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# **External Evaluation Report of the Doctoral School of Theology” of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Jassy**

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## I. Introduction

This external evaluation report concerns the doctoral studies carried out at the Doctoral School of Theology of the «Alexandru Ioan Cuza» University of Jassy. It is part of the work of the External Evaluation Committee, composed of the following three members: 1) Prof. univ. dr. Tauwinkl Wilhelm, Coordinator (University of Bucharest), 2) Prof. univ. Vantsos Miltiadis, international expert (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) and 3) Negrea Bogdan-Marius, doctoral student (Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca). This report was written by Prof. Vantsos Miltiadis, the Committee's international expert. It is a re-evaluation of the Doctoral School of Theology, following the one that was carried out in 2021. The evaluation period was from 8 to 10 May 2023 and took place in Jassy, as the evaluation committee had the opportunity to visit the Doctoral School and discuss about its studies with all interested parties. The committee was warmly welcomed by the university administration, the director, the teaching staff and all the members of the Doctoral School of Theology and was supported in its work by their willingness to answer all its questions, to provide additional information and, in general, to create all the conditions necessary for the committee to carry out its work.

The Doctoral School of Theology was established by the Ministry of Education in 2002. It is structured by the Council of the Doctoral School, which consists of seven members, namely the Director, two supervisors from the Faculty, two supervisors from the University (one from the Faculty of Philosophy; one from the Faculty of Pedagogy and Educational Sciences) and two doctoral students. It currently has seven doctoral supervisors and offers those interested the opportunity to pursue doctoral studies in the following six theological disciplines: Old Testament, Liturgical Theology, Historical Theology (History of the Romanian Orthodox Church), Missionary Theology, Orthodox Spirituality and Moral Theology. In the period between 2018 and 2023, twenty-seven doctoral students have successfully completed their doctoral studies (Annex «Lista doctoranzi care au sustinut teza de doctorat»), while the number of doctoral students is currently forty-four (<https://www.teologie.uaic.ro/scoala-doctorala/doctoranzi/lista-doctoranzi/>).

## II. Methods used

The members of the Evaluation Committee were provided in advance with all the necessary material: the Progress Report, which focuses on the indicators that were not met according to the previous evaluation and the recommendations that were made; the Internal Evaluation Report, which contains a self-assessment of the compliance with the criteria, the standards and the performance indicators; a set of documents in electronic format, which contains the necessary information about the Doctoral School; and the previous evaluation report of the international expert. The first two documents were provided in both Romanian and English, while all the documents in the annexes and the previous evaluation report were provided in Romanian only. Furthermore, the Secretary of the School provided the committee with all the additional documents, requested during the evaluation period (8 -10 May



2023). The assessments in this report are based on all the documents provided, even if in some cases it was difficult to understand those that were only in Romanian, and on the discussions with the interested parties during the evaluation period, also taking into account the degree of compliance with the recommendations made in the previous evaluation.

During the evaluation period, the committee had numerous meetings with with the contact person for the doctoral study domain under review and the team that prepared the internal evaluation report, with the Rector and representatives of the institution, with the members of the Ethics Commission of the University, with the members of the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC), with the academic staff corresponding to the doctoral study domain, with the members of Doctoral Schools Council (CSD), with the doctoral graduates, with the employers' representatives, with the doctoral students, with the Director of the Research Center and, finally, with the Director of the Doctoral School. The committee also met internally every day to organise its work, discuss the preparation of the external report and exchange views on the process and content of the evaluation. The final meeting was with the Director of the Doctoral School to discuss on the conclusions of the evaluation process and the main recommendations.

The committee was warmly received at the meetings and all people were willing to answer our questions and give clarifications. All members of the committee posed questions about the strengths and weaknesses of the Doctoral Schools in general and in particular areas and in many cases asked for suggestions based on people's own experiences and views. The Participation by all those involved, in particular of doctoral students, graduates and employers' representatives, was very dynamic, both in terms of numbers and personal views expressed. The Committee listened carefully and took seriously the views, satisfaction, recognition of efforts, complaints, and suggestions of all interested parties, with whom it discussed in detail all issues relating to doctoral studies. It is grateful to all the people of the Doctoral School of Theology, namely the Director, supervisors, doctoral students and graduates, for their spirit of cooperation during the meetings. All discussions were conducted in English, although the committee encouraged people to speak in their mother language in order to feel comfortable and express their opinions easily, as the level of English of almost all people was high.

Due to the restoration of the Doctoral School building, the premises were inaccessible and the Committee was therefore unable to visit them. The Doctoral School has managed to secure premises in different buildings, close to each other, so that activities can continue with a minimum of inconvenience. This temporary problem of space will soon become a great advantage for the Doctoral School, as the restored building will provide the necessary premises, modern equipment and an attractive environment for teaching staff and doctoral students to carry out their activities.



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

#### **Domain A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY**

*\*general description of domain analysis.*

#### **Criterion A.1. The administrative, managerial institutional structures and the financial resources**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

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

*(a) the internal regulations of the Doctoral School;*

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

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

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

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

*f) the contract for doctoral studies;*

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

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

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

a) The doctoral studies of the Doctoral School of Theology at the "Ioan Cuza" University of Jassy are organised and conducted in accordance with the national regulations and they are presented in the Annex 4. Firstly, the articles that were reviewed and modified after the previous Aracis evaluation are presented, namely Art. 28e, 37, 38, 57.2 and 57.3, followed by the regulation in its renewed form. Meetings with all interested parties have confirmed that the Doctoral School respects and implements these regulations.

b) The methodology for the election of the Director of the Doctoral School Council is presented in Annex 5a and 5d, while the respective methodology for the election by the doctoral students of their two representatives in the CSD is presented in Annex 5b, art. 5 and Annex 5e.

c) The methodology for organising and conducting doctoral studies is presented in Annex 4.



d) The existence of mechanisms for recognising the status of doctoral advisor and the equivalence of the doctoral degree obtained abroad are also presented in Annex 4. The regulations include the admission of new doctoral supervisors and the procedure by which a doctoral supervisor can be withdrawn as a member of the doctoral school.

e) As presented in Annex 5f, the Council of the Doctoral School of Theology has seven members, namely the Director, two doctoral supervisors from the Faculty, two doctoral supervisors from the University (one from the Faculty of Philosophy; one from the Faculty of Pedagogy and Educational Sciences) and two doctoral students. The same Annex provides evidence of the regularity of the meetings.

f) The contract for doctoral studies is presented in Annex 5g.

g) The internal procedures for the analysis and approval of proposals regarding the training for doctoral study programs based on advanced academic studies are presented in Annex 4, in chapter III, 11.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

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

*As mentioned in the previous indicator, the Doctoral School of Theology has revised its regulation after the previous Aracis evaluation, following the recommendations made to it. The regulation in its new form also covers the expulsion of doctoral students if they do not support the annual progress report on their thesis, which was the subject of a recommendation in the previous Aracis evaluation. The recommendation to lower the performance standards for the annual evaluation of doctoral supervisors, as the existing standards were considered to be far too ambitious, has also been followed by the deletion of Art. 57.3 of the doctoral school regulations.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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



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

Through the e-Sims platform, managed by the Digitalisation Service of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Jassy, each doctoral student has access at any time to information about his/her status and all the information relevant to his/her studies.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

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

Annex 22 presents the decision taken by the Council of the Doctoral School on 22.06.2022 to use the Turnitin application, which is an electronic system for checking the degree of similarity with other existing scientific work. According to this decision, all reports submitted by the students are analysed by the similarity report. Annexes 6a,b,c,d provide examples of how this system checks the degree of similarity.

Recommendations: Plagiarism is constantly emerging in new forms, so the fight against it needs constant monitoring of developments and technological applications.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

*Standard A.1.3. The IOSUD makes sure that financial resources are used optimally, and the revenues obtained from doctoral studies are supplemented through additional funding besides governmental funding.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

***Performance Indicator A.1.3.1.*** *Existence of at least one research or institutional / human resources development grant under implementation at the time of submission of the internal evaluation file, per doctoral study domain under evaluation, or existence of at least 2 research or institutional development / human resources grant for the doctoral study domain, obtained by doctoral thesis advisors operating in the evaluated domain within the past 5 years. The grants address relevant themes for the respective domain and, as a rule, are engaging doctoral students.*

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

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



*According to Annex 9a, four doctoral supervisors have received research grants, but these cover the period 2008-2018. The ongoing renovation of the Doctoral School building can also be considered as a development grant.*

Recommendations: The Doctoral School of Theology could apply to the Orthodox Church for support for theological research. In the meeting of the Evaluation Committee with the employers' representatives, who are representatives of the local dioceses, it became clear that the Church highly appreciates the work of the Doctoral School and is willing to support its research financially.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.2.*** *The percentage of doctoral students active at the time of the evaluation, who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities, or who are financially supported through research or institutional / human resources development grants is not less than 20%.*

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

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

*The Annex «Adeverinte burse- sprijin financiar» contains a table with the numbers of doctoral students who for at least six months receive additional funding sources besides government funding, through scholarships awarded by individual persons or by legal entities. Their total number for the years 2018-2023 is 39 for the period January-September, and 36 for the period October-December. Compared to the respective number of doctoral students receiving budget allocations, which is 122, the percentage of beneficiaries is over 31% for the period January-September and over 29% for the period October-December.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \*A.1.3.3.1*** *At least 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants obtained by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees collected from the doctoral students enrolled in the paid tuition system is used to reimburse professional training expenses of doctoral students (attending conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad, publication of specialty papers or other specific forms of dissemination etc.).*

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

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

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





According to Annexes 8a and 8b, the Doctoral School provides financial support to its doctoral students for their scientific activities, such as participation in conferences, summer schools, training, programs abroad and the publication of scientific works, but these do not provide clear evidence that this support covers at least the 10% of the total amount of doctoral grants received by the university through institutional contracts and of tuition fees. The Progress Report describes in detail the procedure for obtaining support for doctoral students to cover their expenses and refers to the annual amount approved by the Executive Board of the UAIC Board of Directors in 2018 for doctoral students in theology, which is 3000 lei per year. In the same Report it is stated that «*Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi provides, from its own funds, at the beginning of each PhD cycle, a certain number of scholarships for each field of study. These monthly scholarships are based on a contract concluded between the doctoral student and the University and the current amount is of 1050 lei per month for the 3 years of doctoral studies*». All the above is related in the Report to several annexes. The Doctoral School has followed the recommendation to inform students from the first year of their doctoral program about the possibilities of accessing funds for their training. At the meeting of the Council of the Doctoral School of Theology on 22.06.2022, it was decided, firstly, that the Director of the Doctoral School organises an annual meeting with all the doctoral students enrolled in the Doctoral School, in order to provide information on the concrete possibilities of the Doctoral School of Theology and the Council for Doctoral Studies to provide financial support for the students' research activities and, secondly, that each doctoral supervisor organises at least two annual meetings with all the doctoral students under his/her supervision and that the dates of these meetings will be communicated in advance to the Director of the Doctoral School.

The Director of the Doctoral School has informed the Evaluation Committee that no doctoral student's application for financial support for research activities has been rejected, while the doctoral students in the meeting with the Evaluation Committee didn't express any complaints in this regard. The indicator can be considered as fulfilled.

Recommendations: It is recommended to keep up-to-date records of expenditure on student training activities.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator A.2.1.1.** *The venues and the material equipment available to the doctoral school enable the research activities in the evaluated domain to be carried out, in line with the assumed mission and objectives (computers, specific software, equipment, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases etc.). The research infrastructure and the provision of research services are*



presented to the public through a specific platform. The research infrastructure described above, which was purchased and developed within the past 5 years will be presented distinctly.

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

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

According to Internal Evaluation Report, «... the doctoral students have lecture and seminar rooms, their own library with a reading room, with a number of 193,860 titles, 256,138 volumes and 34,472 specialized magazines. Doctoral students also have access to the Central University Library, the electronic platform Blackboard Academic Suite and the MEDIAEC platform». Available for the research activities of the doctoral students is also the "Dumitru Stăniloae" Library. Doctoral students didn't express in our meeting any complaints about the venues and the material equipment available to them.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

### **Criterion A.3. Quality of Human Resources**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

***Performance Indicator A.3.1.1.*** *Minimum three doctoral thesis advisors within that doctoral domain, and at least 50% of them (but no less than three) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time when the evaluation is carried out, which standards are required and mandatory for obtaining the enabling certification.*

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

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

*According to Annex 14, all seven doctoral supervisors meet meet the minimum standards of the National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU).*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.2.*** *At least 50% of all doctoral advisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.*

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



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

According to Annex 11 and 12, five of the seven doctoral supervisors have a full-time employment contract for an indefinite period with the IOSUD.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator A.3.1.3.** *The study subjects in the education program based on advanced higher education studies pertaining to the doctoral domain are taught by teaching staff or researchers who are doctoral thesis advisors / certified doctoral thesis advisors, professors / CS I or lecturer / CS II, with proved expertise in the field of the study subjects they teach, or other specialists in the field who meet the standards established by the institution in relation with the aforementioned teaching and research functions, as provided by the law.*

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

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

In Annex 23 the curricula of the courses show that they are taught by professors in their field of expertise. In addition, Annex 12 confirms that courses in theology are taught by teaching staff who meet the standards of the position they hold.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.1.4.** *The percentage of doctoral thesis advisors who concomitantly coordinate more than 8 doctoral students, but no more than 12, who are themselves studying in doctoral programs<sup>2</sup> does not exceed 20%.*

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

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

Annex 13 contains a list of the doctoral students and their supervisors, which shows that none of the doctoral supervisors exceeds the permitted number of doctoral students.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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<sup>2</sup> 3 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 159, paragraph (3), respectively 4 years for the doctoral university studies with the duration stipulated at Article 174, paragraph (3) of the Law of national education No.1/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions, with additional extension periods approved as per Article 39, paragraph (3) of the Code of doctoral studies approved by the GD No. 681/2011 with subsequent amendments and additions.



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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator A.3.2.1.** *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in the evaluated domain have at least 5 Web of Science- or ERIH-indexed publications in magazines of impact, or other achievements of relevant significance for that domain, including international-level contributions that indicate progress in scientific research - development - innovation for the evaluated domain. The aforementioned doctoral thesis advisors enjoy international awareness within the past five years, consisting of: membership on scientific boards of international publications and conferences; membership on boards of international professional associations; guests in conferences or expert groups working abroad, or membership on doctoral defense commissions at universities abroad or co-leading with universities abroad. For Arts and Sports and Physical Education Sciences, doctoral thesis advisors shall prove their international visibility within the past five years by their membership on the boards of professional associations, membership in organizing committees of arts events and international competitions, membership on juries or umpire teams in artistic events or international competitions.*

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

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

*According to Annex «S - CV Indrumatori», 5 of the 7 supervisors have between 7 and 13 Web of Science or ERIH+ publications.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*A.3.2.2.** *At least 50% of the doctoral thesis advisors in a specific doctoral study domain continue to be active in their scientific field, and acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, which are required and mandatory for acquiring their enabling certificate, based on their scientific results within the past five years.*

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

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

*According to Annex «S - Standarde\_CNATDCU\_5\_ani», 5 of the 7 supervisors acquire at least 25% of the score requested by the minimal CNATDCU standards and therefore the indicator is fulfilled.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***



## **Domain B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

*\*general description of domain analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator \*B.1.1.1.** *The ratio between the number of graduates of masters' programs of other higher education institutions, national or foreign, who have enrolled for the doctoral admission contest within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget, put out through contest within the doctoral domain is at least 0.2 or the ratio between the number of candidates within the past five years and the number of seats funded by the state budget put out through contest within the doctoral studies domain is at least 1,2.*

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

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

In the last five years, 53 candidates applied for admission, of whom 4 graduated from higher education institutions other than Jassy, i.e. 7.5%. According to the Annex "Lista studenților admiși la studii de doctorat și forma de finanțare", of the 45 enrolled doctoral students, 37 received a seat financed by the state budget, 8 paid a tuition fee, thus the ratio between them is 1,216.

Recommendations: The scientific work of the professors and students at the Doctoral School should be promoted more through the Internet and social media in order to attract more doctoral students from Romania and abroad.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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



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

The admission policy of the Doctoral School is presented in Annex 4 (Regulations of the Doctoral School), III.7 and describes the criteria according to which candidates are selected. The Evaluation Committee notes that the Doctoral School has followed the recommendation of the previous ARACIS Evaluation Committee to continue the admission policy by maintaining or increasing the difficulty of the selection criteria. Therefore, according to the Progress Report, the Council of the Doctoral School of Theology has decided that the candidates will be required to take two written examinations: One in Orthodox Theology, which represents 40% of the final admission average, and one in the specialised discipline, which represents the remaining 60%. In the case of equal results, the following will be applied: a) the average grade at registration, b) the average grade for the specialised discipline examination and c) the average grade in Dogmatic Theology examination. When supervisors and doctoral students were asked about the interview as part of the admission process, both confirmed that it takes place. In my opinion, it is essential that the interview includes the candidate's proposal for the topic of his/her dissertation. Some doctoral students, during the meeting of the Evaluation Committee with them, expressed the wish that their thesis topic would be defined from the beginning of their studies, so that they don't have to spend an important part of their first year searching for it.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the role of the interview as part of the candidate selection process is clarified, as it is legally required as part of the admission process. It is also recommended that the interview includes the candidate's proposal for the topic of his/her dissertation.

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

***Performance Indicator B.1.2.2. The expelling rate, including renouncement / dropping out of doctoral students 3, respectively 4, years after admission<sup>3</sup> does not exceed 30%.***

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

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

*According to the data in Annex 19 on the development of doctoral student numbers, the percentage of students dropping out in any year does not exceed the 30% limit and ranges from 0% to 23%. As highlighted in the Internal Evaluation Report and discussed with the Director and the professors of the Doctoral School, the low dropout rate is due to the regular meetings organised by the School between supervisors and students, which aim to address the problems students face in their studies. The doctoral students confirmed in our meeting that their supervisors are very supportive.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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



## **Criterion B.2. The content of doctoral programs**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

According to Annex 2, the training program includes the following three courses: a) "Ethics and academic integrity", which is compulsory, b) Greek or Latin language (the doctoral student must choose one of these two) and c) "Christian Ethics and the challenges of contemporary bioethics", "Theology of Liturgy: Elements of Liturgy: Research directions in current liturgical theology" and "History of the Romanian Theology and Orthodox Church" (the doctoral student must choose one of these three). There is no course dedicated to the in-depth study of research methodology. In the discussion with the Director and the supervisors of the Doctoral School, the Evaluation Committee was informed that the teaching of research methodology is integrated into the three specialised courses, in such a way that it is distinct for each of them. This approach has its merits, but it is necessary to emphasise research methodology by teaching it in a separate course. Moreover, during the discussion, some doctoral students pointed out that this course would be helpful for them to learn more about how to conduct research.

Recommendations: It is recommended that a course on research methodology be introduced. In addition, that the curricula of the courses be presented in English, so that their content is understandable to potential Erasmus students who are considering the possibility of continuing their studies for a semester or a year at the University of Jassy. This would also promote the internationalisation of the doctoral studies.

***The indicator is partially fulfilled.***

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

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

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



As noted in the previous indicator, the training programme includes the compulsory course "Ethics and Academic Integrity".

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.3.** *The IOSUD has mechanisms to ensure that the academic training program based on advanced university studies addresses „the learning outcomes”, specifying the knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or through the research activities<sup>4</sup>.*

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

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

*In Annex 23, the curricula of the courses are presented, providing the doctoral students with the information on the lecturer, the content, the required attendance, the skills, the credit points, the expected knowledge, the method of assessment and a literature list. The Progress Report states that, following the recommendations of the previous report, the curricula have been extended and diversified, so that the current training program better meets the scientific needs of the doctoral students and facilitates the acquisition of the necessary skills to complete the thesis on time and in the best conditions.*

Recommendations: It is recommended that the curricula of the courses are also presented in English, as explained in a previous indicator.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.4.** *All along the duration of the doctoral training, doctoral students in the domain receive counselling/guidance from functional guidance commissions, which is reflected in written guidance and feedback or regular meeting.*

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

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

*Annex 20 contains the decision of the Doctoral School of 22.06.2022 on regular meetings with doctoral students. According to this decision, the Doctoral School organises counselling meetings twice a year between the supervisor and the doctoral students and once a year between the Director of the*

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<sup>4</sup> Or by what the graduate should know, understand and to be able to do, according to the provisions of the Methodology of 17 March 2017 regarding inscription and registration of higher education qualifications in the National Register of Qualifications in Higher Education (RNCIS) approved by the Order No.3475/2017 with subsequent amendments and additions.





Doctoral School and the doctoral students. In addition, according to both Internal Evaluation Report and Progress Report, there is an annual meeting with the guidance committee in which doctoral students present their activities. Moreover, each doctoral student is required to submit a monthly activity report, which is sent to the supervisor and the secretary of the Doctoral School. Annex 21 contains examples of the activity reports submitted by the doctoral students. In my opinion, this is an effective method that keeps students engaged in their dissertation work and provides them with continuous support and feedback from their supervisors.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

**Performance Indicator B.2.1.5.** For a doctoral study domain, the ratio between the number of doctoral students and the number of teaching staff/researchers providing doctoral guidance must not exceed 3:1.

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

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

Annex 24 contains the list of the Guidance Committees. Each one is composed of the supervisors and two other members selected on the basis of competence in the field of specialisation. Chapter 1.7 of the Internal Evaluation Report lists all the names of the supervisors and members of the Guidance Committees, which are in total 16. The number of doctoral students is currently 44 (<https://www.teologie.uaic.ro/scoala-doctorala/doctoranzi/lista-doctoranzi/>), which gives a ratio of 2.75:1.

**The indicator is fulfilled.**

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

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator B.3.1.1.** For the evaluated domain, the evaluation commission will be provided with at least one paper or some other relevant contribution per doctoral student who has obtained a doctor's title within the past 5 years. From this list, the members of the evaluation commission shall randomly select 5 such papers / relevant contributions per doctoral study domain for review. At least 3 selected papers must contain significant original contributions in the respective domain.

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

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



Annexes 25 presents the publishing and research activities of doctoral students and Annex 26 the works published by the doctoral graduates. All graduates have published at least one article, mostly in Romanian, but also in other languages, such as English, French and Greek. For the purpose of the evaluation, five articles are randomly selected among those that are written in English or Greek. These are:

- a) Lucian Mihăiță Filip, Assessment of the influence of Maximus the Confessor's Mystagogia on 20th century Romanian Ecclesiology with a focus on Dimitru Stăniloae's Spirituality and Communion in the Orthodox Liturgy
- b) Antonios Tsachakis, Controversies and Misconceptions in Religion and Medicine
- c) The Sacrament of the Priesthood in the Biblical and Traditional Testimony
- d) Lucian Mihăiță Filip, The Critical Exploration of Church Building as Sacred Place
- e) Antonios Tsachakis, Κρήτες ιερείς κήτορες ιερών ναών στη Θεσσαλονίκη τον 20ο αιώνα
- f) Ion Lucian Radu, From ΤΥ ('ΕΔ) to μάρτυς: The Development of the Christian Conception about Martyrdom

All five articles comply with the rules of scientific writing and contain significant original contributions in their respective fields.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.1.2.** *The ratio between the number of presentations of doctoral students who completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years), including posters, exhibitions made at prestigious international events (organized in the country or abroad) and the number of doctoral students who have completed their doctoral studies within the evaluated period (past 5 years) is at least 1.*

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

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

According to the Annex «Lista doctoranzi care au sustinut teza de doctorat», for the period 2018-2023, 27 doctoral students have completed their doctoral studies and defended their theses, while the respective number of presentations are 35, as shown in Annex 27.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Standard B.3.2.** *The Doctoral School engages a significant number of external scientific specialists in the commissions for public defense of doctoral theses in the analyzed domain.*

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator \*B.3.2.1.** *The number of doctoral theses allocated to one specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the evaluated IOSUD should not exceed two (2) in a year for the theses coordinated by the same doctoral thesis advisor.*

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



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

According to Annex 28, there are three cases in two of the evaluated years in which a specialist from a higher education institution other than the evaluated doctoral school exceeds the allowed number of participations in the commissions for public defence of doctoral theses. As it is stated in the Progress Report and explained in the meeting of the evaluation committee with the Director of the Doctoral School, the management of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Jassy recommends that the external specialists be members of the consortium concluded between the University of Jassy and the University of Bucharest, "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca and the Western University of Timisoara. The lack of experts in certain research areas can be an additional difficulty, so it's recommended to invite experts in related fields.

Recommendations: It is recommended to increase the number of invited experts in the same or related fields from other universities.

***The indicator is partly fulfilled.***

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

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

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

According to the Annex «Lista doctoranzi care au sustinut teza de doctorat», for the period 2018-2023, 27 doctoral theses have been completed, which means that in order to maintain the ratio of 0.3, a scientific specialist coming from a higher education institution, other than the one where the defence on the doctoral thesis is organised, should not participate in more than 8 times in guidance committees. This is the case for all 25 scientific specialists coming from a university other than Jassy.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

## **Domain C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

*\*general description of domain analysis.*

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



*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

**Performance Indicator C.1.1.1.** *The Doctoral school in the respective university study domain shall demonstrate the continuous development of the evaluation process and its internal quality assurance following a procedure developed and applied at the level of the IOSUD, the following assessed criteria being mandatory:*

- (a) the scientific work of Doctoral advisors;*
- (b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;*
- (c) the procedures and subsequent rules based on which doctoral studies are organized;*
- (d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;*
- (e) the training program based on advanced academic studies of doctoral students;*
- (f) social and academic services (including for participation at different events, publishing papers etc.) and counselling made available to doctoral students.*

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

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

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, the operational procedure for the evaluation and internal monitoring of the Doctoral School is approved at IOSUD level. The Evaluation Committee notes that the Doctoral School has followed the recommendation of the previous ARACIS Evaluation Committee to carry out an annual evaluation of the quality of the study programmes, of the scientific and teaching activities of the doctoral supervisors and, in general, of the Doctoral School, by implementing a series of questionnaires: Annex 30 concerns the evaluation of the teaching staff by the doctoral students, Annex 31 the evaluation of the supervisors by the doctoral students, Annex 32 the evaluation of the supervisors by the Doctoral School colleagues (cross-examination), Annex 33 the evaluation of the supervisors by the Director of the Doctoral School and finally Annex 34 the evaluation of the level of satisfaction of the doctoral students. The Internal Evaluation Report indicates the parts of the year in which each questionnaire is carried out.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator \*C.1.1.2.** *Mechanisms are implemented during the stage of the doctoral study program to enable feedback from doctoral students allowing to identify their needs, as well as their overall level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program in order to ensure continuous improvement of the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results, there is evidence that an action plan was drafted and implemented.*

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



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

The decision of the Council of the Doctoral School stipulates that doctoral students are required to complete two questionnaires every year; one on the evaluation of their supervisors and another on the level of satisfaction with the doctoral study program. Both questionnaires are presented in Annex 31 and 34.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

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

At the beginning of 2022 the doctoral school inaugurated a new website (<https://www.teologie.uaic.ro/scoala-doctorala/>), which provides sufficient information for doctoral students and anyone who can be interested in the studies offered. This information concerns, among others, the following:



- a) the doctoral school regulations: <https://www.teologie.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Regulametul-Scolii-Doctorale-de-Teologie-2022-SITE.pdf>
- b) the admission regulations: <https://admitere.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Regulament-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-admiterii-in-ciclul-de-studii-universitare-de-doctorat-pentru-anul-univ.2023-2024-6.pdf>
- c); the doctoral studies contract: <https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Contract-A2.pdf>
- d) the study completion regulations, including the procedure for the public defence of the thesis: [Regulamentul instituțional de organizare și funcționare a studiilor universitare de doctorat](#)
- e) the content of the study programs: <https://www.teologie.uaic.ro/scoala-doctorala/documente/planuri-de-invatamant/>
- f) the scientific profile and thematic areas of the doctoral supervisors, as well as their institutional contact details: <https://www.teologie.uaic.ro/scoala-doctorala/conducatori-de-doctorat/>
- g) the list of doctoral students with information on the year of enrolment, their supervisors and topics: <https://www.teologie.uaic.ro/scoala-doctorala/doctoranzi/lista-doctoranzi/>
- h) information on the standards for the preparation of the doctoral thesis: [Norme de alcătuire a aparatului critic și a bibliografiei lucrărilor științifice](#) precum și [condițiile minimale pentru formatul tezei](#)
- i) links to summaries of the doctoral theses to be publicly presented: <https://www.uaic.ro/studii/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/sustinerea-publica-a-tezelor-de-doctorat/>

The website is designed so that all information is easy to find, and all links are functional. A significant number of documents useful to doctoral students are available for download in doc or pdf format. The evaluation committee was informed that the website is regularly updated and that an English version is being prepared.

Recommendations: It is recommended that an English version of the website be created so that the Doctoral School can appeal to foreign citizens interested in studying in Jassy.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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



Doctoral students have unlimited access to a significant number of academic databases, which are available through the "Mihai Eminescu" Central University Library in Jassy under the following link: <http://www.bcu-iasi.ro/baze-de-date-stiintifice>. The databases are Scopus, SpringerLink Journals, ProQuest Central, Emerald Journals, Science Journals, Thompson Reuters, Oxford Journals, SAGE Journals HHS Collection, EBSCO, Wiley Journals, etc. In the meeting of the evaluation committee with the doctoral students some of them seemed to be unaware of how to use these databases, so it could be helpful to prepare written instructions or a tutorial.

Recommendations: It is recommended that written instructions or a tutorial on how to search for literature be prepared, to help doctoral students to use the databases effectively.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

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

The University of Jassy uses the Turnitin application, an electronic system accessible to both supervisors and students, to check the degree of similarity with other existing scientific works. The Progress Report states that all annual reports submitted by doctoral students are analysed by their supervisors using Turnitin and a similarity report is generated.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

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

Within the Faculty of Orthodox Theology there is a Research Center «Filaret Scriban», while doctoral students can also use the "Dumitru Staniloae" Library. Both facilities are important for doctoral supervisors and doctoral students in organising national and international seminars and conferences. The evaluation commission had a meeting with the director of the Research Center, who presented the ways in which doctoral students are supported in their activities. The efforts of the management and members of the Doctoral School are aimed at encouraging doctoral students to participate in all the



scientific activities that are regularly organised by both the Faculty of Orthodox Theology and the Doctoral School.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

### **Criterion C.3. Internationalization**

*\*general description of the criterion analysis.*

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

*\*general description of the standard analysis.*

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

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

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

*According to the data presented in Annex 7, 18 doctoral students have benefited from Erasmus+ mobility agreements in the last five years and have completed a semester of their studies at partner universities abroad, while an even larger number have participated in international scientific conferences, far exceeding the required 20% and 35% respectively. The participation of doctoral students in mobility abroad and in international scientific conferences is significantly high, considering that mobility was very limited during the years of the recent pandemic.*

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

**Performance Indicator C.3.1.2.** *In the evaluated doctoral study domain, support is granted, including financial support, to the organization of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage or invitation of leading experts to deliver courses/lectures for doctoral students.*

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

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





Annex 36 lists the professors and doctoral students from abroad who come to Jassy every May to participate in the international conference "Studia Theologica Doctoralia", which, as its name suggests, is primarily aimed at doctoral students. As it is stated in the Progress Report, the Metropolitan Church of Moldavia and Bucovina co-organises and financially supports this institution. Through this participation and also through the Erasmus Mobility, a significant number of professors from Austria, Greece, Lebanon, North Macedonia, etc. have given lectures to doctoral students.

Regarding the organisation of doctoral studies in international co-tutelage, the Evaluation Committee was assured that the Doctoral School encourages the conclusion of joint supervision agreements and was informed that one doctoral student is currently being co-supervised. The model for an International Doctoral Thesis Co-Tutorship Agreement is presented in Annex «convenție cotutela\_RO\_EN\_FR».

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

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

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

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

The Doctoral School has a good reputation abroad through the regular organisation of international conferences, such as "Studia Theologica Doctoralia», and the active participation of doctoral supervisors and students in Erasmus mobility programs. Furthermore, the Evaluation Committee acknowledges that the Doctoral School has followed the recommendation of the previous ARACIS Evaluation Committee to create a website to provide interested parties with an official presentation of the institution, so that the Doctoral School of Theology of Jassy can attract candidates and doctoral students from abroad.

Recommendations: As mentioned elsewhere, it is important to have an English version of the Doctoral School's website so that the Doctoral School can appeal to foreign citizens interested in studying in Jassy.

***The indicator is fulfilled.***

## IV. SWOT Analysis

<p><b><u>Strengths:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The high quality of the doctoral supervisors of Doctoral School's supervisors, the vast majority of whom exceed the standards required by the CNATDCU.</li> <li>- The impressive improvement of the Doctoral School compared to the previous evaluation and the fact that all recommendations have been implemented.</li> <li>- The regularity of the meetings between the Director of the Doctoral School, the supervisors and the guidance committees with the doctoral students, which provides them with continuous advice and guidance.</li> <li>- The overall level of satisfaction of doctoral students with their doctoral studies.</li> <li>- The minimal expulsion rate of doctoral students.</li> <li>- The internationalisation of the doctoral studies through the organisation of international conferences, such as "Studia Theologica Doctoralia", which are primarily aimed at doctoral students.</li> <li>- The high reputation of the Doctoral School among graduates and the Orthodox Church, the main employer.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Weaknesses:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The fact that the topic of the doctoral thesis is not determined at the beginning of the doctoral program, as there is no obligation for the doctoral candidate to submit a research proposal.</li> <li>- The absence of a research methodology course in the curriculum.</li> <li>- The presentation of the curricula of the courses and the research activities of the Doctoral School only or mainly in Romanian, which doesn't help the internationalisation of the studies and the attraction of foreign doctoral students to Jassy.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Opportunities:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The restoration of the Doctoral School building will provide the necessary premises, modern equipment and an attractive environment for the teaching staff and doctoral students to carry out their activities.</li> <li>- The location of the Doctoral School of Theology in a university with many faculties, such as Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, offers many opportunities to promote interdisciplinarity in teaching and research, which is not particularly developed.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Threats:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ever-increasing competition among doctoral programmes offered by European universities can be seen as a threat, especially for universities and countries that are not based in languages that are widely spoken in Europe. In this context, investing in the quality of doctoral studies and their internationalisation can be seen as an appropriate strategy to avoid a possible decline in interest in doctoral studies or the phenomenon of brain drain.</li> </ul>

## V. Overview of judgments awarded and of the recommendations

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
1		A.1.1.1.	fulfilled	
2		A.1.1.2.	fulfilled	
3		A.1.2.1.	fulfilled	
4		A.1.2.2.	fulfilled	Plagiarism is constantly emerging in new forms, so the fight against it needs constant monitoring of developments and technological applications.
5		A.1.3.1.	fulfilled	The Doctoral School of Theology could apply to the Orthodox Church for support for theological research. In the meeting of the Evaluation Committee with the employers' representatives, who were representatives of the local dioceses, it became clear that the Church highly appreciates the work of the Doctoral School and is willing to support its research financially.
6		A.1.3.2.	fulfilled	
7		A.1.3.3.	fulfilled	It is recommended to keep up-to-date records of expenditure on student training activities.
8		A.2.1.1.	fulfilled	
9		A.3.1.1.	fulfilled	
10		A.3.1.2.	fulfilled	
11		A.3.1.3.	fulfilled	
12		A.3.1.4.	fulfilled	
13		A.3.2.1.	fulfilled	
14		A.3.2.2.	fulfilled	
15		B.1.1.1.	fulfilled	The scientific work of the professors and students at the Doctoral School should be promoted more through the Internet and social media in order to attract more doctoral students from Romania and abroad.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
16		B.1.2.1.	partially fulfilled	It is recommended that the role of the interview as part of the candidate selection process is clarified, as it is legally required as part of the admission process. It is also recommended that the interview includes the candidate's proposal for the topic of his/her dissertation.
17		B.1.2.2.	fulfilled	
18		B.2.1.1.	partially fulfilled	It is recommended that a course on research methodology be introduced. In addition, that the curricula of the courses be presented in English, so that their content is understandable to potential Erasmus students who are considering the possibility of continuing their studies for a semester or a year at the University of Jassy. This would also promote the internationalisation of the doctoral studies.
19		B.2.1.2.	fulfilled	
20		B.2.1.3.	fulfilled	It is recommended that the curricula of the courses are also presented in English, as explained in a previous indicator.
21		B.2.1.4.	fulfilled	
22		B.2.1.5.	fulfilled	
23		B.3.1.1.	fulfilled	
24		B.3.1.2.	fulfilled	
25		B.3.2.1.	partially fulfilled	It is recommended to increase the number of invited experts in the same or related fields from other universities.
26		B.3.2.2.	fulfilled	
27		C.1.1.1.	fulfilled	
28		C.1.1.2.	fulfilled	
29		C.2.1.1.	fulfilled	It is recommended that an English version of the website be created so that the Doctoral School can appeal to foreign citizens interested in studying in Jassy.

No.	Type of indicator (PI, PI *, CPI)	Performance indicator	Judgment	Recommendations
30		C.2.2.1.	fulfilled	It is recommended that written instructions or a tutorial on how to search for literature be prepared, to help doctoral students to use the databases effectively.
31		C.2.2.2.	fulfilled	
32		C.2.2.3.	fulfilled	
33		C.3.1.1.	fulfilled	
34		C.3.1.2.	fulfilled	
35		C.3.1.3.	fulfilled	As mentioned elsewhere, it is important to have an English version of the Doctoral School's website so that the Doctoral School can appeal to foreign citizens interested in studying in Jassy.

## VI. Conclusions and general recommendations

The Doctoral School of Theology of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Jassy offers high quality doctoral studies with the aim of educating and training theologians capable of both scientific research and rich professional experience in the service of the Church and society. This is possible thanks to the high quality of the doctoral supervisors and the School's constant efforts to improve its program and activities. The introduction of regular meetings between the Director of the Doctoral School, the supervisors and the guidance committees with the doctoral students, as well as the requirement for students to submit a monthly progress report, is quite demanding, but I believe it is an effective strategy, because it helps them to focus on their academic work and provides them with continuous advice and guidance. The low dropout rate and high level of satisfaction among doctoral students is definitely related to the constant support they receive from their school.

The Doctoral School of Theology has a good reputation in Romania and abroad, due to the organisation of international conferences and the active participation of the teaching staff and the doctoral students in Erasmus programs. A profound example is the "Studia Theologica Doctoralia", which has been organised for 15 consecutive years, gathering in Jassy every May professors and doctoral students from many universities, both from Romania and abroad. Finally, it is very important that the doctoral studies in theology are highly appreciated by the representatives of the local dioceses, since the Orthodox Church is the main employer of the graduates.



Undoubtedly, there are also weaknesses. The absence of an obligation for the doctoral candidate to submit a research proposal and the absence of a research methodology course can be identified as two areas related to the admission and the study program that could be improved. The fact that the Doctoral School has taken seriously all the recommendations made in the previous evaluation and has managed to implement most of them effectively demonstrates the commitment of the administration and the teaching staff and their determination to improve the quality of the doctoral studies. I believe that the doctoral school has favourable conditions to promote interdisciplinarity in teaching and research, which is not particularly developed, and to further advance its internationalisation course.

In conclusion, the Doctoral School makes a significant effort to provide doctoral students with both the knowledge necessary for research and the skills for its practical application in the life of the Church and in society in general. I firmly believe that the high quality of the studies, the hard work and the commitment of the administration and the teaching staff for improvement are very promising for the future of the school, and therefore I consider the outcome of the evaluation to be positive.

## **VII. Annexes**

Annex 01 Founding documents

Annex 02: The education plan

Appendix 03: List of doctoral students who have obtained the title of doctor

Appendix 04: Regulations of the Doctoral School

Annex 05 a, Methodology-for-conducting-the-competition-for-the-position-of-CSUD-Director

Annex 05 b Methodology-for-organizing-the-elections-and-designating-the-CSUD-members

Annex 05 c HS-nr-11\_31-07-2020

Annex 05 d Decision of the Director of the Doctoral School

Annex 05 is Decision of the Council of the Doctoral School of Theology

Annex 05 f Minutes of the Council of the Doctoral School of Theology

Annex 05 g Study contract

Annex 05 h UAIC scholarship contract

Annex 05 and PPUA

Annexes 06 a,b,c,d Program for checking the percentage of similarity

Annex 07 List of doctoral students Erasmus + beneficiaries

Annex 8 a Tax settlement mechanism document

Annex 8 b List of PhD students UAIC Scores - scholarships from own funds

Annex 09 Commission for the design of scientific activities

Annex 10 Certificates of external financial support

Annex 11: List of doctoral supervisors - working at UAIC

Annex 12: Certificates of attestation of this quality. – in work at UAIC

Annex 13: Synthetic table supervisors and doctoral students

Annex 14 CNATDCU minimum standards



- Annex 15: List of works published by PhD supervisors in international databases.;
- Annex 16: At least 5 representative publications - for each manager;
- Annex 17: National and international visibility
- Annex 18 List of candidates enrolled in the admissions competition
- Annex 19: Dynamics of the number of students
- Annex 20 Decision on periodic meetings with doctoral students
- Annex 21 Examples of Activity Report
- Annex 22 Decision on verification of texts in TURNITIN
- Annex 23: List of disciplines
- Annex 24: List of guidance commissions
- Annex 25 Publishing and research activity of doctoral students
- Annex 26 Works published by the graduate
- Annex 27 List of scientific communications of doctoral graduates
- Annex 28 List of doctoral theses supports and public support commissions
- Annex 29 Scientific Contributions Questionnaire
- Annex 30 Teacher Evaluation Sheet
- Annex 31 Evaluation of doctoral supervisors
- Annex 32 Collegiate evaluation questionnaire (cross-referenced)
- Annex 33 Evaluation Sheet by the direct manager
- Annex 34 Doctoral student satisfaction level evaluation questionnaire
- Annex 35: Doctoral School Spaces
- Annex 36: List of professors and foreign students at STD
- Annex 37: List of Partner Universities

### Additional annexes

- Annex S - CV Indrumatori
- Anexa Dovada recomandari Comisie indrumare
- S - Standarde\_CNATDCU\_5\_ani
- Lista doctoranzi care au sustinut teza de doctorat
- Lista studentilor admiși la studii de doctorat li forma de finanțare
- Adeverinte burse- sprijin financiar
- Contract burse- sprijin financiar
- Anexa\_EC2U\_exemplu
- Anexa\_Profesorii invitati exemplu de la 3 facultati din rapoartele scolilor doctorale
- Cotutele11.04.2023 (1)
- Model convenție cotutela\_RO\_EN\_FR
- Raspuns cotutele