virtually collaborated with the rest of the IOSUD evaluation team.

The Evaluation Team consisted of the following experts:

- **Prof. Dorian COJOCARU**, Universitatea din Craiova, Mission Director
- **Prof. univ. dr. Laura Codrina IONIȚĂ**, Universitatea de Arte “George Enescu”, IOSUD Committee Coordinator
- **Dr. Marko Savic**, Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), Abu Dhabi - UAE, International Expert (**Report signatory**)
- **Prof Dorina Nicolina ISOPESCU**, Universitatea Technica “Gheorghe Asachi” Iasi, Expert Evaluator
- **Cornelia-Florina FECHETE**, Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara, Student Representative

The Hybrid Evaluation Visit (Virtually attended by the signatory of this Report) to the University of Architecture and Urbanism “Ion Mincu” in Bucharest (UAUIM) has been organized by ARACIS, in the period November 22-26, 2021. IOSUD host was Conf.Univ.Dr. Angelica Stan.

UAUIM is a unique higher education institution narrowly specialized in the field of architecture and urban planning, with a national and international reputation. The official website (<https://www.uauim.ro/en/university/>), provides a brief history of the institution that begins in 1892. Passing through several evolution phases, University finally gained its current independent status in 1952. In 1953, it has been named after the first Romanian Ecole des Beaux-Arts graduate Ion Mincu. In 2000, the institution has gained University status and since then it operates under the current name.

As per the web page, “The “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urban Planning “... continues a long tradition of local architectural higher education, the foundation of which is closely linked with the rise of modern Romania and the setting of its new institutional structure and culture, during the second half of the 19th century.”

The UAUIM Doctoral studies have been established in 2003, and Doctoral Schools have been formally established in 2011 (Architecture) and 2015 (Urban Planning). The doctoral - third-cycle university studies allow the attainment of a Level 8 qualification from the EQF/CEC and the National Qualifications Framework, obtaining the doctoral title.

The current organizational structure includes three Faculties (Architecture, Urban Planning, and Interior Design, as well as two Doctoral Schools (Architecture and Urban Planning). The Organizational Chart of the Doctoral Schools is presented in Figure 1 (from the Internal Evaluation Report):

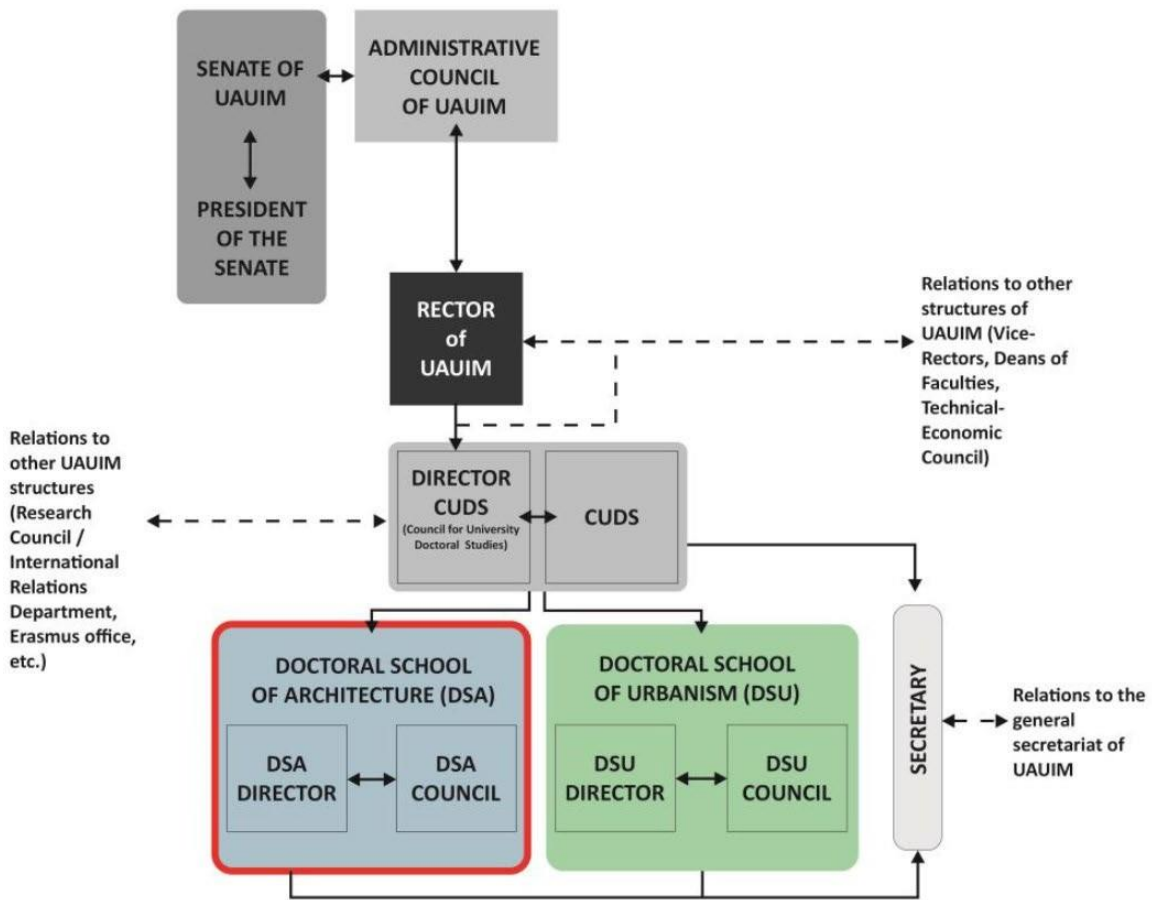


Figure 1: Organizational Chart of the Doctoral Studies fields

As per Internal Evaluation Report, “The mission of the IOSUD - U.A.U.I.M. is to ensure a responsible and professional environment for conducting doctoral studies in Architecture and Urbanism, in connection with the requirements and challenges of today’s society, by connecting to European and international research programs and in harmony with the entire academic plan of the U.A.U.I.M.” The mission of IOSUD reflects commitments of the University focussing on:

- higher training of professionals in Architecture and Urban Planning,



- generating innovative creation and competitive research, and
- promoting free artistic expression and critical thinking, supporting affirmation of the national cultural identity.

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

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

As per Internal Evaluation Report, in the period 2015-2021, the number of Ph.D. students is in continuous growth (from 129 in 2015-16 to 201 in 2019-20). The ratio between budgeted and self-financed students varies between 1:2 to 1:4. During the same period, the annual number of defended dissertations varies around 30 and it is quite balanced.

II. Methods used

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

- The thorough analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report of the Doctoral study school (IOSUD) and appropriate Annexes provided via ARACIS Cloud;
- The analysis of documents, data, and information available at the official UAUIM web site <https://uauim.ro/> and provided via ARACIS Cloud, or by IOSUD liaison on request;
- Meeting/discussions with doctoral students in the doctoral study school representatives;
- Meeting/Discussions with the graduates of the doctoral study school representatives;
- Meeting/Discussions with employers of the graduates in the doctoral study schools' representatives;
- Meeting/Discussions with the school officials of the UAUIM Doctoral Schools;
- Meeting/Discussions with the Head and doctoral advisors in the doctoral study schools;
- Meeting/Discussions with the representatives of the various structures of the UAUIM Doctoral Schools, including the Council of the Academic Doctoral Studies (CSUD), the Ethics Committee, the Quality Assessment staff.
- Inputs from the External Evaluation team collected during the physical site visit.



III. Analysis of ARACIS's performance indicators

Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

UAUIM is a unique higher education institution in the field of architecture and urban planning, with a national and international reputation. It follows a tradition of architectural education in Romania that has begun in 1964 by establishing the School of Bridges and Roads. The official University website provides a brief history of the institution that begins in 1892 (<https://www.uauim.ro/en/university/>). Passing through several evolution phases, University finally gained its current independent status in 1952. In 1953, it has been named after the first Romanian Ecole des Beaux-Arts graduate Ion Mincu. In 2000, the institution has gained University status and since then it operates under the current name.

The UAUIM Doctoral studies have been established in 2003, and Doctoral Schools have been formally established in 2011 (Architecture) and 2015 (Urban Planning). The doctoral - third-cycle university studies allow the attainment of a Level 8 qualification from the EQF/CEC and the National Qualifications Framework, obtaining the doctoral title.

University has provided a thorough and highly meaningful strategy for the forthcoming period, that indicates a dedication to maintain the focus on continuous development.

Criterion A.1.

The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources

University has provided a set of regulatory documents (via ARACIS Cloud) proving its' overall institutional administrative capacity and financial viability. UAUIM is a part of the Romanian Higher Education system. It is a public university, and as such majorly funded by the state budget. In addition, UAUIM IOSUD enrolls a significant number of self-financing students (30-50 per year) while around 15 (annually) are enrolled as financed from the budget.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.1.

The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s):

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

- The institutional regulation for the organization of administrative structures and development of Doctoral programs
- The methodology for Doctoral School Council elections;
- The methodology for organizing and conducting Doctoral Studies;
- Mechanisms for recognizing the status of Ph.D. supervisors;
- Mechanisms for the equivalence approval of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;
- Functional management structure of the Doctoral School Council (CSUD);
- The Contract for Doctoral Studies
- Internal procedures regulating the approval of Doctoral programs;

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



Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remark:

It is not clear in the case of the budget-financed Doctoral students who exceed the 3-year study duration as stipulated in the Contract, who covers financial dues for the resources engagement during the extended period.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.2. *The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the ` in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.*

The internal Doctoral Study-related Regulation documents evolution has been presented to the External evaluation team via ARACIS Cloud. The most recent "Institutional regulation of organization and functioning of University Doctoral Studies under the framework IOSUD-UAUIM" has been approved by the University Senate on April 29, 2020. Regulation is aligned with the following National and institutional legislature:

- The Romanian Law of National Education no. 1/2011;
- The Romanian Government Decision 681/2011, The Code of doctoral studies;
- UAIUM University Act 2019, approved by MEC in April 2020;
- The Ministry Order no. 5140/2019 on the approval of the methodology of Student Mobility;
- The MEC Order no. 4205/2019 on the approval of the modifications of the Ministry Order no. 6102/2016 regarding Student Admissions
- The MEC Order no. 4206/2019 on taking measures in the field of Higher Education in Romania;
- The MEC Order no. 5229/2020 on granting attestation certificates and Ethics in doctoral research;
- GEO no. 141/2020 regarding amendments to Romanian Law of Higher Education (1/2011).

Recently revised Regulation regarding the affiliation of doctoral advisors to the Doctoral Schools within the IOSUD (versions and revisions provided as Annex 7, at ARACIS Cloud), provides additional justification addressing the Indicator requirements.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.1.1.3. *Doctoral schools included in IOSUD are organized as disciplinary or interdisciplinary disciplines/thematic, according to Article 158, paragraph (7) of the Law of National Education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.*

The internal Doctoral Study-related Regulation document ("Institutional regulation of organization and functioning of University Doctoral Studies under the framework IOSUD-UAUIM", provided via ARACIS cloud, is aligned with the Romanian Law of National Education no. 1/2011, and stipulates Doctoral studies at UAUIM in domains of Architecture and Urbanism (Urban Planning). The document also regulates co-



supervision and participation of advisors from other fields than the fields of UAIUM IOSUD domains and those from abroad.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remark:

The concern here is the organizational structure that recognizes two separate Doctoral Schools instead of two domains/programs within one School. Such an administrative model may impose an unnecessary financial burden on University and IOSUD budget.

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

According to the provided documentation and links, UAUIM and its Doctoral Studies School (IOSUD) possess the necessary logistical resources to carry out Doctoral studies.

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

UAUIM IOSUD uses "Academica" Software to keep track of the Doctoral students and their academic achievements. As per the Self Evaluation report, the same software is used seamlessly for all three cycles at UAIUM. Few screenshots have been provided additionally by the UAIUM liaison to illustrate the interface.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

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

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

UAUIM Doctoral School (IOSUD) has provided descriptive information regarding the available research resources. However, as not able to physically visit, remarks for this criteria rely on available documentation (Internal Evaluation Report, Annexes, meetings' statements, and additional supportive documents and presentations shared by UAUIM liaison).



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

Performance Indicator A.2.1.1. *The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of possessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)*

UAUIM is a school with a long tradition and main building (Academiei no 18-20) that greatly illustrates the institutional heritage. Another building (Moxa no 3-5) is dedicated to the activities of the doctoral study programs.

Internal Evaluation Report, as well as the UAIUM website (<https://www.uauim.ro/universitatea/facilitati/>) provide a list of key research facilities available for students at all three levels of study.

A set of additional documents has been provided as a detailed justification of the available equipment. UAIUM Library is specially covered in the Self Evaluation Report (photos provided) as the largest specialized library in the country for architecture and urbanism. Moreover, emphasis on e-publications and publishing activities prove the suitable and fit-for-purpose (timely) evolution.

During the meetings with students, graduates, and lab heads, there were no significant remarks or complaints regarding any relevant deficiencies that may jeopardize the quality of IOSUD activities.

However, as the Reviewer was not able to visit the UAIUM premises, and the University did not provide suitable video to cover this gap, the judgment is solely relying on available documentation and statements.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remark:

The video clip presenting premises and research infrastructure would significantly support the objectivity of the assessment.

Performance Indicator A.2.1.2. *The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) has/have collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, research networks for joint partnerships and have access for using various research infrastructures; the offer for research services is presented publicly using a dedicated platform.*

UAUIM has provided a list of a significant number (over 80) of international (and national) partners that they collaborate with. The Internal Evaluation Report, Annexes, and dedicated page at the UAIUM website (<https://www.uauim.ro/universitatea/relatii-internationale/>) provide detailed lists with several available links to additional information and/or partnership agreements. Some of the agreements have been provided by the IOSUD liaison as a piece of additional evidence.

During the meeting with Research Lab heads, some of the joint research initiatives and respective platforms have been presented to illustrate the approach (e.g. summer school "Schonberg Live Studio) focusing on vernacular architecture (<https://www.uauim.ro/cercetare/schonberg-live-studio-2021/>).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.2.1.3. *The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) proves that it is/are concerned with permanent renewal of the research infrastructure to provide doctoral students access to up-dated research resources, by applying to various funding competitions and using own university resources for acquiring new research infrastructure.*



During the meetings with IOSUD representatives, they have confirmed that it would be very complicated to provide a clear breakdown of the research infrastructure purchased during the last 5-year period. However, the Internal Evaluation report has provided a list of a number of examples including “Mac Popescu” lab, which recently received support from the institutional development funds, and the “Scholar Architect” project that has been invested purposefully.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources

The structure and competence of the Doctoral School supervisors at UAUIM are evaluated following the statements from the Internal Evaluation Report and the number of Annexes addressing their research records and achievements.

*Performance Indicator *A.3.1.1. The share of Doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies does not exceed 20%.*

The Internal Evaluation Report provides a table justifying addressing this Indicator. However, there are calculative errors that disable proper evaluation:

Doctoral School/ field	Total number of doctoral advisors (May 2021)	Number of doctoral advisors coordinating 8-12 doctoral students (May 2021)	%
SDA/ Architecture	22	2	18.2% (9.1%)
SDU/ Urbanism	14	2	14.3%
Total	35 (36)	6 (4)	16.7% (11.1%)

Figure 2: A 3.1.1. Indicator response (from the Internal Evaluation Report, with corrections)

Regardless of corrected values that are within the requested range, Evaluator recommends declaring this indicator partially fulfilled due to lack of clear evidence. Additional evidence provided by the IOSUD liaison identifies three coordinators at the Architecture Doctoral School with more than 12 candidates.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.



Remarks:

The Internal Evaluation Report produced by UAUIM (English version) has several factual, calculative, and technical mistakes and errors that complicate the external evaluation. It would be very useful to add a layer of the quality check of such documents before external share.

In addition, it is recommended to enhance Co-tutelage to additionally decrease pressure on coordinators but at the same time improve the competency in areas of research specialization.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.2. *At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.*

Regardless that there may be certain mismatches in the treatment of retired UAUIM professors (as well as minor discrepancies between data in the Internal Evaluation report and annexes), both Doctoral schools have sufficient quality staff engaged as teachers or supervisors that are in a full-employment status. Doctoral School of Architecture (SDA) has 29 faculty out of these 22 are in full employment (minor mismatch in an annex that lists 30, as one name is repeated in both categories), while Doctoral School of Urban Planning (SDU) have 18 faculty out of these 14 in full employment (provided list shows 16, with 13 in full employment). Percentages addressing the indicator are 75.9 (SDA), 77.8% (SDU) and 76.6% (cumulative).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.



Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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

Standard B.1.1. Candidates admitted to doctoral studies demonstrate academic, research and professional performance and are diversified as social representation and by gender.

The list of the candidates, along with analysis provided within Internal Evaluation study confirm admission criteria rigor and diversity of candidates.

*Performance Indicator *B.1.1.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.*

UAUIM Senate has recently (March 2021) approved the procedure that addresses the organization of admission to the Doctoral cycle at UAUIM tertiary programs (METODOLOGIE PRIVIND ORGANIZAREA CONCURSULUI DE ADMITERE LA STUDIILE UNIVERSITARE DE DOCTORAT DIN CADRUL U.A.U.I.M. - provided as Annex at ARACIS cloud). The stated document stipulates evaluation of the candidates' research interest and performance via reviewing admission documents and via interviews that address the Indicator above.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.1.1.2. The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organising support programs to prevent drop-outs.

While Internal Evaluation Report indicates that UAUIM IOSUD follows the national policies in stimulating enrollment of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, the only evidence provided is two Government letters - recommendations. We did not see the reflection of those guidelines within internal regulation or in practice.

The UAIUM Counselling and Career Guidance Center have in its' scope a clear dedication to reducing university drop-outs, and drop-out rates as per provided statistics show the acceptable thresholds.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

UAUIM is advised to consider formal approval and implementation of mechanisms that shall enable enrollment of a limited number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds to IOSUD. In addition, psychological counseling shall be considered either as an additional function of the existing or as a function of the newly established student support office.



Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs

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

Evidence has been provided by Internal Evaluation Report and annexes and consolidated with findings during the meetings at the IOSUD level.

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

A doctoral Study program is provided for both streams (Architecture & Urban Planning). Both programs consist of compulsory courses, electives, and individual (independent) research units that are well distributed and fairly specified.

The general research methods are adequately presented, with emphasis on specificities of the field(s). In addition, students may take other courses at other academic institutions following the specific needs of their research topic and discipline.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

Lobbying for the introduction of the Professional Doctorate stream (similar to sports or arts) may open additional opportunities to develop a very unique research approach, build on competitiveness at the national and international level, and improve employability/recognition in the private sector.

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

The IOSUD- UAUIM curricula related to programs at both doctoral schools include the compulsory course “Academic Ethics and Integrity”.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

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

While available course materials briefly indicate objectives that are expected to be gained at the end of each course, program learning outcomes are not provided. In addition, there is a certain discrepancy between descriptors in course syllabi and standard expectations at the Level 8 of the qualification framework (e.g. course “Ecology of Systems” - in measurability or level-wise: “Course aims to familiarize students with the systemic interpretation of the human habitat...”). During the meeting with IOSUD faculty,



such an approach has been justified with need to introduce some new topics for students who are coming from other disciplines.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

The issue of the potential knowledge gaps for students coming from other disciplines shall be regulated by taking differential courses or exams over the regular program, and not as a part of the regular curriculum.

The original submission, driven by Accreditation standards, does not stipulate mapping of Program Learning outcomes (PLO) against NQF, nor mapping Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) against PLOs. Specifying PLOs and CLOs (for all courses), their mapping to PLOs, and finally mapping PLOs to NQF descriptors is suggested to be added to the accreditation standards as a stipulative requirement.

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

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

Analysis of research and artistic outputs of IOSUD students (Annexes) provide the evidence required to assess the Standard.

Performance Indicator B.3.1.1. For the doctoral school there are in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the particular domain (i.e. technological transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services for social sciences and humanities; festivals, contests, recitals, sports competitions; cultural-arts orders in the vocational domain; presentations at national and international conferences, publication of research results in national and international publications, engaging doctoral students in writing research-development projects etc.)

All doctoral students at UAIUM IOSUD are obliged, by the regulation related to study progress, to produce research results, as well as other highly relevant specific activities (aligned with study domain) that are valorized based on robust regulation. The key of calculation is defined within the Study programs and utilizes scientific outcomes as a justification for the achievement of ECTS.

IOSUD supports students in fulfillment of their requirements by providing various opportunities for participating in conferences, summer schools, and other events organized by UAIUM or some of the university partners (as per the evidence provided in the Internal Evaluation report and annexes).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.4. Quality of doctoral theses.

Standard B.4.1. Doctoral theses fulfil high quality standards.



Performance Indicator B.4.1.1. At the level of IOSUD, the percentage of theses non-validated, at the level of General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years

As per the Internal Evaluation report statement, at IOSUD/UAUIM there were no doctoral theses invalidated by CNATDCU within the last five years.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.



Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

Performance Indicator C.1.1.1. The IOSUD shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the doctoral school(s), the following assessed criteria being mandatory:

(a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;

(b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;

(c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;

(d) the academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.

Several institutional regulation documents define the UAIUM Quality Assurance (QA) framework. The Commission for Quality Assurance and Accreditation is seen as a key QA system stakeholder. Evaluation cycles are defined, and procedures stipulated. During the discussion with the QA team, it has been confirmed that commission members understand well the PDCA cycle and that they implement “Closing the loop”.

University and its' programs are periodically exposed to successful external evaluations (e.g. by the Royal Institute of British Architects - RIBA), that additionally prove quality orientation.

The outstanding issue identified during this exercise is insufficient document control (e.g. Internal Evaluation Report - English version) that brings certain doubts in overall quality culture.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

It would be highly advisable to dedicate additional efforts in document quality control and preparing coherent and error-free documents for external evaluators.

Performance Indicator C.1.1.2. Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students, for positions in the CSUD, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.

UAUIM has publicly shared a report regarding the election results for CSUD, including the election of the student representative (<https://www.uauim.ro/anunturi/alegeri-csud-csd-2020/>).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.1.1.3. Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students at the level of each doctoral school, for positions in the councils of doctoral schools, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.

Internal Evaluation Report has presented a full process of election of the student representative for the member of the Council of the Doctoral School of Architecture.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *C.1.1.4. Following the internal evaluation, IOSUD and the doctoral schools draft strategies and policies aiming to eliminate the identified deficiencies and to stimulate scientific and academic performance of IOSUD.

IOSUD team has presented a thorough strategic document in a form of the management plan for the period 2020-2024. Well structured, C.A.R.T.E. Plan (Coherence / Commitment / Resources / Transparency / Efficiency) analyzes current state, sets permanent measures and specific activities plan, principles and values, and domains of intervention to achieve targeted results (Annex 26 at the ARACIS Cloud).

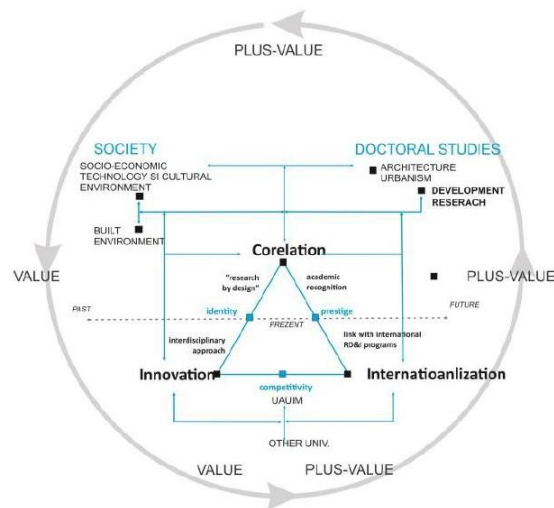


Figure 3: A 3.1.1. Vision development (from C.A.R.T.E. Plan)

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

The key success factor for the implementation of the plan is buy-in and commitment by all key stakeholders.

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

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



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

Performance Indicator C.2.1.1. *The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:*

- (a) the Doctoral School regulation;*
- (b) the admission regulation;*
- (c) the doctoral studies contract;*
- (d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis;*
- (e) the content of training program based on advanced academic studies;*
- (f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data;*
- (g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; advisor);*
- (h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis;*
- (i) links to the doctoral theses' summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation.*

The UAUIM IOSUD Web site sub-page (<https://www.uauim.ro/doctorat/>) provide information or links to regulation regarding studying, admission process, study contract, graduation requirements, and structure and outcomes of the doctoral programs. While some of the content is available in English, relevant documents are available in Romanian only.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

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

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

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

UAUIM continuously strives to ensure access to a number of e-databases and e-libraries that doctoral students may benefit from. Utilizing various affiliations (e.g. in Anelis Plus consortium) and externally funded projects (e.g. Scholar Architect), the university library provides access to key relevant source-bases by EBSCO, ProQuest, JSTOR, and others.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

IOSUD shall consider reserving the necessary budget from regular income to ensure uninterrupted access to the key e-resource bases, as the current system brings risk in gap periods between two external funding opportunities.



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

UAUIM is subscribed and provides access to the anti-plagiarism platform Sistemantiplagiat.ro. The extent and regulations for use are explained in Internal Evaluation Report and during the meeting with the members of the UAUIM Ethics Committee. Anti Plagiarism reports have been provided on request and illustrate the functionality of the tool.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Remarks:

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

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

UAUIM Doctoral students have access to all key UAUIM research labs and facilities.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Internationalization

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

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

Performance Indicator *C.3.1.1. *IOSUD, for every evaluated domain, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.*

UAUIM has signed partnerships with over 80 schools of architecture worldwide. Partnership agreements include student mobility at the tertiary level. During the last five years, 16 Doctoral students have participated in various international activities abroad. At the same time, also through leveraging some of the noted partnerships, 98 students have participated in various international conferences and events. As per the table provided within the Self Evaluation Report, 48.5% of doctoral students (with a very balanced distribution between two doctoral schools) during the last five years have participated in some activities abroad.



Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.3.1.2. IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.

UAUIM IOSUD supports the organization of doctorates under international co-tutelage but does not provide the financial resources to award scholarships to doctoral students. During the meeting with graduates, it has been emphasized that more engagement of international faculty or supervisors will be much appreciated.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

Financial support of co-tutelage (scholarships for students, honorariums for co-tutors from abroad) would enhance the international impact in both directions (inwards & outwards).

*Performance Indicator *C.3.1.3. At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral schools of the IOSUD are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage.*

The current output is insufficient: only 11 out of 154 dissertations during the last five years have been drafted in a foreign language. This pushes the percentage to 7.1%.

Recommendations:

The indicator is partially fulfilled.

Remarks:

Current actions mentioned in the Internal Evaluation study would need to add on efforts to improve UAUIM's international footprint.

Performance Indicator C.3.1.4. The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).

As per the Internal Evaluation report, UAUIM takes various measures to emphasize internationalization. During the last five years period, six doctoral dissertations had jury members from abroad engaged. 24 foreign students have been enrolled in SDA & SDU programs. "Eugen Ionescu" Scholarship program provided 7 internships at SDU program. A number of teachers from abroad were invited to present in different forms (Lectures, workshops, seminars).

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.



Remarks:

Availability of some of the key regulatory documents (at the IOSUD web page) in English or another foreign language(s) may attract more foreign students.

Criterion C.4. System for assurance of ethical and academic integrity

A Meeting with Ethic Committee has provided useful, positive feedback.

Standard C.4.1. IOSUD/Doctoral school has a functional and efficient system in place for prevention and assuring ethical and academic integrity norms.

Standard has been assessed based on Internal Evaluation Report (with Annexes) and meeting with Ethical Committee.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.1. IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics, deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed:

- *policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postionings, studies, analyses or measures taken;*
- *practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students;*
- *practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community;*
- *administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions;*
- *mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind;*

IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes, and the results of the monitoring is made public yearly or whenever it becomes necessary.

Since 2016 UAUIM has approved Regulations regarding the Ethics Committee organization, scope, and activities (Annex 27b, published at <https://www.uauim.ro/universitatea/etica/>), which addresses all of the requirements of the Indicator. A meeting with Ethic Committee has provided adequate response for all additional inquiries and ensured the meaningful and impactful implementation of policies.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.2. All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received.

As per the Internal Evaluation report, "There were no suspicions of plagiarism related to doctoral theses within IOSUD".

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.



Performance Indicator C.4.1.3. *Annual Reports of the Ethics commission of the IOSUD contain information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-initiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies. description of the facts, the findings from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.*

The Internal Evaluation Report has provided an example of the case that has been handled by the Ethics Committee under its' scope, that has resulted in the appropriate Senat decision aligned with Committee recommendations.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.4. *The measures taken by IOSUD after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU's decision and in the current legislation.*

As per the Internal Evaluation report, there were no such cases.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.5. *The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be:*

- a) *Suspension of the right to advise newly enrolled doctoral students, for a period of 3 years, in the case of doctoral advisors having coordinated a doctoral thesis with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism;*
- b) *Exclusion from the IOSUD of the doctoral advisor having coordinated at least two doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism;*
- c) *Suspension of the right to organize the admission process of new doctoral students in the Doctoral studies domain, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective domain a doctoral thesis has been finalized and defended with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism.*

The measures in force, approved by CSUD (as per Internal Evaluation report and IOSUD Regulation document), depending on the severity of the particular case may be suspension of the right to coordinate new doctoral students, for 3 years, in the case of doctoral supervisors who coordinated a doctoral thesis with a final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism, the exclusion from IOSUD of the doctoral supervisor who coordinated at least two doctoral theses with a final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism, or suspension of the organization of the admission process for the respective doctoral field, for 2 years, if a doctoral thesis was completed and defended in the respective doctoral field with final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism.

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator *C.4.1.6. *The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism, have not been nominated in other commissions for public defence of doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.*

As per the Internal Evaluation report, there were no such cases.



Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.4.1.7. IOSUD has a database open to the public containing all the doctoral theses defended in the institution beginning at least in 2016 in a format including: the domain, author, doctoral advisor, title of the thesis and the thesis in electronic format (if there is an agreement of the author).

IOSUD publishes on the UAUIIM website the key information about all doctoral dissertations, including the name of the author, the doctoral supervisor, and the title of the thesis.

<https://www.UAUIIM.ro/doctorat/sustineri/Teze%20doctorat%20sustinute%202007%20-%20iunie%202020.pdf>

IOSUD also publishes the defended doctoral theses validated by CNATDCU at the government platform:

<https://rei.gov.ro/index.php?&ddpN=917523103&we=7de50869e17bec77664920c1aeae1a47&wf=dGFCall&wtok=&wtkps=jZBdbsMgEISvUvHcOF4w/lm/5ARRpPQC2LgtMv5JwHXUKHcvYCttKIXqGwvzzQ4jMMOrQY5ktq02pNyXBhkSoyRxJ+6OidZJTjXnVfrx2cwXRW3R01YpMZus1ll8EZxtYOZ04uMGXu2bbTsPUyQ7S0rh/K5hktRPNExu48uR7grlOGUQM9TKWDSNONfvHk6cfjTRn5ooBcGSPC5EJYB6AlxWnNT2LveXLA42D/crCqmkaVvYQ8uZYJCEp/CPbqloQhZAYlwJYCuVtceq+nZC0Jy/KlefLc+ZqkGN/OG4hZ1kCPGdFKMsFvS98fnwDHqD9L6T4Qax9z034tGuiG+Skm6gTqo/qXlhZT5EcjDg3h6nSqm5WwuclVmronzrV15Mr5As=&wchk=870a5712ddc71ed58dc582b41d49f7a976328204>

Recommendations:

The indicator is fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Narrow institutional specialization model that enables implementation of discipline-related uniquenesses</i> - <i>High quality and diverse faculty</i> - <i>Flexible study program providing students with the opportunity to tailor their learning & research pathways</i> - <i>Internationalization and international recognition</i> - <i>Meaningful and promising IOSUD strategy</i> - <i>Unique physical and learning resources</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Better Document Quality Control is needed to support external evaluations and minimize reputational risks</i> - <i>Pressure on students to teach 6 hours without pay likely affects the duration of studies</i> - <i>Insufficient financial support of students' research-related activities</i> - <i>Lack of internal regulation supporting enrollment of students from disadvantaged backgrounds</i> - <i>Lack of differential exams for candidates coming from other disciplines compensated within regular study program disadvantages straight direction learners</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Video presentations may provide better understanding and institutional promotion</i> - <i>Co-tutelage can reduce the load on supervisors</i> - <i>Better facilitation of the IOSUD budget may bring more benefits to students</i> - <i>Lobby to introduce Professional doctorate to support employability in the private sector</i> - <i>Systematic implementation of the C.A.R.T.E. management plan may ensure the achievement of targeted objectives</i> - <i>Availability of some of key regulatory documents (at the IOSUD web page) in English or another foreign language(s) may attract more foreign students</i> - <i>Stimulating publishing dissertations in English</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The efficiency of the organizational Structure having two Doctoral schools (Cost against benefit)</i> - <i>Relation between forthcoming focus on Program and Course learning outcomes and improvement of the process of study program approval with imposing additional rigor</i> - <i>Status of budget-financed students who extend studies longer than 3 years (without pay)</i> - <i>Project-based funding of e-resource subscriptions may lead to long-lasting gaps in e-library access</i>

V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
1.	PI	<p>A.1.1.1. The existence of specific regulations and their application at the level of the IOSUD, respectively at the Doctoral School(s):</p> <p>a) the internal regulations of the administrative structures (the institutional regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies programs, the regulation(s) of Doctoral School(s);</p> <p>b) the Methodology for conducting elections at the level of the Council of University Doctoral Studies (CSUD), respectively at Doctoral School(s) including elections by the students of their representatives in CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School (CSD) and the evidence of their conduct;</p> <p>c) the Methodologies for organizing and conducting doctoral studies for the admission of doctoral students, for the completion of doctoral studies);</p> <p>d) the existence of mechanisms for recognizing the status of a Doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad;</p> <p>e) functional management structures CSUD/Council of the Doctoral School with evidence of the regularity of meetings;</p> <p>f) the contract for doctoral studies;</p> <p>g) internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals about doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies.</p>	Fulfilled	<i>It is not clear in the case of the budget-financed Doctoral students who exceed the 3-year study duration as stipulated in the Contract, who covers financial dues for the resources engagement during the extended period.</i>
2.	PI	<p>A.1.1.2. The doctoral school' Regulation includes mandatory criteria, procedures and standards binding on the aspects specified in Article 17, paragraph (5) of the Government Decision No. 681/2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies with subsequent amendments and additions.</p>	Fulfilled	
3.	PI *	<p>A.1.1.3. Doctoral schools included in IOSUD are organized as disciplinary or interdisciplinary disciplines/thematic, according to Article 158, paragraph (7) of the</p>	Fulfilled	<i>The concern here is the organizational structure that recognizes two separate Doctoral Schools instead of two domains/programs within one</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		Law of National Education No. 1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.		<i>School. Such an administrative model may impose an unnecessary financial burden on University and IOSUD budget.</i>
4.	PI	A.1.2.1. The existence and effectiveness of an appropriate IT system to keep track of doctoral students and their academic background.	Fulfilled	
5.	CPI	A.1.2.2. The existence and use of a software program and evidence of its use to verify the percentage of similarity in all doctoral theses.	Partially Fulfilled	
6.	PI	A.2.1.1. The IOSUD/the doctoral school(s) present proof of possessing or having rented adequate spaces for research activity specific to doctoral studies (laboratories, experimental fields, research stations etc.)	Fulfilled	<i>The video clip presenting premises and research infrastructure would significantly support the objectivity of the assessment.</i>
7.	PI	A.2.1.2. The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) has/have collaboration agreements with higher education institutions, research institutes, research networks for joint partnerships and have access for using various research infrastructures; the offer for research services is presented publicly using a dedicated platform.	Fulfilled	
8.	PI	A.2.1.3. The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) proves that it is/are concerned with permanent renewal of the research infrastructure to provide doctoral students access to up-dated research resources, by applying to various funding competitions and using own university resources for acquiring new research infrastructure.	Fulfilled	
9.	PI *	A.3.1.1. The share of Doctoral advisors coordinating simultaneously more than 8 doctoral students but not more than 12 during their doctoral studies does not exceed 20%.	Partially Fulfilled	<i>The Internal Evaluation Report produced by UAUIM (English version) has several factual, calculative, and technical mistakes and errors that complicate the external evaluation. It would be very useful to add a layer of the</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
				<p><i>quality check of such documents before external share.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, it is recommended to enhance Co-tutelage to additionally decrease pressure on coordinators but at the same time improve the competency in areas of research specialization.</i></p>
10.	CPI	A.3.1.2. At least 50% of all teaching/research staff involved in teaching/research activities related to training programs for advanced university studies or in individual research/art creation programs have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.	Fulfilled	
11.	PI *	B.1.1.1. Admission to doctoral study programs is based on selection criteria including: previous academic, research and professional performance, their interest for scientific or arts/sports research, publications in the domain and a proposal for a research subject. Interviewing the candidate is compulsory, as part of the admission procedure.	Fulfilled	
12.	PI	B.1.1.2. The IOSUD/doctoral school(s) have a policy for stimulating enrollment of doctoral students coming from disadvantaged social environments, by allocating reserved positions in the admission procedure and/or granting special scholarships, as well as organising support programs to prevent drop-outs.	Partially Fulfilled	<p><i>UAUIM is advised to consider formal approval and implementation of mechanisms that shall enable enrollment of a limited number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds to IOSUD. In addition, psychological counseling shall be considered either as an additional function of the existing or as a function of the newly established student support office.</i></p>
13.	PI	B.2.1.1. The training program based on advanced academic studies includes at least 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students; at least one of these disciplines is intended to study	Fulfilled	<p><i>Lobbying for the introduction of the Professional Doctorate stream (similar to sports or arts) may open additional opportunities to develop a very unique research approach,</i></p>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		in-depth the research methodology and/or the statistical data processing.		<i>build on competitiveness at the national and international level, and improve employability/recognition in the private sector.</i>
14.	PI	B.2.1.2. At least one discipline is dedicated to Ethics and Intellectual Property in scientific research or there are well-defined topics on these subjects within a discipline taught in the doctoral program.	Fulfilled	
15.	PI	B.2.1.3. The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses “the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities.	Partially Fulfilled	<p><i>The issue of the potential knowledge gaps for students coming from other disciplines shall be regulated by taking differential courses or exams over the regular program, and not as a part of the regular curriculum.</i></p> <p><i>The original submission, driven by Accreditation standards, does not stipulate mapping of Program Learning outcomes (PLO) against NQF, nor mapping Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) against PLOs.</i></p> <p><i>Specifying PLOs and CLOs (for all courses), their mapping to PLOs, and finally mapping PLOs to NQF descriptors is suggested to be added to the accreditation standards as a stipulative requirement.</i></p>
16.	PI	B.3.1.1. For the doctoral school there are in place mechanisms for valorification of the results of doctoral studies in accordance with the specificity of the particular domain (i.e. technological transfer, products, patents in the case of exact sciences; products and services for social sciences and humanities; festivals, contests, recitals, sports competitions; cultural-arts orders in the vocational domain; presentations at national and international conferences, publication of research results in national and international publications,	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		engaging doctoral students in writing research-development projects etc.)		
17.	CPI	B.4.1.1. At the level of IOSUD, the percentage of theses non-validated, at the level of General Council of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNADTCU), without the right of further amendments and re-organizing the process of public defending, is not exceeding 5% in the last 5 years.	Fulfilled	
18.	PI	C.1.1.1. The IOSUD shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the doctoral school(s), the following assessed criteria being mandatory: a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors; b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity; c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized; d) the academic and social services (including participation to various events, publication of papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.	Fulfilled	<i>It would be highly advisable to dedicate additional efforts in document quality control and preparing coherent and error-free documents for external evaluators.</i>
19.	PI	C.1.1.2. Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students, for positions in the CSUD, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.	Fulfilled	
20.	PI	C.1.1.3. Students' associations and, according to the case, representatives of students organise elections in the community of doctoral students at the level of each doctoral school, for positions in the councils of doctoral schools, by universal vote, direct and secret, all doctoral students having the right of electing or being elected.	Fulfilled	
21.	PI *	C.1.1.4. Following the internal evaluation, IOSUD and the doctoral schools draft strategies and policies aiming to eliminate the	Fulfilled	<i>The key success factor for the implementation of the plan is buy-in</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		identified deficiencies and to stimulate scientific and academic performance of IOSUD.		<i>and commitment by all key stakeholders.</i>
22.	CPI	<p>C.2.1.1. The IOSUD publishes on the website of the organizing institution, in compliance with the general regulations on data protection, information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the IOSUD/Doctoral School regulation; b) the admission regulation; c) the doctoral studies contract; d) the study completion regulation including the procedure for the public presentation of the thesis; e) the content of the training study program based on advanced academic studies; f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the Doctoral advisors within the domain, as well as their institutional contact data; g) the list of doctoral students within the domain with necessary information (year of registration; Advisor); h) information on the standards for developing the doctoral thesis; i) information on the opportunities for doctoral students aiming to attend conferences, to publish articles, awarding scholarships etc. j) links to the doctoral theses's summaries to be publicly presented and the date, time, place where they will be presented; this information will be communicated at least twenty days before the presentation. 	Fulfilled	<i>University may consider the digital presence of IOSUD beyond the current web page, e.g. translating full content to some foreign languages, and better utilizing social media for additional (up-to-date) information.</i>
23.	CPI	C.2.2.1. All doctoral students have free access to one platform providing academic databases relevant to the doctoral studies domain of the their thesis.	Fulfilled	<i>IOSUD shall consider reserving the necessary budget from regular income to ensure uninterrupted access to the key e-resource bases, as the current system brings risk in gap periods between two external funding opportunities.</i>
24.	PI	C.2.2.2. Each doctoral student shall have access, upon request, to an electronic system for verifying the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic works.	Fulfilled	<i>Sistemantiplagiat.ro by its' model, can't recognize potential plagiarism patterns from other languages. In addition, it is unlikely to identify an adequate tool that may recognize plagiarism in artistic work.</i>

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
25.	PI	C.2.2.3. All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities depending on the specific domain/domains within the Doctoral School, according to internal order procedures.	Fulfilled	
26.	PI *	C.3.1.1. IOSUD, for every doctoral school, has concluded mobility agreements with universities abroad, with research institutes, with companies working in the field of study, aimed at the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff (e.g., ERASMUS agreements for the doctoral studies). At least 35% of the doctoral students have completed a training course abroad or other mobility forms such as attending international scientific conferences. IOSUD drafts and applies policies and measures aiming at increasing the number of doctoral students participating at mobility periods abroad, up to at least 20%, which is the target at the level of the European Higher Education Area.	Fulfilled	
27.	PI	C.3.1.2. IOSUD supports, including providing financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.	Partially Fulfilled	<i>Financial support of co-tutelage (scholarships for students, honorariums for co-tutors from abroad) would enhance the international impact in both directions (inwards & outwards).</i>
28.	PI *	C.3.1.3. At least 10% of the doctoral theses of every doctoral schools of the IOSUD are drafted and/or submitted in an international foreign language or are organised in international co-tutelage.	Partially Fulfilled	<i>Current actions mentioned in the Internal Evaluation study would need to add on efforts to improve UAUM's international footprint.</i>
29.	PI	C.3.1.4. The internationalization of activities carried out during the doctoral studies is supported by IOSUD through concrete measures (e.g., by participating in educational fairs to attract international doctoral students; by including international experts in guidance committees or doctoral committees etc.).	Fulfilled	<i>Availability of some of the key regulatory documents (at the IOSUD web page) in English or another foreign language(s) may attract more foreign students.</i>
30.	PI	C.4.1.1. IOSUD, applies the current provisions regulating ethics,	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		<p>deontology/academic integrity, respectively to academic freedom and has developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - policies based on prevention regarding possible violations of the Code of ethics and academic integrity, demonstrated by public postionings, studies, analyses or measures taken; - practices and mechanisms for preventing fraud, from an institutional perspective as well as from the perspective of the doctoral students; - practices for preventing possible fraud in academic activity, research or any other activity, including active measures for preventing and avoiding plagiarism of any kind, as well as promoting ethical and integrity/deontology principles or observing intellectual property norms, authors' rights and other related rights, among all members of the academic community; - administrative instruments which allow applying effective and eliminatory sanctions; - mechanisms and measures to assure equal opportunities and protection against intolerance and discrimination of any kind; <p>IOSUD monitors and permanently evaluates these practices and can prove they are applied to all activities and engagement of students in all these processes, and the results of the monitoring is made public yearly or whenever it becomes necessary.</p>		
31.	PI	C.4.1.2. All intimations regarding suspicion of plagiarism related to doctoral theses have been analysed and resolved by the IOSUD within the time interval legally established for expressing in writing its position regarding the intimation received.	Fulfilled	
32.	PI	C.4.1.3. Annual Reports of the Ethics commission of the IOSUD contain information on the stage of solving each case of intimation or own-initiative intimation regarding violation of norms or ethical aspects relevant for university doctoral studies. description of the facts, the findings	Fulfilled	

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Remarks & Recommendations
		from the assessed institution's documents and the evaluation visit itself.		
33.	CPI	C.4.1.4. The measures taken by IOSUD after the final decision of CNADTCU to withdraw the title of "doctor" following accusations of plagiarism have addressed all the aspects mentioned in CNADTCU's decision and in the current legislation.	Fulfilled	
34.	PI	C.4.1.5. The measures aiming to prevent academic fraud in the doctoral studies, taken by IOSUD, could be: a) Suspension of the right to advise newly enrolled doctoral students, for a period of 3 years, in the case of doctoral advisors having coordinated a doctoral thesis with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism; b) Exclusion from the IOSUD of the doctoral advisor having coordinated at least two doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism; c) Suspension of the right to organize the admission process of new doctoral students in the Doctoral studies domain, for a period of 2 years, if in the respective domain a doctoral thesis has been finalized and defended with a definitive decision of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism.	Fulfilled	
35.	PI *	C.4.1.6. The scientific reviewers members in the commissions for public defense of two or more doctoral theses with definitive decisions of withdrawal of the "doctor" title for plagiarism, have not been nominated in other commissions for public defence of doctoral theses for a period of at least 3 years.	Fulfilled	
36.	PI	C.4.1.7. IOSUD has a database open to the public containing all the doctoral theses defended in the institution beginning at least in 2016 in a format including: the domain, author, doctoral advisor, title of the thesis and the thesis in electronic format (if there is an agreement of the author).	Fulfilled	



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

VERY IMPORTANT!!! – Each identified weakness must be correlated with at least one recommendation to improve the situation! No weakness can be identified without formulating at least one recommendation regarding the way it could be corrected!

VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The Review of the Doctoral School (IOSUD) at the University of Architecture and Urbanism “Ion Mincu” in Bucharest has confirmed that program, research, physical and human resources generally fulfill Accreditation Standards. Considering Accreditation not as an audit but rather as a quality enhancement process, the reviewer has identified several areas of improvement that are recommended to be implemented by the University IOSUD. In addition, there are a few recommendations to ARACIS to improve the Standards and Review procedure.

Recommendations to UAUM IOSUD:

- 1) Explore efficiency of the current organizational structure
- 2) Restructuring of Doctoral Studies funds distribution to provide much more support to Doctoral students' research, internationalization, and exposure.
- 3) Stipulate defining Learning outcomes for all Doctoral study activities.
- 4) Explore additional opportunities for program internationalization by engaging more international faculty.
- 5) Encourage and provide regulation for enrollment of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 6) Reconsider obligation of Ph.D. Students to teach 6 hours without pay.
- 7) Ensure stable funds for uninterrupted e-resources and e-library subscriptions
- 8) Improve document control before sharing resources with external stakeholders
- 9) Provide video material to simulate site visits for those who are not able to visit premises

Recommendations to ARACIS:

- 1) Emphasis on Learning Outcomes (LOs) and their comprehensive mapping (Program LOs against National Qualification Framework descriptors; Course LOs against Program LOs to explore and confirm study program coherence.
- 2) The video clip presenting premises and research infrastructure would significantly support the objectivity of the assessment.
- 3) Develop and provide unified templates for quantitative data requested within external evaluation processes (or online submission system)



VII. Annexes

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