

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education



External Evaluation Report (REE) for the procedure for obtaining an accreditation* (AC) of a Doctoral Study Domain

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	University of Craiova
Doctoral School:	'St. Nicodemus' Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology
Doctoral Domain:	Visual Arts
The objective of the external evaluation:	Accreditation* (AC)



Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	LUCACIU ADRIANA	Expert evaluator	
2.	BASHA-JAKUPI ARTA	International Expert	
3.	NEGREA BOGDAN-MARIUS	PhD Student Evaluator	

I. Introduction

- The context in which the external evaluation report was drafted (the type of evaluation, the period covered by the evaluation, membership of the external quality experts' panel, etc.);

The external evaluation report was prepared as part of the evaluation process for obtaining an **accreditation (AC)** of Doctoral Study Domain within the IOSUD at the **The University of Craiova**. The evaluation team consisted of two academic staff members: Adriana Lucaciu (evaluation expert), Arta Basha-Jakupi (international evaluation expert), and a student representative, Bogdan-Marius Negrea (student evaluator). The visit to the faculty premises took place between **June 11–12, 2026**.

- Description of the higher education institution / Romanian Academy (establishment, evolution, mission, governance, structure, study programmes/domains, external quality evaluation procedures applied);

According to the Internal Evaluation Report (IER), the **University of Craiova (UCV)** is an accredited public state higher education and scientific research institution. Its establishment and operation are legally based on **Law No. 138 of 25 April 1947** on the establishment and organization of the University of Craiova and its Branch, and on **Decision No. 894 of 27 August 1965** of the Council of Ministers, which granted the University legal status, as reflected in its founding documents.
<https://www.ucv.ro/despre/istoric/infiintare.php>.

UCV comprises 12 faculties and the autonomous Department for Teacher Training (DPPD), covering a broad range of fields in higher education and research.

<https://www.ucv.ro/despre/istoric/evolutie/integrare.php>;

<https://www.ucv.ro/despre/istoric/evolutie/renasterea.php>;

<https://www.ucv.ro/despre/istoric/cronologie.php>.

UCV is a Doctoral University Studies Organizing Institution (IOSUD) and includes **10 doctoral schools** within its structure. The 10 doctoral schools comprise **180 academic staff members serving as doctoral supervisors** across the **24 accredited doctoral fields**, as well as **11 habilitated academic staff members in doctoral fields not yet accredited within IOSUD–UCV** (Visual Arts, Music, Communication Sciences, and Biology). The full list of these academics, together with their status within IOSUD–UCV (tenured, affiliated, or retired staff), is available at:

https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/programe_doctorat/lista_conducatori_doctorat.php.

The institution organizes and carries out teaching and scientific research activities based on University autonomy, understood as a specific form of self-governance in accordance with the legal framework established by the Constitution of Romania and Law No. 199/2023 on Higher Education. All institutional activities are conducted in accordance with the **Charter** of the University of Craiova, approved by the Senate on 28 November 2023 and made publicly available in both print and electronic formats.
https://www.ucv.ro/despre/strategie/carta_UCV.php.

The **“Saint Nicodim” Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology (DSOT)**, which will host the new Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts, was established at the University of Craiova in the 2009–2010 academic year under Order No. 3675/13 April 2009, within the Faculty of Theology. Since the 2015–2016 academic year, it has operated as an autonomous doctoral school within the University's doctoral studies structure.

According to the Charta, the University of Craiova embraces the following fundamental elements of its **mission**: a) *generating and transferring knowledge to society through education and advanced research*; b) *providing initial and continuing higher education for specialists capable of meeting the competence needs of the socio-economic environment through professional integration*; c) *providing initial and continuing training for teaching staff*;

d) contributing to the advancement of fundamental and applied sciences through scientific research, innovation, and technology transfer.

The main **objectives** are: a) ensuring the quality of scientific research and the educational process; b) maintaining an educational offer aligned with societal needs and their anticipated evolution; c) promoting flexible study programmes that develop competencies and skills directly applicable to professional and social contexts, in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework; d) ensuring the efficient management of human and material resources; e) supporting individual excellence; f) participating in excellence programmes in research and education; g) maintaining a high level of graduate employability through consultative structures involving representatives of the socio-economic environment and distinguished members of the academic, cultural, and professional communities; h) continuously increasing the institution's international visibility through the dissemination of research results and participation in European academic programmes; i) strengthening its role as a national scientific, cultural, and educational hub; j) promoting initiatives in University management and scientific research.

Carta UCV

The main information about IOSUD-UCV internal evaluation is available on: [IOSUD-Universitatea din Craiova Rapoarte Autoevaluare Învățământ/ Doctoral Programmes](#)

- General description of the doctoral study domain (why it was established - in the case of a provisional authorisation to operate; evolution and/or changes since the last external quality evaluation procedure - in the case of procedures intended for accreditation or maintaining accreditation, as applicable).

According to the IER, the proposal for the accreditation of the doctoral study domain of Visual Arts within the "Saint Nicodim" Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology at the University of Craiova is justified by the institution on the basis of the following arguments:

- ensuring continuity across higher education cycles for graduates of master's programmes, particularly those in Conservation and Restoration, as well as other related programmes in the field of Visual Arts;
- deepening the relationship between artistic creation, theoretical reflection, and interdisciplinary research;
- developing innovative research directions at the intersection of art, theology, heritage, visual culture, and contemporary society;
- promoting the academic recognition of artistic practice as a form of research.

In the field of Visual Arts, the University of Craiova offers **three Bachelor's** degree programmes and **two Master's** degree programmes administered by the Faculty of Orthodox Theology. Their current accreditation status is as follows:

- the **Bachelor's degree programme Sacred Art** is included in Government Decision No. 412/2025 approving the Nomenclature of Higher Education Study Programmes and the structure of higher education institutions for the academic year 2025–2026, where it is listed with **accredited status (A)**. [0396 bis BT:Macheta P1.qxd](#)
- the **Bachelor's degree programmes Fine Arts – Painting**, and **Fine Arts – Sculpture** are included in Government Decision (HG) No. 412/2025 (for 2025-2026), and are listed under the field of Visual Arts within the Faculty of Orthodox Theology and hold provisional **authorization status (AP)**. [0396 bis BT:Macheta P1.qxd](#)
- **Master's degree programmes Conservation and Restoration** and **Painting – Chromatic Explorations** are included in Government Decision (HG) No. 413/2025 approving the

Nomenclature of Master's Degree Programmes and the structure of higher education institutions for the academic year 2025–2026. Both programmes are listed with **accredited status** (A). [0397 bis BT:Macheta P1.qxd](#); [Facultatea de Teologie Ortodoxa Craiova](#).

According to the Internal Evaluation Report (IER), the **mission** of the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts within IOSUD–University of Craiova is *to advance artistic and theoretical knowledge through high-level research, fostering a critical understanding of contemporary visual arts, conservation and restoration practices, and the cultural, social, and technological transformations that shape them. The programme aims to provide doctoral candidates with advanced academic, artistic, and professional training while promoting excellence in artistic, theoretical, interdisciplinary, and heritage-related research.* The main **objectives** of the doctoral field are: *to enhance advanced training programmes in Visual Arts and related fields; to ensure and continuously improve the quality of doctoral education and research activities; to strengthen advanced and interdisciplinary research capacities, including in conservation and restoration; to develop human resources through training, national and international cooperation, artistic residencies, research placements, and joint projects; to increase the internationalization and visibility of research and artistic activities through academic partnerships, exhibitions, research projects, conferences, and high-quality publications.*

II. Methods used

- Analysed documents (internal evaluation report and its annexes; additional documents requested before and during the on-site visit, if any; other documents or data);

The external evaluation committee reviewed information from the following sources:

a) *the Internal Evaluation Report and its annexes* (IER)

b) *documents presented on the UCV website* ([Universitatea din Craiova](#); [Facultatea de Teologie Ortodoxa Craiova](#))

c) *additional documents requested:*

- AS_Burlan Emilia_FV_Standarde minime CNATDCU/ CNATDCU/ Minimum Standards
- AS_Fuiorea Vasile_FV_Standarde minime CNATDCU/ CNATDCU/ Minimum Standards
- AS_Occupations_DD_Visual Arts_ESCO
- AS_Study Plan
- AS_Syllabus_Space in the Visual Arts and Its Relationship to Two- and Three-Dimensional Artistic Forms
- AS_Syllabus_Contemporary Art: Concepts and Experiments
- AS_Syllabus_Documentation, Management, and Protection of the National Cultural Heritage
- AS_Syllabus_Ethics and Academic Integrity
- AS_Syllabus_The Methodology of Interdisciplinary Research in the Visual Arts
- AS_Visual Arts Library Collection
- AS_Art books in the library of UCV
- AS_Art books acquired between 2013-2022
- AS_Staffing Table

- On-site visit (general list of visited locations and categories of persons with whom debates have been organised);

The committee visited the Faculty of Orthodox Theology located on Brestei 24 Street, Craiova and the premises and facilities designated for future doctoral education and research activities in the Visual Arts domain, including, studios, laboratories, and the library. Meetings were held according to the schedule with faculty leadership, teaching staff, potential employers, research centre heads, and ethics and CEAC committee members.

- Other relevant methods or aspects.

Not applicable.

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.
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- Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)

The University of Craiova is an accredited public higher education institution and a Doctoral Studies Organizing Institution (IOSUD), carrying out education and research activities in accordance with the provisions of Higher Education Law No. 199/2023 and the University Charter. Within IOSUD, **10 doctoral schools operate**, among which the **“Saint Nicodim” Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology organizes and coordinates doctoral studies in the field of Theology, and proposes the accreditation of the doctoral study field Visual Arts.**

The governance and administrative structure of doctoral studies are defined by the University Charter, the IOSUD regulations, and the regulations of the doctoral school. At the institutional level, the University Senate, the Administrative Council, and the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) are responsible for the governance of doctoral education, while at the doctoral school level, activities are coordinated by the Doctoral School Council. These bodies have clearly defined responsibilities regarding the organization, monitoring, and development of doctoral programmes.

The Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts will be integrated within the “Saint Nicodim” Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology and benefits from the administrative, academic, and quality assurance framework already established within IOSUD – University of Craiova. Doctoral studies are organized on the basis of a comprehensive set of institutional documents, including the University Charter, the Institutional Regulation on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies, doctoral school regulations, admission, evaluation and graduation methodologies, as well as internal quality assurance procedures. These documents are periodically reviewed and updated in accordance with legislative changes and applicable quality standards.

For the accreditation of the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts, the University prepared the required documentation and completed the institutional stages of analysis and approval. The Internal Evaluation Report was endorsed by the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC) and approved by the University Senate.

<https://www.ucv.ro/despre/istoric/infintare.php>;

<https://www.ucv.ro/despre/istoric/evolutie/integrare.php>

<https://www.ucv.ro/despre/istoric/evolutie/renasterea.php>

<https://www.ucv.ro/despre/istoric/cronologie.php>

https://www.ucv.ro/despre/strategie/carta_UCV.php

<https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/management/regulamente/invigoare.php>

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The analysis of the documentation provided indicates that the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts will benefit from a stable and functional institutional framework, integrated into the academic and administrative management system of IOSUD – University of Craiova. The existing governance structures at the University, IOSUD, and doctoral school levels ensure clearly defined responsibilities, effective coordination mechanisms, and decision-making processes aligned with national legislation and internal regulations. The reviewed documents demonstrate the existence of a coherent system of regulations, methodologies, and procedures governing the organization of doctoral studies, candidate selection, doctoral research activities, academic progress assessment, and quality assurance. Their periodic revision and alignment with legislative developments reflect the institution's commitment to compliance and the continuous improvement of institutional processes. The proposed Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts is supported by a well-established governance and quality assurance framework, creating favourable conditions for its implementation and future development.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

Ensuring access to information for all students, teaching staff, and the public interested in doctoral studies, institutional projects and research achievements. (www.ucv.ro)

- **Recommendations**

As a newly proposed doctoral field, additional measures aimed at:

- Develop specific mechanisms for monitoring the performance and development of the new Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts during its initial years of operation, including clearly defined performance indicators related to doctoral student recruitment, progression, completion rates, research outputs, artistic achievements, and international activities.
- Strengthen stakeholder involvement in the strategic development of the doctoral domain through the inclusion of representatives from cultural institutions, museums, galleries, heritage organisations, creative industries, and international academic partners in consultative or advisory structures.
- Enhance the strategic planning framework by linking the objectives of the doctoral domain to measurable outcomes and monitoring indicators, thereby facilitating evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

In the process of developing and accrediting the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts, the University of Craiova involved the relevant academic structures and stakeholders in the preparation and validation of the accreditation documentation. The field is organized within the "Saint Nicodim"

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

Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology and benefits from the institutional decision-making and consultation mechanisms established at the IOSUD and University levels.

The accreditation documentation was reviewed by the relevant academic bodies, endorsed by the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC), and approved by the University Senate. More broadly, the University promotes a participatory model of academic governance, involving academic staff, students, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of academic regulations and quality assurance procedures.

<https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/management/regulamente/invigoare.php>

https://www.ucv.ro/despre/strategie/carta_UCV.php

https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/programe_doctorat/consiliul_CSUD.php

https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/programe_doctorat/scoli_doctorale.php

<http://teologie.UCV.ro/>

- Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled

For the accreditation of the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts, institutional processes involving consultation with relevant academic stakeholders were carried out. The accreditation documentation was prepared, reviewed, and approved through established procedures, ensuring collective analysis and validation. The involvement of academic and quality assurance bodies supports the alignment of regulations and procedures with the needs of the academic community and promotes their continuous adaptation to academic, professional, and legislative developments.

- Aspects that constitute best practice examples

All adopted regulations are published in a transparent and accessible manner on the University's official website.

https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/programe_doctorat/scoli_doctorale.php

[Universitatea din Craiova](#); [Facultatea de Teologie Ortodoxa Craiova](#);

- Recommendations

- Formalizing periodic consultations with representatives of the cultural, artistic, and professional sectors relevant to the field of Visual Arts. Establish a structured stakeholder engagement framework that clearly defines the frequency, methods, and expected outcomes of consultations, as well as mechanisms for incorporating stakeholder feedback into the revision of regulations, curricula, and development strategies.
- Consider creating an Advisory Board for the doctoral field composed of representatives from the academic, cultural, artistic, and professional sectors to support strategic development, societal relevance, and international visibility.
- Expanding the involvement of prospective doctoral candidates and graduates of related study programmes in the evaluation and revision of regulations and procedures specific to the doctoral field.

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
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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, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

UCV provides an adequate material base for Visual Arts domain, including classrooms, dedicated workshops, specialised laboratories, administrative and exhibition areas, as well as professional equipment for artistic production, with ensured accessibility and recent investments in modernisation. The headquarters of the University of Craiova is located at 13 A. I. Cuza Street, Craiova. Internet access is available through both the wired and wireless networks of the University. Most of the rooms dedicated to DSOT "Saint Nicodim", including the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD) are located at the 24 Brestei Street, Craiova.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The analysis of the available information indicates that the University has the infrastructure necessary to support the activities of the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts. The existing educational, administrative, and research facilities provide appropriate conditions for doctoral training and for the development of artistic and scientific research activities.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Visual Arts field will be supported through access to existing institutional resources, including libraries, databases, laboratories, and specialized studios. These facilities contribute to achieving the objectives of the doctoral programme and to the development of doctoral students' research and artistic creation skills.

For supervision activities, the Faculty provides doctoral supervisors with three dedicated rooms, quipped with facilities and equipment appropriate for the artistic creation activities conducted there: "Iosif Keber" Room – Associate Professor Vasile Fuiorea, PhD; "Theodor Aman" Room – Associate Professor George Păunescu, PhD; "Constantin Lecca" Room – Associate Professor Emilia Burlan, PhD. The Library of the UCV counts 8000+ volumes (in Library – showed in Supplementary Annexes), and more then 2 million accessed by online platforms that belong to the field of art. The Faculty of Orthodox Theology has its own reading room.

<https://teologie.UCV.ro/index.php/organizare/baza-materiala-facultate> ;[Biblioteca Universitatii din Craiova](#). https://biblio.central.ucv.ro/bib_web/ro/Anelis_Plus.php; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/>

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

UCV facilitates access for members of its academic community, including students and academic staff, to the scientific databases available through the ANELIS Plus national consortium. Access is provided both on campus, through institutional IP authentication, and remotely through mobile access accounts, enabling users to consult international full-text scientific resources for education and research purposes.

<https://accesmobil.romdidac.ro>; <https://www.e-nformation.ro>; [Facultatea de Teologie Ortodoxa Craiova](#); [TinREAD! | Căutări > Căutare Simplă](#)

- **Recommendations**

Continuing the development of specialised resources and research facilities to further support its long-term growth and competitiveness:

- Expanding access to resources required for doctoral research in the field of Visual Arts, including publications, facilities for artistic research, and other specialized research resources.

- Develop a strategic plan for the gradual enhancement of research infrastructure supporting the doctoral field, including facilities for digital artistic practices, heritage documentation, conservation technologies, and interdisciplinary artistic research.
- Continue improving the accessibility and inclusiveness of educational, research, and administrative facilities, ensuring that future infrastructure developments fully support the participation of persons with disabilities.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**
The University of Craiova manages and maintains an educational and research infrastructure that supports academic activities at all study levels, including doctoral education. For the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts, appropriate teaching, administrative, and research facilities are available. The University ensures the operation and continuous improvement of the infrastructure required for learning, research, and artistic creation, including equipment, IT resources, and facilities used by doctoral students and supervisors. Material resources are managed through an institutional framework aimed at the efficient use and ongoing development of spaces and equipment in line with educational and research needs. <https://teologie.UCV.ro/index.php/organizare/baza-materiala-facultate>
- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**
The institutional documents and the IER indicate that the University has adequate administrative mechanisms for managing and maintaining the infrastructure used for teaching and research activities. The available facilities provide appropriate conditions for doctoral education and research and are compatible with the specific requirements of the Visual Arts field. Ongoing infrastructure development and modernization further support the sustainability of the doctoral programme and its accreditation process.
facilitates doctoral candidates' access to digital academic resources through the online catalogue of the University Library: <http://biblio.UCV.ro>, and to relevant international databases such as Scopus, Web of Science (WoS), JSTOR, ScienceDirect, EBSCOhost, and others, available through institutional subscriptions. [IT si Fonduri Europene](#); [Baza materială și resurse financiare](#) <http://biblio.central.UCV.ro/>
- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
The Faculty of Orthodox Theology has the following laboratories assigned to activities specific to the field of Visual Arts, including those conducted at the doctoral level: **the Icon Restoration Laboratory** appropriately equipped for the analysis, assessment, and conservation of wooden icons and other movable heritage objects; the **Mural Painting Restoration Laboratory** provides the equipment required for stratigraphic analysis, documentation, microclimate monitoring, and conservation interventions on mural paintings; the **Rare Book Restoration Laboratory** - equipped for the analysis, documentation, and conservation of various movable heritage objects, including paper, textiles, leather, and complex composite materials; the **Painting and Sculpture Laboratories** provide the facilities required for advanced artistic experimentation and the development of doctoral-level practical skills.

- **Recommendations**
- Strengthening investments in equipment and technologies relevant to contemporary artistic research and creative practice.

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, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

Currently, **three academic staff members** who have obtained the PhD degree and habilitation certificate in the field of Visual Arts are affiliated with the "Saint Nicodim" Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology (DSOT) and will serve as doctoral supervisors within the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts. Two of them are tenured members of the University of Craiova and one is tenured member of the University of Bucharest (UB): Assoc. professor habil. Vasile Fuiorea PhD (UCV, OM nr. 3760/12. 05. 2022, Senate Decision on Affiliation with the DSOT: 5/27.03.2025); Assoc. professor habil. Emilia Burlan PhD (UCV, OM nr.5269/28.06.2024, Senate Decision on Affiliation with the DSOT: 5/27.03.2025) and Assoc. professor habil George Păunescu PhD (UB, OM nr.3763/12. 05. 2022, Senate Decision on Affiliation with the DSOT: 6/17.04.2025).

The teaching staff is included in the projected **staffing table**, presented as an annex to the IER. The habilitated staff within the Visual Arts domain carry out scientific activity with national and international visibility. [Proiecte în derulare;](https://www.ucv.ro/despre/structura/senat/hotarari.php) [Prezentare Centre de Cercetare;](https://www.ucv.ro/despre/structura/senat/hotarari.php) [https://www.ucv.ro/despre/structura/senat/hotarari.php;](https://www.ucv.ro/despre/structura/senat/hotarari.php) https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/programe_doctorat/lista_conducatori_doctorat.php

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

Each habilitated academic staff member holds **academic qualifications in the field of Visual Arts** and carries out research and artistic creation activities within the same field, having a professional and research record recognized both nationally and internationally. The documentation submitted confirms that they possess the qualifications and competencies required to supervise doctoral research in the domain of Visual Arts.

The diversity of specializations (**painting, heritage, contemporary art, conservation, restoration**) creates favorable conditions for interdisciplinarity and academic sustainability and research. The content of the course descriptions associated with the proposed study plan (curriculum), as presented in the Internal Evaluation Report (IER), demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the Visual Arts field and confirms the academic staff's expertise in the field, as well as their capacity to supervise and support doctoral research activities.

Related to the doctoral studies experience, the habilitated teaching staff were reviewers in doctoral thesis defence committees at the National University of Arts, Bucharest; West University of Timișoara; National University of Arts "George Enescu", Iași. They have also served as members of national competition and exhibition juries and are members of national and

international professional associations (for example: Association of Art/ Association Internationale des Arts Plastiques (AIAP), UNESCO Paris; International Association of Professional Painters, affiliated with UNESCO; Union of Visual Artists of Romania, Church Painting Commissions etc).

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

The habilitated academic staff maintain a consistent professional and research activity covering both the theoretical and practical dimensions of the field. Their activities include exhibitions, publications of books and scholarly articles, participation in research projects, and other academic and artistic endeavors.

- **Recommendations**

- Develop a medium- and long-term strategy for expanding the supervisory capacity of the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts through the encouragement and support of future habilitation procedures among qualified academic staff.
- Continue strengthening the academic profile of the doctoral field by attracting additional specialists with complementary expertise in areas relevant to contemporary Visual Arts, artistic research, heritage studies, conservation, restoration, digital arts, and interdisciplinary artistic practices.
- Support the professional development of early-career researchers and academic staff with the potential to become future doctoral supervisors, thereby strengthening institutional capacity over future accreditation cycles.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

UCV organizes competitions for filling vacant teaching or research positions on an indefinite-term basis, as well as competitions for filling teaching positions or research positions on a fixed-term basis, in accordance with the legislation in force and the *Methodology for the Recruitment and Appointment of Academic Teaching and Research Staff to Vacant Positions at the University of Craiova*.

https://www.ucv.ro/departamente_academice/dppd/regulamente_metodologii.php

<https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/management/regulamente/invigoare.php>.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The evaluation committee noted that at the level of IOSUD-UCV and DSTO, both the applicable legislation and the internal regulations regarding affiliation to the doctoral school are implemented. The teaching positions opened for competition are included in the staffing tables of the relevant departments and are made public on the main webpage

https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/concursuri_posturi/concursuri_in_derulare.php

Other related information is published on the UCV website at [Lista conducătorilor de doctorat](#): *List of doctoral supervisors affiliated with the doctoral schools of IOSUD – University of Craiova in accredited doctoral fields; List of doctoral supervisors affiliated with the doctoral schools of IOSUD – University of Craiova in non-accredited doctoral fields; List of academic staff employed by other universities who obtained their habilitation at the University of Craiova; Vacant Positions for Doctoral Supervisors.*

The University has established regulations governing the recruitment, recognition, evaluation, and professional development of academic staff. These include the *Methodology for the Recognition by the University of Craiova of Academic Positions Obtained at Accredited Higher Education Institutions Abroad*, the *Methodology for the Annual Evaluation of Professional Performance of Contractual Staff*, and the *Methodology for the Periodic Evaluation of the Quality of Academic Staff*. <https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/management/regulamente/invigoare.php>

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.
- **Recommendations**
Not applicable.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**
The University of Craiova has made significant progress in the digitalisation of academic and administrative processes, supported by institutional strategies, dedicated investments, and participation in international projects. The existing digital infrastructure contributes to improved accessibility, efficiency, and transparency in the management of doctoral studies and research activities. According to IER, the University of Craiova has identified the digital transformation of education and training as a strategic priority. To support this objective, the University Senate adopted the Digitalization Strategy of the University of Craiova.
[Digitalization Strategy of the University of Craiova](#)
- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**
During the visit, discussions with academic staff, institutional management, and quality assurance representatives confirmed that the University's IT infrastructure, electronic resources, and digital platforms support the efficient management of academic and administrative activities. The digitalization of access to scientific resources and doctoral studies administration enhances efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness to contemporary educational needs. The use of these systems is governed by the [Regulation on the Use of the IT Network](#)
- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
In recent years, the University has secured dedicated funding for digitalization, and develop projects with external partners, such as Transformative Learning in Inland Waterways Education with Simulators and Digital Innovations (ARIELL) (2024–2027), coordinated by Schiffer Berufskolleg Rhein, Germany, with a total budget of €400,000, of which €86,000 is allocated to the University of Craiova, and Virtual Reality for Digital Learning (2022–2025), coordinated by MG

Sustainable Engineering AB, Sweden, with a total budget of €250,000, including €39,000 allocated to the University. These projects contribute to the development of digital infrastructure and innovative learning technologies.

- **Recommendations**

- Development of the digitalisation process, and updating and improving PhD students' access to online research resources.
- Continue expanding digital services and online platforms that support doctoral students throughout the entire research cycle, including admission, supervision, progress monitoring, thesis submission, and academic communication.
- Encourage the integration of emerging digital technologies and digital research methods into doctoral education, particularly in areas such as digital heritage, digital documentation, virtual exhibitions, and artistic research.
- Continue investing in digital skills development (through Department of Continuing Education) for doctoral students, supervisors, and administrative staff in order to support the effective use of digital tools and platforms.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

The emerging Doctoral Programme in Visual Arts is constructed according to the legislation and regulations of UCV, being structured in two forms – scientific and professional –, each focused on the development of advanced skills in scientific and/or artistic research. The **curriculum** is structured based on the ECTS system and combines courses, individual research hours, periodic assessments and related activities.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The **curriculum** (study plan) is structured into two components: the Advanced Training Programme and the Scientific Research Programme. The courses are assigned ECTS credits and have clearly defined assessment methods. Within the Advanced Training Programme, three compulsory courses are offered: *Space in Visual Arts and Its Relationship with Two- and Three-Dimensional Artistic Forms – 8 ECTS*, *Ethics and Academic Integrity – 6 ECTS*, and *Methodology of Interdisciplinary Research in Visual Arts – 8 ECTS*. In addition, doctoral candidates must choose one of the following optional courses: *Contemporary Art: Concepts and Experiments* or

* 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.

Documentation – 8 ECTS/ Management, and Protection of the National Cultural Heritage – 8 ECTS. The courses are concentrated in the first semester of the first year of study (14 weeks) and are organised in the form of lectures and seminars.

Course completion is achieved through the assessment of knowledge through continuous assessments over the entire duration of the courses, summative evaluations, and final colloquium. In the second, third, and fourth study years, the curriculum provides for study assisted by the doctoral supervisors, as well as independent activities necessary for the preparation of progress reports and the final thesis. The second component of the curriculum focuses on the dissemination of scientific research and artistic outcomes in accordance with the CNATDCU standards in force. The number of transferable credits is 30 ECTS per semester, totaling 240 ECTS over the eight semesters of the doctoral programme. The **learning outcomes** are defined in terms of **knowledge, skills, autonomy, and responsibility**. It is observed that they are aligned with each course in the study plan, and are presented in a table describing 12 types of knowledge, skills, and categories of autonomy and responsibility. The curriculum is accompanied by **the subject sheets** for the courses taught in the advanced training programme.

- [Aspects that constitute best practice examples](#)
Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.
- [Recommendations](#)
Not applicable.

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).
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- [Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data \(documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER\)](#)
Based on the content of the curriculum and course descriptions (syllabi) of the doctoral study programme in the Visual Arts domain, it can be observed that the intended learning outcomes develop the competences required for a qualification corresponding to Level 8 of the qualifications framework.
As the Internal Evaluation Report does not refer to the occupations associated with the declared learning outcomes, following a request from the external evaluation committee, the institution submitted an additional document listing the occupations in accordance with the ESCO classification.
- [Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled](#)
Considering the specific profile of the doctoral field of Visual Arts, which is currently embedded within a Faculty of Orthodox Theology, together with the existing educational provision comprising the bachelor's degree programmes in Sacred Art, Painting, and Sculpture, and the master's degree programmes in Conservation and Restoration and Painting – Chromatic Explorations, the

evaluation committee notes that the occupations identified by the institution in accordance with the ESCO and ISCO-08 classifications are broadly aligned with the professional competences developed through the curriculum and course units proposed for the accreditation of the doctoral programme. The occupations identified are as follows:

2651 – Visual artists professionals

[Visual artists | European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations \(ESCO\)](#)

2621 – Archivists and Curators / Related Occupations: museum researcher (museologist), conservator, curator, art exhibition curator, museum custodian, cultural archives manager, visitor services manager in cultural centres

[Arhivari și curatori | Clasificare europeană a aptitudinilor/competențelor, calificărilor și ocupațiilor \(ESCO\)](#)

2651.2 – Art Restorer / Related Occupations: restoration artist, heritage conservator, conservation specialist

[Art restorer | European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations \(ESCO\)](#)

2654.6 – Arts Administrator / Related Occupations: exhibitions coordinator, art-outsourcing coordinator, gallery project coordinator, fine arts coordinator, art studio coordinator, museum engagement coordinator, art coordinator

[Art administrator | European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations \(ESCO\)](#)

- [Aspects that constitute best practice examples](#)
Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.
- [Recommendations](#)
Not applicable.

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.
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- [Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data \(documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER\)](#)
The projected curriculum for the doctoral Visual Arts programme is organized in accordance with the legal and institutional regulations governing doctoral studies, and aims to develop advanced research and artistic creation skills. It combines academic and methodological training with research and artistic activities carried out under the supervision of doctoral supervisors. Its structure supports individualized research pathways and enables doctoral candidates to participate in research projects, scientific and artistic events, and other activities relevant to their academic and professional development. Within IOSUD and the “Saint Nicodim” Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology, regulations and monitoring mechanisms promote the active involvement of doctoral candidates in both the educational and research processes.
- [Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled](#)
Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.
- **Recommendations**
Not applicable.

The indicator is: fulfilled. 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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**
The University of Craiova provides doctoral students with the educational, scientific, and administrative resources necessary for study and research activities. These include access to libraries, specialized databases and electronic resources, IT infrastructure, research and artistic creation facilities, as well as academic and administrative support services offered through IOSUD and the DSOT/
Doctoral candidates benefit from the University's research infrastructure and academic facilities throughout their studies, supporting the achievement of their research and advanced training objectives. The University also promotes inclusion and equal opportunities, ensuring access to educational services and facilities for all students, including those with disabilities or special educational needs.
<https://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/metodologii/2024> - Accommodation
<https://www.ucv.ro/pdf/invatamant/management/metodologii/2025> - Scholarships
- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**
Access to libraries, scientific databases, electronic resources, and research facilities supports the development of doctoral candidates' research and artistic creation skills. In addition, the administrative services and institutional support provided by the University facilitate the effective conduct of doctoral studies.
- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
Through its support measures and non-discriminatory access policies, the University ensures equal opportunities for all doctoral candidates, including those from vulnerable groups or with specific accessibility needs.
- **Recommendations**

- Ensure that future doctoral students in Visual Arts have access to specialised research resources, artistic facilities, and tailored academic support services that meet the specific requirements of doctoral-level artistic research and creation.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**
The Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts is supported by a curriculum aligned with the objectives of the doctoral programme and the requirements of advanced research and artistic creation. The intended learning outcomes focus on developing research, critical analysis, innovation, and artistic creation skills.
Course syllabi clearly define learning objectives, competences, content, and assessment methods, ensuring transparency and supporting the achievement of the programme's educational goals.
- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**
The analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report indicates that the intended learning outcomes are clearly aligned with the objectives of the doctoral programme, the curriculum, and the targeted competences. The study plan and course content support the progressive development of research and artistic creation skills specific to the field of Visual Arts.
- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**
The clear definition of learning outcomes facilitates the monitoring of future doctoral candidates' progress and the evaluation of the achievement of the programme's educational objectives, in line with the principles of transparency and student-centred learning.
- **Recommendations**
Not applicable.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**
Within IOSUD, doctoral candidates are assessed in accordance with institutional regulations governing doctoral studies. The evaluation process includes periodic monitoring of academic and research progress through reports, presentations, and reviews conducted by doctoral supervisors and relevant academic bodies.

The completion of doctoral studies is achieved through the preparation and public defense of the doctoral thesis, in compliance with national legislation and the regulations of IOSUD – University of Craiova.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.

- **Recommendations**

- Periodically evaluate the alignment between learning outcomes, doctoral research activities, and the evolving needs of the Visual Arts field, and update them accordingly.

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, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

The University of Craiova organizes admission to doctoral studies in accordance with national legislation, IOSUD regulations, and institutional admission methodologies. The Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts will apply the admission procedures established at IOSUD level. Information regarding available places, admission requirements, evaluation criteria, deadlines, and application documents is published through the University's official channels, ensuring transparency and equal access to the selection process. Admission aims to identify candidates with the academic and professional qualifications required for advanced research and artistic creation activities within the doctoral programme.

https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/programe_doctorat/reglementari.php

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The University's website provides comprehensive information for prospective doctoral candidates regarding the admission process, including available places, admission requirements, application procedures, admission schedules, evaluation criteria, proposed research topics, required documents, fees, admission results, and doctoral study contracts. These resources are publicly available through the dedicated doctoral admissions section of the University website, ensuring transparency and accessibility of information. [Admitere studii doctorale](#)

For the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts, specific admission and selection criteria have been established through the document "Specific Criteria for Application, Admission, and Candidate Ranking for the September 2026 Admission Session at the 'Saint Nicodim' Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology, University of Craiova – Visual Arts Field." These criteria complete the general

doctoral admission regulations and provide field-specific requirements for the evaluation and selection of candidates.

On the site of Doctoral School, are mentions about the fact that the process of admission will start in Autumn 2026 just in case the accreditation of the domain passes the evaluation. This kind of information had been uploaded since 29.03.2026, trying to respect the regulation about needing to be a publication of the doctoral admission regulations at least 6 months before the admission competition.

<https://teologie.ucv.ro/index.php/educatie-scoala-doctorala-sf-nicodim/admitere>

https://teologie.ucv.ro/ViewerJS/#../uploads_admin/files/20260329_2_admitere_eece3a1f080827e1953db8c8d62649a9.pdf

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.

- **Recommendations**

Not applicable.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

The institutional website provides comprehensive information regarding admission to doctoral studies, including the Doctoral Admission Calendar, Admission Requirements, Application Procedures, Evaluation Criteria, the University Regulations for Admission to Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral Studies (2026–2027), the Allocation of State-Funded and Tuition-Fee Places, as well as additional information for both domestic and international applicants.

https://www.ucv.ro/admitere/scoala_doctorala/

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The selection process consists of:

A. A mandatory language proficiency examination, assessed on a pass/fail basis.

B. Evaluation of candidates based on three criteria, including:

C1. Assessment of the quality of the doctoral research proposal.

C2. Assessment of the candidate's general academic and professional background, as well as their level of preparation in the proposed research area.

C3. Assessment of the Candidate's Previous Scientific and Research Experience.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.

- **Recommendations**

- It is recommended to further differentiate the evaluation criteria applicable to the two types of doctoral studies, namely the scientific doctorate and the professional doctorate.
- Develop and clearly communicate specific support measures for candidates from vulnerable

groups and those with special educational needs, ensuring equal access and participation throughout the doctoral admission process, including information on reasonable accommodations and assistance during the admission process.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

The doctoral programme in Visual Arts, operating within the "Saint Nicodemus" Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology, benefits from an organizational and administrative framework designed to support high-quality doctoral training and effective academic governance. The programme will be integrated into the University's institutional structures and follows established procedures that ensure compliance with national regulations, academic standards, and quality assurance principles.

According to the IER and public information, students' access to academic information and study administration is ensured through the **EvStud web platform**, which provides access to personal data, curricula, course syllabi and learning materials, academic records, tuition fee status, optional course selection, accommodation requests, graduation thesis information, and other administrative forms.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The platform is complemented by Google for Education, which is available to all students and academic staff of the University of Craiova and supports teaching, learning, and communication activities.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.

- **Recommendations**

- Develop specific procedures for monitoring and supporting the academic progress of future doctoral students in Visual Arts, including regular progress reviews, mentoring activities, and timely academic guidance throughout the doctoral cycle.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN C. Quality management

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER).**

The UCV has an integrated quality management that it improves permanently. The reference document is the Quality Assurance Code. The UCV's functional units have their own regulations, implemented by the DMC in operational procedures. The Quality Management System (SMQ) ensures internal quality assurance and monitoring of outcome indicators. On this basis, the DMC provides the necessary feedback for management to draw up action plans to improve the quality of processes taking place in the UCV in order to achieve the objectives. The UCV aims to completely make the SMQ compatible with the European Standards and Guidelines – ESG. The institutional quality assurance system implemented across all academic and administrative structures, including IOSUD and the “Saint Nicodim” Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology. The accreditation documentation for the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts was reviewed and endorsed by the University's Quality Assurance Commission prior to its approval by the Senate.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The organization and accreditation process has been carried out in accordance with institutional regulations and quality assurance procedures. IOSUD applies mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating, and periodically reviewing doctoral education, research activities, and doctoral candidates' progress, ensuring compliance with legal requirements and quality standards.

The analysis of the documentation confirms the existence of a functional quality assurance system integrated into the academic and administrative management of the University of Craiova. Institutional procedures have been effectively applied throughout the development, review, validation, and approval of the accreditation documentation for the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts.

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

According to the online information, available on: https://www.ucv.ro/en/invatamant/management/politici_practici/politici.php, structures of assessment and quality assurance at the UCV are well defined. The DMC is stated in the UCV Charter, Art. 162 and its objectives are laid at Art. 163. The DMC oversees the University's quality assurance structures, including the Evaluation and Quality Assurance Commission (CEAC), the Quality Council, and the faculty-level quality assurance commissions. The involvement of quality assurance structures in the accreditation process demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement, while the existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms support the ongoing development of the doctoral programme and its alignment with academic and professional requirements.

- **Recommendations**

- Following accreditation, establish a periodic review process for the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts based on clearly defined performance indicators (e.g., doctoral completion rates, publications, exhibitions, international mobility, stakeholder satisfaction, and graduate outcomes), ensuring that the results are systematically used for programme improvement.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.2	Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

The University of Craiova promotes a participatory model of academic governance involving management structures, academic staff, students, and other stakeholders in the development, implementation, and evaluation of institutional policies and procedures. This approach is reflected in the process of developing and accrediting the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts.

- **Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled**

The Internal Evaluation Report highlights the involvement of relevant academic, administrative, and quality assurance structures in the preparation and validation of the accreditation documentation. Within IOSUD and the doctoral school, collective governance and consultative bodies support stakeholder participation in decision-making processes and the implementation of doctoral studies regulations.

https://www.ucv.ro/en/invatamant/management/politici_practici/declaratie.php#

- **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.

- **Recommendations**

- Further formalise stakeholder participation in the implementation and review of doctoral programme procedures through regular consultation meetings and the establishment of a Doctoral Advisory Board comprising doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, alumni, representatives of cultural institutions, museums, galleries, professional associations, and employers. The Board could provide structured input on programme development, research priorities, internationalisation activities, and quality enhancement measures.

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.
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- **Presentation of the state of facts, supported by documents and data (documents preferably included through links in the body of the IER)**

The IER and attached documents reveals that within UCV and IOSUD there is a continuous commitment to the periodic external evaluation of study programmes in accordance with current legislation. Their periodic revision and alignment with legislative developments reflect the institution's commitment to compliance and the continuous improvement of institutional processes.

In 2021, the external evaluation of IOSUD – University of Craiova, as well as of its doctoral schools and doctoral fields, was carried out for the purpose of maintaining accreditation (HC No.95/25.11.2021) <https://www.aracis.ro/iosud/universitatea-din-craiova-iosud156/>

https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/programe_doctorat/scoli_doctorale.php

https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/programe_doctorat/consiliul_CSUD.php

https://www.ucv.ro/invatamant/educatie/programe_doctorat/lista_conducatori_doctorat.php

- Analysis of the state of facts, in relation with the state of facts acknowledged from documents and considering the analysed performance indicator, to justify judgement on the extent to which the indicator was fulfilled
Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.
- Aspects that constitute best practice examples
Not applicable to the Doctoral University Study Domain of Visual Arts, which is proposed for accreditation.
- Recommendations
 - Following accreditation, systematically monitor the implementation of recommendations arising from future external evaluations and integrate them into the strategic development and quality enhancement processes of the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths:		Weaknesses:
✓ the strengths/best practice examples identified along the entire report within the analysis per indicators will be included here. Other, general strengths that do not fall under a specific indicator may be included as well. ✓ Strong institutional framework for doctoral education, supported by established governance and quality assurance structures (IOSUD, CSUD, Doctoral School Council, CEAC, Quality Council). ✓ Experienced doctoral supervisors with habilitation and nationally and internationally recognised academic and artistic achievements. ✓ Adequate infrastructure for doctoral education, including specialised laboratories, restoration facilities, artistic workshops, exhibition spaces, library resources, and access to international scientific databases. ✓ Well-developed institutional quality assurance system aligned with national regulations and European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). ✓ Strong institutional commitment to	INTERNAL FACTORS	✓ the weaknesses identified throughout the entire report within the analysis per indicators will be included here. Other, general weaknesses that do not fall under a specific indicator may be included as well.. ✓ Limited number of doctoral supervisors currently affiliated with the doctoral field, potentially affecting future supervisory capacity and diversification of research topics. ✓ Limited evidence regarding mechanisms for monitoring the long-term impact of doctoral student feedback on programme improvement. ✓ Absence of clearly defined performance indicators and monitoring mechanisms specific to the development of the doctoral field. ✓ Limited evidence regarding systematic stakeholder involvement in programme review, curriculum

internationalisation, supported by numerous Erasmus+ agreements and international partnerships. ✓ Active research environment supported by accredited research centres, scientific publications, conferences, exhibitions, and interdisciplinary research activities. ✓ Transparent governance and decision-making processes, with public access to regulations, methodologies, reports, and quality assurance documents. ✓ Availability of digital platforms and IT infrastructure supporting academic, administrative, and research activities. ✓ Institutional experience in doctoral education and successful participation in previous external quality assurance evaluations. ✓ Clear institutional commitment to lifelong learning, staff development, and continuous improvement.		development, and strategic planning. ✓ The long-term strategy for increasing the international visibility and impact of research outputs in Visual Arts is not yet fully articulated.
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: ✓ Identify external factors that could create opportunities to improve the quality of education in the study domain. ✓ Access to European funding programmes such as Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, Creative Europe, COST Actions, and other research and mobility initiatives. ✓ Growing recognition of artistic research and practice-based doctoral education within the European Higher Education Area. ✓ Opportunities to establish partnerships with European doctoral schools, faculties of Fine Arts, museums, galleries, conservation centres, and cultural heritage institutions. ✓ Development of cotutelle	□ EXTERNAL FACTORS	Threats: ✓ Identify external factors that could constitute threats to the quality of education in the study domain. ✓ Increasing competition from established doctoral programmes in Visual Arts and Artistic Research in Romania and across Europe. ✓ Demographic decline and potential reduction in the number of prospective doctoral candidates. ✓ Brain drain and competition for highly qualified academic staff, researchers, and doctoral candidates. ✓ Dependence on external funding sources for research development,

agreements, joint doctoral supervision, visiting scholar programmes, and international artistic residencies. ✓ Increasing demand for expertise in cultural heritage preservation, restoration, visual arts education, and creative industries. ✓ Participation in international research networks, conferences, biennales, exhibitions, and artistic research associations. ✓ Opportunities to strengthen collaboration with cultural institutions, museums, galleries, NGOs, and public authorities at national and international level. ✓ Growing importance of interdisciplinary research combining visual arts, heritage studies, digital technologies, and cultural management. ✓ Increased availability of digital tools and technologies supporting artistic research, dissemination, and international collaboration. ✓ Potential to attract international doctoral candidates through targeted internationalisation and visibility strategies.		internationalisation, and infrastructure enhancement. ✓ Economic constraints that may limit investment in research infrastructure, mobility, and international cooperation. ✓ Rapid technological changes requiring continuous updating of infrastructure, equipment, and staff competences. ✓ Changes in national legislation and doctoral education regulations that may require institutional adaptation. ✓ Competition for participation in international research projects and funding schemes. ✓ Potential difficulties in maintaining long-term international partnerships and mobility opportunities due to financial or geopolitical factors. ✓ Evolving labour market requirements that may necessitate continuous adaptation of doctoral training and research priorities.
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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	• Develop specific mechanisms for monitoring the performance and development of the new Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts during its initial years of operation, including clearly defined performance indicators related to doctoral student recruitment, progression, completion rates, research outputs, artistic achievements, and international activities.

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			• Strengthen stakeholder involvement in the strategic development of the doctoral domain through the inclusion of representatives from cultural institutions, museums, galleries, heritage organisations, creative industries, and international academic partners in consultative or advisory structures. • Enhance the strategic planning framework by linking the objectives of the doctoral domain to measurable outcomes and monitoring indicators, thereby facilitating evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement. • Consider establishing an international advisory mechanism involving external experts in Visual Arts and Artistic Research to support the internationalisation, visibility, and long-term development of the doctoral domain.
2.	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.	F	• Formalizing periodic consultations with representatives of the cultural, artistic, and professional sectors relevant to the field of Visual Arts. Establish a structured stakeholder engagement framework that clearly defines the frequency, methods, and expected outcomes of consultations, as well as mechanisms for incorporating stakeholder feedback into the revision of regulations, curricula, and development strategies. • Consider creating an Advisory Board for the doctoral field composed of representatives from the academic, cultural, artistic, and professional sectors to support strategic development, societal relevance, and international visibility. • Expanding the involvement of prospective doctoral candidates and graduates of related study programmes in the evaluation and revision of regulations and procedures specific to the doctoral field.
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	• Expanding access to resources required for doctoral research in the field of Visual Arts, including publications, facilities for artistic research, and other specialized research resources. • Develop a strategic plan for the gradual enhancement of research infrastructure supporting the doctoral field, including facilities for digital artistic practices, heritage documentation, conservation

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			technologies, and interdisciplinary artistic research. • Continue improving the accessibility and inclusiveness of educational, research, and administrative facilities, ensuring that future infrastructure developments fully support the participation of persons with disabilities.
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	• Strengthening investments in equipment and technologies relevant to contemporary artistic research and creative practice.
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	• Develop a medium- and long-term strategy for expanding the supervisory capacity of the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts through the encouragement and support of future habilitation procedures among qualified academic staff. • Continue strengthening the academic profile of the doctoral field by attracting additional specialists with complementary expertise in areas relevant to contemporary Visual Arts, artistic research, heritage studies, conservation, restoration, digital arts, and interdisciplinary artistic practices. • Support the professional development of early-career researchers and academic staff with the potential to become future doctoral supervisors, thereby strengthening institutional capacity over future accreditation cycles.
6.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	F	Not applicable.
7.	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	• Development of the digitalisation process, and updating and improving PhD students' access to online research resources. • Continue expanding digital services and online platforms that support doctoral students throughout the entire research cycle, including admission, supervision, progress monitoring, thesis submission, and academic communication. • Encourage the integration of emerging digital technologies and digital research methods into doctoral education, particularly in areas such as digital heritage, digital documentation, virtual exhibitions, and artistic research. • Continue investing in digital skills development (through Department of Continuing Education) for doctoral

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			students, supervisors, and administrative staff in order to support the effective use of digital tools and platforms.
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
8.	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	Not applicable.
9.	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	Not applicable.
10.	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	Not applicable.
11.	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	• Ensure that future doctoral students in Visual Arts have access to specialised research resources, artistic facilities, and tailored academic support services that meet the specific requirements of doctoral-level artistic research and creation.
12.	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	Not applicable.
13.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	• Periodically evaluate the alignment between learning outcomes, doctoral research activities, and the evolving needs of the Visual Arts field, and update them accordingly.
14.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	F	• Publication of the doctoral admission regulations at least 6 months before the admission competition, in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. • Periodically evaluate the alignment between learning outcomes, doctoral research activities, and the evolving needs

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			of the Visual Arts field, and update them accordingly.
15.	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	- It is recommended to further differentiate the evaluation criteria applicable to the two types of doctoral studies, namely the scientific doctorate and the professional doctorate. - Develop and clearly communicate specific support measures for candidates from vulnerable groups and those with special educational needs, ensuring equal access and participation throughout the doctoral admission process, including information on reasonable accommodations and assistance during the admission process.
16.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	Develop specific procedures for monitoring and supporting the academic progress of future doctoral students in Visual Arts, including regular progress reviews, mentoring activities, and timely academic guidance throughout the doctoral cycle.
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
17.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	Following accreditation, establish a periodic review process for the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts based on clearly defined performance indicators (e.g., doctoral completion rates, publications, exhibitions, international mobility, stakeholder satisfaction, and graduate outcomes), ensuring that the results are systematically used for programme improvement.
18.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	Further formalise stakeholder participation in the implementation and review of doctoral programme procedures through regular consultation meetings and the establishment of a Doctoral Advisory Board comprising doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, alumni, representatives of cultural institutions, museums, galleries, professional associations, and employers. The Board could provide structured input on programme development, research priorities, internationalisation activities, and quality enhancement measures.
19.	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	Following accreditation, systematically monitor the implementation of recommendations arising from future external evaluations and integrate them into the strategic development and quality enhancement processes of the Doctoral Domain of Visual Arts.

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

Evaluation Domain	Number of Performance Indicators		
	Fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Unfulfilled
Domain A. Institutional capacity	7	0	0
Domain B. Educational efficacy	9	0	0
Domain C. Quality management	3	0	0
Total	19	0	0

Other, general recommendations that were not given within the analysis of a specific performance indicator can be presented here.

- It is recommended that additional habilitated PhD supervisors be affiliated to ensure that the doctoral field of Visual Arts continues to meet the legal requirements for its operation in the medium and long term.
- It is recommended to establish regular doctoral seminars, research colloquia, and peer-review sessions that facilitate scholarly exchange and constructive feedback among doctoral candidates and supervisors.
- It is recommended to strengthen links with cultural institutions, museums, galleries, creative industries, and public organizations in order to increase the societal relevance and visibility of doctoral research.
- Consider establishing an international advisory mechanism involving external experts in Visual Arts and Artistic Research to support the internationalisation, visibility, and long-term development of the doctoral domain.
- It is recommended to implement periodic internal quality assurance procedures that monitor doctoral candidates' progress, supervisory practices, research outputs, and overall programme performance.
- It is recommended to promote ethical standards in artistic and academic research through dedicated training on research integrity, intellectual property, copyright, and professional conduct.
- It is recommended to develop a long-term strategy for enhancing the international visibility of the doctoral field through publications, exhibitions, research projects, strategic partnerships, and participation in international rankings and academic networks.
- It is recommended that a follow-up internal report be prepared in order to evaluate the extent to which the recommendations have been implemented and to support the ongoing development and continuous improvement of the emerging doctoral domain.

Sum up the number of analysed performance indicators, and specify how many were assessed as fulfilled, partially fulfilled, and unfulfilled, if any.

All 19 analysed performance indicators **were assessed as fulfilled**.

VI. Conclusions

A number of important aspects noted during the evaluation are reiterated here, and general conclusions are made about the quality of education delivered within the evaluated doctoral study domain.

The external evaluation panel finds that the University of Craiova has the material and human resources required for the accreditation of the doctoral study domain of Visual Arts, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. The University provides an adequate academic and research infrastructure, qualified doctoral supervisors, and the institutional mechanisms necessary to ensure the organization, development, and quality assurance of doctoral studies in this field.

According to Government Decision No. 962/2024 approving the *Methodology for the External Quality Evaluation of Education in Higher Education*, Art. 39, alin. 4), (c): *Procedure for the Accreditation of*



Academic Programmes and Study Fields, IOSUD of the University of Craiova may organize a doctoral study programme in the field of Visual Arts, as it already offers accredited master's degree programmes in the same field. This complies with the requirements for the accreditation of a doctoral study field established by the Romanian higher education legislation and the ARACIS external quality evaluation methodology. According to the **ARACIS Evaluation Report/ 04.07.2024, the Visual Arts study domain was awarded the qualification “Accreditation Maintained”**, confirming its compliance with the applicable quality standards. Within the domain, the evaluated master's degree programme was **Conservation and Restoration**. The master's degree programme **Painting – Chromatic Explorations** was included to the portfolio of Visual Arts programmes, having been established by University of Craiova **Senate Decision No. 14/19.12.2023**, p.1, art. 4, Entered in the National Register of Qualifications (NRQ/RNC) in accordance with the request approved by **Senate Decision No.3/06.02.2024**, p. 2, art. 9.

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Propose and substantiate a decision.

Following the completion of the accreditation procedure, the decision of the evaluation panel shall be one of the following:*

Following the completion of the accreditation, the decision of the evaluation panel shall be one of the following:

- a) **accreditation*** (AC);

VII. Annexes

* When the external quality evaluation for accreditation is performed without undergoing the procedure for obtaining a provisional authorisation to operate.