The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

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

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	"Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati
Doctoral School:	Doctoral School of Fundamental and Engineering Sciences
Doctoral Domain:	Materials Engineering
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)

Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	LUCA Dorin	Expert evaluator	
2.	TOPALĂ Pavel Alexei	International Expert	
3.	NICA Ionuț-Cosmin	PhD Student Evaluator	

The evaluation committee was approved by the ARACIS Council through HC no. 13/H/15.01.2026.

I. Introduction

This External Evaluation Report (EER) was prepared following the request made to ARACIS by the "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati (UDJG) for the periodic evaluation in order to maintain the accreditation for the Doctoral University Study Field of Materials Engineering (DSUD-IMAT). The last external evaluation took place between 12-16 July 2021 and was completed with the decision of the "maintenance of accreditation" committee.

Data on the external evaluation from 25-27 March 2026:

- Higher Education Institution: "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati
- Type of evaluation: periodic evaluation of doctoral field
- Evaluated field: Materials Engineering
- Duration of the evaluation visit: 23-25 March 2026
- Composition of the external evaluation team:
  - Prof.univ.dr.habil.ing. LUCA Dorin, "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iasi – Expert evaluator
  - Prof.univ.dr.habil.ing. TOPALĂ Pavel Alexei, "Alecu Russo" State University of Balti, Republic of Moldova – International Expert
  - Stud.drd.ing. NICA Ionuț-Cosmin, National University of Science and Technology "Politehnica" of Bucharest – PhD Student Evaluator

The Doctoral University Studies Field of Materials Engineering (DSUD-IMAT) operates within the Doctoral School of Fundamental Sciences and Engineering (SDSFI) along with 7 other fields (Food Engineering, Biotechnologies, Engineering and Management in Agriculture and Rural Development, Electrical Engineering, Computers and Information Technology, Systems Engineering, Chemistry). SDSFI was established in its current form according to the Rector's Decision no. 1178 of 21.06.2017. At the UDJG level, the Quality Assessment and Assurance Commission (CEAC) operates with responsibilities in implementing quality assurance procedures, in accordance with the institutional regulations in force.

SDSFI has 105 registered doctoral students, of which 92 are in internship (76 on budgeted places and 16 with a fee), 3 are in extension with a fee-based financing form and 10 are in the period of interruption of their doctoral studies (5 with a budgeted financing form and 5 with a fee-based financing form). The activity of doctoral students in SDSFI is guided by 34 doctoral supervisors, both tenured and associate.

The situation at DSUD-IMAT is as follows:

- 12 doctoral students, of which 11 are in internship and 1 is in extension;
- 4 doctoral supervisors, of which 2 are tenured and 2 are retired associates (teaching staff on an hourly basis) with a fixed-term contract with IOSUD-UDJG.

Compared to the situation existing at the previous evaluation, there is an increase of 7 in the number of doctoral students enrolled at the SDSFI level and a decrease of 2 at the DSUD-IMAT level. The number of doctoral students in the fee-paying form increased from 5 to 16. The number of supervisors increased from 33 to 34 at the SDSFI level and remains constant at 4 at DSUD-IMAT.

II. Methods used

II. 1. Documents analyzed

The documents analyzed were the Internal Evaluation Report of DSUD-IMAT, the electronic annexes and the online documents referred to on the UDJG website and platforms.

During the visit, additional documents regarding the following aspects were also provided by the UDJG representatives:

- List of doctoral theses completed during 2021-2025 at DSUD-IMAT;
- List of ongoing doctoral theses at DSUD-IMAT;
- List of research projects of DSUD-IMAT members carried out during 2021-2025.

II. 2. On-site visit

Between March 25-27, 2026, the evaluation team visited UDJG, and a series of meetings were held with university representatives, according to the External Quality Assessment Visit Calendar agreed upon with the contact person. In order to evaluate the file and prepare for the visit, the members of the external evaluation team had prior online working meetings on February 27, March 6 and March 14, 2026. The findings from the meetings held at UDJG are summarized below.

<u>Findings following the committee's meeting with representatives of the management of the organizational component related to DSUD-IMAT</u>

• The meeting took place on March 25 at 3:30 p.m.

During the meeting of the external quality assessment committee with representatives of the management of the organizational component related to DSUD-IMAT, the following were found: there are methodologies, regulations and procedures related to the doctoral field, recognizing the need to update and periodically review them to maintain relevance and efficiency; the doctoral field has a clearly outlined vision and development objectives, with the identification of priority research directions and prospects for consolidation and expansion; it was proposed to improve the evaluation mechanism of doctoral supervisors, as well as of teaching staff at DSUD-IMAT, by conducting semi-annual evaluations, according to the requirement of the I.P.C.4.1.1 indicator. Also, there is a system for monitoring the performance of doctoral supervisors, correlated with the allocation of places from the budget; in case of poor performance of doctoral supervisors, the sanction of non-allocation of budget-funded places upon admission is applied, which indicates the existence of quality control mechanisms; the development of research infrastructure is carried out according to the departments' procurement plans, being dependent on ongoing projects and available financial resources; publication in prestigious journals (Q1 and Q2) is supported by various sources of funding (grants, contracts, own funds), with institutional methodologies in place to support this activity; the level of enrollment figures, the degree of coverage and the dropout rate are monitored. A very low dropout rate was observed, with only one case recorded at DSUD-IMAT due to medical reasons; the main weak point highlighted is the low number of budget places available for admission, which may limit the development and attractiveness of the doctoral field.

Findings following the committee's meeting with the team that prepared the internal evaluation report (IER)

• The meeting took place on March 25 at 4:30 p.m.

During the meeting of the committee with the team that prepared the internal evaluation report, the following were found: the structures responsible for quality assurance are involved in the process of developing the IER, contributing to the collection, verification and provision of relevant data; there is an explicit concern for aligning the internal analysis with ARACIS standards, assessing the coherence between the content of the IER and the imposed quality requirements; the IER was carried out based on a defined methodology, which includes clear stages of data collection and involvement of organizational structures; significant progress has been recorded in recent years, especially in terms of modernizing the teaching and research infrastructure and increasing the degree of digitalization of university processes; needs for improvement were identified regarding the clarity of some descriptive sections of the IER, as well as the need for a more rigorous correlation between the internal analysis and the specific ARACIS standards.

Findings following the committee meeting with doctoral students from DSUD-IMAT

• The meeting took place on March 25 at 5:35 p.m.

During the meeting of the committee with doctoral students from DSUD-IMAT, the following were found: the choice of the doctoral cycle is based on solid motivations, such as the identification of real needs in the economic environment, the desire for personal development and the relevance of the field of study; doctoral topics are established in collaboration with doctoral supervisors or are proposed by candidates based on the needs identified by stakeholders; the interaction between doctoral students and doctoral supervisors is assessed as adequate, the time allocated being sufficient for the necessary support. Also, the involvement of the guidance committees is perceived positively; the admission procedure is considered by students to be accessible, fair and well-organized; doctoral students benefit from financial support for participation in conferences, both from doctoral grants and from institutional funds; the value of the doctoral grant is considered adequate to cover the necessary expenses, with encouragement to use it to the detriment of one's own resources; the number and structure of research reports are considered appropriate by students, with no need for modification identified; doctoral students participate in the evaluation process of doctoral supervisors, which is carried out annually.

Findings following the committee's meeting with representatives of the UDJG management, CEAC and the Quality Assurance Department

• The meeting took place on March 26 at 9:30.

During the meeting of the external commission with representatives of the UDJG management, CEAC and the Quality Assurance Department, the following were noted: UDJG has updated its internal regulations, methodologies and procedures in accordance with the provisions of Education Law no. 199/2023, which indicates alignment with the legislative requirements in force; IT platforms for quality management have been developed and modernized, being functional for evaluation, monitoring and data collection; the platforms used for the evaluation of teaching staff and doctoral students are operational, with defined usage calendars and authentication methods; there is an institutional mechanism for monitoring graduates, achieved by collecting data at the time of issuing diplomas and

centralizing them at the level of the career counseling and guidance center; the need to change the name of an operational procedure was identified, so that it correctly reflects the scope of applicability (evaluation of both doctoral supervisors and teaching staff); the evaluation of doctoral supervisors is carried out annually through the platform; it was proposed to improve the evaluation mechanism of doctoral supervisors, but also of teaching staff at SDSFI, by carrying out semi-annual evaluations, according to the requirement of the indicator I.P.C.4.1.1.

Findings from the meeting of the committee with representatives of the organizational structures in the field of quality assurance

• The meeting took place on March 26 at 10:30.

During the meeting of the external evaluation committee with representatives of the organizational structures in the field of quality assurance, the following were found: various and appropriate tools are used to collect and analyze quality data, such as satisfaction questionnaires, annual reports, performance reviews and evaluation sheets; there are mechanisms for tracking the progress of doctoral students, learning outcomes, the activity of teaching staff and doctoral supervisors, as well as the professional insertion of graduates; doctoral students are involved in quality assurance processes, contributing to the evaluation and improvement of academic activities; an indicator monitored for quality monitoring is the number of articles published in journals with a high impact factor, which is higher for doctoral supervisors and doctoral students; risk management is based on a system procedure for risks developed based on the legal regulations in force; the requirement of the indicator I.P.C.4.1.1. was reiterated for the biannual evaluations of both doctoral supervisors and teaching staff at SDSFI.

Findings following the committee's meeting with members of the University Ethics Commission (CEU)

• The meeting took place on March 26 at 11:20.

During the meeting of the external committee with the CEU members, the following was noted: CEU has a clearly defined structure, consisting of 11 permanent members with voting rights, of which 3 are students. The activity is carried out through monthly meetings organized both physically and online; the committee's activity is embodied in the annual development of an activity report, which is made public and presented to the university management, ensuring the transparency of the process; there are tools dedicated to promoting academic ethics, such as the UDJG Code of Ethics (updated in January 2025), the Ethics Guide for students (developed with their involvement and available in online format) and ethics courses; clear procedures are defined for submitting, registering and analyzing complaints, which can come from both students and teaching staff; there were complaints at the UDJG level, both from students and from teaching staff, which were analyzed and resolved with sanctions, including a reduction in salary for a period of time; no conflicts of interest were reported at DSUD-IMAT, but at the UDJG level there was a case and measures were taken; there is a system of sanctions applied depending on the seriousness of the violations found; decisions are motivated and are public, in compliance with the regulation on the protection of personal data (GDPR).

Findings following the meeting to visit the material base

On March 26, 2026, at 1:20 PM, the evaluation team visited the material base, starting with the laboratories within the Interdisciplinary Research Center in Eco-Nano Technology and Innovative Materials (CC-ITI). The aim was to assess the degree of novelty of the research infrastructure and the degree of use of equipment for doctoral activities. The list of laboratories visited is presented in the following table.

No.	Research Center / Laboratory Name and *Location (Room / Building)* / Equipment acquisition year	The main research equipment available
1	CC-ITI / Laboratory for Advanced Materials Synthesis and Characterization *Room AN 011 / AN Building* / 2022-2025	1. Multichannel electrochemical instrument (potentiostat/galvanostat), OrigaLys (France), OrigaFlex model OGF+01A with integrated impedance spectroscopy and OrigaMaster OM 5 software; 2. Portable XRF spectrometer, Vanta V, model VCR-CCC-A3-E; 3. FT-IR spectrophotometer with software and included accessories, manufacturer Shimadzu, model IRSpirit-T; 4. Ultrasonic bath; 5. Universal refrigerated centrifuge, Solagen Laboratory; 6. UV irradiation equipment (UV-A, UV-B, UV-C), Delta Systech Romania; 7. Thin film deposition equipment, Polos SPIN150i/200i infinite; 8. Electric hot plate with temperature probe and stirrer; 9. LCD rotary evaporator, Dlab; 10. Multiparameter tester (pH, salinity, TDS, temperature); 11. Analytical balance, Kern ALJ 160-4AM; 12. Mechanical mortar, Fritsch Pulverisette 2; 13. Digital microhardness tester, Insize; 14. Water analysis kit (field use), Macherey-Nagel Visocolor School; 15. Fume hood; 16. Spectrophotometer DR 5000; 17. Zview software; 18. Interactive

		whiteboard, Samsung; 19. Laboratory oven; 20. Stands with reagents; 21. Pellet press; 22. Distiller.
2	CC-ITI / Materials Technology Laboratory *Room SE 011 / SD Building* / 2000-2016	1. Vickers hardness testers; 2. Brinell hardness testers; 3. Poldy hardness tester; 4. Shore hardness tester; 5. Electronic calculators, data processing software Microsoft Excel; 6. Universal tester for molding mixtures (tension, bending, shear and compression), models, core boxes, molding frames, electric melting furnaces; 7. 20 kN hydraulic press, flat anvils, profiled anvils, drilling devices, mandrel stretching devices, cutting devices, dies for open-die forging, experimental stand for liquid metal forming, Hottinger Spider 8 data acquisition system; 8. Four-high rolling mill with 5 kW DC drive, Hottinger Spider 8 data acquisition system, dies for extrusion of different sections; 9. Hottinger equipment for data acquisition, measurement of torque, tensile and compressive forces; 10. Equipment for studying deformability and simulating thermomechanical treatments by torsion; 11. High Pressure Torsion stand (HSHPT) with frequency converter drive, PLC and data acquisition, experimental stand for accumulative roll bonding (ARB), experimental stand for equal channel angular extrusion (ECAE); 12. Submerged arc welding machine, experimental stand for spot welding, experimental stand for butt welding; 13. Oxy-acetylene generator, flame burners, experimental stand for vulcanization; 14. Metallographic sample grinding machine; 15. Optical microscopes (4 MC 6 type, 1 EPIGNOST); 16. Neophot 2 microscope with digital acquisition; 17. Stereomicroscope; 18. PMT3 microhardness tester with digital acquisition; 19. Electric furnace.
3.	CC-ITI / Scanning Electron Microscopy Laboratory *Room AN 010 / AN Building* / 2023-2024	1. Scanning electron microscope, TESCAN VEGA. 2. Fume hood. 3. CCU-010 Compact Coating Unit for gold sputter coating of samples.
4.	CC-ITI / Electrochemistry and Corrosion Laboratory *Room AN 012 / AN Building* / 2012-2015	1. Optika Industry XDS-3 MET Microscope trinoculaire. 2. Electrochemical Workstation PGZ100-1. 3. Contact Angle Instrument OCA 15 EC, Dataphysics, Germany, connected to a PC and controlled using SCA20 software.
5.	CC-ITI / Laboratory for Applied Electrochemistry in Materials and Environmental Engineering *Room AN 004 / AN Building* / 2012-2015	1. Drying oven 0-300 grade C Pol-EKO Model SLW 53 STD. 2. High Purity Water System aquaMAX - 361 Basic Ultrasound Bath Elmasonic S60H. 3. Electrochemical Workstation PGP 201. 4. High Voltage Source for Oxide Films Formation TDK LAMBDA 28294. 5. Niche.
6.	CC-ITI / Thermotechnics and Heat Transfer Laboratory *Room AN 001 / AN Building* / 2025	1. Experimental stand for studying different methods of humidity measurement; 2. Experimental stand for studying different methods of temperature measurement; 3. Experimental stand for studying the boiling process; 4. Experimental stand for studying the condensation process; 5. Experimental stand for studying vapor pressure; 6. Experimental stand for studying heat transfer by conduction; 7. Experimental stand for studying heat transfer by convection; 8. Experimental stand for studying heat transfer by radiation; 9. Water supply source for the heat exchanger; 10. Tubular heat exchanger; 11. Plate heat exchanger; 12. Shell-and-tube heat exchanger.

During the visit to the material base, it was found that the educational, research, and living spaces (classrooms, laboratories, library, accommodation, and cafeteria) are adequate and functional for doctoral students' needs. The CC-ITI center laboratories are well equipped with modern instrumentation supporting material synthesis (chemical and electrochemical methods, severe plastic deformation), as well as advanced characterization of composition, microstructure, and physicochemical and mechanical properties. The Thermotechnics and Heat Transfer Laboratory includes digitally integrated, remotely operable equipment with cloud data storage, reflecting a high level of digitalization. The IT infrastructure is well developed, with high-performance computers, specialized software, and access to relevant scientific databases. Laboratory space is adequate relative to the number of doctoral students and equipment. A significant share of research equipment has been acquired in the last five years through research projects and industry contracts. During the evaluated period, DSUD-IMAT implemented or is implementing 12 projects, totaling approximately 6.3 million lei and 2.78 million euros.

<u>Findings following the committee's meeting with the heads of research centers/laboratories</u>

- The meeting took place on March 26 at 2:30 p.m.

During the meeting of the committee with the heads of the research centers/laboratories, the following were noted: the experimental infrastructure has experienced significant development in the last five years, most of the equipment being recently purchased through research projects and institutional investments; equipment maintenance is ensured through an annual plan at the UDJG level; the purchase of consumables is made from the doctoral grant allocated based on necessity reports that are also signed by the doctoral student; there is an online platform dedicated to the CC-ITI center, through which the research team, the directions of activity and the results obtained are presented; doctoral students work directly on the equipment, being trained at the beginning of the internship and encouraged to work in a team; doctoral students are involved in research projects, scientific events and promotional activities; there are interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships with other university centers, which support the development of research and increase academic visibility; research results obtained in laboratories are materialized in publications in prestigious journals and participation in international conferences.

Findings following the committee meeting with the teaching staff involved in the activities within DSUD-IMAT

• The meeting took place on March 26 at 3:20 p.m.

During the meeting of the external committee with DSUD-IMAT teaching staff, it was noted that academic staff in Materials Engineering are satisfied with the working environment and career prospects, with strong collaboration both within the doctoral school and externally. Doctoral students are actively involved in advanced training and research activities. Key research directions include corrosion and biocorrosion of metallic materials, functional biomedical surfaces, nanostructured and hybrid materials, multilayer composites, protective coatings for civil and cryogenic applications, sensor materials, corrosion inhibitors for steels, and asphalt mixture optimization. Admission is conducted via interview based on candidate preparation, motivation, and research aptitude, with ranking determining funded and fee-based places. Doctoral theses undergo supervision committee review, followed by plagiarism and procedural checks prior to defense, with no rejections reported to date. The program benefits from national and international collaborations, including two co-supervised PhD theses with Bucharest-based technical universities. Concerns were raised regarding the limited number of doctoral supervisors (two tenured and two retired), highlighting the need to expand supervision capacity and increase involvement in national research projects to strengthen infrastructure and institutional visibility.

Findings from the meeting of the committee with DSUD-IMAT graduates

• The meeting took place on March 26 at 5:00 p.m.

During the meeting of the external committee with DSUD-IMAT graduates, the following were found: graduates of the Materials Engineering field from previous promotions participated, both physically and online; it resulted that the graduates of the doctoral program are integrated into the labor market in various fields, but compatible with the acquired training; the study program offers a solid foundation of theoretical and practical knowledge; the results of doctoral research can be capitalized on in the economic environment, there are concrete examples of entrepreneurial initiatives developed based on them; the university supported their involvement as doctoral students in research projects.

Findings from the meeting of the commission with employers of DSUD-IMAT graduates

• The meeting took place on March 26 at 6:00 p.m.

During the meeting of the commission with employers of DSUD-IMAT graduates, the following were found: representatives from various companies participated: Liberty Steel Galati, DMT Marine Equipments, Lacon Electronic LTD, Fier CTC Galati, Raikomp Color; there is a strong collaboration between the university and economic operators, materialized through internships, scholarships and real employment opportunities for students and graduates; doctoral students and graduates have adequate technical skills; the infrastructure provided by the university is appreciated by employers; the research topics addressed within the doctoral program are relevant to the industrial environment; the need for continuous adaptation of the study program to the dynamics and changing requirements of the labor market was found; the need to strengthen transversal skills was highlighted, especially communication and the ability to quickly integrate into industrial processes.

Findings following the meeting of the committee with representatives of the UDJG management and the DSUD-IMAT management to communicate the conclusions of the evaluation

• The meeting took place on March 27 at 11:00.

During the meeting of the committee with representatives of the UDJG management and the DSUD-IMAT management to communicate the conclusions of the evaluation, the following were found: the representatives of the Higher Education Institution are open to discussing and assuming the conclusions formulated by the committee; the international expert proposed the introduction of the professional experience and the portfolio of works of the

candidate for a specific topic as a priority criterion for admission to the doctoral program; the UDJG management indicated that this proposal cannot be implemented because it does not ensure equal opportunities for all candidates and creates discrimination through requirements that only certain candidates can meet; the international expert proposed increasing the number of reports that the doctoral student submits during the 4-year training period, from 1 report per year to 1 report per semester; the UDJG management indicated that this requirement could not be applied compulsorily to all doctoral students and could remain at the discretion of the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student to jointly decide the number of research reports within the training period; the example from the "Politehnica" University of Bucharest was presented, where doctoral students are expected to submit 6-7 research reports in the 4 years, which they present every semester and which outline the future chapters of the doctoral thesis; the institution's representatives expressed their willingness to analyze the proposals made by the committee and to integrate the committee's recommendations into the development strategy of the doctoral program.

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

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity

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

Standard S.A.1.1. Organisational components and institutional processes The HEI has organisational components in its structure, which function based on adequate competences, responsibilities, processes, and implementation procedures, and ensure an effective management system.	
Indicator I.P.A.1.1.1	For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

"Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati (UDJG) operates within a solid normative and institutional framework, in accordance with the provisions of Law on Higher Education no. 199/2023 and the University Charter (https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS_107_2024_Anexa-Carta_UDJG.pdf). The organizational structure is clearly defined, with responsibilities distributed among the University Senate, as the supreme decision-making and deliberative body, the Administrative Council as the executive structure, and the permanent committees of the Senate, established and regulated through their own regulations. At the institutional level, a University Ethics Committee (https://ugal.ro/informatii/organizare/comisia-de-etica-universitara) functions in accordance with the law, and students are represented in all governing structures, in compliance with legal and statutory provisions. The university's activity is regulated through the University Charter, the Regulation on organization and functioning, and the Internal Regulation (https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/2021/regulamente/4/hotarare_senat_65_2019_anexa_RegulamentInternUDJG_2.pdf), all approved by the Senate and periodically revised. Internal regulations and procedures are publicly available, ensuring decision-making transparency and providing the academic community with access to the applicable regulatory framework. The university has implemented a Quality Management System certified according to the SR EN ISO 9001:2015 standard since December 2018, applicable also to research, development, and innovation activities. Within the university operates the Doctoral Studies Organizing Institution (IOSUD), organized and administered in accordance with national regulations governing doctoral studies and the institutional regulation approved by Senate Decision no. 411/14.10.2024.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis indicates a high level of compliance with institutional governance, doctoral organization, quality assurance, and decision-making transparency. The regulatory framework is coherent, up to date, and formally approved. Overall, the indicator is fulfilled at a high level, supported by full legislative compliance and functional governance and quality assurance mechanisms.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

The ISO 9001:2015 certification, applied also to doctoral research activities, represents an effective instrument for the standardization and monitoring of quality. The full publication of documentation relevant to doctoral candidates in electronic format and in English supports transparency and internationalization.

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement The HEI proves that it engages the relevant stakeholders in developing methodologies and regulations, as well as implementation procedures.	
Indicator I.P.A.1.2.1	The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension* and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The current situation is supported by the existence of institutionalized consultation and decision-making mechanisms. Proposals for the amendment or updating of regulations specific to the field are discussed during the periodic meetings of the Council of the Doctoral School of Fundamental and Engineering Sciences and of the CSUD (https://ugal.ro/informatii/informatii-publice/hotarari/hotarari-csud). The decisions adopted are recorded and published in accordance with regulations concerning decision-making transparency. Within these structures, issues related to curricula, the content of course descriptions, procedures for the periodic evaluation of doctoral students' activity, and other internal regulations are analyzed.

Furthermore, consultations are held with industrial and socio-economic partners involved in research activities, internships, or joint supervision agreements, documented through collaboration agreements and active partnerships (Anexa I.P.A.1.2.1. Acorduri cotutela si acorduri colaborare)**.** The recommendations resulting from these interactions are analyzed and, where appropriate, integrated into the official documents of the field, thus contributing to the adaptation of the doctoral program to the requirements of the professional environment and the labor market.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The process of revising regulations is not unilateral but is based on debates within collective governance structures, the analysis of feedback received from doctoral students, and consultations with the socio-economic environment. The integration of recommendations into curricula, course descriptions, and evaluation procedures demonstrates the effective nature of these consultation mechanisms. The existence of supporting documents, adopted decisions, and collaboration agreements confirms that the process is documented, verifiable, and transparent.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

- Adding open-ended response items to the questionnaire used by doctoral students to evaluate doctoral programs, in order to allow a better identification and understanding of potential issues.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources The HEI owns adequate movable and immovable assets to enable it to carry out the study programme/domain.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG provides an adequate material base for teaching, research, and student support, aligned with its mission and size. Of the total 57,314.95 m², 92.64% (53,096.96 m²) are university-owned. The infrastructure includes 534 teaching and research rooms (33,080 m²), along with dormitories, dining facilities, a sports complex, medical services, and accessible infrastructure for persons with disabilities (Anexa I.P.A.2.1.1_Lista inventariere cladiri, Anexa I.P.A.2.1.1_Acte proprietate, Anexa I.P.A.2.1.1_Baze sportive cămine şi cantine, Anexa I.P.A.2.1.1_Spatii didactice si de cercetare).

The university library operates in a central unit and five branches, with access for all users. Over 420 volumes (800,866.13 RON) have been acquired through research funding, complemented by access to international databases and e-books via the Anelis Plus consortium. Resources are available both on-site and remotely through the Koha system. For the Materials Engineering doctoral field (DSUD-IMAT), the library provides 1,393 books and standards, 64 periodicals, 480 theses, and 544 electronic resources. Doctoral activities are supported by dedicated

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

spaces within the Faculty of Engineering, equipped with modern infrastructure and full digital connectivity. The CC-ITI research center further supports advanced research in innovative materials and eco-nanotechnologies.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The high proportion of university-owned spaces ensures stability and autonomy in infrastructure management. Teaching and research facilities are aligned with enrollment capacity and field-specific requirements, supported by modern equipment and digital connectivity. Specialized research centers, such as CC-ITI, strengthen doctoral research and integration into relevant projects. Access to up-to-date bibliographic resources, including international databases and e-books, reflects a strong commitment to academic excellence. Student services-medical, counseling, and accessibility support-further highlight an inclusive environment focused on well-being.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

The integration of doctoral research within the infrastructure of an interdisciplinary center such as CC-ITI represents an effective model for linking doctoral training with applied research and innovation.

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources The organisational components manage the movable and immovable assets used for the evaluated study programme/domain in an optimal, sustainable manner.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1	The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG ensures the maintenance and development of its infrastructure through the General Administrative Directorate and specialized units, covering both routine repairs and modernization works. Internal procedures regulate maintenance activities and occupational health and safety, supporting a secure and functional academic environment.

Movable and immovable assets are regularly inventoried, maintained, and updated in accordance with institutional regulations. Investments and infrastructure developments are reported annually in the Rector's public report (https://www.ugal.ro/informatii/documente-publice/rapoarte-anuale-universitate), a public document available on the university's website.

Recent efforts have focused on modernizing laboratories, rehabilitating teaching spaces, dormitories, and the library, and upgrading administrative and research infrastructure to meet current standards (Anexa I.P.A.2.1.1_Lista inventariere cladiri, Anexa I.P.A.2.2.1_Inventar mijloace fixe-PC).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

Operational procedures for maintenance and occupational health and safety reflect a systematic approach to infrastructure management. Regular asset inventory and updated records ensure traceability and efficient resource use, while reporting in the Rector's annual report supports transparency and accountability. Ongoing modernization of laboratories, teaching spaces, dormitories, and the library demonstrates sustained improvement of study and research conditions.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources The HEI has the required human resources to organise and deliver the evaluated study programme/domain.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Within IOSUD–UDJG, human resources for the Materials Engineering doctoral field are adequate in number and qualifications, ensuring proper program functioning and compliance with legal requirements. Recruitment procedures, employment opportunities, and habilitation methodology are publicly available. At the IOSUD level, the methodology for organizing and conducting the habilitation process (https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/abilitate) is also publicly available.

The Doctoral School of Fundamental and Engineering Sciences provides qualified academic staff aligned with

legal standards (Anexa I.P.A.3.1.1_Centralizator fise indepl st minim CNATDCU_conducători de doctorat). In 2024–2025, five doctoral supervisors were active in DSUD-IMAT. All meet national minimum standards, with strong research performance (average score: 6,513; average fulfillment rate: 13.02%), at least five Web of Science-indexed publications each, and an average Hirsch index of 14 (Anexa I.P.A.3.1.1_Lista publicatii ISI conducatori de doctorat).

Doctoral supervisors are also active in innovation and technology transfer through the Technology Transfer Center (CTT UGAL), contributing to patents and research valorization (Anexa I.P.A.3.1.1_Brevete şi propuneri de brevete).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The data confirm that IOSUD–UDJG fully meets performance indicators on human resource adequacy and quality. High CNATDCU scores, strong research output, and international recognition reflect a solid academic body. Compliance with supervision limits and alignment between staff expertise and teaching ensure coherent and high-quality doctoral training.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG has a legally compliant and efficient administration, with an organizational structure and staffing aligned to institutional needs. Personnel qualifications match position requirements, ensuring coherent support services (https://ugal.ro/informatii/organizare/serviciile-universitatii).

The university supports staff development through its Strategic Plan 2025–2029 (https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/SCIM/PLAN_STRATEGIC_INSTITUTIONAL_UDJG_2025-2029.pdf) promoting performance-based policies, continuous training, and international mobility. Academic and administrative staff participate in training programs, Erasmus+ mobility (https://ugal.ro/files/erasmus/2024/5/Procedura_operationala_privind_mobilitatea_personalului.pdf), and scientific events, supported by institutional procedures and funding.

Academic and auxiliary teaching staff have participated in continuous training courses (https://cercetare.ugal.ro/fisiere/cercetare/finantarea-diseminarii/2025/regulament-finantare-diseminare-rezultate-cercetare-stiintifica.pdf) and postgraduate programs.

Within Materials Engineering (DSUD-IMAT), doctoral supervisors are actively involved in training, conferences, and international mobility (Anexa I.P.A.3.1.2._Conferinte, mobilitati outgoing, targuri, cursuri), contributing to ongoing professional development and international collaboration.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The data indicate a functional and efficient administration, with an organizational structure and qualified staff aligned to institutional needs. This supports administrative efficiency and adequate human resources.

Professional development is strategically integrated, with clear mobility procedures and financial support for international activities. The involvement of doctoral supervisors in conferences and mobility programs enhances scientific performance and international visibility in Materials Engineering.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures Teaching staff recruitment procedures compliant with the provisions of the law.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1	Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG recruits academic staff in compliance with national legislation through competitive selection procedures for both fixed-term and indefinite positions, based on methodologies approved by the University Senate, approved by the University Senate. Faculties may define additional field-specific criteria.

All competition information, including timelines, committee composition, and results, is publicly available, ensuring transparency and open access.

At IOSUD level, the recruitment of doctoral supervisors follows legal and transparent procedures. Habilitation files and results are fully published on the university website (https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/abilitate/dosare-de-abilitare).

Recruitment procedures for all staff categories are governed by principles of transparency, competitiveness, equal

opportunity, and non-discrimination, in line with national regulations and European Higher Education Area standards.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The recruitment framework is coherent, legally compliant, and transparent. Public access to competition and habilitation information ensures fairness and trust. Faculty-defined criteria allow disciplinary adaptation while maintaining standards and autonomy. Full publication of habilitation procedures confirms compliance with transparency, legality, and quality assurance requirements for doctoral supervision.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion A.4. Digitalisation of institutional processes

Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation The digital transformation process in the organisational component seeks to achieve administrative simplification and improve the quality of the services provided to the members of its own community, as well as to third parties.	
Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1	The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG implements a Strategic Plan for Digitalization 2022–2027 (https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/2022/5/Strategie_digitalizare_UDJG_2022-2027.pdf) to modernize IT infrastructure and integrate digital tools into teaching, administration, and research.

Teaching is supported through Moodle and Microsoft Teams, while HR and academic management are handled via integrated platforms covering curricula, staffing, and workload. Teaching evaluation is conducted through the institutional system (https://www.evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/en/).

The library (https://biblioteca.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/) provides access to digital resources via ARTHRA and international databases (Web of Science, Scopus, ScienceDirect) through Anelis Plus. Communication and services for students are supported by student.ugal.ro, Office 365 accounts, SSO authentication, and cloud-based tools.

Research and teaching are supported by specialized software (ANSYS, MATLAB, Autodesk) and a high-performance computing system (24.9 TFlops, 624 cores). Student management is being upgraded through the SmartUMS system, alongside digitalization investments funded by PNRR.

Infrastructure development includes dedicated digital laboratories and modernization of departmental facilities. As part of its digital modernization efforts, the university is implementing acquisitions funded through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), having been selected for funding under the call “Grants for the digitalization of universities”, which confirms the institution’s commitment to upgrading its digital infrastructure. IT governance is ensured through operational procedures for technical support and system access management, ensuring efficient and secure use of digital resources.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The data indicate a coherent and integrated digital infrastructure supported by a clear strategy and sustained investment. Educational, administrative, and research platforms, alongside access to international databases and Single Sign-On (SSO) authentication, ensure a high level of digitalization and operational efficiency. Integrated IT systems enhance management and transparency, while HPC infrastructure and digital laboratories strengthen research capacity and competitiveness.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

The development of HPC infrastructure and the extensive modernization of laboratories and computing centers through PNRR funding represent significant initiatives for aligning the university with European standards in the field of digitalization of education and research.

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programmes

Standard S.B.1.1. Content of study programme/s* The study programme is based on a curriculum designed so that students can acquire the expected learning outcomes.	
Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

DSUD-IMAT, organized within SDSFI, is designed in accordance with the expected learning outcomes and the requirements of the national and European framework of doctoral studies. The programme is organised on the basis of transferable study credits (ECTS) and includes learning, research and assessment activities leading to the achievement of the EQF level 8 university qualification.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The mission and objectives of DSUD-IMAT are in line with the mission of UDJG and the Faculty of Engineering, with the educational requirements identified in the labor market. The training of doctoral candidates considers conceptual and practical competencies at the level of research, development, innovation, and technology transfer. The DSUD-IMAT program ensures the correlation between industry requirements and the structure of the curriculum and the content of course syllabi.

The knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired during university education are sufficient to allow doctoral students to enter the labor market. DSUD-IMAT is based on a curriculum for advanced training and documentation, developed and organized according to the expected learning outcomes and based on the transferable credit system (Course Sheets) (Anexa I.P.B.1.1.1._Avizare fise discipline). The curriculum includes 4 subjects relevant for training in scientific research for doctoral students: Academic Writing for fields corresponding to fundamental and engineering sciences and research project management, English for scientific and engineering purposes, Research Ethics and Academic Integrity, and Advanced Digital Skills.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.2.1. Alignment with the qualification level and the intended competences In the curriculum design and development process, the organisational component seeks to ensure the qualification level, as well as correlation with the envisaged occupations.	
Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2	The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The learning activities in DSUD-IMAT carried out through advanced courses, seminars, applied activities and individual research, adapted to the specifics of doctoral studies, and the learning outcomes are aligned with European occupational standards, especially ESCO, ensuring the formation of project management, planning and resource management skills to achieve research objectives within pre-established deadlines and budgets, through the discipline "Academic writing for technical sciences and research project management" (https://www.ugal.ro/files/doctorat/scoala%20doctorala/2025-2026/SD-SFI_Plan_invatamant_SD_SFI_2025-2026.pdf).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The learning outcomes (https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/scoli-doctorale/scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-fundamentale-si-ingineresti?view=article&id=15528:fisa-disciplinei-sd-sfi-2025-2026&catid=11) are formulated so as to correspond to the competencies acquired after completing doctoral university studies in correlation with the level 8 qualification from the EQF/CEC and from the CNC. These outcomes are developed and specified in the curriculum

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

as well as in the discipline sheets, which detail the competencies, objectives, contents, and assessment methods for each course.

In the field of Materials Engineering, the learning outcomes aim to develop the ability of doctoral students to conduct independent scientific research activities, to design and implement research and innovation projects, as well as to generate professional knowledge in the field of advanced materials, nanomaterials, biomaterials, and composites, all of these contributing to the training of specialists capable of integrating into the academic environment, research institutes, or the high-tech industrial sector.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.3.1 Principles The organisational component implements the principles of student-centred learning.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1	The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

DSUD-IMAT, organized within SDSFI, is designed in accordance with the principles of student-centered learning, according to national regulations, institutional policies and IER, principles reflected in the Regulation of doctoral studies, curricula and discipline sheets, public documents available on the institution's website.

The organizational component of the study program ensures the implementation of student-centered learning principles through a flexible curricular approach adapted to the training needs of doctoral students.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The curriculum integrates general and specific subjects that allow the development of professional skills, as well as transversal skills (critical thinking, communication, teamwork, autonomy in learning). The structure of the study plan and the course sheets (https://www.ugal.ro/files/doctorat/scoala%20doctorala/2025-2026/SD-SFI_Plan_invatamant_SD_SFI_2025-2026.pdf).

The course syllabi are developed in accordance with the regulations in force and include the fundamental elements of the teaching process (https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/scoli-doctorale/scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-fundamentale-si-ingineresti?view=article&id=15528:fisa-disciplinei-sd-sfi-2025-2026&catid=11).

After admission, for each student, the Individual Program of University Doctoral Studies is completed (https://www.ugal.ro/files/doctorat/scoala%20doctorala/2025-2026/SD-SFI_Plan_invatamant_SD_SFI_2025-2026.pdf). Doctoral students enrolled in the first year are required to complete the advanced university training and documentation program, a program carried out based on a Curriculum Plan.

Members of the guidance and academic integrity committees provide consultations to doctoral students according to a schedule (Guidance consultation schedule). The functionality of the guidance committees is evidenced by the minutes of the scientific report defenses before the guidance committees and by the minutes prepared on the occasion of the doctoral thesis presentations before the guidance committees (Anexa I.P.B.3.1.1._Dovezi indrumare). Joint publications of doctoral students with the members of the guidance committee confirm their good collaboration (Anexa I.P.B.3.1.1._Lista publicatii comune doctoranzi-indrumatori).

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P. B.3.1.2	The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The university applies clear and transparent procedures regarding the organization, recognition, and validation of study and internship mobility, in accordance with the Erasmus Charter and the Erasmus+ Student Guide. IOSUD-UDJG and SDSFI offer doctoral students physical and/or virtual academic mobility, which facilitates access to international academic environments, diverse scientific resources and interdisciplinary collaborations, supporting student-centered learning, academic autonomy and integration into international research networks.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

All doctoral students from DSUD-IMAT who completed their doctoral studies in the period 2020-2025 had at least one participation in a prestigious scientific conference. The list of these participations is presented in Annex

I.P.B.3.1.2. Doctoral students' conference participates upon completion of their stage. Most doctoral students carrying out activities in the academic year 2024-2025 have participated in international scientific conferences (Anexa I.P.B.3.1.2._Participari conferinte doctoranzi stagiu finalizat) (7 out of 8 – 87.5%). IOSUD and SDSFI respectively, have concluded agreements within the Erasmus+ KA103 program both for study mobility and for placement/internship:
(https://www.ugal.ro/files/erasmus/2024/1/Parteneri_Erasmus_KA_171_2024.pdf;
https://www.ugal.ro/files/erasmus/2025/04/1.pdf).

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
- ✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts

DSUD-IMAT operates on the basis of a set of institutional regulations that enshrine the principles of equity, non-discrimination and equal opportunities for doctoral students, these being provided for in the Regulation of Doctoral Studies, the University Charter and other relevant institutional policies, documents available on the university's website.

The university provides equitable opportunities to all students, in accordance with their potential and aspirations. According to the UDJG Charter and the Regulation on university student activities, the individuals enrolled in doctoral programs have the status of doctoral students and comply with the provisions of the Institutional Regulation regarding the organization and functioning of doctoral university studies in the doctoral schools of UDJG.

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts

Teaching, research, and training activities are adapted to the individual potential and interests of doctoral students, offering them the opportunity to build their research path in accordance with their own aspirations. The diversity of learning styles and abilities is taken into account through:

- flexibility in choosing research topics and doctoral supervisors;
- access to various educational resources (digital libraries, databases, online platforms, research laboratories (https://biblioteca.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/);
- participation in scientific activities (workshops, conferences, etc.) adapted to each student's field of interest (https://cssd-udjg.ugal.ro/index.php/about/sections;
https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/manifestari-stiintifice-recomandate);
- individualized support mechanisms (tutoring, mentoring, academic and career counseling, guidance and academic integrity committees, international mobility, student camps);
- adherence to the principles of inclusion and non-discrimination, according to national legislation and institutional regulations.

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
- ✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.4.1. Access to resources and services The organisational component provides access to adequate resources and support services, according to the needs of the students.	
Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG ensures access for all students to resources and support services adapted to the learning process and professional training. The educational infrastructure includes classrooms and seminar rooms equipped with modern equipment (Anexa I.P.A.2.1.1_Spatii didactice si de cercetare), specialized research laboratories, physical and electronic libraries (Anexa I.P.A.2.1.1_Biblioteca_Acces baze date), as well as online learning management platforms,

which allow activities to be conducted in a hybrid format or in person (Anexa I.P.A.2.1.1_Carti domeniu IMAT).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The university constantly implements measures to make the infrastructure and educational process accessible for students with disabilities, by equipping with access ramps, elevators, markings and inscriptions adapted for people with visual impairments, as well as by providing differentiated educational support.

Doctoral students within DSUD-IMAT have access to training courses according to the SDSFI curriculum, access to informational resources: library, international databases, or other educational platforms (https://biblioteca.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/), international mobility, conferences, and international events where they can present their research results depending on the specifics of their doctoral topic (https://cssd-udjg.ugal.ro/index.php/about/sections). Doctoral students participate in carrying out research, development, and innovation projects (Anexa I.P.B.4.1.1._Doctoranzi membri în proiecte). The competition regulations for obtaining internal research grants within the UDJG, part of the methodology for awarding UDJG internal grants, stipulate the obligation to include at least one student.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.	
Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1	Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The learning outcomes are presented clearly and coherently, emphasizing the knowledge, skills and abilities that the doctoral student must acquire at the end of each discipline or training activity. These are officially documented in the curricula, the discipline sheets and the regulations of doctoral studies (Curriculum, Discipline Sheet, Student-Doctoral Student Guide), all available on the institution's website.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The learning outcomes for DSUD-IMAT are clearly, coherently, and accessibly described, detailed in the course syllabi associated with the curriculum. These outcomes are formulated in accordance with modern educational taxonomies (e.g., Bloom), covering the three essential dimensions: theoretical knowledge (the cognitive dimension); practical and applied skills; transversal competencies (communication, teamwork, autonomous learning, use of technology, etc.). The course syllabi are analyzed and approved by the SDSFI Council (Anexa I.P.B.1.1.1._Avizare fise discipline). The learning outcomes are correlated with the general objectives and the mission of DSUD-IMAT and contribute to the development of doctoral students in accordance with the national qualification's framework and ARACIS standards. Their formulation in operational terms facilitates a clear understanding of the level of performance expected by students and teaching staff in the teaching, learning, and assessment process.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The evaluation of the achievement of learning outcomes within DSUD-IMAT is regulated by the Regulation of doctoral studies and by the discipline sheets. Each doctoral student follows an Individual Program of doctoral university studies, in which the promotion criteria are defined, while the completion of the studies is carried out according to the Regulation regarding the organization and conduct of the completion of doctoral university studies (www.ugal.ro).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

During their studies, doctoral students are evaluated as follows:

- through the completion of homework assignments and the presentation of projects in accordance with the Course Syllabus, in advanced training courses, after completing the advanced training courses;
- presentation and defense of documentation reports and scientific research reports annually before the guidance and academic integrity committee, in accordance with the individual doctoral study program.

Through involvement in scientific activities of preparing and publishing papers in specialized journals and

presenting at conferences or workshops, which are reviewed by the doctoral supervisor and/or members of the guidance committee and then evaluated through the peer-review publishing system.

Educational and administrative activities related to the progress of doctoral students are organized and coordinated in accordance with Doctoral Student Guide and Regulation on Student Academic Activities (ugal.ro/files/doctorat/2025/Ghid_studenti_doctoranzi_-_FINAL.pdf; https://www.ugal.ro/files/studenti/2024/RAUS_2024.pdf) ensuring a transparent and coherent framework for the learning and evaluation process.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

- To apply the presentation of semester reports (instead of annual ones) by doctoral students in order to increase their efficiency and allow the guiding team to intervene earlier in case any difficulties are identified. The annual or biannual presentation of research reports by the doctoral student will be decided by the supervisor and the doctoral student.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.7.1. Admission The admission procedures and principles ensure access to higher education.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.1.1	The organisational component applies the admission procedures.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The admission procedures for DSUD-IMAT are regulated and applied in accordance with the Methodology regarding the organization and conduct of admission to the third cycle of doctoral studies and all procedures and information presented publicly. Admission is carried out on a competitive basis, in conditions of transparency, with the publication of relevant information regarding the admission calendar, selection criteria, competition tests, number of places and eligibility conditions on the institution's website (https://www.admitere.ugal.ro/doctorat/metodologie-doctorat).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

Detailed information regarding the admission session (schedule, required documents, selection criteria, methodology, seat allocations, registration fees, tuition fees, fields of study, special enrollment conditions, syllabus and bibliography, doctoral schools, fields and doctoral supervisors, operational procedure regarding the language skills certification exam, application for registration for the language skills certificate, fee for issuing the language skills certificate) is available on the official website of UDJG in the admission section. On the IOSUD-UDJG page, the Doctoral Student Guide is also available.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.B.7.1.2	Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The admission of students to doctoral studies is carried out in accordance with Methodology regarding the organization and conduct of admission to the third cycle of university doctoral studies. At admission to DSUD-IMAT, only graduates of master's degree programs can apply, but also graduates with a bachelor's degree or equivalent, issued by the year of graduation of the first bachelor's promotion organized in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 288/2004 regarding the organization of university studies, with subsequent amendments and completions (long-term education).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

In the case where the doctoral candidate holds credits obtained in a research master's program or has completed previous doctoral stages and/or scientific research stages, carried out in the country or abroad, in universities or in prestigious research and development units, they are recognized as equivalent to those in the training program based on advanced university studies. The equivalence is proposed by the doctoral supervisor and is approved by the Doctoral School Council.

At the IOSUD-SDSFI level, performance in the research activity of doctoral students is encouraged and supported through the implementation of the "Operational Procedure for Encouraging Performance in the Research Activity of Doctoral Students" (https://www.admitere.ugal.ro/doctorat/metodologie-doctorat).

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
- ✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.7.2. Academic journey of students The organisational component carries out actions supporting the students' academic journey.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1	The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The organizational component of the students' professional activity within DSUD-IMAT is regulated by a set of rules that ensure a structured, transparent learning framework aligned with academic and ethical standards, being governed by the national legislation and institutional regulations in force, namely the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, OME no. 3020/2024 on the Framework Regulation for Doctoral Studies and Institutional Regulation on the Organization and Functioning of Doctoral Studies in the Doctoral Schools of the "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati.

These regulations establish the rights and obligations of doctoral students, the requirements regarding professional and research activity, the methods of evaluating doctoral progress, as well as the conditions for suspending, extending or completing studies. According to the IER, the application of these regulations is ensured through the responsible structures of the university (CSUD, doctoral supervisors, the secretariat of the Doctoral School).

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The evaluation committee notes that at the institutional level the following regulations exist and apply: the Regulations regarding the professional activity of doctoral students are provided in the Framework Regulation on University Doctoral Studies, dated 08.01.2024 (approved by Order no. 3020/2024, published in the Official Gazette, Part I no. 56 of January 22, 2024); the Regulation on Doctoral Schools within IOSUD-UDJG, approved by the Senate Decision no. 411 of 14.10.2024; the Initiation Regulation regarding the approval, monitoring, and periodic evaluation of study programs; the Methodology for the self-evaluation of IOSUD-UDJG activities and the activities of doctoral schools within IOSUD; the Institutional Regulation on the organization and functioning of university doctoral studies in the doctoral schools of UDJG (with the amendments approved in art. 2 of Senate Decision 468/12.12.2024); the Methodology regarding the organization and conduct of admission to the third cycle of university doctoral studies.

Doctoral students within IOSUD-UDJG benefit from counseling at the Counseling and Career Guidance Center (http://ccoc.ugal.ro/), academic support services through financial support for participation in scientific events (Anexa I.P.B.7.2.1._Centralizator cheltuieli doctoranzi) and Erasmus+scholarships, and internships, social support services through access to dormitories, canteens, and medical services at the Galati Student Campus (http://campus.ugal.ro/).

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
- ✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalisation Improving the quality of education and research through internationalisation actions.	
Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts

University professors, doctoral students, master's students, and students from UDJG participate in various activities at the international level to determine the position of Romanian education internationally and to come up with proposals to improve its quality with the support of the International Relations Office (https://www.ugal.ro/relatii-internationale/biroul-de-relatii-internationale/retele-universitare).

- ✓ Analysis of the state of facts

UDJG has signed a series of agreements with research institutions and universities from 13 EU member countries and 25 countries from the rest of the world. Doctoral students from DSUD_IMAT have participated in international conferences (Anexa I.P.B.8.1.1._Participari conferinte doctoranzi stagiu finalizat and Anexa I.P.B.8.1.1._Participari conferinte doctoranzi in stagiu).

DSUD-IMAT has concluded agreements within the Erasmus+ KA103 program both for study mobility

(https://www.ugal.ro/files/erasmus/2024/1/Parteneri_Erasmus_KA_171_2024.pdf) and for placement/internship (https://www.ugal.ro/files/erasmus/2025/04/1.pdf).

UDJG has operational procedures, which are regulated through institutional documents, such as the Erasmus Charter, the Erasmus+ Student Guide, and the methodologies approved by the university's management structures (https://www.ugal.ro/relatii-internationale/biroul-de-relatii-internationale/acorduri-internationale).

At UDJG, it is customary to invite scientific personalities for public lectures on the occasion of organizing doctoral student conferences.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- At UDJG, it is customary to invite international scientific personalities on the occasion of organizing conferences for doctoral students. They also give public lectures for doctoral students. This is good practice worthy of being applied in other university centers as well.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.9. Scientific research results

Standard S.B.9.1 Scientific research in the education process Scientific research activities support students in achieving the learning outcomes.	
Indicator I.P.B.9.1.1	Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

DSUD-IMAT is focused on advanced scientific research activities, which constitute the core of the learning process at doctoral level (curriculum 2025-2026, discipline sheets, Institutional regulation on the organization and functioning of doctoral studies in doctoral schools of the UDJG. Doctoral students are involved in research projects, experimental and analytical activities, the elaboration of scientific articles, participation in conferences and dissemination of research results. The scientific results obtained are capitalized on during teaching activities, periodic evaluations and the completion of doctoral studies.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

In accordance with IER, in the last period, 3 doctoral students have completed their doctoral studies in DSUD-IMAT, all obtaining the title of doctor (Ravoiu (Lupu) Anca, Costea (Nour) Iuliana Florina, Neaga Veaceslav). In Anexa I.P.B.9.1.1._Lista publicatii relevante doctoranzi, the relevant contributions of the doctoral students are presented. From the annexes to IER, it can be observed that all doctoral students who have completed or are in the doctoral stage have published at least one article or another relevant contribution in the last 5 years.

It is important to mention that, in the period 2020-2024, the doctoral students (8 students) from DSUD-IMAT published 8 papers in WOS-indexed journals, 2 papers published in BDI journals, obtained 4 invention patents, and recorded 15 participations in international conferences. In the period 2021-2025, the doctoral supervisors from DSUD-IMAT conducted 5 research projects in which doctoral students on a doctoral stage with individual employment contracts were also involved: Bounegru Iulian, Neaga Veaceslav, Diana Mocanu, Ghisman (Alexe) Georgiana, Ivanov Andrei, etc. (Anexa I.P.B.4.1.1._Doctoranzi membri în proiecte).

UDJG annually organizes the Scientific Conference of Doctoral Schools (https://cssd-udjg.ugal.ro/index.php/about/sections).

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research pertaining to the objectives of the study programme The organisational component carries out scientific research activities aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study programme.	
Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The national and international visibility of the doctoral supervisors within DSUD-IMAT is leveraged through their activity in the scientific committees of internationally recognized conferences in their field of expertise, their membership on the boards of international professional associations, their role as invited participants in conferences or expert groups held abroad, etc.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

UDJG annually organizes the Scientific Conference of Doctoral Schools, where students are encouraged to present their research results under the guidance of doctoral supervisors and members of the advisory committees. Within the conference, there are sections specific to each doctoral field. The international visibility of the doctoral supervisors from DSUD-IMAT is confirmed by their Hirsch index values (the average Hirsch index in the field in Web of Science being 14), as well as by their membership in the scientific committees of international/national conferences and by the medals obtained at invention fairs abroad (Anexa I.P.A.3.1.1_Lista medalii conducători de doctorat).

The high-quality work of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, rated and indexed in Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4, are a strong argument for the international visibility of the research carried out at DSUD-IMAT (Anexa I.P.B.9.1.1._Lista publicatii relevante doctoranzi). The results of scientific research, development, and innovation activities are translated into patent proposals (Anexa I.P.A.3.1.1_Brevete şi propuneri de brevete) and are appropriately valorized and communicated through participation in national and international conferences (Anexa I.P.B.8.1.1._Participari conferinte doctoranzi stagiu finalizat, Anexa I.P.B.8.1.1._Participari conferinte doctoranzi in stagiu).

- ✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
- ✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN C. Quality management

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

Standard S.C.1.1. Application Adequately implemented strategic directions, actions, and procedures	
Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1	The organisational component consistently carries out actions and applies procedures, proving their impact on improving the quality of education at the level of the study programme

- ✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Doctoral School of Fundamental Sciences and Engineering (SDSFI) operates based on regulations and methodologies which are available on the IOSUD-UDJG website (https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/scoli-doctorale/scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-fundamentale-si-ingineresti). Within IOSUD-UDJG, the strategic development directions are defined and implemented through the Institutional Strategic Plan 2025-2029 (https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/SCIM/PLAN_STRATEGIC_INSTITUTIONAL_UDJG_2025-2029.pdf) and are in accordance with professional ethics and deontology.

(a) Scientific activity of doctoral supervisors

SDSFI monitors the scientific activity of doctoral supervisors (DS) through the following mechanisms:

- IOSUD-UDJG has implemented a Methodology for self-evaluation of activity, which establishes systems of criteria, standards, and performance indicators, in accordance with ARACIS standards and requirements (https://www.ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2021/HS_102_din_2_4_2021_anexa_Metodologie_autoevaluare_IOSUD_actualizata.pdf);
- IOSUD-UDJG has implemented a Procedure regarding the granting and revocation of membership in doctoral schools within IOSUD-UDJG, available at https://www.ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS_286_2024_Anexa_PO_CSUD.pdf);
- SDSFI has an annual self-evaluation procedure for doctoral supervisors.

(b) Infrastructure and logistics necessary for conducting research activities

UDJG has adequate infrastructure for research activities, which can be used safely, efficiently, and effectively throughout its normal operating duration. Research equipment and installations are part of the Interdisciplinary Research Center in Eco-Nano Technology and Innovative Materials (CC-ITI).

(c) Procedures and related regulations governing doctoral studies

Doctoral studies are regulated throughout their entire duration by the following regulations and methodologies, available on the IOSUD-UDJG website:

- Institutional Regulation for the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies, adopted by Senate Decision no. 411 of 14.10.2024, later updated by Annex 3 to Senate Decision no. 32 of March 4, 2026, (https://www.ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS_411_2024_Anexa-Regulament_institutional_doctorat.pdf; https://www.ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2026/HS_032_2026_Anexa_3-ROF_IOSUD_UDJG.pdf);
- Regulation on the initiation, monitoring, and periodic evaluation of study programs, approved by Senate Decision no. 133 of 11.04.2025

(https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/Metodologii_regulamente/regulamente/Regulament_initiere_monitorizare_programe2025.pdf);

- Methodology for the self-evaluation of IOSUD-UDJG activity and doctoral schools within IOSUD-UDJG, approved by Senate Decision no. 102 of 02.04.2021.

(d) Scientific activity of doctoral students

SDSFI monitors the scientific activity of doctoral students through the following mechanisms:

- Doctoral students' self-evaluation procedure;
- Institutional regulation for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies in the doctoral schools of UDJG which regulates the conditions for granting periods of extension of the duration of the doctoral student's activity;
- Evaluation form completed by the doctoral supervisor.

(e) Training program based on advanced university studies for doctoral students

The training program based on advanced university studies is established and implemented through:

- Regulation on the initiation, monitoring, and periodic review of study programs;
- Methodology for the self-evaluation of IOSUD-UDJG and its doctoral schools;
- Curriculum and course syllabi.

The content of the study program and course syllabi is monitored, including the allocation of disciplines according to proven expertise and the relationship between teaching quality and learning outcomes (self-evaluation, student evaluation, and annual evaluation by SDSFI management). The expertise of the teaching staff delivering courses within DSUD-IMAT is demonstrated through detailed, though not uniform, presentations for all 11 course holders (Anexa I.P.A.3.1.1_Expertiza titulari cursuri_SDSFI).

(f) Feedback mechanisms

SDSFI has implemented feedback mechanisms from doctoral students to identify their needs and satisfaction level regarding the doctoral program as a whole, https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/scoli-doctorale/scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-fundamentale-si-ingineresti?view=article&id=15523:mecanisme-de-feedback-sd-sfi-2024-2025&catid=11).

Doctoral supervisors evaluate doctoral students annually using an evaluation form (Anexa I.P.C.1.1.1._Raport sintetic evaluare studenti de catre CD).

Doctoral students evaluate supervisors based on an operational procedure, https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/scoli-doctorale/scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-fundamentale-si-ingineresti/11-site/6061-mecanisme-de-feedback-sd-sfi).

Doctoral students evaluate doctoral study programs through questionnaires, and the results are presented in a summary report (Anexa I.P.C.1.1.1._Raport sintetic evaluare program de studiu).

SDSFI management evaluates doctoral supervisors, with results presented in a summary report (Anexa I.P.C.1.1.1._Raport sintetic evaluare CD de catre SD-SFI).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

Strategic and operational directions are developed through regulations and procedures that are properly implemented to ensure quality assurance.

(a) Scientific activity of doctoral supervisors

- SDSFI does not have a formal procedure for the self-evaluation of doctoral supervisors, but the evaluation committee considers the self-evaluation form sufficient for monitoring purposes;
- doctoral supervisors complete an annual self-evaluation form;
- the application of the self-evaluation methodology and verification of criteria and performance indicators are reflected in annual reports;
- a summary report on the evaluation of doctoral supervisors by SDSFI is prepared.

(b) Infrastructure and logistics necessary for research activities

Each piece of equipment or installation in the Interdisciplinary Research Center in the Field of Eco-nano Technology and Innovative Materials (CC-ITI) (https://cc-iti.ugal.ro/index.php/en/) has a record sheet and an equipment manager who ensures the monitoring of the functioning necessary for the proper conduct of the research activity. The center's infrastructure can be consulted at:

https://cc-iti.ugal.ro/index.php/en/infrastructura.

(c) Procedures and subsequent norms on the basis of which doctoral studies are organized

Starting from admission and up to the completion of doctoral studies, including the public defense of the doctoral thesis, there are well-established procedures that are visible on the IOSUD-UDJG website.

The internal evaluation activity of the quality of university doctoral study programs, of the performances of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students is carried out annually and is coordinated by an internal evaluation committee, designated annually by CSUD, upon the proposal of CSD.

The annual internal evaluation reports of the Doctoral Schools of IOSUD-UDJG are approved by the University Senate.

(d) Scientific activity of doctoral students

SDSFI does not have a self-evaluation Procedure for doctoral students, but the committee considers that the self-evaluation form is sufficient for monitoring the activity of doctoral students.

Doctoral students complete a self-evaluation form annually.

The conditions for granting periods of extension of the duration of the doctoral student's activity are established by the Institutional regulation for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies.

The doctoral student evaluation form is drawn up by the doctoral supervisor.

(e) Training program based on advanced university studies of doctoral students

The attention paid to the creation of the training program based on advanced university studies is proven by:

- analyzing and approving the content of the subjects in the Curriculum in the SDSFI Council (Anexa I.P.B.1.1.1._Avizare fise discipline);

- nominating teaching staff with proven expertise for carrying out teaching activity in the subjects in the plan (Anexa I.P.A.3.1.1_Expertiza titulari curs). Teaching staff who teach in the respective subjects have the quality of doctoral supervisor/hability or professor.

(f) Feedback mechanisms

From the analysis of the data presented in the IER of the doctoral field of Materials Engineering, the following findings emerged:

- the evaluation of doctoral students by the CD is made on two components, namely the activity component within the training program based on advanced university studies and, respectively, the activity component within the scientific research program. The results show (Anexa I.P.C.1.1.1._Raport sintetic evaluare studenti de catre CD) that for all aspects provided in the form, the CD appreciated the students' activity as Good and Very good;

- the last evaluation of the DS by doctoral students took place in the period January-February 2025 based on a questionnaire with 11 questions. From Anexa I.P.C.1.1.1._Raport sintetic evaluare CD de catre studenti, it can be seen that, from the doctoral students' perspective, all 11 aspects of the evaluation sheets relating to the level of demand, the content of the disciplines, the level of concern, involvement, monitoring, etc. offered during the doctoral program were rated with scores of 4 and 5 on a Likert scale (from 1 – very low, to 5 – very high). The total number of completed questionnaires was 105;

- the last evaluation of the study program by doctoral students was carried out in the period January-February 2025 based on a questionnaire with 9 questions. From Anexa I.P.C.1.1.1._Raport sintetic evaluare program de studiu, it is noted that 6 of the 7 respondents from the Materials Engineering field gave the maximum score (5, on a scale from 1 to 5) to all the questions in the questionnaire, and one student gave the score 4 to the question “Level of involvement of doctoral students from the doctoral school in research projects and technical assistance specific to the fields of doctoral studies”;

- the last evaluation of the DS by the SDSFI management was carried out in the period January-February 2025 based on a questionnaire with 10 questions. From Anexa I.P.C.1.1.1._Raport sintetic evaluare CD de catre SD-SFI, a positive trend is noted in the evaluations at the level of the entire SDSFI, with a preponderance of scores of 4 and 5, which indicates a high level of satisfaction regarding the teaching activity, research activity and guidance of doctoral students, as well as the national/international recognition of doctoral supervisors.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- The evaluation of students by the CD is finalized with recommendations: (i) aiming to publish the research results obtained during the doctoral internships in journals with a high impact factor and (ii) improving the scientific level by aiming to communicate the results at recognized international conferences.

✓ Recommendations

- Uploading the CVs of all doctoral supervisors from SDSFI who have teaching activity at DSUD-IMAT on the dedicated page “SD-SFI Doctoral Supervisors 2024-2025”.

- Establishing a model for writing the expertise for all course holders and updating the document Anexa I.P.A.3.1.1_Expertiza titulari cursuri_SDSFI.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement The HEI proves that it engages the stakeholders who have relevant activity in applying the procedures.	
Indicator I.P.C.1.2.1	The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

At the institutional level, UDJG cultivates and encourages the consultation and active involvement of members of the academic community (faculty, students and administrative staff) and other stakeholders (graduates, employers, institutional partners) in the process of developing, reviewing and implementing internal procedures, opinions being collected through:

- public consultations organized on the occasion of the approval of regulations and methodologies (https://ugal.ro/informatii/organizare/senatul-universitatii/dezbatere-publica-senat);
- faculty councils, specialized committees in faculties and in the Senate, the Board of Directors, the University Ethics Commission (CEU), etc.;
- satisfaction and internal evaluation questionnaires periodically applied among students (https://www.evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/en/);
- consultations with employers, representatives of the economic environment and partner institutions.

The university has regulations for mechanisms for periodically polling students' opinions regarding their satisfaction with the educational process, student services and infrastructure:

- Operational procedure for evaluating teachers by students, https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/2022/6/HS_167_din_19_05_2022_Anexa_Procedura_operationala_eval_cadre_did_stud.pdf;
- Operational procedure for evaluating the learning environment, https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/proceduri/44.PO_evaluare_mediu_invatare.pdf.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The following findings emerged from the analysis of the data presented in the IER of the Materials Engineering field:

- students are represented in all management structures, respecting the representation norms, according to the Election Methodology approved by the Senate, https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2024/HS_086_2024-Anexa-Metodologie-alegeri-2024.pdf;
- UDJG uses mechanisms to periodically survey students' opinions, and the opinions expressed are analyzed and integrated into the process of reviewing documents and procedures.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Periodic consultation of students through the application of satisfaction and internal evaluation questionnaires.

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.2.2. Operation Quality assurance and academic ethics and conduct organisational structures adequately perform their specific role and functions.	
Indicator I.P.C.2.2.2.	The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG has a solid institutional framework of ethics and academic integrity based on:

- Code of ethics and university deontology, https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2025/HS_003_2025_Anexa_1-Codul_de_etica_si_deontologie_universitara.pdf;
- Regulation on the organization and functioning of the University Ethics Commission of UDJG, https://ugal.ro/files/hotarari/hs/2025/HS_003_2025_Anexa_2-ROF_CEU.pdf;
- preventive policy regarding violation of the code of ethics.

The university promotes ethical education and accountability through:

- the discipline Ethics and Academic Integrity / Ethics of Scientific Research in the curricula of all bachelor's, master's and doctoral study programs;
- the postgraduate course Ethics and Academic Deontology intended for university teachers and master's and doctoral students.

UDJG has implemented system procedures:

- System procedure regarding sensitive functions and risk mitigation plan, https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/proceduri/proceduri_sistem/01.PS_functii_sensibile.pdf;
- System procedure regarding risk management and risk register, https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/proceduri/proceduri_sistem/02.PS_managementul_riscurilor.pdf;

- System procedure regarding reporting irregularities and whistleblower protection, https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/2022/2/Procedura_de_sistem_privind_semnalarea_neregulilor.pdf;
- Procedure regarding conflicts of interest and their resolution, https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/2022/5/Procedura%20de%20sistem%20privind%20conflictele%20de%20interese%20%C8%99i%20solu%C8%9Bionarea%20acestora.pdf;
- Implementation of Standard 1 – Ethics and integrity (Order no. 600/2018 of the Minister of Education).

The University applies integrity standards to all scientific production through:

- General procedure. Using the anti-plagiarism system, https://ugal.ro/files/site/comisie_etica/15_10_Procedura_gen_Antiplagiat_CEU_rev_2018.pdf;
- originality checks for all academic papers (https://www.sistemantiplagiat.ro/), with additional details regarding the use of the anti-plagiarism system, https://ugal.ro/files/site/comisie_etica/15_10_Instructiuni_antipl.pdf.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

UDJG has a solid framework of ethics and academic integrity, combining institutional regulations, prevention procedures, continuing education and verification of scientific production, all supported by an autonomous ethics committee and transparent mechanisms. General procedures and anti-plagiarism rules are respected and originality checks are made for all academic works.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and implementation of procedures The HEI has procedures for initiating, monitoring, and periodically reviewing the study programmes and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.	
Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG applies a Regulation on the initiation, monitoring and periodic review of study programs (https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/images/Metodologii_regulamente/regulamente/Regulament_initiere_monitorizare_programe2025.pdf), approved by the University Senate in 2025, which establishes the framework for ensuring the quality of bachelor's, master's and doctoral study programs.

The quality of doctoral university study programs, as well as the performance of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, are evaluated annually by an internal evaluation committee appointed by CSUD, and the resulting reports (https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/raportul-de-evaluare-interna-al-scolilor-doctorale) of the doctoral schools within IOSUD-UDJG are approved by the University Senate.

The monitoring of the DSUD-IMAT field is carried out through the analysis of self-evaluation files by the teaching committee and the Quality Council (https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/dosare) and includes the evaluation of curricula and subject sheets, learning outcomes based on student performance and the activity of teaching staff by the academic management. These processes contribute to the maintenance and continuous improvement of the quality of the doctoral studies field.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

From the available documents and reports, it is found that UDJG consistently applies the institutional procedures regarding the initiation, monitoring and periodic review of study programs. Monitoring of the field of doctoral university studies is carried out systematically, through annual internal evaluations, analysis of curricula, subject sheets, learning outcomes and through periodic evaluation of teaching staff. The documents and information presented confirm the effective application of the procedures and demonstrate their contribution to ensuring and improving the quality of doctoral study programs. Consequently, Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1 is considered fulfilled.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Transparency proven through the publication of evaluation reports.
- Multidimensional monitoring (curriculum, learning outcomes, teachers, student feedback).

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator	Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure

I.P.C.3.1.2	implementation process.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

Members of the UDJG academic community are directly involved in the activity of the following bodies:

- Commission for Quality Assessment and Assurance (CEAC), https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/structuri/consiliul-de-calitate;
- Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/domenii-de-doctorat;
- Doctoral School Council, https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/structuri/consiliul-de-calitate.

Doctoral students participate in annual evaluations of the activity of doctoral supervisors: https://evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/en/mediul-de-invatare; https://evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/en/evaluarea-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi/chestionar-de-evaluare-a-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi-sd-sfi.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

From the analysis of the data presented in the IER of the doctoral field of Materials Engineering and obtained during the visit, it emerges that the economic agents are part of the CEAC (https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/structuri/consiliul-de-calitate) and participate together with the doctoral supervisors and doctoral students in the implementation of quality assurance procedures, in accordance with the institutional regulations in force. The common activity consists of analyzing indicators, evaluating the field of study and formulating proposals for improving the activity.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- The feedback sent by doctoral students through the annual evaluations of doctoral supervisors is analyzed and valued within the structures responsible for quality management.

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures Applying the methodologies and procedures contributes to improving the quality of the staff's activities.	
Indicator I.P.C.4.1.1	The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

IOSUD-UDJG carries out periodic evaluation of the activity of teaching staff based on procedures that comply with internal and national regulations. The evaluation of teaching staff by students is carried out annually through standardized anonymous questionnaires (https://evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/evaluarea-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi/chestionar-de-evaluare-a-conducatorilor-de-doctorat-de-catre-studentii-doctoranzi-sd-sfi). The questionnaires contain questions regarding scientific and pedagogical competence, the quality of the teaching act, the clarity of the exposition, the availability for guidance and the observance of academic ethics. The results of these evaluations are centralized and analyzed by the responsible structures (quality committee, doctoral school council), the conclusions are communicated to the management of the program and the evaluated teaching staff and based on them, measures are proposed to improve the teaching activity and to strengthen the relationship between doctoral supervisor and doctoral student.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

From the analysis of the data presented in the IER of the Materials Engineering field and obtained during the visit, it appears that this indicator is met, as IOSUD-UDJG complies with the legal provisions regarding the analysis of the results of periodic evaluations by the responsible structures (quality committee, doctoral school council).

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

The periodic evaluation process plays an active role in ensuring and increasing the quality of the doctoral study program, contributing to the continuous improvement of the staff involved and contributing to the consolidation of a quality-oriented organizational culture and supporting a student-centered educational process.

✓ Recommendations

- Amending the document "Operational procedure for the evaluation of doctoral supervisors by doctoral students", so as to carry out the biannual evaluation of both doctoral supervisors and teaching staff at DSUD-IMAT.

The indicator is: partial fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.5.1. Databases The HEI uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.	
Indicator I.P.C.5.1.1	The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG has an institutionalized, secured and integrated information system, which directly supports the functioning of internal quality assurance mechanisms by collecting, organizing and systematically analyzing relevant data, through several platforms:

- the platform https://hr.ugal.ro/secure/ ensures the unitary administration of academic information and human resources;
- the platform https://www.student.ugal.ro/ provides students with secure access to their own school situations;
- the platform https://www.evaluare.ugal.ro/ provides students and doctoral students with the framework for evaluating teaching staff, doctoral supervisors and the learning environment;
- the platform https://www.calitate.ugal.ro/index.php/ro/ provides specific procedures regarding the evaluation of teaching staff by students, as well as the evaluation of the learning environment.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The UDJG information system ensures access to curricula and subject sheets, job descriptions, vacancy coverage, teaching and consultation schedules, doctoral supervisors, SDSFI council, field coordinators, feedback mechanisms and self-evaluation sheets for doctoral supervisors and doctoral students (https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/scoli-doctorale/scoala-doctorala-de-stiinte-fundamentale-si-ingineresti). The use of databases contributes to strengthening the quality culture and increasing the operational efficiency of academic and administrative processes, in accordance with the requirements of the national quality assurance system in higher education.

Evaluation activities are regulated by specific procedures regarding the evaluation of teaching staff by students, as well as the evaluation of the learning environment, which are available on the dedicated website (https://www.evaluare.ugal.ro/index.php/en/). The information collected through this platform is analyzed by the CEAC which prepares reports that are subsequently discussed, approved and published on the university website in the Rector's Annual Reports on the State of the University and the SDSFI:
https://www.ugal.ro/informatii/documente-publice/rapoarte-anuale-universitate;
https://www.ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/raportul-de-evaluare-interna-al-scolilor-doctorale.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency The organisational component ensures transparency of information, as required by the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The organizational component ensures the publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study program. On the institution's website, information is published and periodically updated (https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat) regarding the doctoral school and the doctoral field, the program objectives, the curricular structure, the admission procedures, the doctoral school regulations, the rights and obligations of doctoral students, as well as data regarding language certificates, diplomas and qualifications obtained. Also available are internal evaluation reports of doctoral schools (annual), announcements regarding admission competitions (https://www.admitere.ugal.ro/doctorat/sesiunea-iulie-doctorat), proposed doctoral theses, the list of accredited teaching staff and supervisors, information regarding international mobility and collaboration opportunities (https://ugal.ro/relatii-internationale/biroul-erasmus/programul-erasmus-2), student camps, etc.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

From the analysis of the data presented in the IER of the Materials Engineering field and obtained during the visit, it emerges that this indicator is met, as IOSUD-UDJG complies with the legal provisions regarding the transparency of information of public interest and ensures free access to data regarding the doctoral study program. The measures taken ensure both transparency and correct information of the public, as well as strengthening trust in the quality and

relevance of the doctoral study program.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

IOSUD-UDJG ensures the transparency of decision-making processes by:

- publishing and communicating decisions taken by the management structures (Council for Doctoral University Studies, University Senate, Board of Directors);
- by complying with the procedures provided for in the specific internal regulations, https://ugal.ro/studii/doctorat/regulamentul-privind-organizaarea-studiilor-universitare-de-doctorat.

Decision-making processes are based on consultation with members of the academic community and on the principle of active participation of doctoral students in governing bodies, in accordance with the legislation in force. Decisions regarding the organization of the doctoral program, admission, resource allocation, evaluation of academic performance, international mobility and collaborations are communicated through official channels (institutional website, online platforms, institutional display and official emails). Thus, an open, responsible and participatory framework is ensured, which guarantees the fairness and equity of the decision-making process.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

From the analysis of the data presented in the IER of the Materials Engineering field and obtained during the visit, it appears that this indicator is met, as the organizational component ensures the transparency of decision-making processes.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples
✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.8.1. Compliance with the external evaluation obligation The HEI undergoes external quality evaluation as required by the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

UDJG carries out the procedures related to the external quality assessment process, with the aim of organizing the study program evaluated under the law. The external quality assessment procedures are carried out based on the IOSUD-UDJG Regulation, and the initiation of the evaluation process is carried out following approval in CSUD, according to the methodological requirements in force (https://ugal.ro/informatii/informatii-publice/hotarari/hotarari-csud/114-hotarari-csud-2025/15059-hotararea-csud-nr-15-16-06-2025).

DSUD-IMAT had its last periodic external evaluation in July 2021, following which the maintenance of accreditation with recommendations was confirmed. In October 2024, UDJG prepared the progress report to present the measures implemented at the DSUD-IMAT level, and by the Decision of the ARACIS Council of 03.07.2025, it was found regarding the implementation of the recommendations that "The recommendations have been implemented".

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

From the analysis of the data presented in the IER of the doctoral field of Materials Engineering, it appears that this indicator is met, as UDJG has carried out the procedures related to the external quality assessment process, aiming to organize the study program evaluated in accordance with the law.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Carrying out procedures for carrying out the external evaluation within the established deadline.

✓ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths: ✓ Research topics aligned with international trends in the field (biomaterials, nanotechnologies and thin films, corrosion and material protection, materials for energy). ✓ Research base with technical tradition (theses and publications in metallurgy, composite materials, polymers and nanomaterials). ✓ The program builds solid and applicable technical skills (material development, processing and characterization; engineering modeling and testing).	INTERNAL FACTORS ⇧	Weaknesses: ✓ Lower academic visibility compared to other university centers in the country or in the EU, which may affect publication in top journals and academic networking. ✓ Limited connection with leading industry (Galati region has declining industry and few high-tech companies) with the possibility of the risk that doctoral research will become more theoretical than applied. ✓ Limited local professional insertion of graduates who can work in design, quality control, production, but nevertheless jobs strictly on "advanced materials" are few in the area and this may lead to the need to relocate to other cities or abroad.
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: ✓ Modern, interdisciplinary field, with doctoral topics that include current directions (biomaterials, advanced materials for energy and anti-corrosion protection, nanocomposite materials) that create openness to medicine (implants), energy and industry (advanced materials). ✓ The possibility of research and innovation in current directions in the field with good opportunities for an academic career or in applied research (special institutes, EU projects). ✓ Compatibility with various industries in that materials engineering offers useful skills in: metallurgical, automotive, construction, quality control and design industries and is a "transferable" field to other engineering branches.	⇩ EXTERNAL FACTORS	**Threats:** ✓ The reduction in the size of stakeholders, as a result of the negative dynamics of the industry in the Galati region, labor migration and the tendency of some master's graduates to go abroad for doctoral studies. ✓ Reducing the funds needed for mobility and publication, as it is known that a doctorate becomes more valuable only if there are mobilities, participation in external projects, conferences and publication in top international journals.

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

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	**I.P.A.1.1.1** For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	
2.	**I.P.A.1.2.1** The opinions of the faculty and	F	Adding open-ended response items

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

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.		
13.	**I.P.B.3.2.1** The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.	F	
14.	**I.P.B.4.1.1** The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.	F	
15.	**I.P.B.5.1.1** Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.	F	
16.	**I.P.B.5.1.2** Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	To apply the presentation of semester reports (instead of annual ones) by doctoral students in order to increase their efficiency and allow the guiding team to intervene earlier in case any difficulties are identified. The annual or biannual presentation of research reports by the doctoral student will be decided by the supervisor and the doctoral student.
17.	**I.P.B.7.1.1** The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	F	
18.	**I.P.B.7.1.2** Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.	F	
19.	**I.P.B.7.2.1** The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
20.	**I.P.B.8.1.1** The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.	F	
21.	**I.P.B.9.1.1** Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	programme.		
22.	**I.P.B.9.2.1** The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.	F	
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
23.	**I.P.C.1.1.1** The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	Uploading the CVs of all doctoral supervisors from SDSFI who have teaching activity at DSUD-IMAT to the dedicated page "SD-SFI doctoral supervisors 2024-2025".
24.	**I.P.C.1.2.1** The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.	F	
25.	**I.P.C.2.2.2** The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	
26.	**I.P.C.3.1.1** The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
27.	**I.P.C.3.1.2** Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	
28.	**I.P.C.4.1.1** The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	PF	Amending the document "Operational procedure for the evaluation of doctoral supervisors by doctoral students", so as to carry out the biannual evaluation of both doctoral supervisors and teaching staff at DSUD-IMAT.
29.	**I.P.C.5.1.1** The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	**I.P.C.6.1.1** The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	F	
31.	**I.P.C.6.1.2** The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	**I.P.C.8.1.1** The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.	F	

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfilment

Evaluation Domain	Number of Performance Indicators		
	Fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Unfulfilled
Domain A. Institutional capacity	8	-	-
Domain B. Educational efficacy	14	-	-
Domain C. Quality management	9	1	-
Total	31	1	-

✓ Additional recommendation

- Establishing a model for writing the expertise for all course holders and updating the document Anexa I.P.A.3.1.1_Expertiza titulari cursuri_SDSFI.

VI. Conclusions

The doctoral university study field Materials Engineering is currently part of the Doctoral School of Fundamental and Engineering Sciences. During 2011-2012, the team of leaders in the field functioned as a distinct doctoral school, under the name of the "Doctoral School of Materials Engineering and Nanotechnologies". According to the Order of the Ministry of National Education no. 6129/2016 regarding the minimum necessary and mandatory standards, the doctoral university study field Materials Engineering falls under the Materials Engineering Commission, Annex 7 – CNATDCU.

The ARACIS Council issued Decision No. 87/28.10.2021, specifying that for IOSUD-UDJG and the fields of doctoral studies in Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Engineering and Materials Engineering, it was decided to "Maintain accreditation", confirmed by Order of the Minister of Education No. 5774/14.12.2021 on maintaining the accreditation of the "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati for organizing doctoral study programs.

Based on the analyzed information, Curriculum Vitae, ORCID, the ARACIS external evaluation committee found that at the level of doctoral supervisors, the legal requirements for the coordination of doctoral theses are met. Research activities are supported by technical and administrative staff, thus contributing to the smooth running of the doctoral study program.

At the time of the on-site visit, the ARACIS committee noted that a number of 4 doctoral supervisors work within DSUD-IMAT, of which 2 are tenured and 2 are associates (the associates are from the same field of doctoral studies).

In the case of DSUD-IMAT, the minimum ARACIS standards in force, necessary and mandatory for maintaining accreditation, are met as follows:

- the expert evaluation committee unanimously grants the rating **Partially fulfilled** for the **indicator I.P.C.4.1.1**;
- the expert evaluation committee unanimously awards the rating of **Fulfilled** for all other indicators.

The doctoral program Materials Engineering (DSUD-IMAT), organized within SDSFI, is designed in accordance with the expected learning outcomes. It is organized on the basis of ECTS and includes learning, research and assessment activities leading to a university qualification at EQF level 8. DSUD-IMAT has a modern research infrastructure and offers research services (https://cercetare.ugal.ro/; https://cercetare.ugal.ro/unitate-de-cercetare/) for interested parties. The equipment of research centers/laboratories with technical equipment is adequate for carrying out advanced research activities and for training experts in DSUD-IMAT.

Based on the above findings, the ARACIS external evaluation committee proposes "Maintenance of accreditation - (MAC)" for the field of doctoral studies in Materials Engineering at the "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati.

VII. Annexes

The annexes to this report uploaded to the ARACIS SharePoint platform are:

- Calendar of the external quality assessment visit;
- Minutes of meetings during the visit.