



External Evaluation Report

with a view to establishing the doctoral field

ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES within the Organizing Institution of Doctoral Studies - UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST (IOSUD-UB)

Coupons

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I. Introduction¹

This external evaluation report is the result of the request of the University of Bucharest (UB) for accreditation of the doctoral programme in Administrative Sciences, approved by the Senate of the University of Bucharest on 20 April 2022.

The evaluation visit took place on 2-4 May 2023, at the Faculty of Business and Administration, 4-12 Regina Elisabeta Avenue, Bucharest.

The ARACIS expert evaluation committee was composed of the following members:

1. Prof. Călin Hințea - Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca - Committee Chairman
2. Prof. Daniel Ghiță, PhD, University of Craiova
3. Prof. Dr. Eymeri-Douzans Jean Michel
4. Student Mihai Christopher Marian Radovici

The doctoral field of study "Administrative Sciences" is proposed to be established within the Doctoral School of Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Administration and Business, University of Bucharest, starting with the academic year 2023 - 2024.

In 2023 IOSUD-UB has 20 doctoral study areas, included in a number of 22 Doctoral Schools reflecting the structure of the fields. This number of Doctoral Schools includes the *Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies*.

In these fields and doctoral schools, as of 1 January 2023, 2099 doctoral

¹ Whenever applicable, information will also be presented by gender.



students were enrolled, of which 1888 on budget and 211 on fee, coordinated by 384, of which 263 internal and 121 external.

IOSUD-UB is legally represented by the University of Bucharest. The head of the institution legally representing IOSUD-UB is the Rector of UB, Prof. Marian PREDA.

Doctoral studies are a traditional component of the educational and research activity of the University of Bucharest. At the institutional level, the awarding of the doctoral degree was regulated in 1897-1899, and the first doctoral degree awarded by a Romanian university was obtained by Ion Petrovici with his thesis "Psycho-physical parallelism" defended in June 1905 at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the University of Bucharest. The number of recipients of this form of training and scientific recognition was modest in the period before the First World War and then increased in several waves throughout the 20th century. The forms of organization of doctoral studies and their legal framework have undergone several changes, reflecting variations in the role of the doctorate and the institutional arrangements for awarding the doctoral title.

Currently, the Faculty of Administration and Business of the University of Bucharest organizes a number of 6 master programs in the field of "Administrative Sciences", in which about 30 students/program are enrolled.

The Master's programmes organized by the Faculty of Business and Administration cover broad areas of public administration issues, as can be seen:

- Public administration and policy in the European Union;
- Human Resources Management and Development;
- Public Administration and Administrative System Efficiency;
- Public Relations Administration and Management Assistance;
- Crisis management;
- Public Procurement Management.

Administrative sciences is a field of research within the social sciences, distinct in its themes, theoretical orientations and specific relationships with other fields such as economics, sociology, psychology and political science.

Administrative sciences form competences codified in the RNCIS register; also, the profession of civil servant involves specific responsibilities, duties and activities, formalized in the COR.

The importance of scientific research in Administrative Sciences is justified by the relevance of research in the field, in the process of design and evaluation of public policies, in decision making on the various structures of public administration, but also by questioning the size and effectiveness of government action, the functions that government must perform to ensure economic growth, welfare for all, etc.

The field of Administrative Sciences research is institutionalized through internationally prestigious journals such as Public Administration Review (a Wiley publication, impact factor 8.144), Journal of Social Policy (Cambridge journal), Public Management Review (a quartile 1 journal, impact factor 6.004), Journal of European Public Policy (quartile 1, impact factor 4.336), Administration & Society (impact factor 3.121, quartile 2), and these are just a few examples available in the Journal of Citation



Reports.

Master's and doctoral programmes in administrative studies are offered in prestigious universities around the world, such as the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Oxford, University College London, University of Amsterdam, HEC, Montreal, ESPM, Brazil, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Tampere University, Finland, etc.

The institutionalization of administrative sciences as a field of doctoral studies at the University of Bucharest can significantly contribute to the professional development of graduates of bachelor and master degrees in public administration.

The professional need for specialization in this field is visible from any angle we look at public administration: economic, human resources management, the implementation of effective public policies for citizens, etc. Therefore, the recruitment base for future PhD students is also broad, and in addition to students in Public Administration, students from Political Science, Territorial Geography or Urban Planning may be interested in such a program.

II. Used Methods

The purpose of the external evaluation is to certify whether the legal conditions for the accreditation of a new field of doctoral studies at the University of Bucharest - Administrative Sciences are met. At the same time, this report aims to identify the extent to which the new field of study responds to the public interest and the University of Bucharest is concerned with: increasing the quality of education and scientific research; efficiently organizing institutional, administrative and managerial structures; monitoring the results and performance of IOSUD-UB, thereby contributing to promoting confidence in the standards of academic qualifications, including in this new field.

The present report was based on:

- Analysis of the internal evaluation report of the evaluated doctoral programme and its annexes;
- Analysis of the documents provided by IOSUD-UB during the evaluation visit;
- Visits to the institution's buildings, which include: classrooms; laboratories; the institution's library;
- Meetings and discussions with members of the management of the Doctoral School in which the assessed doctoral field of study will operate;
- Meetings/discussions with the participation of qualified professors in the field of doctoral studies evaluated;
- Meetings/discussions with representatives of: the management of the University of Bucharest, the IOSUD-UB where the assessed doctoral degree will be carried out, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission, the Quality Assurance Department, the Ethics Commission; the secretariat of the Faculty of Business and Administration and the IOSUD-UB, as planned in the visit schedule.

III. Analysis of ARACIS performance indicators



Area A. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Within the University of Bucharest, through IOSUD-UB, mechanisms for the efficient functioning of the organization of doctoral studies are implemented, with specific regulations applicable to doctoral schools and specific logistical resources. Efforts have also been made to provide additional funding to support the work of doctoral students (doctoral scholarships through institutional development programmes).

The University of Bucharest, as an Organizing Institution of Doctoral Studies, demonstrates a consolidated institutional capacity. UB has developed a complex institutional framework, suitable for organizing and supporting quality doctoral programmes.

IOSUD-UB currently covers a very wide range of doctoral fields (20 fields) included in a number of 22 Doctoral Schools (reflecting the structure of the fields) including the Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies (which broadly covers all fields).

The main elements of IOSUD-UB's institutional development are presented in the IOSUD-UB Internal Self-Assessment Report, carried out in 2021 on the occasion of the ARACIS visit for the IOSUD-UB evaluation.

The Doctoral School of Administrative Sciences will initially include 4 PhD supervisors in the field. Two other professors, out of a total of 20 in the Department of Public Administration, are preparing *habilitation* in the field of Administrative Sciences.

The faculty has the necessary infrastructure to carry out teaching and research activities in the school in quality conditions.

In the Panduri premises of the faculty (under rehabilitation) there are important spaces for the library (over 200 square meters), together with laboratories with access to relevant information resources.

The faculty has licenses for quantitative and qualitative analysis software (SPSS, Nvivo, R) in room 105 of the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work - which it manages jointly with this faculty, but also in its own computer labs (4)

Criterion A.1. Administrative and managerial institutional structures and financial resources

Standard A.1.1. The institution organizing doctoral studies (IOSUD) has implemented the mechanisms for efficient operation laid down in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies.

Following the evaluation of the doctoral programme Administrative Sciences, we found that the University of Bucharest has developed, approved and implemented the regulations laid down in the specific legislation on the organization of doctoral studies. Therefore, there are solid arguments to affirm that UB has a consolidated status of IOSUD-UB, its development strategy following priority directions such as: institutional strengthening, high level research, internationalization, development of relations with stakeholders, but also optimization of the relationship with PhD students.



Performance indicator A.1.1.1. Existence and application of specific regulations at the level of the doctoral school to which the doctoral programme belongs:

- a) the regulations of the doctoral school;
- b) the methodology for the conduct of elections for the position of Director of the Doctoral School Council (CSD), as well as the election of the student representative to the CSD and evidence of their conduct; the methodology is taken from the IOSUD-UB regulations;
- c) methodologies for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies (admission of doctoral students, completion of doctoral studies);
- d) the existence of mechanisms for the recognition of the status of doctoral supervisor and the equivalence of doctorates obtained in other countries;
- e) functional management structures (Doctoral School Council), including proof of regularity of meetings; will be established after the accreditation of the doctoral school based on IOSUD-UB regulations;
- f) the doctoral studies contract;
- g) internal procedures for reviewing and approving proposals for the subject matter of the advanced degree-based training programme. will be established after the accreditation of the doctoral school based on IOSUD-UB regulations;

The National Education Law no. 1/2011 and the Doctoral Studies Code adopted by GD no. 681/2011 further regulated the organization of doctoral studies, both by establishing the Council for Doctoral Studies at IOSUD level and by provisions aimed at clarifying the functioning of doctoral schools, including the structure of the doctoral studies programme, and at strengthening quality assurance by limiting the number of doctoral students per supervisor and by establishing the supervision committees.

The legal provisions have been incorporated in an Institutional Regulation for the organization and functioning of the doctoral degree programmes, adopted by the Senate of the University of Bucharest in its meeting of 20 June 2012, updated several times, most recently by Senate approval on 23 September 2020. The Regulation for doctoral studies at the University of Bucharest provides a coherent framework for the conduct of doctoral studies at the UB.

IOSUD-UB is governed by the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), which is coordinated by the Rector and the Pro-Rector who coordinates doctoral studies, and is composed of 17 members, including the Director. The composition of the Council for Doctoral Studies includes:

- a) the Director of the CSUD, appointed by the Rector following a public competition;
- b) 13 directors of doctoral schools, appointed by the rector on the proposal of the CSUD director, ensuring representation of the main doctoral schools and all families of scientific fields;
- c) 1 doctoral supervisor, elected by universal, direct, secret and equal vote of the doctoral supervisors with the right to vote, in accordance with the Law, the Code and the Charter, from among the doctoral supervisors with the right to vote and to stand for election of all doctoral schools;
- d) 2 doctoral students elected by universal, direct, secret and equal vote of the doctoral students of all doctoral schools, among the doctoral students of all doctoral



schools.

Only persons who are university professors, have the right to conduct PhDs and meet the minimum and mandatory standards for the award of the habilitation certificate, according to art. 219 para. (1) letter a) of Law no. 1/2011, which are in force on the date of publication in the Official Journal of Romania, Part III of the announcement of the competition for the post of Director of the CSUD.

The Director of the CSUD, elected on the basis of the methodology of the competition for the position of Director of the Council for Doctoral Studies at IOSUD-UB, approved by the Senate of the University of Bucharest in the meeting of 19.02.2020, was appointed by public competition, the evidence related to the organization of the competition being found in the minutes drawn up by the competition committee on 6 May 2020.

Elections for a new mandate of CSUD 2020 - 2024 were organized in accordance with the Institutional Regulation updated and approved by the Senate of the University of Bucharest on 21 March 2018. Following the public competition, Prof. Virgil Băran was appointed as CSUD Director by the decision of the Human Resources Department signed by the Rector of the University of Bucharest no. 920/21.05.2021. For the election of doctoral students at CSUD level, the related proofs can be found in the minutes of the two rounds of elections, published on the institutional website, section CSUD Elections.

Elections are held every 5 years at the level of doctoral schools for the post of director of the doctoral school and for the members of the Doctoral School Council. The elections were held in accordance with the provisions of the Institutional Regulations, and the minutes of the elections for the positions of Director and for the members of the Council of Doctoral Schools can be found in the CSUD Elections section of the institutional website.

The methodologies for the conduct of elections for the position of Director of the Doctoral School Council (CSD), the organization of elections for the student representative in the CSD, as well as the organization and conduct of doctoral studies (both admission of doctoral students and completion of doctoral studies) are well articulated in the IOSUD-UB Regulations and published on the Doctoral Studies website.

IOSUD-UB has developed its own student recruitment and admissions policy, which it applies transparently and rigorously, respecting the principle of equal opportunities for all candidates, without any discrimination, as specified in the ***Methodology*** for the organization and conduct of the admission competition for doctoral studies, approved each year by the UB Senate in its meeting.

The admission competition is organized on the basis of an admission methodology, developed by the CSUD, endorsed by the Administrative Board and approved by the UB Senate.

In order to support candidates, the UB provides them every year with all the information concerning the admission exam by publishing general information at the University of Bucharest level on the university website, and on the website of each doctoral school the methodologies are published.

Successful candidates are enrolled at the beginning of the academic year and sign a *study contract* with the UB, setting out the rights and obligations of the parties,



which are posted on the webpage dedicated to doctoral studies.

At UB level, the ***status of doctoral supervisor*** is acquired by ministerial order, in compliance with the relevant legal regulations in force at the time of acquiring this status. At present, the qualification of doctoral supervisor requires the passing of a qualifying examination, on the basis of which the order of the Minister of Education is issued for the granting of the qualifying certificate.

As regards the ***equivalence of doctorates obtained in other countries***, the UB applies the legal regulations in force, namely the procedures of the National Council for the Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas, and there is an internal operational procedure in this regard, publicly posted on the PhD website - UB's own procedure for the automatic recognition within the University of Bucharest of the doctoral degree and the title of doctor in science or professional field obtained abroad according to the Ministerial Order no. 5923/2016.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator A.1.1.2. The regulations of the doctoral school include binding criteria, procedures and standards for the aspects specified in Art. 17 para. (5) of the Code of Doctoral Studies, approved by Government Decision no. 681/2011, as amended.

The IOSUD-UB Regulation includes provisions and procedures clarifying, inter alia, the following situations:

- a) the acceptance of new members, doctoral supervisors, and the way in which a doctoral supervisor can be withdrawn from the Doctoral School (Chapter V);
- (b) the mechanisms by which decisions are taken regarding the appropriateness, structure and content of the advanced degree-based training programme;
- c) procedures for changing the supervisor of a particular doctoral student and procedures for mediating conflicts (Chapter V);
- d) the conditions under which the doctoral programme may be interrupted;
- (e) how to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism;
- f) ensuring access to research resources;

Indicator is fulfilled

Standard A.1.2 The IOSUD has the logistical resources necessary to fulfil the mission of the doctoral studies.

IOSUD-UB has an IT system that facilitates the collection, processing and analysis of data and information relevant to quality assessment and assurance. The relevant processes for the management of activities within the institution are computerized: student admissions, allocation of places in dormitories, institutional accounting, staff payroll, management of scientific research, student records, school reports, completion of the diploma supplement, award of grants and intra-community mobility.



Performance Indicator A.1.2.1. Existence and effectiveness of an adequate IT system for the registration of doctoral students and their academic career.

Since the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year, the University of Bucharest has been implementing the **UMS PhD program** for the management of PhD students' tuition. This program includes **admission to the PhD and the management of doctoral studies from the beginning until their completion** (Order confirming the doctoral degree or expulsion).

Within the UMS application, the standard functionalities are as follows:

- Management of the subjects in the PPUA (Plan of Preparation based on Advanced University Studies);
- Management of the scientific research programme: reports, thesis supervision, PhD thesis defense, PhD degree and various other reports.

The IT system for the registration of doctoral students and their academic career complies with the GDPR provisions for the protection of personal data.

The University uses the following logistical resources for doctoral studies:

UMS - internal UB platform, implemented in 2018, which contains the records of PhD students enrolled: personal data, matriculation number, information about their PhD program (www.ums.unibuc.ro);

ADMA - internal platform of the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Law, implemented since the academic year 2017-2018, which contains the records of doctoral students enrolled in the PhD program: personal data, matriculation number, information on their PhD program;

Single Register - includes information stored in the platform at national level, related to PhD students' personal data, data about their PhD status, interruptions, extensions, grace, etc.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.1.2.2. Existence and use of an appropriate computer program and evidence of its use for checking the percentage of similarity in all PhD theses.

The University of Bucharest has been verifying the similarity percentage of PhD theses since 2013. In addition to the verifications expressly requested by the PhD supervisor, in 2014 a random verification of 10% of the PhD theses to be publicly defended was implemented, and since 2016 all PhD theses are verified, according to the provisions of the national legislation.

At IOSUD-UB two software programs certified by O.M 3485/2016 are used, **Turnitin and SistemAntiplagiat.ro**. All doctoral theses elaborated in the University of Bucharest are verified prior to submission, at IOSUD level, by means of the two programs.

Similarity reports are received by the doctoral supervisor and the director of the doctoral school. If similarities are identified, the PhD supervisor and the Director of the Doctoral School carry out an analysis to understand their source, separating similarities



with texts previously published by the PhD candidate from those published by other authors. On the basis of this analysis, the PhD supervisor and the director of the doctoral school shall diagnose the existence or non-existence of any deviations from the ethics of scientific research, errors in scientific practice and possible sanctions or remedial measures.

The indicator is met.

Criterion A.2. Research infrastructure

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

Scientific research is a priority area for the UB, a university of advanced scientific research and education which, through its mission, aims to develop a quality research and education environment for the members of the university community, able to strengthen its national position in education and research. Each doctoral school, depending on its specificities, is assigned laboratories, experimental fields, research stations that ensure that the research activity is carried out at the assumed quality standards.

The facilities of the University of Bucharest meet the needs of education and research, in accordance with the fields in which the educational process is carried out. One of the UB's main goals is to promote interdisciplinary research, and specific activities are also supported by the infrastructure of the UB's research stations (Orșova, Sf. Gheorghe, Sinaia, Eșelnița, Brăila).

At IOSUD-UB level, infrastructure investments over the last five years are represented by:

- Rehabilitation works and improvement of living conditions in student dormitories: dormitory C Leu (200 beds), dormitory Stoian Militaru (470 beds), dormitory Fundeni (in 2019 rehabilitation works of living rooms and common areas were started);
- investment works for the student dormitories in Grozăvești and Mihail Kogălniceanu (terraces, sanitary facilities, thermal installations);
- Rehabilitation of the Mihail Kogalniceanu canteen and the Măgurele canteen to bring them into line with internationally recognised standards;
- laundry facilities for students have been created in all University dormitories and semi-professional washing machines have been purchased;
- reading rooms have been created in most of the hostels, where their structure allowed it;
- a conference room for students was set up and equipped on the Grozăvești campus, with a capacity of 80 seats, where they carry out various activities: conferences, workshops, trainings, etc.

Completed works on the educational infrastructure of the University of Bucharest:

- repairs to the Balcescu Amphitheatre, Faculty of Letters;
- repairs to the Hașdeu and Maiorescu Amphitheatres, Faculty of Foreign



Languages and Literatures;

- repairs to the Țițeica and Pompeiu Amphitheatres, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science;
- Rehabilitation of the Voinov Amphitheatre, Faculty of Biology.
- completion of the new building of the Rectorate of the University of Bucharest, which houses most of the UB administrative staff;
- Completion of the construction of the Research Platform in Systems Biology and Ecology;
- the start of consolidation works on the UB headquarters at 4-12 Elisabeta Boulevard;
- winning and starting projects with external funding - Regional Operational Programme - two infrastructure projects: the Administrative Pavilion in the Botanical Garden (about 10.000.000 lei), building of the Faculty of Political Sciences (11.698.057,29 lei);
- procedures have been started for the construction of a new dormitory in Grozăvești Campus, with funding from the National Investment Company (2S+Gf+9 floors, about 500 accommodation places, reading rooms, kitchens, conference room, fitness room, laundry and drying room for students, etc);
- the project for the consolidation and rehabilitation of the Măgurele Campus has been elaborated in order to obtain external funding;
- starting the works for the consolidation, restoration and fitting out of the Elena Doamna building with administrative use, building B (B+Gf+1E);
- Completion of the works for the attic of the "Justinian Patriarch" Faculty of Orthodox Theology.

Indicator is fulfilled

Performance indicator A.2.1.1. The premises and material equipment of the doctoral school allow for research activities to be carried out, in the field evaluated, in accordance with the mission and objectives (computers, specific software, apparatus, laboratory equipment, library, access to international databases, etc.). The research infrastructure and the research service offer are presented to the public via a profile platform. The research infrastructure described above, acquired and developed in the last 5 years, will be highlighted separately.

The Faculty of Administration and Business has a diverse and complete infrastructure to ensure the quality of the work of the future Doctoral School in the field applied for accreditation.

The Faculty currently carries out teaching and research activities at three addresses (two within the UB, one in rented space), due to the rehabilitation and consolidation works of the Faculty's central space in Șos. Panduri, nr. 92-94 (estimated completion: December 2024).

The equipment of the laboratories of the Faculty of Business and Administration is reflected in Table 1.

Table 1. Laboratory equipment

Crt. no.	Equipment name	Quantity
1	Computers	140 pcs.
2	Laptop	45 pcs.
3	Copiers	13 pcs.
4	Projection screen	4 pcs.
5	Printer	23 pcs.
6	Server	2 pcs.
7	Scanner	4 pcs.
8	Sound station	5 pcs.
9	Video projector	18 pcs.
10	Smartboard	4 pcs.
11	Eye Tracker	1 pc.

The Faculty of Business and Administration also offers prospective PhD students access to **specialized software** for document editing, statistical analysis and text similarity checking, a list of which is given in Table 2.

Table 2. Specialised software

Crt. no.	Software	Location
1.	SPSS v.17 - statistical analysis	INFO3 Laboratory, Schitu Măgureanu 9
2.	Stata v.12 - statistical analysis	INFO3 Laboratory, Regina Elisabeta, 4-12
3.	R v.3.5 - statistical analysis, text content analysis, image and audio file analysis, geospatial data visualization	INFO3 Laboratory, Regina Elisabeta, 4-12
4.	NVIVO	Lab info. 1
5.	Plagiarism Detector	Lab 403, Queen Elisabeth, 4-12
6.	MS Office - Document writing package	Computer labs (1, 2, 3, Rooms 6, 403)
7.	SPSS v.17	Computer lab

Students of the Faculty of Business and Administration have access to 12,000 volumes in their own library - The University has signed a partnership for the use of the book collection of the Central University Library. The Faculty, in order to develop



the book fund in its branch, is carrying out the purchase of volumes amounting to 50,000 lei in the academic year 2022-2023.

The Doctoral School of Administrative Sciences, through the Faculty of Administration and Business, will have **adequately equipped teaching spaces**, which allow for the adequate conduct of teaching and scientific research activities. Thus, the teaching spaces of the Faculty, accessible to future PhD supervisors and future PhD students, include:

- 3 amphitheaters - with a total area of 800,30 sqm;
- 30 seminar rooms - with a total area of 1200,25 sqm;
- 2 secretarial offices - 70 sqm;
- 10 professors' offices - 260,81 sqm, in the faculty building in Panduri 90-92

Laboratories include:

- 4 computer labs - total area of 482 sqm;
- 1 Eye Tracker lab - 32 sqm

The indicator is fulfilled

Criterion A.3. Quality of human resources

Standard A.3.1. Qualified personnel with the necessary experience to carry out the doctoral programme are available in each field.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.1. At least 3 PhD supervisors are working in the PhD field and at least 50% of them (but not less than 3) meet the minimum standards of the National Council for the Accreditation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU) in force at the time of the evaluation, which are necessary and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate.

In the Doctoral School of Administrative Sciences, 4 teachers qualified in the field of Administrative Sciences will work, based on current standards. The summary results of the scientific activity of the teaching staff can be seen in Table 3.



Table 3. Summary of scientific activity (qualified teachers in the field of Administrative Sciences)

PhD coordinating professor	Google Scholar profile	Hirsch Index Google Scholar (2023)	Score CNATDCU (minimum standard: 100) (2021)	Compliance with current CNATDCU standards
Prof. Dr. Dragoș Paul Aligică	https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=6fUVqrYAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao	24	2903	From
Prof. Dr. Liviu Andreescu	https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=XTBKj7kAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao	16	975.33	From
Prof. Dr. Elena Nolica Druică	https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=pwqDKYIAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao	16	778.23	From
Prof. Dr. Călin Vâlsan	https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=aelePX0AAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao	10	519.69	From

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator* A.3.1.2 At least 50% of the PhD supervisors in the assessed PhD field are tenured within IOSUD, employed on a permanent contract.

The four PhD supervisors in the Administrative Sciences PhD field are full professors at the University of Bucharest, with employment contracts for an indefinite period (see the certificates in the file attached to this report).

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator A.3.1.3. The subjects in the advanced degree-based training programme related to the field are taught by teachers or researchers who are doctoral/doctoral supervisors, professors/CS I or university lecturers/CS II with proven expertise in the field of the subjects taught or other specialists in the field who meet the standards set by the institution for the above-mentioned teaching and research positions, in accordance with the law.

All subjects in the PhD students' training plan are supported by PhD supervisors who have proven expertise in the field of the subjects taught.

Professor Călin Vâlsan has an educational background in the field of financial economics, he has already taught for 5 years the course of *Political Economy* at the master program "Philosophy, Politics and Economics" at the University of Bucharest, and academic publications support his competence in the field of the taught discipline.



Professor Elena Druică is a statistician, she has been teaching applied statistics for more than two decades and for 6 years she has been teaching the *Research Methods* course in the Master's program "Behavioral Economics". Her research papers published in academic journals, as well as the projects she has carried out, demonstrate her ability to work with advanced statistical techniques, but also her ability to apply them in specific domains and to translate them into concrete public policy recommendations.

Professor Liviu Andreescu comes from the field of Political Science, he has been teaching for years courses on *public policy*, *public policy evaluation* at bachelor and master programs in the field of Public Administration, plus a course on *Behavioral Public Policy* at the master program "Behavioral Economics". His academic portfolio demonstrates his concern for the field beyond the specific perimeter of teaching.

Professor Dragoș-Paul Aligică, in addition to the vast teaching experience developed at George Mason University, USA, and used within the study programs of the University of Bucharest, is also the author of 10 books published by prestigious international publishers, relevant to the subject he teaches in the doctoral program.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard A.3.2. Doctoral supervisors in the field carry out internationally visible scientific work.

Performance Indicator A.3.2.1. At least 50% of the PhD supervisors in the field under assessment present at least 5 publications indexed in Web of Science or ERIH in journals with impact factor or other achievements with relevant significance for the field in question, in which there are contributions of international level revealing a progress in scientific research-development-innovation for the field under assessment. The PhD supervisors mentioned have international visibility in the last 5 years, consisting of: membership in scientific committees of international publications and conferences; membership in boards of international professional associations; membership in invited conferences or expert groups held abroad or membership in PhD thesis committees at foreign universities or in co-supervision with a foreign university.

All PhD supervisors have a significant number of publications in Web of Science indexed journals with an impact factor, as follows:

- Professor Liviu Andreescu has 8 such articles in his portfolio;
- Professor Dragoș-Paul Aligică, 24 articles;
- Professor Elena Druică reports 23 articles in journals with impact factor;
- Professor Călin Vâlsan, 10 articles.

With a second affiliation at William's School of Business, Bishop's University, Canada, Professor Călin Vâlsan has a very good international visibility, being also invited, in 2018, to the University of Liechtenstein to give a lecture on the behavioral determinants of tax evasion.

From the same series of dual affiliations, Professor Dragoș-Paul Aligică enjoys an important international visibility, supported by his position at George Mason University, to which is added the position of member of the scientific committee of the World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research (since 2020), the position of



editor (with Leonore Ealy) of the book series "Polycentricity: Studies in Institutional Diversity and Voluntary Governance", Rowman and Littlefield (2017-present) and the position of member and research coordinator for "Revisiting Communism: Collectivist Economic Thought in Historical Perspective" Project, University of Vienna and Institut für die Wissenschaften von Menschen (IWM), Vienna (2014-present). Dragoș-Paul Aligică is also director of the David Mitrany Program, organized on the basis of the collaboration between the University of Bucharest, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj and the University of Economic Studies, Bucharest (2020-present).

Professor Liviu Andreescu was a member of the research teams of the projects STI for 2050: Science, Technology and Innovation for Ecosystem Performance - Accelerating Sustainability Transitions, 2021-2022, (funder: European Commission, Ares(2020)7630061; Framework contract: 2018/RTD/A2/OP/PP-07001-2018; Coordinator: Austrian Institute of Technology) and Reimagining the Food System: Scanning the horizon for emerging social innovations, 2021-2022 (Funding: European Commission; Framework contract: 2018/RTD/A2/OP/PP-07001-2018; Coordinator: ISINNOVA), with results disseminated in high-quality international journals.

Professor Elena Druică is a member of the board of the Doctoral School of "Governance and Management for Business Innovation" at the University "Niccolo Cusano" in Rome. She was a visiting professor at "Carlo Bo" University of Urbino, Italy, in 2018, where she taught in the Doctoral School of Global Studies, and in 2021 she was part of the committee for the PhD thesis of doctoral candidate Marica Barbaritano, in the mentioned Doctoral School. In the past year he received an invitation from the Sapienza University of Rome to defend a course on Behavioral Economics in Healthcare, which he honored in December 2022. Elena Druică is a board member of the CIVIS Health hub and is actively involved in meeting the performance indicators of this university alliance.

All PhD coordinators are members of editorial and scientific boards of international journals and serve as reviewers for scientific output.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance indicator * A.3.2.2. At least 50% of the PhD supervisors assigned to a doctoral field of study continue to be scientifically active, obtaining at least 25% of the score required by the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, necessary and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate, based on the scientific results of the last 5 years.

Of the four PhD supervisors assigned to the field under evaluation, all of them obtain at least 25% of the score required by the minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the time of the evaluation, based on scientific results from less than the last 5 years, as follows:

Professor Liviu Andreescu obtains 23.1 points only from 2021 onwards, from articles published in Web of Science indexed journals with or without impact factor, or indexed in international databases, plus more than 50 points obtained from citations of some of the papers in his academic portfolio, only in 2023 or 2022. As such, Professor



Andreescu meets the performance criterion with only a few contributions and citations in the last two years: all the more so if all achievements in the last 5 years are taken into account, it will lead to the conclusion that the standard required in the visit sheet is met.

Professor Elena Druică obtains, with only three papers published in the first quarter of 2023 in journals with an impact factor, a score equal to 22.035, twice the minimum score for the C1 criterion and 192 points from citations related to the last two years for a single article in the portfolio. In total, since the time of her habilitation (2021), her score has almost tripled.

A similar situation is recorded in the case of Professor Călin Vâlsan, who in the last two years has increased his score by more than 200 points since 2021, when he defended his habilitation, a figure that exceeds the minimum total score required by the CNATDCU standards (150 points in total, of which at least 100 points after the doctorate).

Professor Dragoș Paul Aligică presents an updated evaluation sheet of almost 4000 points (more precisely, 3825), a significant part of which was carried out in the last two years.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Area B. EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Criterion B.1. Number, quality and diversity of candidates who applied for admission

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

- Not applicable.

Performance Indicator* B.1.2.1. Admission to PhD programmes is based on selection criteria including: academic, research and professional performance of the candidates, an interest in scientific or artistic/sporting research, publications in the field and a proposed research topic. An interview with the applicant is a compulsory part of the admission procedure.

Admission of candidates to doctoral studies is carried out in compliance with national legislation, internal regulations and the **Methodology for the organization and conduct of the admission competition for doctoral studies at the UB**, which is updated annually. Each doctoral school adopts its own admission methodology which is approved by the CSUD.

The conditions and criteria for the evaluation of candidates and the selection of candidates for the admission competition are posted on the websites of the doctoral schools.

The admission competition is held at the faculty of the field in the presence of the PhD supervisor. In special cases, at the motivated request of the candidate, with the opinion of the Doctoral School Council and with the approval of the University of Bucharest management, the admission competition may be held by videoconference.



In this case, the audio-video recording of the admissions examination is compulsory and is archived together with the other admission documents.

The allocation of places funded from the state budget through doctoral grants and fellowships funded from the state budget shall be made by the Doctoral School Council by ranking all candidates in a doctoral field on a single list, in order of the descending order of the overall averages obtained by the candidates; in case of equal averages, the candidates will be separated on the basis of the criteria set out in the doctoral school's own admission methodology. The single list includes all the candidates declared admitted, specifying whether they are admitted to places funded by the budget with a scholarship, places funded by the budget without a scholarship or places with a fee.

The admission examinations for doctoral studies at the doctoral schools of IOSUD-UB are based on academic performance, research and professional criteria of the candidates according to the specificities of the doctoral field and the specificities of the research direction of the doctoral schools.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion B.2. Content of doctoral degree programmes

Standard B.2.1. The advanced undergraduate-based training programme is adequate to improve the research skills of doctoral students and to strengthen ethical behavior in science.

The doctoral degree programmes at IOSUD-UB are carried out in compliance with the following principles: quality professional training of doctoral students; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; academic autonomy, exercised with responsibility; quality assurance of doctoral studies and continuous performance evaluation based on results; ensuring the coherence of the doctoral degree programme at national and European level; transparency regarding information on the organization, funding and results of the doctoral degree programme.

Improving PhD students' research skills and strengthening their ethical behavior in science are mapped through the advanced undergraduate-based training programme. At IOSUD-UB, the training of doctoral students is based on a curriculum, comprising two components: an advanced undergraduate programme and an individual scientific research programme.

Performance Indicator B.2.1.1. The advanced degree-based training programme includes a minimum of 3 disciplines relevant to the scientific research training of doctoral students, of which at least one discipline is devoted to the in-depth study of research methodology and/or statistical data processing.

According to the proposed curriculum (Table 4), the subject "Quantitative Methods for Scientific Research in Public Administration" meets the requirement expressed in the standard.

Table 4. Curriculum

Training programme based on advanced university studies	Sem.	Course hours	Seminar hours	Headlines
Theories, authors and schools of thought in administrative and organisational sciences	I	2/week	2/ sept.	Prof. Dr. Paul Dragoş Aligică
Public policy analysis	I	1/ Sept.	2/week.	Prof. Dr. Liviu Andreescu
Political economy	II	2/week	2/week.	Prof. Dr. Călin Vâlsan
Quantitative methods for scientific research in public administration	II	2/week	2/week.	Prof. Dr. Elena Druică

The other disciplines also contribute to an enriched understanding of the field of doctoral studies. For example, the discipline of *Public Policy Analysis* contributes to an understanding of how public policy design is carried out, what are the stages of its realization and on the basis of which tools can ensure its correct evaluation.

The indicator is met.

Performance Indicator B.2.1.2 There is at least one subject devoted to ethics in scientific research and intellectual property or well-defined topics on these subjects in a discipline taught in the training programme.

In 2017 the University of Bucharest implemented the project CNFIS-FDI-2017-0245 "Promoting academic ethics and deontology in the University of Bucharest", dedicated to first year students in the Master and PhD cycles. In the framework of this project, several useful documents were developed to address issues related to ethics in scientific research, which are available both for UB students (including PhD students) and for other interested people.

Starting from the academic year 2018-2019, the subject of Ethics and Academic Integrity has a compulsory status in all the curricula of doctoral studies.

In the planned curriculum developed for the accreditation of Administrative Sciences, all subjects include topics related to scientific ethics.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator B.2.1.3. IOSUD has mechanisms in place to ensure that the advanced degree-based training programme related to the assessed field addresses "learning outcomes" by specifying the knowledge, skills and responsibility and autonomy that doctoral students should acquire after completing each discipline or



through research activities².

Within IOSUD-UB, mechanisms are in place through the doctoral school that target 'learning outcomes', from exam-based verification and oral presentations, to academic writing of papers and communications at conferences and workshops - targeting 'learning outcomes'. In addition, the subject sheets corresponding to the subjects in the Study Plan cover the knowledge, skills, degree of responsibility and autonomy acquired, in accordance with the 8th level of studies according to the provisions of the National Qualifications Framework, the international provisions and the European Qualifications Framework.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Area C. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

IOSUD provides the institutional framework and applies relevant policies and procedures for internal quality assurance, ensuring transparency of information and accessibility to learning resources.

Criterion C.1. Existence and regular operation of the internal quality assurance system

Standard C.1.1 The institutional framework is in place and relevant internal quality assurance policies and procedures are in place.

In the field of quality management, the University of Bucharest starts from the idea that higher education of excellence is a permanent reflection on the value dimension of thinking, research, knowledge and training of young people.

Quality management is integrated into the work of departments, along with student participation in teacher evaluation and peer review of scientific work.

The institution has put in place the structures and mechanisms necessary to implement quality assurance policies at all levels.

IOSUD-UB has developed and regularly applies a procedure for internal evaluation and monitoring of the activities of the doctoral schools, among the criteria evaluated being mandatory:

- (a) the scientific activity of the doctoral supervisors;
- (b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;
- (c) the regulations and procedures on the basis of which doctoral studies are organized;
- (d) social and academic support (including participation in various events, publication of articles, etc.) and counselling services available to doctoral students.

The objectives pursued by the University of Bucharest in the field of quality management of doctoral studies are contained in the ***Methodology on monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of doctoral studies of the University of Bucharest.***

² Or by what the graduate must know, understand and be able to do, in accordance with the provisions of the Methodology for the registration and recording of higher education qualifications in the National Register of Higher Education Qualifications (RNCIS), approved by Order of the Minister of National Education 3.475/2017, as amended and supplemented.



Performance indicator C.1.1.1. The doctoral school to which the doctoral programme belongs demonstrates that it is constantly carrying out its internal quality assessment and assurance process in accordance with a procedure developed and applied at IOSUD level, including mandatory evaluation criteria:

- a) the scientific activity of the doctoral supervisors;
- (b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary to carry out the research activity;
- c) the regulations and procedures on the basis of which doctoral studies are organized;
- d) the scientific activity of doctoral students;
- (e) the advanced degree-based training programme for doctoral students;
- f) social and academic support services (including participation in various events, publication of articles, etc.) and counselling services available to doctoral students.

Specific to doctoral studies, is the direct involvement in the internal quality assurance processes of the **Council of Doctoral Studies** as well as the **Councils of Doctoral Schools**.

According to *the Methodology on monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of doctoral studies*, the coordination of monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance activities in doctoral schools is the responsibility of the CSUD, which adopts the necessary measures to ensure the quality of doctoral studies, for the proper conduct of periodic evaluations of doctoral schools and doctoral supervisors, for the respect of ethical and deontological rules by doctoral supervisors and doctoral students (art. 5).

Monitoring is carried out at institutional level by the *annual report of the Evaluation and Quality Assurance Commission (CEAC)* of the University of Bucharest (provides data, information, analysis on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies) and periodically, but no later than 5 years, by the CSUD which carries out an internal evaluation at the level of all doctoral schools which is finalized by a *Report on the activity of the University of Bucharest as IOSUD*.

The strategic plan of the University of Bucharest (2020-2023) proposes in terms of Quality Management:

Long-term:

- Creating an effective quality management system that is institutionally useful and representative for Romanian higher education;
- Planning, organization and control of the system;
- Promote a feedback culture.

In the medium and short term:

- Strengthening institutional culture;
- Strengthening quality culture;
- Ensuring dialogue at institutional level;
- Exchange of best practices at *Universitaria Consortium* level;
- Update self-assessment/evaluation procedures;
- Updating the methodology for evaluating teaching staff;
- Adapting the methodology for evaluating administrative structures;
- Training students in continuous quality improvement processes;



- Extend the implementation of management control standards.

Specific structures and activities for the implementation of the quality management strategy in the University of Bucharest:

The Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission of the University of Bucharest is the structure responsible for developing and implementing a quality management system in the University of Bucharest.

The Commission's mission is to review and coordinate quality assurance activity and to promote and strengthen a quality culture in the University through collaboration with specialist experts.

The Commission also formulates, reviews and coordinates the application of quality assessment and quality assurance procedures, analyses the quality status of processes carried out at institutional level and proposes measures to improve them.

The Evaluation and Quality Assurance Committee has the following tasks:

- promotion of good practice and benchmarking in the field of quality;
- the preparation of the annual quality assessment report;
- uniform interpretation of quality indicators;

- the implementation of specific activities aimed at promoting and strengthening the quality culture at institutional level.

The Quality Management Department (QMD) is the executive, support and advisory structure of the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Commission and similar commissions at faculty level for the implementation and development of a quality management system in the University of Bucharest.

The Department, through the Office of Standards and Managerial Control, provides methodological guidance and consultancy in the field of internal/managerial control at the University of Bucharest and supports the management of the University of Bucharest in the implementation of internal/managerial control policies.

The core activities of the department include the following:

- implementation of the University of Bucharest strategy on quality assessment and assurance,
- drafting and updating specific quality assurance procedures at the level of the institution;
- providing logistical support for the evaluation of the state of implementation and functioning of the internal/managerial control system within the University of Bucharest.

Another structure with attributions in the field of quality is the Curriculum Development Service (SDC) which, through the structures it coordinates, is involved in managing the processes of modernization and adaptation of the educational offer within the University of Bucharest, for the undergraduate and master degree programs. The structure is also involved in the activity of correlation and monitoring of the reports in the central information systems for the management of the educational path of students and study programmes.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator* C.1.1.2 During the doctoral training period, evaluation



mechanisms are implemented to identify the needs as well as the overall level of satisfaction of doctoral students with the doctoral programme in order to continuously improve the academic and administrative processes. Following the analysis of the results obtained, a plan of measures is developed and implemented.

The UB Statistics Office conducts analyses of both the career trajectory of graduates at different time intervals since graduation and the satisfaction of students and teaching staff. Analyses are carried out by degree cycle, field, programme and cover many aspects of the academic life of graduates. In the latest report *Student, faculty and alumni experiences and perceptions - academic year 2021-2022*, available [here](#), students rate various aspects of university life, such as their evaluation of student services, access to library resources, involvement in decision-making or overall satisfaction with the faculty. Thus, the results published in the 2022 report indicate that around 62% of students say they are very satisfied or rather satisfied with their university.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Criterion C.2. Transparency of information and accessibility of learning resources
IOSUD ensures accessibility to information of interest to doctoral students by publishing it on the institution's website.

The methodologies and procedures for the organization and conduct of the admission competitions are public, and information of interest to candidates, doctoral students and graduates is available on the [webpage](#) dedicated to doctoral studies. The published information complies with the general regulations on data protection and free access to information.

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

Performance Indicator C.2.1.1 IOSUD publishes on the website of the higher education institution, in compliance with the applicable data protection regulations, information such as:

- a) the regulations of the doctoral school;
- b) the admission regulations;
- c) the doctoral studies contract;
- d) the regulations for the completion of studies, including the procedure for the public defense of the thesis;
- (e) the content of training programmes based on advanced university studies;
- f) the academic and scientific profile, thematic areas/research themes of the PhD supervisors in the field, as well as their institutional contact details;
- g) list of PhD students in the field with basic information (year of registration, supervisor);
- h) information about the standards for the elaboration of the doctoral thesis;
- i) links to abstracts of doctoral theses to be publicly defended, as well as the date, time



and place where they will be defended, at least 20 days before the defense.

IOSUD-UB ensures the transparency of information of public interest, through access to the necessary data and information in both electronic and printed form. Thus, the most visible tools through which UB provides access to information are the institutional website, accessible in both Romanian and English, and its associated pages, such as the pages dedicated to admissions, doctoral studies or the page of the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB).

IOSUD-UB publishes the following on the website of the higher education institution:

- IOSUD/doctoral school regulations;
- admission methodology;
- doctoral studies contract - doctoral studies web page - study contracts section;
- the regulations for the completion of studies, including the procedure for the public defence of the thesis;
- the content of training programmes based on advanced university studies; the academic and scientific profile, the thematic areas/research themes of the doctoral supervisors in the doctoral school and their institutional contact details;
- List of doctoral students in the doctoral school with basic information (year of registration, supervisor)
- information on the standards for writing a doctoral thesis - - doctoral studies section - legislation;
- information on opportunities for doctoral students to participate in conferences, publish articles, receive scholarships, etc. - doctoral studies section - individual scientific research programme;
- links to abstracts of doctoral theses to be publicly defended, as well as the date, time, location where they will be defended, at least 20 days before the defense.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Standard C.2.2. The IOSUD/PhD school provides access to resources for doctoral students to conduct their doctoral studies.

IOSUD-UB ensures transparency of information and accessibility to learning resources for doctoral students. As documentation is a core activity for the PhD cycle, UB offers PhD students access to the book and periodical collection of the Central University Library and its branches, as well as access to large databases through the Anelis Plus project.

Performance Indicator C.2.2.1 All doctoral students have free access to a platform with academic databases relevant to the field of doctoral studies under review.

All PhD students will have free access to a platform with academic databases relevant to the fields of the PhD studies organized.

The University of Bucharest, as an institution organizing doctoral studies, has contracted and implemented, since 2013, services that ensure access for all doctoral



students to electronic scientific resources relevant to each of the fields of doctoral studies they are pursuing. Through the ANELIS Plus programme, doctoral students benefit from free access to a platform with academic databases essential for carrying out research.

The free access of PhD students to the scientific literature available in ANELIS Plus is done in two ways: direct access, IP-based (the online databases can be accessed from any computer in the University of Bucharest by accessing the link www.anelisplus.ro) or permanent mobile access (the online databases can be consulted from computers outside the University of Bucharest based on account and password; at the request of each doctoral school and based on nominal lists of doctoral students). The IT&C Department of the University of Bucharest generates annually, and whenever new requests arise, institutional addresses for all registered PhD students, addresses on the basis of which each PhD student can create an institutional profile on the E-nformation portal (www.e-nformation.ro) and can access the electronic resources made available through ANELIS Plus from anywhere, from any computer, without being conditioned to use one within the University. Recently, accessibility to research resources has increased significantly as the E-nformation portal offers PhD students the possibility to use electronic resources also from their mobile phone, by installing the myEnf application, which allows access to the resources subscribed to by the University of Bucharest. The app is available on Android and IOS, and authentication is done using the username and password of the account on www.e-nformation.ro.

The representation of the fields of doctoral studies organized by the University of Bucharest is ensured by providing access for doctoral students to both general and integrative databases. The complete list of electronic resources to which the University of Bucharest currently subscribes includes the following databases: American Chemical Society, CEEOL, Cambridge Journals, Emerald Management Journals 200, JSTOR, MathSciNet, Nature Journals, PROQUEST Central, SAGE HSS Collection, ScienceDirect Freedom Collection - Elsevier, Scopus - Elsevier, SpringerLink Journals - Springer, Web of Science - Core Collection, InCites Journal Citation Reports, Derwent Innovations Index - Clarivate Analytics, Wiley Journals.

The libraries of the faculties of the University of Bucharest through the Central University Library "Carol I" provide all its students, including doctoral students, access to multidisciplinary and specialized full-text scientific, bibliographic and bibliometric databases, full-text articles, electronic books (ebooks), databases (ANELIS PLUS).

The indicator is met.

Performance Indicator C.2.2.2 Each doctoral student has access, on request, to an electronic system for checking the degree of similarity with other existing scientific or artistic creations.

First year PhD students have the opportunity to become familiar with the operation of electronic text similarity checking programs in the discipline of Ethics and Academic Integrity. Doctoral students can access one of the electronic similarity checking systems used by the University of Bucharest under the conditions of the



procedure on the use of the electronic similarity checking system by doctoral students (section on doctoral studies - procedure on electronic preventive anti-plagiarism checking of doctoral theses).

Within the Doctoral School, PhD supervisors and PhD students have access to preventive control of manuscripts written by PhD students during their doctoral studies through the similarity detection program provided by IOSUD-UB. Doctoral students can benefit from the evaluation of the similarity of their own texts with other texts, with the agreement of the PhD supervisor, by requesting the supervisor to evaluate the thesis through the Turnitin program, according to the ŞDS Regulation and according to the procedure for the use of the electronic system for the verification of the degree of similarity by doctoral students, within the University of Bucharest.

The indicator is fulfilled.

Performance Indicator C.2.2.3 All doctoral students have access to scientific research laboratories or other facilities according to the specific field(s) within the doctoral school, according to internal regulations.

Each doctoral school operates within a faculty, and its doctoral students have access, on the basis of a badge, to the libraries, reading rooms, laboratories, computer rooms of the faculty, according to the provisions of the study contracts and the legislation in force concerning the tuition of all students enrolled at IOSUD-UB.

UB doctoral students have unrestricted access to UB scientific research laboratories and other facilities, in accordance with university regulations, and the faculty is considering getting involved in projects to equip and develop the research infrastructure. An example of this is the project "Digital Ecosystem for Sustainable Learning at the University of Bucharest - EDIS-UB" which aims both to equip 16 laboratories at the UB, including one for the Faculty of Business and Administration, and to develop the digital skills of the university community. The project aims at "developing an infrastructural core of the most performing UB laboratories", by equipping them with applications, tools, servers, software specific to the university's fields that doctoral students can access, while encouraging the development of multidisciplinary research teams.

The indicator is fulfilled.



Recommendations:

- Concentration of research activities, carried out at the highest quality standards, connected with the field of Administrative Sciences;
- Establishment and strengthening of a series of sustainable international connections at research level, linking with programmes in similar fields that enjoy recognition, participation in international reference conferences, as well as linking with major international professional associations (NISPAcee, EGPA, ASPA, NASPAA, etc.);
- Constant connection with other schools of public administration in the country and abroad to increase the quality of research as well as the development of other activities relevant to the educational processes of the Doctoral Schools;
- Continuous use of digital tools and solutions, both in research processes and teaching activities within the Doctoral School, emphasizing the adoption of new technologies;
- Paying special attention to the relationship with doctoral students, especially in terms of developing their various skills necessary for their academic and professional progress, including through their involvement in the activities of the Doctoral School, through international networking (e.g. supporting study/research mobility abroad);
- Establishment of framework contracts at institutional level with public or private institutions, relevant to the field of the Doctoral School, allowing the coherent development of internships and training for students, free access to information and data collection necessary for carrying out research and developing capacities to support the good functioning of public institutions in Romania.