

Reference documents:

Higher Education Act No. 199/2023

Order 3020/2024 regarding the approval of Framework Regulation on doctoral studies

MEC Order No. 4091 of 8 June 2026 amending the Framework Regulation on Doctoral University Studies, approved by Ministry of Education Order No. 3020/2024.

Ministry of Education and Research Order (OMEC) No. 3741/2025 – Methodology for the Review of the Administrative Procedure Conducted by Doctoral Higher Education Institutions for the Award of the Doctoral Degree.

MEC Order No. 4092 of 8 June 2026 amending the Methodology for the Review of the Administrative Procedure Conducted by Doctoral Higher Education Institutions for the Award of the Doctoral Degree, approved by Ministry of Education and Research Order No. 3741/2025.

Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended in 2011.

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ETS No. 157, 1995), ratified in 1998.

Government Emergency Ordinance No. 54/2017 of 4 August 2017.

Ministry of National Education Order No. 5110 of 17 September 2018 approving the National Minimum Standards for the Award of the Doctoral Degree.

IOSUD REGULATION FOR CONDUCTING DOCTORAL STUDIES

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Chapter I. General provisions

Art. 1.

This Regulation on doctoral studies, hereinafter referred to as the Regulation, constitutes the legal framework which regulates the organizing and conducting the university doctoral study programs in the "George Emil Palade" University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology of Târgu Mureș (G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș).

Art. 2.

In the meaning of this regulation, the terms and expressions below have the following meanings:

- a. *university doctoral studies* - the third cycle of university studies which allows the endowment of a qualification of level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Framework of qualifications (CNC);
- b. *doctoral study programme* - all activities in which the doctoral student is involved, relevant from the point of view of doctoral university studies; programs including all design, organization, teaching, management activities and the effective delivery of learning, practical application, research and evaluation leading to university qualification level 8 of EQF and CNC;
- c. *the field of doctoral university studies* - the field that can be found as such in the Nomenclature of fields and of university study programs, annually established by Government decision;
- d. *the institution organizing university doctoral studies (IOSUD)* - the higher education institution – G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mures, which acquired legal right to organize university doctoral programs;
- e. *the Council for University Doctoral Studies (CSUD)* - the organizational and administrative structure established within the IOSUD, responsible for the IOSUD strategy, the elaboration and application of the own regulation regarding university doctoral studies;
- f. *the doctoral school (SD)* - the organizational and administrative structure established within IOSUD which provides the necessary support for conducting doctoral studies in a certain discipline or disciplinary/ interdisciplinary topic;
- g. *doctoral student* - student enrolled in the doctoral study programme;
- h. *doctoral supervisor* - the person who obtained the right to conduct the doctorate prior to the date of entry into force of the Higher Education Act no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and additions, as well as persons who obtain the habilitation certificate and becomes members of a doctoral school within an IOSUD, based on individual employment contract;
- i. *the university doctoral studies contract* - the contract object is to carrying out of specific activities of the study program, regulating the relations between IOSUD, the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, specifying the rights and obligations of the signatory parties, in accordance with the legislation in force, and the provisions University Charta and the decisions of the Senate of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș;
- j. *supplementary act* - the document by which changes/completions are made to the doctoral studies contract;
- k. *academic mobility* - the right of doctoral students, in the conditions of the law, to recognize their acquired transferable credits at other higher education institutions in the country or abroad. Mobility can be internal or international, physical, virtual or mixed, definitive or temporary, for all types of education;
- l. *doctoral thesis* - the original scientific paper elaborated by the doctoral student within the doctoral studies, legal condition for obtaining the title of doctor in sciences;
- m. *doctor's diploma* - the certificate of studies issued by IOSUD after completing all related legal procedures of the doctorate university study program;
- n. *doctoral school council (CȘD)* - management structure of the doctoral school;
- o. *co-author of a publication* - any person nominated in the list of authors of a scientific publication;
- p. *creating of results or data* - reporting results or fictitious data, which are not the real result of a research and development activities;



- q. *falsification of results or data* - selective reporting or rejection of unwanted data or results, manipulation of presentations or illustrations, alteration of the experimental or numerical apparatus to obtain the desired data, without reporting the alterations, in order to distort the scientific truth;
- r. *plagiarism* - presentation as a supposedly personal scientific creation or contribution in a written work, including in electronic format, of some texts, ideas, demonstrations, data, theories, results or scientific methods taken from the works written, including in electronic format, by other authors, without mentioning this and without referring to the original sources;
- s. *self-plagiarism* - republication of substantial parts of own previous publications, including translations, without properly indicate or cite the original.

Chapter II. Organizing and conducting university PhD studies

Art. 3.

Doctoral studies, the third cycle of university studies, the aim is to develop competent human resources in scientific research, capable for accessing the highly qualified labour market. They include the training for research, development and innovation and constitute a professional experience of research, after defence of the doctoral thesis and validation of the procedure, completed with a doctoral degree diploma.

Art. 4.

Doctoral studies shall be organised and conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.

Art. 5.

With the application of this Regulation provisions is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- a to establish a reference framework at the level of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș for the organisational practices of doctoral study programmes;
- b to guarantee quality in organizing and conducting of doctoral study programmes with the promotion of procedures and principles specific to G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș

Art. 6.

- (1) This regulation shall be applied to all doctoral university study programs organized by IOSUD, included the university doctoral study programs carried out within the framework of international university cooperation, under a co-guardianship regime, based on the written agreement between G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș and the other institutions, as well as those jointly organized by G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș with other integrated higher education institutions and in consortia for dual education, including in IOSUD made through university consortia, formed by higher educational institutions and hospitals, clinics or research institutes in the country or abroad.
- (2) G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș may organize, jointly with other accredited higher education institutions in the European Space of higher education, integrated doctorate study programs, completed with a common diploma, or double or multiple diplomas, recognized by the country of origin, in accordance with the framework methodology adopted with Minister of Education order.
- (3) G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș, under the conditions in which integrated study programs are organized, completed with a joint diploma or with a diploma double or multiple, under the conditions of paragraph (2), establishes its own regulation for their organization and operation, approved by the university Senate.

Art. 7.

- (1) University doctoral study programs can be organized in the doctoral schools within IOSUD- G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș and there are two types:
 - a) *scientific doctorate*, which aims to produce original, international relevant scientific knowledge, based on scientific methods, organized only in full-time education. This can also be done with fee regime, in the conditions of the provisions of art. 9 para. (11). The scientific doctorate is a condition for the professional



- career in higher education and research;
- b) *professional doctorate*, in the fields of arts, sports, military sciences, (if it is/will be the case), and for dual university education, which aims to produce original knowledge based on the application of the scientific method, systematic reflection or applied research on some artistic creations, on some performances high-level national and international sports or on some topics of practical importance, which constitute a basis for a professional career in higher education and in research, in the targeted fields.
- (2) Dual higher education studies is organized for the third cycle through a professional doctorate according to a separate regulation.
- (3) The cycle of doctoral studies in dual regime is the form of education in which the responsibilities regarding the implementation of learning, teaching, application, research and evaluation activities are shared between IOSUD and the economic operators.
- (4) IOSUD organizes and carries out learning, teaching and evaluation activities, and the economic operators organize work-based learning activities and they participate in the evaluation. Application and research activities can take place both at IOSUD, as well as at the economic operators.
- (5) IOSUD concludes the partnership agreement with the economic operators, through which are established the conditions of collaboration, the rights and obligations of the parties, as well as the costs assumed by each partner.
- (6) The PhD. student concludes an individual study and training, practice/research agreement with IOSUD and the economic operator, through which are established the rights and obligations of the parties.
- (7) Competences acquired following the promotion of doctoral university studies are those related to the level 8 qualification from EQF/CEC and CNC.
- (8) University doctoral study programs ensure the formation of professional (content, cognitive and research) skills in specialized fields, as well as transversal skills.
- (9) For the purposes of this regulation, the following specific skills are qualified as professional skills of the domain:
- a) advanced knowledge in the field;
 - b) the ability to identify, formulate and solve research problems in a creative way;
 - c) to dominate advanced research methods and techniques;
 - d) knowledge regarding the management of research projects;
 - e) dominate of new procedures and solutions in research;
 - f) documentation skills and valorization of scientific works;
 - g) ability to write scientific papers and other academic materials at an advanced level, in an appropriate style the field of study and respecting its specific rigors at the national and international level;
 - h) the ability to process and process data at an advanced level, including through the use of dedicated software, depending on the function of domain;
 - i) linguistic skills at an academic level in languages of international circulation necessary for the documentation and elaboration of scientific works;
 - j) understanding and the ability to apply the principles and values of scientific research ethics in the respective field.
- (10) For the purposes of this regulation, the following are considered transversal competences:
- a) written and oral communication skills, in the field of science and culture;
 - b) advanced linguistic skills in English language, including to express and to formulate ideas in multicultural and multilingual contexts;
 - c) advanced digital skills and competences, part of the digital transformation at the social level, including through use artificial intelligence;
 - d) interpersonal and teamwork skills;
 - e) knowledge of human, material and financial resource management;



- f) knowledge regarding career management, as well as the acquisition of techniques regarding the search for a job and creating jobs for others;
- g) knowledge regarding risk, crisis and failure management;
- h) knowledge regarding critical thinking, including the ability to analyze, interpret or formulate reasonings in different context;
- i) knowledge in the use of legislation in the intellectual property rights field;
- j) the ability to innovate and the acquisition of concepts regarding economic, technological and social entrepreneurship.

Art. 8.

- (1) Scientific university doctorate study programs are full-time education.
- (2) Professional university doctorate study programs can be organized, usual, in full-time education.
- (3) Exception to the provisions of para. (2), university doctoral study programs can also be organized as part-time education.
- (4) The obligations regarding attendance and reduced attendance are established by each doctoral school, with the approval of the Administration Board.
- (5) The candidate for professional university doctorate studies can opt at the enrollment in the admissions competition for one of the types of education, full-time, budgeted scholarship, budget, funded fee and fee.

Chapter III. Financing university doctoral studies

Art. 9.

- (1) The university doctoral studies are organized with funds from the state budget, in a tax regime or from other legally constituted sources. Depending on his institutional strategy G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș can allocate places financed with own resources.
- (2) Based on a contract with IOSUD, the doctoral studies can be funded by private legal entities, or research and development institutes.
- (3) Private law legal entities may propose relevant research topics to IOSUD doctoral supervisors in their area of interest and for which they will provide additional funding. At the proposal of the doctorate supervisors, IOSUD can conclude agreements with those private law legal entities through which they establish the rights and obligations of the parties.
- (4) Grants related to university doctoral studies shall include the number of individual scholarships in the full-time education and will not include the number of individual scholarships in the part-time education.
- (5) IOSUD establishes the way in which the financed places and doctoral scholarships are distributed to doctoral schools, the minimum percentage of the doctoral grant allocated exclusively to the financing of the professional training of the doctoral students and proposes to the Administrative Board for approval.
- (6) IOSUD will allocate at least 20% of the funds on doctoral grants for the research activities carried out by the doctoral students, which includes their national and international mobility.
- (7) The payment for the doctoral student is carried out according the law, without excluding other forms of remuneration provided by the legal provisions in force.
- (8) A person can benefit for a single university doctoral study program financed from the budget.
- (9) Persons who have the appropriate financial resources, either from their own sources or from scholarships granted by natural or legal persons, may be admitted as doctoral student with a fee, under the conditions of this regulation.
- (10) IOSUD and the doctoral supervisor shall use the funds of the doctoral grants for the related activities to the doctoral studies programme for the doctoral students for which the funds were allocated, based on a note justifying the expenses, related with the research topic according to the working procedures in force.



- (11) The doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student has the obligation to submit to the CSD, once a year, a support note which describes how the funds from the doctoral grant were used.
- (12) It is prohibited to use the funds allocated through doctoral grants to a doctoral student position, or parts of them, to support the activities of a doctoral student on another position. For requests received from doctoral students, are accepted in the case of related research topics, related or interdisciplinary research topics, can also be done by accumulating the research funds allocated to several doctoral students, with related topics, within the previously established limit by the Administrative Board.

Chapter IV. IOSUD, the doctoral school, the contract for doctoral studies and the doctoral supervisor

Art. 10.

- (1) IOSUD will concern permanently itself with increasing the quality of the educational and research experience of its PhD students, by creating many facilities as possible for personal and professional development, by ensuring the conditions for study and research in foreign languages and the increase in the number of international mobilities of doctoral students, thus so that at least 20% of doctoral students to carry out a training internship abroad or another kind of mobility.
- (2) IOSUD has the obligation to develop partnerships with prestigious higher education institutions from abroad, as well as to ensure institutional support for the realize international mobilities of doctoral students and of doctoral supervisors.
- (3) IOSUD is responsible for recognizing internships approved by the subordinated doctoral schools and which were carried out by doctoral students in internal and international mobilities.
- (4) IOSUD can conclude partnerships for the development of university doctoral study programs with other institutions of higher education and/or with research and development units or with private legal entities.
- (5) IOSUD provides institutional, administrative and logistical support to the subordinated doctoral schools.
- (6) IOSUD has includes at the level of doctoral schools and within its own institutional framework, specific structures for management and for administration of the programs of university doctoral studies. These structures operates according to the law and this regulation.
- (7) IOSUD develops and implements a mechanism in order to increase the retention of doctoral students in the university environment, including the support of doctoral students from disadvantaged social-economic backgrounds, without eliminate the academic criteria and merits.
- (8) IOSUD, in collaboration with the Center for Career Counselling and Guidance or other structures at IOSUD level, as appropriate, organizes specific activities dedicated to doctoral students: counselling regarding participation in academic/research events; periodic courses on academic writing, academic integrity, scientific communication; counselling and support in the administrative area, as well as other activities in support of doctoral students.

Art. 11.

- (1) The doctoral training activity is coordinated by the CSUD at the IOSUD level.
- (2) CSUD operates according of the Higher Education Act no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and additions of he provisions of the Framework Regulation for the Organization of Doctoral Studies and the present regulation of IOSUD.
- (3) The main attributions of the CSUD are:
 - a) establishing the IOSUD strategy;
 - b) at the IOSUD level, the development of the own regulations for the organization and development university of doctoral study programs;
 - c) formulating proposals for the establishment and dissolution of IOSUD doctoral schools;
 - d) the selection of doctoral supervisors who are part of a newly established doctoral school;



- e) elaboration of the requirements for writing doctoral theses;
 - f) development of applicable standards of ethics and deontology during doctoral studies;
 - g) other specific attributions, established by IOSUD's own regulation, according to the law.
- (4) The CSUD is headed by a director, which is ex officio member of the CSUD. The function of CSUD director is equated to the position of vice-rector.
- (5) The director of CSUD is appointed after a public competition organized by the legal representative of IOSUD.
- (6) The methodology for conducting the public competition must comply with the provisions of this regulation and is approved by the university Senate.
- (7) The announcement regarding the organization of the competition is published at least two months before the fixed deadline for registration of candidates.
- (8) The announcement is published at least in the following ways:
- a) in a visible place, on the main page of the IOSUD website;
 - b) on the website of the Ministry of Education and Research;
 - c) in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part III.
- (9) For the job of Director of the CSUD, can attend only persons who supervise doctorates and meet the minimum and mandatory standards for granting the habilitation certificate on the date of publication in the Official Monitor of Romania, Part III of the announcement regarding the announcement of the job.
- (10) The competition committee consists of 5 members, of which at least 3 must be from outside IOSUD - G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș, from the country or abroad. The competition commission is appointed by Decision of the rector.
- (11) At least one member of the competition committee has an employment contract concluded with a higher education institution or research from abroad, recognized as such by the Ministry of Education and Research.
- (12) The members of the competition committee must have the right to conduct doctorates, in the country or abroad, and to meet the minimum and mandatory standards for granting the qualification certificate in force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part III of the announcement regarding the competition for the position.
- (13) Based on the decision of the competition commission, the legal representative of IOSUD concludes a contract with the designated person for a period of 5 years.
- (14) CSUD consists of 17 members.
- (15) The mandate of CSUD members is 5 years.
- (16) CSUD has as members:
- a) doctoral supervisors from IOSUD, from the country or from abroad - 12 members of which 10 elected members by vote and 2 members appointed by the Administrative Board.
 - b) representatives of doctoral students from IOSUD doctoral schools, in 25% - 5 members (3 PhD. students from the doctoral schools of Medicine and Pharmacy and 2 PhD. students from the Doctoral School of Letters, Humanities and Applied Sciences).
- (17) The CSUD may have as members scientific personalities or other personalities from the relevant industrial and socio-economic sectors.
- (18) CSUD members who are university professors or researchers must have the right to supervise doctorates, in the country or abroad, and to meet the minimum and mandatory standards for granting the certificate of authorization in force on the date of their designation as member of the CSUD.
- (19) Doctoral schools at the level of doctoral supervisors are represented in CSUD through quotas established as it follows:
- a) Doctoral School of Medicine and Pharmacy (Târgu Mureș) - 8 members;
 - b) Doctoral School of Letters, Humanities and Applied Sciences (Târgu Mureș) - 3 members;
 - c) Doctoral School of Medicine (Hamburg) - 1 member
- (20) CSU members, with the exception of those nominated by the Administration Board, are elected by universal,



direct, secret and equal suffrage of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students within the doctoral schools of IOSUD.

- (21) The status of Phd. student representative in CSUD in the doctoral school council, hereinafter referred to as CȘD, or in other representation structures at the level of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș cannot be conditioned not in even one way, except for the fulfillment of the obligations provided in art. 18 para. (1). The interventions of the teaching staff in the process of choosing doctoral students constitute a disciplinary offense and is sanctioned according to the provisions of art. 175 of the Higher Education Act no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and additions.
- (22) Doctoral students who are members of CSUD, and they complete their PhD. studies during the mandate in the council, shall lose their status as a member of the council on the date of their public defense of the doctoral thesis.
- (23) CSUD will meet monthly or whenever necessary, at the request of the director of CSUD or at least one third of its members. Meetings and voting can take place in physical or electronic format. The working quorum is at least 8 members. The rector can participate as a guest in CSUD meetings.

Art. 12.

- (1) The general framework for the organization and operation of the doctoral schools is established by this IOSUD own regulation.
- (2) The following doctoral schools operates within IOSUD:
 - a) Doctoral School of Medicine and Pharmacy (Târgu Mureș);
 - b) Doctoral School of Letters, Humanities and Applied Sciences (Târgu Mureș);
 - c) Doctoral School of Medicine (Hamburg).
- (3) The establishment and dissolution of doctoral schools is proposed by the CSUD and approved by the university Senate, after the favorable approval of the Administrative Board.
- (4) The doctoral school ensures the improvement and expansion of training the doctoral students through teaching activities, seminarization, evaluation, scientific research, technological development, design and artistic creation, according to the specific doctoral fields in which the study programs are organized.
- (5) In the structure of IOSUD, a doctoral school has an equal rank to that of a department. Doctoral school is managed by the director of the doctoral school and the CDS. The director of the doctoral school is assimilated to the head of department. The CDS is assimilated to the department council. The director of the doctoral school is legal member of the CDS.
- (6) The director of the doctoral school performs the management and operative management of the doctoral school. It is responsible for development and implementation of educational plans, job descriptions, research and quality management and supports the management of IOSUD in the financial management activity of the doctoral school. In exercising this function, he is assisted by the CDS.
- (7) The positions lists are drawn up at the departments or doctoral schools, by consulting their members, and is approved by the faculty council or, as the case may be, by the doctoral school council, respectively by the G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș rector and by the university Senate.
- (8) The list of positions of the doctoral school includes all doctoral supervisor positions needed for its operation and all doctoral student positions coordinated by doctoral supervisors. Minimum number of doctoral supervisors and doctoral student positions are calculated according to the number of fields in which the respective doctoral school organizes university doctoral study programs.
- (9) The number of positions for auxiliary teaching staff and for administrative staff is determined at the rector's proposal by the university Senate, and depends on the budget, the specific of the doctoral school and depends on the technical-administrative structure.
- (10) Doctoral students enrolled in the following forms of study: state-funded with scholarship, state-funded without scholarship, or tuition-paying students whose tuition is funded by UMFST, are required to complete 240 hours of teaching activities per academic year (clinical placements, laboratory classes, practical classes, seminars, and other



teaching-related activities, such as supervising students during the teaching and assessment process) in the specialty assigned by the doctoral supervisor, taking into account the doctoral student's academic background or, where appropriate, within related academic disciplines.

The allocation of teaching hours shall be made upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, specifying the teaching module, the number of hours, and the vacant teaching position within which the teaching activities will be carried out. If the number of vacant teaching hours is insufficient to cover the mandatory 168 hours, the Doctoral School Secretariat, together with the Faculty Dean's Office, shall allocate the remaining teaching activities.

For doctoral students whose doctoral supervisors do not have teaching hours available in the disciplines they coordinate or in related disciplines, the mandatory teaching hours may be fulfilled, in whole or in part, through scientific research activities carried out in the research centres or laboratories of the University Centre for Scientific Research and Technological Development (UCSDT).

At the beginning of each teaching module of the academic year, the UCSDT shall communicate the research activity requirements for the involvement of doctoral students, specifying the laboratories in which such activities are required. Assignments shall be made by the Doctoral School Council (CSD), in consultation with the doctoral supervisor and subject to the approval of the Director of the UCSDT regarding the availability of the laboratories and the proposed research activities.

The performance of research activities (research hours) shall be scheduled according to a clearly established timetable and certified by the laboratory supervisor designated by the UCSDT through an official record (minutes). The completed research hours shall be reported to the Doctoral School Secretariat for recording and accounting purposes.

- (11) Where the exception provided for in Article 211(18) of Law No. 199/2023 applies, the difference up to the minimum teaching workload may be covered by scientific research activities, subject to the approval of the Doctoral School Council (CȘD), upon the proposal of the Director of the Doctoral School and with the approval of the Administrative Council. The reduction of the teaching workload may not exceed one half of the respective teaching workload, and one hour of research activity shall be equivalent to 0.5 standard teaching hours. The academic staff member shall retain the status of a permanent holder of the academic position obtained through competition.
- (12) The research staff can work on separate positions in doctoral schools, based on individual employment contracts for fixed or undetermined period.
- (13) Within a doctoral school, determined by the management of the doctoral school, the research staff of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș can carry out specific activities established in the individual job description.
- (14) The doctoral school is organized and operates with doctoral supervisors who have acquired this right according to the law. A doctoral school can be established only if it includes at least 3 doctoral supervisors for which organizes doctoral university studies.
- (15) The doctoral school establishes minimum standards of scientific performance, the doctoral supervisors must fulfill them in order to become/remain members of the respective doctoral school.
- (16) In addition to doctoral supervisors, a doctoral school may also be affiliated with other research or teaching staff, involved in research and/or teaching activities within the doctoral school, within the partner institutions of IOSUD or within other institutions or research-development units, from the country or from abroad.
- (17) At the doctoral school level, the head of the doctoral school and the members of the CDS are elected by universal suffrage, directly and secretly by the doctoral supervisors, and of the doctoral students from the doctoral school.
- (18) Within the G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș the number of members of the doctoral school council, including the director, is:
 - a) Doctoral School of Medicine and Pharmacy (Târgu Mureș) - 9 members (includes 1 student);
 - b) Doctoral School of Letters, Humanities and Applied Sciences (Târgu Mureș) - 7 members (includes 1 student);
 - c) Doctoral School of Medicine (Hamburg) - 5 members (includes 1 student).
- (19) Doctoral supervisors has the right to be elected as members of the doctoral school council in the doctoral school. The mandate of CȘD members is 5 years.

- (20) CȘD meetings and voting can take place in physical or electronic format. The working quorum is 1/2 plus 1 of the members.
- (21) Doctoral students have at least one representative in the CDS. PhD. Students, members of CȘD, if finish their doctoral studies during the term of the council mandate, will lose their membership on the date of the public defense of their doctoral thesis.
- (22) Doctoral schools offers to doctoral students a training program based on advanced university studies, made up with activities carried out in institutionalized study formations, through courses, seminars, laboratories and others.
- (23) The training program based on advanced university studies includes a discipline of ethics and academic integrity, including ethics of scientific research, mandatory to be completed by all enrolled doctoral students.
- (24) The doctoral school recognizes, according to the IOSUD regulation and under the conditions of the law, the completion of internships, previous doctorate studies and/or scientific research internships, carried out in the country or abroad, in institutions of higher education or in recognized research centers, as well as taking some courses within the programs of research master's university studies.
- (25) In G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș's IOSUD vision, doctoral research must be an integral part of the research ecosystem at European and global level. As such, collaboration with other research institutions is a fundamental element in fulfilling the mission to generate scientific added-value, to avoid the redundancy and waste of resources in research and to increase the relevance of research results. In the vision of IOSUD of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș only through equitable partnerships with prestigious universities, academic communities and research communities can be created networks and maintained to connect these researchers and their ideas with the ultimate purpose of integrating research results into society.
The IOSUD of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Târgu Mureș main priority is the facilitation, support and valorization of academic collaboration based on the independence and academic integrity of all those involved, on the transparent and fair recognition of the contribution of all those involved in collaborative projects.
Supporting of the stimulation of institutional collaboration with prestigious academic entities IOSUD of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Târgu Mureș will recognize and equalize not only the research activity but also the teaching activities carried out by PhD students in partner institutions if these collaborations are carried out with the agreement of IOSUD.
- (26) Doctoral schools can organize research centers or laboratories, functioning as revenue and expenditure units within IOSUD.
- (27) The manner of conducting the university doctoral study program is established by the doctoral supervisor, with consultation of the doctoral student, and approved by the CDS.

Art. 13.

- (1) Based on this regulation, the admitted person at university doctoral study program has the status of full-time doctoral student for the period of his presence in the program: from registration until the completion of the program studies (public defence of his/her thesis) or until expulsion, less, during the periods of interruption of studies, but including possible extensions granted according to the provisions of the study contract.
- (2) The quality of doctoral student maintain even during the period of internal and international mobility. If doctoral students who come to study on international academic mobility on their on own foreign exchange account, the recognition of transferable credits is carried out by IOSUD.
- (3) The recognition of transferable credits, in the case of national and international academic mobilities, can be achieved by IOSUD only for the person who proves the quality of doctoral student with study documents or documents issued by the higher education institution he attended.
- (4) The conditions and the way in which academic mobility is carried out are established through a methodology approved by order of the Minister of Education and Research.
- (5) Following a competition the PhD. students may be employed by IOSUD as research assistants or university



assistants, as the case may be, for a determined period.

- (6) The doctoral student employed as a research assistant may carry out paid teaching activities under the payment / hour, in accordance with the legislation in force.
- (7) Resident doctors have the right to enroll in a university doctorate study program during their residency. Those who fill teaching positions as university assistants through a competition, according to the provisions of para. (5), shall continue the training in residence and they are remunerated for both activities.
- (8) During the university doctoral study program, the doctoral student has the following rights:
- a) to benefit the support, guidance and coordination of the PhD supervisor;
 - b) to participate at the seminars or work meetings of the research-development staff within IOSUD, when topics are relevant to his/her doctoral university studies;
 - c) to be represented in the decision-making forums of the doctoral school, according to the provisions of this regulation;
 - d) to access and use the research infrastructure of IOSUD, including logistics, documentation centers, the libraries (including international databases) and the equipment of the doctoral school and of IOSUD for elaboration of research projects and the doctoral thesis;
 - e) to enroll in the courses and seminars organized by other doctoral schools;
 - f) to work with teams of researchers from IOSUD or from research and development units who concluded agreements or institutional partnerships with IOSUD, there are encouraged and supported initiatives with interdisciplinary character;
 - g) to be integrated into the research project teams within IOSUD, by participating in the process of drafting and submitting funding applications;
 - h) approval of the supervisor and CSD to benefit from national or international mobility;
 - i) to benefit from institutional support to participate at scientific conferences or congresses, workshops, summer or winter schools and national and international seminars in the field in which he chose for his doctoral thesis;
 - j) to participate in the scientific communication sessions organized by the doctoral school and/or by IOSUD;
 - k) to be informed about the curriculum of university doctoral studies within the doctoral school;
 - l) to benefit the support services for students existing at the level of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș, including those for accommodation and canteen.
- (9) The doctoral student has the following obligations:
- a) to respect the timetable established with the doctoral supervisor and to fulfill his support obligations at exams, papers and presentation of research results;
 - b) to support, at his request, at least once every 12 months, a presentation of the progress of his scientific research program in front of the guidance and academic integrity committee and the PhD supervisor; to elaborate and to present 3 scientific reports; the same obligation is maintained for PhD students who obtain mobility to other universities; the presentation of scientific papers takes place on-site, online, or in a hybrid format (with the external member from outside UMFST "G. E. Palade" of Târgu Mureș participating online), and may be recorded by the Doctoral School Secretariat.
 - c) fulfill the minimum standards for:
 - **for the fields of MEDICINE, DENTAL MEDICINE, and PHARMACY**
- Publication as the first author of at least three scientific articles containing results from the thesis, in journals with an impact factor, indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection, included and cited in the content of the doctoral thesis
- a) The articles specified in point 1 must be of the type Original Article or Review.
 - b) At least two of the articles specified in point 1 must be of the type Original Article.

- c At least one article must be published in an ISI journal, indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection, with an impact factor ≥ 1 .

Case Report articles are **not considered for meeting the minimum criteria.*

- for the PHILOLOGY field:

1. **participation** with one paper at at least two national or international scientific congresses / conferences/ colloquia, in the country or abroad;
2. publication of at least two scientific articles in specialized journals or in collective volumes; the articles may be the result of the communications in point 1.

Both communications and published articles must represent parts of the thesis (which will be indicated in the notes in the doctoral thesis) or include results of research carried out during the writing of the thesis.

The doctoral thesis must comply with the following minimum requirements:

- not to include plagiarized passages (regardless of their size and weight in the work);
- not to include scientific errors and serious drafting negligence;
- to reflect knowledge of the essential bibliography of the topic;
- to use appropriate scientific language and methods;
- to contain personal contributions of the candidate, made by applying theoretical notions taken from the specialized bibliography to new cases.

- for the HISTORY field:

1. The publication of at least two scientific articles during the doctoral program, either in journals indexed in internationally recognized databases for the field of History and Cultural Studies by CNATDCU or in volumes published by internationally prestigious publishers recognized by CNCS or nationally prestigious publishers recognized by CNCS (categories A or B).
2. At least two participations with scientific papers at national/international conferences in the field with a program committee, proven by the conference program.
3. The doctoral student must be the first author, and the published/communicated papers must contain results from the doctoral thesis.

The doctoral thesis must contain original results, relevant to the fields of History and Cultural Studies, with elements of novelty compared to the state of knowledge in the specialty, clearly highlighted, obtained based on advanced research methods, and in compliance with research ethics standards, including the current norms for source citation and bibliographic referencing.

- for the COMPUTER SCIENCE field:

1. The publication or acceptance¹ for publication of at least three articles in journals indexed in BDI², WoS, Scopus, or in conference proceedings indexed in BDI², WoS, Scopus, LNCS, or in international conferences classified under the CORE classification, valid at the date of article publication.
2. At least one of the three articles mentioned above must be published in WoS or Scopus-indexed journals, in LNCS conference proceedings, or in conferences classified at least as rank C of the CORE classification. Additionally, this article must be published in a forum (journal or conference) which is recognized in Computer Science domain as an identical or closely related to the research field of the doctoral thesis.

Note:

¹ An article is considered accepted for publication if it appears under the "Articles in press"



section on the journal's website or under the "Accepted papers" section on the conference's website.

² The recognized international databases are IEEE, ACM, SPRINGER, DBLP, CiteSeerX, Zentralblatt, MatchSciNet, COPERNICUS, EBSCO, ProQuest (excluding forums such as WSEAS, IAENG, DAAAM, or those indexed only in CoRR abs/arXiv, as well as predatory forums such as those listed on <https://beallslist.net/>).

- for the ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT field:

1. The publication of at least three articles, strictly within the field of the thesis (with a clear connection to the research topic) and where the doctoral student is the principal author*) (with affiliation to IOSUD), including:
2. At least two articles published in journals or in conference proceedings indexed in BDI**;
3. At least one article published in a journal indexed in Web of Science (Clarivate) or in the proceedings of a scientific event indexed in Web of Science (Clarivate). This article can be equated with a patent.

*) Principal author refers to the first author, corresponding author, or the PhD supervisor if the doctoral student is the first author.

**) The international databases (BDI) considered for articles published in journals or conference proceedings (excluding those indexed in WoS (Clarivate)) include ACM, Cabi, CEEOL, CiteSeerX, Compendex/Engineering Village, CRCnetBASE, CrossRef, Current Contents, CSA, DBLP, DOAJ, EBSCO, EdITLib, Emerald, ERIC, Genamics, GeoBase, GEOREF, IEEE Xplore, IFAC-PapersOnLine, Index Copernicus, INSPEC/IET, J-Gate, Library of Congress, MathSciNet, ProQuest, PubMed, Referativnai Jurnal, RePEc, Elsevier/Scopus, Elsevier/Science Direct, Springerlink, Ulrichsweb, WorldCat, Wiley, Zenodo, Zentralblatt, Scientific.net, Seek Digital Library.

- for the BUSINESS MANAGEMENT field:

1. The publication of at least three articles in scientific journals indexed in at least three international databases or listed in Web of Science, with at least one article where the doctoral student is the unique author, first author, or corresponding author.
2. The presentation of at least three scientific papers at international conferences in the field, proven with the conference program.

(10) Throughout the duration of the activity, the doctoral student benefits the recognition of seniority in work and specialty, and free medical and dental assistance under the conditions provided by Law no. 95/2006 on the health reform, republished, and the framework contract, without payment of contributions compulsory social insurance regulated by Law no. 227/2015 on the Fiscal Code, with subsequent amendments and additions.

(11) According to the legislation, the period of conducting university doctoral studies is assimilated for establishing the contribution period of pensions.

(12) After the defense of the doctoral thesis, IOSUD issues a certificate attesting the period in which the doctoral student attended university doctoral studies.

(13) Conflicts between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor are mediated by the CSD, and if the conflict is not resolved at this level, it is mediated by the CSUD.

(14) Conflicts between the doctoral student and the doctoral school are mediated by the CSUD.

(15) The doctoral student is responsible for the originality of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 14.



- (1) Doctorate supervisors are the persons who obtained the right to supervise a doctorate prior to the date of entry into force of the Higher Education Act no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and additions, as well as persons who obtained the qualification certificate and become members of a doctoral school within an IOSUD, based on individual employment contract. Membership in a doctoral school is granted upon meeting certain standards of quality, from which the ability of the doctoral supervisor to lead a research project from the stage of concept, hypothesis and design up to the interpretation of the results and their international dissemination. These quality standards are established by their own procedure, by each doctoral school, in relation to the specifics of each and are approved by IOSUD.
- (2) A doctoral supervisor can guide doctoral students only in the field for which he obtained this right. By exception, a new field of university doctoral studies at establishment may operate with supervisors of doctorate in the same domain of science.
- (3) Teaching and research staff who has the right to conduct doctorates and who is a full teaching person at another institution of higher education or research, which is not part of IOSUD, can be a member in doctoral school of IOSUD with the approval of the G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș Senate.
- (4) A doctoral supervisor cannot simultaneously supervise doctoral students in only one IOSUD, exception is the co-supervised doctorates.
- (5) A doctoral supervisor can supervise a maximum of 10 doctoral students at the same time. Starting with the academic year 2026-2027, a the doctoral supervisor can simultaneously guide at most 8 doctoral students, not including the eventual doctoral students coordinated in co-supervision, in a secondary role. By way of exception, they can be guide, at the proposal of IOSUD, up to maximum 12 doctoral students/doctoral supervisor only with the approval of the G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș Senate, but not for more than 20% of the doctoral supervisors from a doctoral school.
- (6) For the activity they carry out in this capacity, PhD supervisors can be remunerated according to the legislation in force.
- (7) At a motivated request of the doctoral student, the CSD can decide to change his doctorate supervisor, if was found the non-fulfillment of the legal or contractual obligations assumed by him, and for others reasons related to the guidance relationship between the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, as well as , in the case in which the unavailability of the doctoral supervisor is noted. In these cases, within 30 days at most, the CSD designates another doctoral supervisor, within the same field.
- (8) If the termination of coordination relation of a doctoral student occurs due to the exclusive fault of the supervisor, the doctoral school proposes to the CSUD to take measures to sanction it.
- (9) In case appointing a new doctoral supervisor, the CSD will prioritize the needs of doctoral student to complete the doctoral program in the field of university studies specified in the study contract according to enrollment. If an available doctoral supervisor cannot be identified within IOSUD, IOSUD will take steps to facilitate the academic mobility of the doctoral student, within the same field, but at another IOSUD.
- (10) The doctoral supervisor is assisted in his activity regarding the doctoral student, by a guidance and integrity academic committee which consists 3 members and approved by the CȘD.
- (11) The members of the guidance and academic integrity committee can be part of the research team of the supervisor. The commission includes people affiliated at the doctoral school, with expertise in research methodology, teaching or research staff as well as experienced specialists, not affiliated with it. The guidance committee monitors and records the progress of doctoral research through regular on-site or online meetings. At least one member of this commission is outside G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș.
- (12) Members of the guidance and integrity academic committee cannot be nominated as members of the public defense committee of the doctoral thesis.
- (13) The rights and obligations of the doctoral supervisor derives from Higher Education Act no. 199/2023, with amendments and additions, from IOSUD's own regulations, from the regulations of the doctoral school, as well as from its employment contract.



- (14) The rights of the doctoral supervisor:
- a) the right to guide and evaluate the activity of the PhD. student within the university doctorate study program, according to the professional and university autonomy, following the requirements of the university study program of doctorate and respecting the professional interests of the doctoral student;
 - b) the right to propose the guidance and integrity academic committee, and the doctorate committee;
 - c) the right to an impartial internal and external evaluation, in accordance with the specific methodology of the evaluation process and the provisions of this regulation;
 - d) the right to know the methodology in relation to which it is evaluated, both in the internal and in the external evaluation;
 - e) the right to know the results of the internal and external evaluation of his own activity;
 - f) the right to refuse the guidance of a doctoral student in the conditions when is against his will and is placed in a conflict of interests;
 - g) the right to request the doctoral school council to terminate the mentorship relationship with a doctoral student;
 - h) the right to request the doctoral school to organize under his guidance an admission competition for doctoral student position vacation;
 - i) the right to decide the study elements within the training program, based on advanced university studies in which the doctoral student must participate, in compliance with the provisions of this regulation.
- (15) The doctoral supervisor has the following obligations:
- a) to ensure the scientific, professional and ethical guidance of each doctoral student;
 - b) to propose research areas and themes, in accordance with the university's research strategy;
 - c) to ensure the conditions and stimulate the progress of doctoral students in the research they carry out;
 - d) to carry out objective and rigorous monitoring and evaluation of each doctoral student;
 - e) to support the mobility of doctoral students;
 - f) to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest in the guidance of doctoral students;
 - g) to submit all the diligence regarding the verification of the compliance of the doctoral thesis in relation to the specific requirements to an original creation.
 - h) to propose the discipline in which PhD. students will carry out the teaching activities provided in their study contract
- (16) PhD supervisors are evaluated periodically, once every 5 years. The evaluation aims at:
- a) fulfillment of the CNATDCU qualification criteria in force;
 - b) the rate of completion of doctoral studies by the doctoral students enrolled in the last 5 years;
 - c) the evaluation questionnaires completed by PhD. students upon completion of their PhD. studies.
- (17) The results of the evaluation of doctoral supervisors are public. Following the evaluation, IOSUD can decide:
- a) suspension of the right to put up for competition vacant doctoral student positions for a period of 1 year, with subsequent reassessment;
 - b) suspension of membership of the Doctoral School.

Art. 15.

- (1) University doctoral studies can also be organized in co-supervision, in this case the doctoral student, based on a written agreement between the organizer institutions involved, aspects which will be found in the study contract; carries out his activity under the simultaneous guidance of a PhD supervisor from G.E. Palade UMFST of Tg. Mureș and one doctoral supervisor from another country or under the simultaneous guidance of two doctoral supervisors from different IOSUD's in Romania, one of them from G.E. Palade UMFST of Tg. Mureș
- (2) If the written co-guardianship agreement is concluded between IOSUD- G.E. Palade UMFST of Tg. Mureș



and a doctoral organizer institution from abroad, during the study program, the doctoral thesis developed and the conditions of public defence must be established in a way that the applicable legal provisions at the level of both states/IOSUDs are respected. Otherwise, the administrative procedure carried out by IOSUD will be invalidated, and the title of doctor will not be granted.

- (3) Co-supervised doctorate it can also be organized if the doctoral supervisors are from the same IOSUD. If the doctoral studies is organized in co- tutorship, the main doctoral supervisor is the one in whose vacant position was organized the admission competition for the doctoral student, and the second doctoral supervisor has secondary role.
- (4) For objective reasons, the co-tutorship becomes inoperative, at the request of the doctoral student and with the agreement to the main doctoral supervisor, CDS can approve the change of the other supervisor.
- (5) The co-tutorship can be initiated at any time during the period of doctoral studies.
- (6) The doctoral student is fully accounted by the main doctoral supervisor, including the norm of its teaching and research activity.
- (7) For a maximum duration of 12 months, the doctoral student can carry out a mobility within prestigious universities, academic communities and research units (e.g. Center for Translational Medicine - Semmelweis University, Budapest), with the consent of the CDS.

Chapter V. Admission to university PhD studies

Art. 16.

- (1) Admission to doctoral studies is the process of selecting candidates for the vacant PhD. student positions which the supervisors of the doctoral school decide to propose to be occupied within the admission sessions, organised by IOSUD through the doctoral schools.
- (2) The research topics related to each vacant PhD. student position is proposed by the PhD supervisor, approved by the doctoral school council. The proposed research topics must fit into the research area directions of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș, included in the Scientific Research Strategy of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș.
- (3) The funding mode for each PhD student position can be:
 - a) on budget with scholarship,
 - b) on budget without scholarship,
 - c) with funds provided by G.E. Palade UMPHST Tg. Mureș,
 - d) with tuition fee.
- (4) The number of places in each category referred to in para. (3) are allocated by Administrative Board based on the proposal of the CSUD and according to the allocations made by the Ministry of Education and Research and the existing resources, in accordance with institutional strategy for priority funding areas and of institutional interest areas.
- (5) The selection of the candidate for a vacant position of doctoral student is carried out by the Doctoral School and will respect:
 - a) the provisions of the framework methodology for admission to university studies, adopted by order of the Minister of Education;
 - b) the provisions of these IOSUD Regulations;
 - c) the specific admission procedures adopted by IOSUD on the proposal of each doctoral school.

Art. 17.

- (1) Doctoral schools shall ensure the transparency of admission competitions and admission procedures and shall guarantee the access to information to all candidates on selection for doctoral studies.
- (2) Information on the organisation of the competition for admission to PhD. studies shall be displayed at the headquarter of the institution and shall be published on the official website of IOSUD at least 30 days prior



to organize it. The admission criteria is posted on the G.E. Palade UMPHST Tg. Mureș website at least 6 months before the admission exam.

- (3) Only graduates with master degree or equivalent, according to the law, and the cumulative number of transferable study credits acquired, for the bachelor's and master's degree cycle must be at least 300 can be participate at the admission exam.
- 4) The PhD admission competition has 4 components:
 - a) test on knowledge (minimum level B2) of a foreign language - English, French, German - is completed with a pass/fail mark and is eliminatory; are exempt from the language proficiency test for the categories of candidates specified in the specific procedure.
 - b) practical test - writing a scientific abstract/resume based on data/results/information obtained from a previously published scientific work - 10% of the admission average.
 - c) oral test - an interview to **assess the orientation in the chosen field of research - Statement of purpose** - (this refers to the motivation of the intention to study, the justification of the doctoral research in terms of own academic and professional interest and the presumed value of the research the research programme for which is applying, with distinct references to the level of scientific information on research field to which they apply) - 40% of the admission average; the **SP** does not represents the plan research plan corresponding to the doctoral topic, this will be submitted at the end of the first year training and not at the admission exam.
 - d) Assessment of professional and scientific work based on the application file and the evidence submitted (50%) and which will necessarily refer to:
 - i. Final grade point average in the undergraduate program that is associated with the doctoral field (including the undergraduate examination) - maximum 10 points (10%);
 - ii. position in the final ranking of the study programme completed at undergraduate level - position 1 (10 points) - is progressively decreased by one point for each decreasing position and 1 point is awarded for position 10; from position 11 onwards no points are awarded - maximum 10%;
 - iii. scientific activity (communications or publications, scientific participation in activities at Junior Researcher Academy) (maximum - 30%).
- (5) If the Hirsch/equivalent index of the doctoral supervisor calculated in the Web of Science is higher than 10, one point for each unit above 10.
- (6) In order to stimulate internationalisation, international co-supervised doctorates carried out under the conditions of this Regulation shall receive a bonus in the evaluation of candidates as follows:
 - a) Universities in positions 1-100 in the Shanghai ranking - 10 points;
 - b) Universities in positions 101-500 in the Shanghai ranking - 5 points;
 - c) Universities in positions 501-1000 in the Shanghai ranking - 3 points;
- (7) The points referred to in (5) and (6) shall be added to the points obtained in the points under paragraph (4), points b), c) and d).
- (8) The IOSUD will establish, through specific procedures, the application and admission procedures in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.
- (9) The minimum average for admission to Phd. studies is 7.
- (10) The Admissions Committee shall consist of 3 full members and is decided by the CSUD. The doctoral supervisor is not a member of the admission committee. When established the admissions committee, any incompatibility will be considered avoid between committee members, doctoral supervisors and candidates.
- (11) If, at any of the oral examinations, a member of the committee awards a mark which differs by more than 20% from the marks awarded by the average of the other assessors, that mark shall be eliminated from the calculation of the final average for the final mark for that examination.
- (12) Promotion leaders of the bachelor programmes are entitled to the financed places, if they meet the criteria



for admission to the studies doctoral studies (bachelor studies in the field of doctoral studies) by obtaining a minimum of 7 in the entrance examination.

- (13) After completion of the admission procedure, the Doctoral School shall publish the ranking of admitted/rejected candidates, with the separate mention of the score obtained in the written examination and in the evaluation of professional and scientific activity as well as of the recipients of doctoral grants, respectively of the type of education according to the resulted ranking and the options expressed by the candidates at registration.
- (14) The Doctoral School shall handle any registered appeals in accordance with the provisions of the regulations and shall post the results of this procedure. Candidate appeals may refer only to the score obtained following the evaluation of professional and scientific work or written/practical tests, not on the oral test.
- (15) All candidates declared admitted following an admission competition are included in the CSUD admission decision, drawn up by type of funding for the respective session of admission competitions held in the doctoral school of IOSUD.
- (16) After enrollment, all doctoral students are registered in the Single Register (RMU).
- (17) IOSUD is obliged to establish and maintain the Register of Research Themes: the record of research areas and themes classified by doctoral students, doctoral supervisors and keywords (6 per thesis).

Art. 18.

- (1) The purpose of the study contract is to carry out the specific activities of the university doctoral study program, regulating the relations between IOSUD, the doctoral supervisor and the PhD. student, specifying the rights and the obligations of the signatory parties, in accordance with the legislation in force, the provisions of the university Charter and the decisions university Senate.
- (2) The model of the framework contract for university doctoral studies is drawn up by the CSUD, according to the regulation owned by IOSUD, and is made available to all doctoral schools.
- (3) The university doctoral studies contract is concluded with each doctoral student separately and is signed by the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor and the legal representative of IOSUD.
- (4) The university doctorate studies contract includes at least the following information:
 - a) data about IOSUD and the doctoral school;
 - b) the identification data of the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor;
 - c) the field of doctoral university studies;
 - d) type of doctorate;
 - e) form of education;
 - f) form of financing;
 - g) the monthly amount of the scholarship/study fee, as the case may be;
 - h) the norm of research and/or teaching activities, according to the assignment, in the case when the doctoral student is enrolled in the form of budget, budget with scholarship and funded fee;
 - i) duration of the doctoral university study program followed;
 - j) the scientific field of research;
 - k) the language in which the study program is organized;
 - l) the language in which the doctoral thesis is written and defended. Doctoral theses written in a language other than the Romanian language, must be accompanied by a summary written in Romanian;
 - m) the minimum standards must be respected during the studies and in the process of developing the thesis;
 - n) the promotion criteria for the training program based on advanced university studies - the first year of training in doctorate - and those for ranking/reclassification after the first year, depending on the results obtained;
 - o) the conditions for keeping or changing the form of funding, after the completion of the training



- n);
 - p) the deadline for completing the doctoral thesis;
 - q) the conditions for extending the deadline for completing the doctoral thesis;
 - r) the conditions for interrupting the study program;
 - s) the amount of the didactic activities that the doctoral student carries out and the period in which they are carried out carry out;
 - t) the conditions under which the doctoral supervisor can be changed;
 - u) conditions for termination of the study contract;
 - v) information regarding the processing of personal data, according to the legislation in force.
- (5) Study contracts do not change during the academic year. The study fee will be maintained throughout the normal duration of the study cycle, which can be indexed by the maximum inflation rate, for the same promotion of students.
- (6) Additional documents may be attached to the PhD study contract during the period of the study program.
- (7) Addenda to the Doctoral Studies Contract shall be concluded at the beginning of each academic year and may include: amendments to the conditions governing the conduct of doctoral studies, within the limits established by law and the IOSUD regulations; a change in the enrolment category; a change of the principal doctoral supervisor or the secondary doctoral supervisor (see below); the establishment of joint supervision (cotutelle) during the doctoral studies; the extension or interruption of the doctoral studies; the location where the research and/or teaching activities are to be carried out, where applicable; the agreement between the universities in the case of doctoral studies conducted under joint supervision (cotutelle); and a change of the thesis title.

CHAPTER VI. The development of doctoral university study programs

Art. 19.

- (1) The university doctoral study program is conducted under the coordination of a doctoral supervisor and includes:
- a) a training program based on advanced university studies, within the doctoral school, carried out, as a rule, during the first year after registration;
 - b) an individual program of scientific research or applied research, as the case may be, for the fields in which organize professional doctorate.
- (2) The number of transferable study credits related to the training program based on advanced university studies related to the first year of studies is 60 credits. Promotion to the upper year is conditioned on obtaining minimum 50 credits. The difference in credits can be obtained in the following year. Failure to complete 60 credits in the first two years or of the minimum 50 credits, after the first year, leads to the expulsion of the PhD. student.
- (3) The training program based on advanced university studies related to the first year of studies consists of completing a specific education plan consisting of:
- a) disciplines that ensure the acquisition of field-specific skills;
 - b) disciplines that ensure the acquisition of transversal skills.
- (4) The disciplines which ensure the acquisition of field-specific skills are organized in field blocks; the doctoral student together with the doctoral supervisor will decide the educational path in relation to the field scientifically addressed and with the skills and abilities that they believe will be necessary for the student during the period individual scientific research or applied research program. Student participation in these



activities (courses, practical activities, etc.) will be carried out either within the specific training program by field, within IOSUD, or activities within other minimum master's level study programs, for these from only with the prior consent of the CSD director. From these blocks of disciplines, the doctoral student will be required to accumulate a minimum of 25 credits. The educational path will be approved by the CSD until the completion of the first module from the beginning of the training year and will be part of the doctoral studies contract as an annex.

- (5) The disciplines that ensure the acquisition of transversal skills are common disciplines, which constitutes the education plan within IOSUD and are mandatory for all doctoral students. These disciplines will be covered in training blocks, in the first 2 modules of the first year of training. The promotion of these disciplines ensures for the doctoral student a number of 30 credits.
- (6) Upon completion of the training program based on advanced university studies, corresponding to the first year of studies, the doctoral student is obliged to take an advanced - Qualifying exam (ECA) – which serves to evaluate the capacity of the doctoral student to conduct a high-level research activity and which is credited with 5 credits. Passing this exam is a mandatory condition to access the program individual scientific research corresponding to years II-IV. The minimum pass average for this exam is 7. The exam can be repeated only once within 2 months. Failure to pass the exam after the second presentation leads to the expulsion of the doctoral student.
- (7) At the proposal of each doctoral school the method of carrying out the ECA is approved by IOSUD. The advanced qualification exam is conducted in the form of an interview/written test based on a bibliography posted 3 months before the exam. From the ECA commission experts in the field from G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș or from outside, which are not mandatory but the teaching persons have high expertise in the field. The PhD supervisor does not participate in the direct assessment of the doctoral student.
- (8) After passing the training program and the ECA, the doctoral student will present to a committee (made up of the Commission of guidance provided for in art. 14, para. (11) to which is added, as president, a representative of the CSUD or of the CSD), **The individual research plan** which shall be based on the research topic assumed by the doctoral student and PhD supervisor. The minimum grade for admission to the plan is 7. Obtaining a grade below 7 obliges the student to reformulat the plan within in no more than 30 days and present it again to the Commission. Accepting of the research plan even after the second presentation leads to the expulsion of the student. PhD supervisor participates in defending the research plan but he does not assign a grade.
- (9) Completion of master's studies in scientific research allows a candidate which passed the admission exam, the enrollment at the doctoral studies program, with the recognition of the studies, as being equivalent to the disciplines that ensure the acquisition of transversal skills within the training program based on advanced university studies. The overall average obtained at the graduation of the master's degree (including the dissertation thesis) represents the final graduation average for transversal training modules.
- (10) Upon completion of the advanced training program on university studies, the doctoral student must possess the at least the following skills and abilities:
 - a) to dominate at a high level the current knowledge in the covered research field;
 - b) understand and judge critically a scientific article;
 - c) to have practical skills to perform autonomously or under supervision techniques, operations, procedures imposed the presented research plan;
 - d) to know and apply the main design and statistical analysis tools;
 - e) to know and respect the rules of ethics and deontology in research;
 - f) to have oral and written communication skills of scientific results.
- (11) The ranking of doctoral students after the first year of study may result in their reclassification and shall be based on the following criteria:



- a. the final grade obtained in the courses included in the doctoral training programme – 30% of the final score;
 - b. the grade obtained in the Comprehensive Assessment Examination (CAE) – 20% of the final score;
 - c. the grade obtained for the presentation of the research project – 20% of the final score;
 - d. the admission score – 30% of the final score.
- (12) If in any of the oral examinations, a member of the committee gives a score that differs by more than 20% compared to the scores given by the other evaluators, the score is removed from the calculation of the final test average.
- (13) The duration of the doctoral university study program is 4 years. After each year of the individual program of preparation, the doctoral student presents to the evaluation committee an annual progress report of the scientific research. The report will be evaluated with qualifications: Very good, Good, Satisfactory, Insufficient.
- (14) In special situations, the duration of the doctoral university study program can be extended with 1-2 years, with the approval the university Senate, at the proposal of the PhD. supervisor and within the limits of available funds; or reduced by one year, at the request of the doctoral student, with the approval of the supervisor and with the approval of the Senate of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș. The extension must be justified according to the IOSUD procedure. The shortening of the period must be substantiated by the fulfillment of research objectives through Q1 level publications.
- (15) Doctoral university studies may be interrupted for valid reasons, such as:
- a) pregnancy, postnatal leave - at the request of the PhD. student;
 - b) suspension of the employment contract, in according to the law, for reasons which are not attributed to the doctoral student or are required by law;
 - c) other exceptional situations nominally specified by CSUD.
- (16) The duration of these studies is extended by the cumulative periods of the approved interruptions.
- (17) The extension provided for in para. (13), the interruption and extension provided in para. (14) are established in additional documents to the university doctorate studies contract.
- (18) In the fields of study regulated at the European level, the duration of university doctoral studies complies with the regulations applicable to them.

CHAPTER VII. Completion of the study programme

Art. 20.

Doctoral studies shall be completed by the defence of the doctoral thesis in a public hearing in front of the committee of public defense, hereinafter referred to as the doctoral committee.

Art. 21.

The format of the doctoral thesis is standardized, specific to IOSUD, includes elements of structure and graphic formatting and the doctoral student has the obligation to respect this standard format.

Art. 22.

- (1) The doctoral thesis is prepared according to the requirements established by IOSUD through its own procedure approved by CSUD and in accordance with the rules of this regulation.
- (2) The doctoral thesis is an original work, and for any used material the source must be mentioned.
- (3) The doctoral thesis is a public document, the name and surname of the holder of the doctoral thesis, of the supervisor and of the members of the guidance and academic integrity committee, as well as the identification data of IOSUD also are public information.
- (4) The doctoral student is the author of the doctoral thesis he/she assumes the correctness of the data and information presented in the thesis, as well as the opinions and demonstrations presented in it.
- (5) The content of the doctoral thesis is established by the doctoral student through consultation with the doctoral

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- h) before public defence the doctoral thesis and its appendices will be available for public consultation for 90 calendar days on the national platform managed by the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), in accordance with the legal provisions in force in the field of copyright;
 - i) during the period when the thesis is public on the national platform, any natural or legal person can formulate observations regarding the existence of deviations from ethics and deontology standards, including the perspective of existence of plagiarism. Observations can be submitted online, to an e-mail address provided by the doctoral school, or at the IOSUD registry. The observations are recorded in a report drawn up by the doctoral school, which will be sent to CSUD for analysis and decision in order to validate the initiation of the public defence procedure of the doctoral thesis and will be part of the doctoral file;
 - j) if the CSUD decision is for validation, the procedure for public defense of the doctoral thesis is initiated by establishing the doctoral committee;
 - k) if the CSUD invalidates the initiation of the procedure for public defense of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral school receives recommendations regarding the restoration of the thesis and the elimination of situations that do not comply with the standards of ethics and deontology, and the doctoral student has the obligation to correct the content of the thesis within 3 months from communication of the decision which invalidated it, with the resumption of the procedure for making the work transparent.
- (2) The composition of the doctoral committee is proposed by the doctoral supervisor, approved by the doctoral school and approved by CSUD. The doctoral commission is made up of at least 5 members: the president, as a representative of IOSUD, the doctoral supervisor and at least 3 national or from abroad referees, specialists in the domain in which was developed the doctoral thesis and of which at least 2 carry out their activity outside the respective IOSUD. Committee members have a doctorate degree and have at least the teaching position of university lecturer or scientific researcher degree II or have the quality of doctoral supervisor, in the country or abroad. The doctoral student is not involved in no way in the composition of the commission or in any administrative activity related to the performance of the activity this commission.
- (3) The application to set the date of the public defense of the doctoral thesis is formulated by the doctoral student, approved by the doctoral supervisor and the president of the defence committee. The request is registered at the doctoral school secretariat with a minimum of 25 calendar days before the proposed date for the defence. Proposed date for defence cannot be earlier than the previously estimated date for the public defence.
- (4) The doctoral thesis is edited also in digital format. After the issuance of the doctoral degree, the doctoral thesis, in digital and printed format, will be archived with a permanent term at the G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș Library.
- (5) The doctoral school prepares and displays the announcement for public support at least 20 calendar days before of the date proposed for the defence. It will necessarily include the location, date and time of defence, the doctoral supervisor(s), as well as the place where the full text of the thesis can be consulted in printed format. The announcement of the public support, the thesis summary in electronic format, the scientific report, the CV of the doctoral student, the CVs of the members of the committee for public defence of the doctoral thesis or links to them are displayed on the IOSUD website.
- (6) The doctoral thesis is defended in a public meeting in front of the doctoral committee, after the evaluation by all referents and of the submission of their reports at least 15 days before the defense of the thesis. Defending the doctoral thesis can take place in the presence of at least 4 of the doctoral committee members, with the mandatory physical participation of the president the committee and the doctoral supervisor, and the other members of the committee can also participate in the video conference in online system, in which case, with the consent of the parties, the Doctoral School Secretariat shall record the entire public thesis defence



session. The public defence must include a session of questions from the members of the doctoral committee and the public.

- (7) Based on the public defence of the doctoral thesis, the referees' reports, the statement regarding the originality of the work and analysis regarding the similarity degree, the doctorate committee evaluates and deliberates on the awarding of the doctor degree, in compliance with the minimum standards developed by CNATDCU and the specific standards adopted by the IOSUD of UMFST "G. E. Palade" of Târgu Mureș for the awarding of the doctor's degree. The grade obtained is determined in accordance with the specific standards established by each doctoral school and with the provisions of the CNATDCU and is approved by the CSUD.
- (8) In case of failure to meet the minimum standards required for the award of the doctorate degree, the doctorate commission will specify the elements to be redone or completed in the thesis and will request a new public defence of the thesis. The second public defense of the thesis takes place in front of the same doctoral committee as in the case of the first defense. If in which even at the second public defense the minimum standards are not met, the doctor's degree will not be awarded, and the doctoral student will be expelled.
- (9) If the PhD. student has fulfilled all the requirements stipulated in the scientific research program, as well as the minimum standards related to the domain, the doctorate commission proposes the awards the doctorate degree, proposal which is forwarded together with the doctorate file, within a maximum of 30 calendar days, to CNATDCU.
- (10) Within 30 calendar days after receiving the appropriate opinion from the CNTADCU, IOSUD issues the decision to granting the doctor's degree signed by the rector, prepares and issues the doctor's degree.
- (11) If the National Council for the Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates substantiates and invalidates the doctoral thesis validation process, the doctoral higher education institution (DHEI) shall receive a written statement of reasons for the invalidation from CNATDCU. The doctoral file may be resubmitted to CNATDCU for re-evaluation after all the grounds that led to the invalidation have been remedied.
- (12) If, after examining the resubmitted doctoral file, CNATDCU finds that the conditions for awarding the doctoral degree are still not met and the grounds for invalidation remain, no further re-evaluation procedure shall be possible.
- (13) The CNATDCU decision establishing, following the re-evaluation, that the conditions for awarding the doctoral degree are not met may be appealed within **15 days** from the date of receipt of the notification.
- (14) If for the PhD. student is not an option the separate publication of the thesis or of some of its chapters, the digital form of the thesis remains public and will be accessible on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI, free, including after issuing the decision to award the doctor's degree. A license copyright protection will be assigned to the thesis.
- (15) If the doctoral student choose the option for separate publication of the doctoral thesis or some of its chapters, he receives a maximum 24 months grace period of for this publication, during which the doctoral thesis, in digital format, it becomes inaccessible to the public. After expiring the grace period, if on the platform managed by UEFISCDI no notification of the distinct publication of the thesis has been uploaded, the document in digital format automatically becomes free accessible for free, with the assignment of a copyright protection license.
- (16) After the publication of the thesis or some of its chapters, the author has the obligation to notify IOSUD of this fact and to transmit the bibliographic indication and a link to the publication, which will then be made public on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI.
- (17) After issuing the decision to grant the doctor's degree, within a maximum of 180 days, IOSUD is obligated to transmit to the National Library of Romania a printed copy of the doctoral thesis and its appendices, according to Law no. 111/1995 republished, regarding the Legal Deposit of Documents, copy intended for the Intangible Fund, as well as a digital copy of them, on electronic support, intended for consultation on



request by any interested person, at the National Library of Romania headquarters, in compliance with the legal regulations in force.

CHAPTER VIII. University ethics and deontology

Art. 24.

- (1) In teaching and university research activities it is mandatory to comply with ethics and deontology norms, regulated by the Code of University Ethics and Deontology of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș.
- (2) Any notifications regarding non-compliance with the rules of university ethics and deontology are registered and resolved in accordance with the Code of University Ethics and Deontology of G.E. Palade UMPHST of Tg. Mureș.
- (3) Non-compliance with the rules of university ethics and deontology, including the attestation of proven cases of plagiarism, may attract the public liability of IOSUD.

CHAPTER IX. Transparency

Art. 25.

IOSUD guarantees the transparency of the organization and development of university doctoral study programs at the level of every owned doctoral schools.

Art. 26.

- (1) The doctoral schools, with the logistical support of IOSUD, will ensure the publication on the Internet of all the necessary informations regarding doctoral university study programs, mainly targeting the following categories:
 - a) the regulation of IOSUD and doctoral schools;
 - b) information on vacancies for PhD. students;
 - c) information on vacancies for doctoral supervisors;
 - d) information on how to organize and conduct doctoral programs;
 - e) information on the content of university doctoral study programs;
 - f) information on how to finance studies;
 - g) model of the framework contract for doctoral studies;
 - h) information regarding the doctoral supervisors and the doctoral students who they coordinate, which includes at least the list of their publications and patents;
 - i) information on the results and professional performances of the doctoral supervisors;
 - j) the guide regarding the drafting of doctoral theses, respectively the elaboration standards, procedures and evaluation criteria of them;
 - k) the minimum standards developed by CNATDCU for the granting of the doctor's degree;
 - l) summaries of the public defended doctoral theses, as well as the related date, time and location public defence, at least 20 days before their support;
 - m) the addresses where the completed doctoral theses can be accessed.
- (2) IOSUD publishes on its website the annual self-evaluation report, which must contain references regarding the feedback of doctoral students regarding the quality of the educational process.

CHAPTER X. Final provisions

Art. 27.

- (1) In accordance with the provisions of Art. 2, para. (2) of Order No 3020/2024 approving the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies, the public defence provided for in this Regulation shall be carried out from



the academic year 2024/2025. During the academic year 2023/2024 the defence of doctoral theses shall be carried out according to Edition 06 of these Regulation.

- (2) The provisions of this Regulation shall enter into force from the academic year 2024/2025.
- (3) I.O.S.U.D.'s own regulations for the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies within the University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology "George Emil Palade" of Târgu Mureș is completed by the working procedures approved by IOSUD at the proposal of the doctoral schools. The present regulation merges IOSUD Institutional Regulation (UMFST-REG-06) with the Regulation of organization and functioning of doctoral school (UMFST-REG-24) resulting in the I.O.S.U.D.'s own Regulation for the organisation and conduct of studies. doctoral studies at the University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology "George Emil Palade" of Târgu Mureș (UMFST-REG-06).

The Senate of the George Emil Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science, and Technology of Târgu Mureș approved the present Regulation on 29th July, 2026 and it enters into force 30th July 2026.