



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

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași
Doctoral School:	Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences
Doctoral Domain:	Political Science
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)



**THE ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER
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Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	Matiuța Cristina Maria	Expert evaluator	
2.	Spătaru Tatiana	International Expert	
3.	Moldovan Radu-Anton	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.);

This External Evaluation Report (EER) is the result of the periodic evaluation for maintaining accreditation of the Political Science field of doctoral studies, organized within the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi. The team designated by ARACIS included: prof. univ. dr. Cristina Matiuța, the international expert prof. univ. dr. Tatiana Spătaru from the Free International University of Moldova and doctoral student Moldovan Radu Anton. The visit to the institution took place between June 18-19, 2026 and was carried out according to the attached program, agreed with the representatives of the host institution.

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

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) is a public and non-profit higher education institution, founded in 1860, the oldest higher education institution in Romania. According to the University Charter (art. 3), the mission of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași is advanced education and research. UAIC aims to develop and promote the results of knowledge in three main components: education, research, and services to the community. The University supports and promotes, by all specific means, fundamental research and applied research, in the fields related to multiple specializations, in accordance with the requirements of a society based on progress, in the name of the public good and in respect of professional ethics. UAIC is a comprehensive university, having 15 Faculties (with 92 bachelor's degree programs and 134 master's degree programs), 14 Doctoral Schools (with 30 doctoral and postdoctoral fields), more than 25,000 students and collaborates with more than 660 universities in 78 countries (REI, p. 6). UAIC is a member of several university networks and associations: EUA – European University Association, International Association of Universities, University Agency of Francophony, the Network of Francophone Universities (RUFAC) etc. Academic governance is exercised by the University Senate, the main decision-making body, and the Board of Directors. IOSUD (Organizing Institution for Doctoral University Studies) - UAIC is led by the Council of Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), with 14 doctoral schools. The interface between the doctoral schools and the Board of Directors in specific issues is ensured by the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD). CSUD supports and promotes the activities for proper conduct of doctoral studies in UAIC, in collaboration with doctoral schools. In 2021, the external evaluation of IOSUD UAIC took place. Following the evaluation, the ARACIS Council ([Hotararea-Consiliului-ARACIS-nr.-96-din-25.11.2021.pdf](#)) awarded the Maintenance of Accreditation.

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).

The Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences offers doctoral programs in five fields: Philosophy, Political Sciences, Sociology, Communication Sciences and Social Work. The mission of doctoral studies in the field of Political Science is to achieve training to European standards in the field of political science, to ensure a balance between specialized theoretical training and practical-applicative training, to develop scientific research directions in connection with local, national and international requirements and to promote interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches. Between 2021 and 2025, 18 candidates were admitted to doctoral studies in the field of Political Science and a number of 5 doctoral students defended theses. The number of doctoral supervisors decreased from four to two (one retired and another ended his contractual relations with the university).



Methods used

To prepare this External Evaluation Report, the following were used: the Internal Evaluation Report (REI), available to the ARACIS team, the annexes to the REI, and other documents available on the institution's website. During the visit, the ARACIS team had discussions, recorded in the minutes of the meetings, with the coordinator of the study program, with representatives of the management of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences, with the teaching staff, with students and graduates of the doctoral program, with employers of graduates, with members of the CEAC and the University Ethics Commission, with the heads of research centers/laboratories in the field of the evaluated program. The visit to the institution's headquarters, between June 18-19, 2026, included the following locations: Spaces for conducting courses and seminars; offices and administrative spaces of the faculty; IT and digital infrastructure (access to databases, learning platforms); research laboratories and teaching staff offices; access to online bibliographic resources.

II. 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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The University has adequate organizational components and a management system, whose operation is based on methodologies, regulations and procedures periodically reviewed, under the conditions of the law (Documentele Universității). At the level of the IOSUD-UAIC and implicitly within the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences, Political Science Field, doctoral studies are carried out according to the legal provisions in force, based on an institutional regulation, adopted by the Senate of the university in 2025 (REGULAMENT institutional privind studiile de doctorat 2025 (1).pdf). The duties of the Director of the Doctoral School and of the Council of the Doctoral School are defined by the institutional Regulation mentioned above. The last elections for the members of the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD) were held in 2024, according to the Methodology on the organization of elections (Metodologie-Dir.-CSUD-2.pdf) and the conduct of the competition and the results for the position of Director of the Council of Doctoral Studies are available on the UAIC website (Concurs pentru postul de Director al Consiliului Studiilor Universitare de Doctorat (CSUD) pentru mandatul 2024-2029 - Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași)

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 ¹ and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.
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Following the REI's consultation and the discussions held with representatives of the managerial structures, administrative and academic staff, doctoral students in the field of Political Science, it

¹ The faculty, department, subsidiary, extension - hereinafter "organisational components"



results that within UAIC the process of developing, adopting and revising the methodologies, regulations and procedures specific to doctoral studies is carried out in a participatory manner, in accordance with the principles of university autonomy and academic governance. In the process of developing and approving the regulations and methodologies, the members of the academic community are involved in the public consultation phase, receiving information by email, both from the management of the University and from the management of the Faculty and the Doctoral School. The members of the Doctoral School have the possibility to propose changes or updates of the methodologies and any person involved in the activity of the Doctoral School can participate as a guest in the meetings of the Council of the Doctoral School, after previously expressing his/her wish in this regard. At the same time, representatives of the socio-economic and cultural environment are requested to provide feedback on the adequacy of the academic offer to the requirements of the labor market and to the new socio-cultural directions.

✓ **Recommendations**

Recording in minutes the results of consultations with relevant stakeholders.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources

The HEI owns adequate movable and immovable assets to enable it to carry out the study programme/domain.

Indicator I.P.A.2.1. 1	The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.
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"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași provides the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences with a comprehensive educational and research infrastructure consisting of 25 teaching facilities with a total area of 1,597.25 m² and a seating capacity of 1,158. The infrastructure includes lecture halls, classrooms and seminar rooms, computer laboratories, and spaces dedicated to doctoral activities. The facilities are equipped with video projectors, interactive whiteboards, high-performance computers, licensed software (Microsoft Office, IBM SPSS Statistics, Bitdefender), internet connectivity, and assistive devices for persons with visual impairments (Orbit Reader 20). Doctoral students have access to the "Mihai Eminescu" Central University Library, as well as to internationally recognized scientific databases, including ScienceDirect Freedom Collection Journals, Clarivate (WoS, JHCD, DII), REAXYS, SCOPUS, MathSciNet, Cambridge Journals, SciVa, together with other electronic resources available through the ANELIS Plus project (<https://portal.anelisplus.ro/>). The site visits conducted to assess the material resources, together with the supporting documentation provided, demonstrate the existence of an adequate infrastructure for carrying out teaching, research, and administrative activities related to the doctoral field of Political Science. The available IT equipment and access to digital infrastructure support the conduct of research activities in accordance with academic standards. The institution also provides specific equipment for persons with disabilities, demonstrating its commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

Examples of best practice

Institutional access to major international scientific databases through the ANELIS Plus project;
Availability of modern computer laboratories equipped with specialized research software;
Provision of assistive technologies for persons with visual impairments.

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.



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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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“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași and the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences ensure the responsible and sustainable management of the infrastructure used for the provision of doctoral studies in the field of Political Science. The University's movable and immovable assets are maintained through continuous maintenance, modernization, and institutional development programs. Investments in the material resources and research infrastructure are financed through institutional funds, research grants, development projects, and other complementary funding sources. These investments are reported annually in the Rector's Activity Reports (2024) (<https://cdn-1.info.uaic.ro/info-uaic-ro/UAIC/Rapoarte%20de%20activitate/Raportul%20de%20activitate%20al%20Rectorului%20privind%20starea%20Universit%C4%83%C8%9Bii%20E2%80%9EAlexandru%20Ioan%20Cuza%E2%80%9D%20din%20la%C8%99i%20C3%AEEn%20anul%202024.pdf>) and are aligned with the objectives set out in the University's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan ([https://cdn-1.info.uaic-ro/UAIC/Documente%20oficiale/Planul%20strategic%20\(2024-2029\).pdf](https://cdn-1.info.uaic.ro/info-uaic-ro/UAIC/Documente%20oficiale/Planul%20strategic%20(2024-2029).pdf)) and the 2025 Operational Institutional Development Plan ([https://cdn-1.info.uaic-ro/UAIC/Documente%20oficiale/Planul%20Opera%C8%9Bional%20de%20Dezvoltare%20Institu%C8%9Bional%C4%83%20al%20Universit%C4%83%C8%9Bii%20E2%80%9EAlexandru%20Ioan%20Cuza%E2%80%9D%20din%20la%C8%99i%20pentru%20anul%202025.pdf](https://cdn-1.info.uaic.ro/info-uaic-ro/UAIC/Documente%20oficiale/Planul%20Opera%C8%9Bional%20de%20Dezvoltare%20Institu%C8%9Bional%C4%83%20al%20Universit%C4%83%C8%9Bii%20E2%80%9EAlexandru%20Ioan%20Cuza%E2%80%9D%20din%20la%C8%99i%20pentru%20anul%202025.pdf)). The facilities used by the Doctoral School in the field of Political Science are equipped with modern resources, including updated IT equipment, permanent internet access, video projectors, interactive whiteboards, Smart TVs, licensed software, and access to international scientific databases. Doctoral students also benefit from access to the “Mihai Eminescu” Central University Library, the electronic resources provided through the ANELIS Plus project, and the University's research infrastructure. The availability of an appropriate number of lecture rooms, seminar rooms, and computer laboratories, together with access to bibliographic resources and international scientific databases, provides a favourable environment for academic and research activities. The University's continuous investments demonstrate the existence of a coherent institutional policy regarding the management, maintenance, and development of its material assets. The integration of infrastructure modernization objectives into the University's strategic and operational planning documents contributes to the long-term sustainability of the infrastructure and its adaptation to emerging educational and technological requirements. Furthermore, doctoral students' access to advanced digital resources and research infrastructure strengthens the field's capacity to support competitive academic and scientific activities at both national and international levels.

Examples of best practice

The existence of a continuously updated teaching and research infrastructure; The integration of infrastructure development objectives into the University's strategic and operational planning documents; Continuous monitoring of material resources and the periodic implementation of maintenance and modernization works; The extensive use of digital technologies and modern equipment in teaching and research activities.

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.



At the level of the Doctoral School there are qualified personnel with the necessary experience for the organization and conduct of the doctoral study program. Currently, the evaluated doctoral field operates with two qualified teaching staff in the field of Political Science (The ministerial order granting the quality of doctoral supervisor No. 5840/27.12.2017 and 5933/04.12.2015). The university ended its contractual relations with the third professor mentioned in the REI (Diego Varela). Both doctoral supervisors meet the minimum CNATDCU standards currently in force, according to the available lists of publications and have relevant publications in the field from the last five years (Universitatea Alexandru Ioan Cuza din Iași Universitatea Alexandru Ioan Cuza din Iași) Regarding teaching activities, the teaching staff has the necessary qualifications and professional skills to teach the subjects included in the curriculum. According to REI, the number of doctoral students enrolled in all years of study (I-IV + extensions) with the two doctoral supervisors is as follows: Prof. Virgil Stoica - 9 doctoral students, Prof. Bogdan Stefanachi - 9 doctoral students, exceeding ARACIS standards which state that a doctoral supervisor can simultaneously supervise a maximum of 8 doctoral students. There are decisions of the University Senate in this regard, as shown in the additional documents presented during the visit.

✓ **Recommendations**

Increasing the number of doctoral supervisors in the field of Political Science

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2	The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.
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Teaching staff and doctoral supervisors benefit from systematic opportunities for professional development through participation in training courses, teaching and digital skills development programs, thematic workshops, as well as through involvement in national and international research projects. At the university, training courses were organized for teachers for the use of various e-learning platforms, for the use of AI. Some teachers have participated in various professional and personal development programs, coaching programs.

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.

Teaching and research positions are filled at UAIC level by competition or promotion, in accordance with the *Framework Methodology for filling vacant teaching and research positions in higher education* and with the *Competition Methodology for filling teaching positions at the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași*, updated in 2025 (https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Metodologia-de-concurs-privind-ocuparea-posturilor-didactice-UAIC_anonimizat.pdf) UAIC has a specialized structure that provides the necessary support **for staff recruitment**: Personnel and Professional Development Service. Among the duties of this service are: the record of vacant positions and the centralization of requests regarding the personnel needs; drawing up all formalities and monitoring the conduct of competitions for the occupation of vacant positions, teaching, research, teaching auxiliary and non-teaching; drawing up decisions on appointment and dismissal, suspension or termination of activity, granting contractual rights (Serviciul Personal și Dezvoltare Profesională - Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași). The employment information is posted on the University's website: Documentele Universității

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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At the institutional level, digital platforms and information technology tools are employed to facilitate the management of academic and administrative processes, communication with doctoral students, access to information and official documents, and the monitoring of activities specific to doctoral studies. Regulations, methodologies, and other relevant documents are available in electronic format on the websites of the University, the IOSUD, and the Doctoral School, ensuring transparency and accessibility of information. (<https://www.uaic.ro/studii/studii-universitare-de-doctorat/>). Between 2022 and 2025, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași implemented the project *Framework for the Sustainable Development of the University's Digital Component – eUAIC*. The project pursued several strategic objectives, including: ensuring the availability of ICT resources in line with technological advancements and the emergence of new technologies through investments in digital infrastructure modernization; the development and implementation of advanced IT services; strengthening the institutional framework for the development of digital competencies among members of the academic community through the updating, expansion, and delivery of training programmes in digital and advanced digital skills; and the modernization and enhancement of information and communication services in order to facilitate access to academic resources and improve the quality of education and research services. (https://euaic.pnrr.uaic.ro/?page_id=119) The implementation of these initiatives resulted in the development of a specialized university management software platform designed to further improve the efficiency of institutional administration and academic management processes.

Recommendations

Expanding digital administrative services and electronic processes related to the management of doctoral studies.

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/s²

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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The curriculum of the doctoral study program in the field of Political Science includes a set of disciplines that aim to achieve **the expected learning outcomes**, in accordance with **level 8** of the qualification defined in the CNC. It is approved by the UAIC Senate each academic year. The current curriculum includes three subjects provided in the first year of the first semester, with a total of 30 credits (10 credits each), common to the fields of Philosophy, Sociology, Political Science, and Communication Sciences. These are: Methodology of Elaborating a Scientific Paper and Ethics and Academic Integrity with the status of mandatory courses and Theories of Argument and Interpretation and Paradigms of Knowledge and Communication with the status of optional courses. Some course descriptions/syllabus for the doctoral field of Political Science available on the website are from 2021.

✓ Recommendations

Updating all courses syllabus

² 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.



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).

The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the professional and transversal competences related to the qualification, according to the ESCO occupational standards, in accordance with level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework and with the principles of quality assurance of qualifications in the CNC, for the occupation of researcher in Political Science. [Ocupații | Clasificare europeană a aptitudinilor/competențelor, calificărilor și ocupațiilor \(ESCO\)](#) The PhD program in the field of Political Science aims to develop specific professional skills (conducting academic or market research, technical or academic writing, advice on legal, regulatory or procedural matters, analysis and evaluation of information and data, developing professional relationships and networks, coordination of studies, research and examinations, gathering information from physical or electronic sources, information management, presentation of research or technical information, analyzing scientific data) as well as transversal skills (self-management skills and competencies, social and communication skills and competences, critical thinking skills and competencies etc) required of graduates of doctoral studies at European level, as researchers in Political Science.

✓ **Recommendations**

Including expected learning outcomes in the curriculum

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.

The doctoral programme in Political Science is organized in accordance with the principles of student-centred learning, as reflected in both the institutional framework (https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CARTA-UAIC_supusa_votului_Senatului_13ian2024-1.pdf) and the curriculum structure (<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/departamente/scoala-doctorala/plan-de-invatamant-si-fise-disciplina>). The educational offer is designed around key areas of doctoral training, including ethics and academic integrity, scientific research methodology, and paradigms of knowledge and communication, with the objective of supporting the development of advanced research competencies. Each course is supported by a detailed syllabus that specifies learning objectives, expected competences and outcomes, teaching methods, assessment procedures, and workload distribution. Particular emphasis is placed on independent study and research activities, whose share exceeds that of direct teaching activities. The programme also employs a variety of student-centred teaching and learning methods, including debates, case studies, research-based learning, teamwork, role-playing activities, and the organization of scientific events, encouraging doctoral students to actively participate in the learning process and develop critical and analytical thinking skills. The structure of the curriculum and the teaching strategies employed demonstrate the effective implementation of student-centred learning principles within the doctoral programme. The emphasis on independent research, individualized learning pathways, and active participation enables doctoral students to assume responsibility for their own academic development and to align learning activities



with their research interests and professional objectives. Furthermore, the use of interactive and research-oriented teaching methods promotes critical thinking, creativity, and scientific autonomy, while the detailed planning of learning outcomes and assessment methods ensures coherence between educational objectives and doctoral training requirements. These elements indicate a strong commitment to student-centred education and support a high level of fulfilment of the analysed performance indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P. B.3.1.2	The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.
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The organizational framework of IOSUD within the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași supports academic mobility through institutional structures and policies that facilitate participation in international programmes. Between 2021 and 2025, doctoral students from the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences benefited from Erasmus mobility opportunities, including a doctoral student in the field of Political Science who undertook a two-month study period at Beijing Foreign Studies University in China. In parallel, the university has invested in the continuous development of academic staff through training programmes focused on digital learning technologies, e-learning platforms, artificial intelligence, and professional development activities (<https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/directia-economica-si-resurse-umane/serviciul-personal-si-dezvoltare-profesionala/>), contributing to the creation of a modern academic environment supportive of international engagement and mobility.

The participation of doctoral students in international mobility programmes demonstrates the existence of institutional mechanisms that facilitate access to academic experiences beyond the home university. These opportunities contribute to the internationalization of doctoral studies, support the development of intercultural and research competencies, and strengthen international academic collaboration. At the same time, the university's investment in staff development and digital competencies creates favourable conditions for both physical and virtual mobility activities. The evidence therefore indicates that doctoral students have access to academic mobility opportunities and that the organizational component effectively supports the implementation of this performance indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness

The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students.

Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities
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The Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași ensures equal opportunities for students through an institutional framework based on the principles of equity, inclusion, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity. Students are guaranteed access to quality education, equal treatment, and academic pathways adapted to individual needs, including alternative assessment methods and support measures for students with temporary or permanent disabilities. These principles are reflected in the University Charter (<https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CARTA-UAIC-supusa-votului-Senatului-13ian2024-1.pdf>), the Code of Student Rights and Obligations (<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/images/diverse/Codul-universitar-al-drepturilor-si-obligatiilor-studentului.pdf>), the Code of Ethics (<https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Carta-UAIC-%C8%99i-Codul-de-Etic%C4%83.pdf>), and the Gender Equality Plan (<https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Plan-de-Egalitate-de-Gen-2022-2025-landscape.pdf>), which promote equal opportunities and prevent discriminatory practices in education, research, and academic life. The university provides accessible infrastructure through ramps, elevators, and Braille signage, while students with disabilities benefit from adapted services, support for practical training activities, access

to information and communication services, and equal participation in academic and extracurricular activities. The institutional measures implemented by the university demonstrate a comprehensive commitment to ensuring fair educational opportunities that take into account the diversity of students' abilities, needs, and learning styles. The existence of adapted learning pathways, accessibility measures, anti-discrimination policies, and support services for students with disabilities contributes to creating an inclusive academic environment in which all students can fully participate in educational and research activities. Furthermore, the integration of equity and diversity principles into institutional regulations and strategic documents supports equal access to resources and opportunities, indicating a high level of fulfilment of the analysed performance indicator.

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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The Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași provides doctoral students, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, with access to a wide range of resources and support services designed to facilitate learning and academic integration. Institutional regulations guarantee adapted access to university facilities, educational activities, information services, and support mechanisms for students with disabilities, including accessible infrastructure, sign language interpretation, and specialized assistance. Doctoral students also benefit from financial support through scholarships funded by the Ministry of Education, the university, or governmental programmes. In addition to traditional learning resources, the university offers access to digital platforms such as Moodle, Microsoft Teams, and Microsoft 365, which support communication, collaboration, and flexible learning. These resources are complemented by dedicated support structures, including the Learn & Connect Center (<https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/centrul-de-invatare-al-universitatii-alexandru-ioan-cuza-din-iasi/>) and the Student and Alumni Support Service (<https://www.uaic.ro/studenti/cariera/>), which provide academic counselling, mentoring, career guidance, personal development activities, and psychological support. The diversity of educational resources, support services, and accessibility measures demonstrates the university's commitment to ensuring that doctoral students can benefit from learning environments adapted to their individual needs and circumstances. The combination of financial support, digital learning tools, academic counselling, mentoring, and specialized services for students with disabilities facilitates equitable access to education and promotes academic success. Furthermore, the existence of dedicated centres focused on learning support, personal development, and career guidance contributes to the personalization of the educational experience and the effective integration of doctoral students into academic life. These measures indicate a comprehensive support framework and a high level of fulfilment of the analysed performance indicator.

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
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matters in the curriculum.

The doctoral programme in Political Science defines learning outcomes in accordance with Level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications Framework, ensuring alignment between educational objectives, teaching activities, and assessment methods (<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/departamente/scoala-doctorala>). The curriculum is structured to support the development of advanced knowledge, research skills, professional competencies, and transversal competencies specific to the field of Political Science. The programme combines advanced training activities with extensive research components, leading to the accumulation of 240 ECTS credits. The expected outcomes include advanced theoretical knowledge, mastery of qualitative and quantitative research methods, research project management, scientific writing, data analysis, academic communication in international languages, ethical conduct in research, digital and artificial intelligence competencies, teamwork, and critical thinking skills. The alignment between curriculum structure, expected competences, and qualification framework requirements ensures transparency regarding academic expectations and supports the coherent development of doctoral-level knowledge and skills. Furthermore, the balance between advanced theoretical training, methodological preparation, research activities, and transversal competence development contributes to the preparation of independent researchers capable of generating original scientific contributions. These elements demonstrate that learning outcomes are adequately defined, clearly communicated, and effectively support the understanding of expectations associated with the doctoral programme, indicating a high level of fulfilment of the analysed performance indicators.

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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The verification of learning outcomes within the doctoral programme in Political Science is carried out through both ongoing assessment activities and final evaluation procedures, in accordance with the applicable national regulations governing doctoral studies. During the programme, doctoral students are evaluated through examinations and assessments associated with the courses included in the advanced training programme, as well as through the continuous monitoring performed by doctoral supervisors and the Academic Guidance and Integrity Commission. The final evaluation of learning outcomes is achieved through the assessment of the doctoral thesis, including its review by the doctoral committee and its public defence (<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/departamente/scoala-doctorala/plan-de-invatamant-si-fise-disciplina>). To support this process, doctoral students are informed about thesis preparation standards, evaluation procedures, and doctoral degree requirements, while self-assessment tools are also available to facilitate the monitoring of competence development throughout the doctoral journey.

The combination of formative, summative, and final assessment mechanisms provides a comprehensive framework for verifying the achievement of learning outcomes at doctoral level. Continuous monitoring by supervisors and academic committees enables the timely evaluation of progress and the identification of areas requiring improvement, while the final assessment of the doctoral thesis ensures the verification of advanced research competences and the achievement of qualification requirements corresponding to Level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework. Furthermore, the use of self-assessment instruments encourages reflective learning and supports doctoral students in monitoring their own academic development. These evaluation practices ensure that learning outcomes are systematically assessed throughout the programme and upon completion of studies, indicating a high level of fulfilment of the analysed performance indicator.

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.

Admission to the doctoral programme in Political Science is organized in accordance with the national regulatory framework governing doctoral studies and the institutional regulations adopted by IOSUD of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Anex%C4%83-la-HS6_12.12.2024.pdf). The admission process is supported by dedicated online platforms that provide public access to all relevant information regarding admission procedures, application requirements, competition calendar, admission committees, evaluation methods, and research topics available for doctoral candidates (<https://admitere.uaic.ro/admitere-doctorat/>). The admission regulations clearly define the structure of the competition, the selection criteria, and the responsibilities of the doctoral school, while research topics are proposed by doctoral supervisors and approved by the Doctoral School Council (https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Anex%C4%83-la-HS6_12.12.2024.pdf).

The evidence demonstrates the consistent application of admission procedures through a transparent and well-regulated framework that ensures equal access to information and clearly defined selection criteria. The availability of detailed admission documentation, together with the public communication of competition requirements and research opportunities, facilitates informed participation by prospective candidates. Furthermore, the involvement of doctoral supervisors and the Doctoral School Council in defining and approving research topics contributes to the academic relevance and quality of the admission process. These mechanisms indicate the effective implementation of admission procedures and support a high level of fulfilment of the analysed performance indicator.

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.

Admission to the doctoral programme in Political Science is organized in accordance with the principles of equity, equal opportunities, and non-discrimination ([https://cdn-1.info.uaic.ro/info-uaic-ro/UAIC/Studen%C8%9Bi/Codul%20universitar%20al%20drepturilor%20C8%99i%20obliga%C8%9Biilor%20studentului%20\(18.07.2024\).pdf](https://cdn-1.info.uaic.ro/info-uaic-ro/UAIC/Studen%C8%9Bi/Codul%20universitar%20al%20drepturilor%20C8%99i%20obliga%C8%9Biilor%20studentului%20(18.07.2024).pdf)). The admission framework includes provisions for Romanian candidates, Romanians living abroad, and international applicants from third countries (<https://www.edu.ro/metodologia-de-%C8%99colarizare-rom%C3%A2nilor-de-pretutinden%C3%AEn-%C3%AEnv%C4%83C5%A3%C4%83m%C3%A2ntul-superior-de-stat-%C8%99i-particular>), while admission places are allocated in a manner that also supports the participation of underrepresented groups, including candidates of Roma ethnicity. Institutional regulations guarantee equal access to education and provide support measures for candidates with special educational needs or disabilities, including the possibility of adapted educational pathways and assessment methods. The admission process is based on clearly defined regulations, and doctoral candidates select their research topics in consultation with doctoral supervisors prior to admission, ensuring alignment between research interests and supervisory expertise (https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Anex%C4%83-la-HS6_12.12.2024.pdf).

The admission process reflects a commitment to inclusiveness and equal access by providing opportunities for diverse categories of candidates and by incorporating measures that support participation regardless of personal, social, or physical circumstances. The existence of dedicated provisions for vulnerable groups and candidates with disabilities demonstrates the institution's efforts to eliminate barriers and ensure equitable treatment throughout the admission process. Furthermore, the individualized interaction between candidates and doctoral supervisors prior to admission facilitates informed academic choices and contributes to the successful integration of future doctoral

students. These elements indicate the effective application of the principles of equity and equal opportunities and support a high level of fulfilment of the analysed performance indicator.

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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The professional activity of doctoral students in the field of Political Science is regulated through national legislation, institutional regulations, the doctoral studies contract, and the regulations of the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences (https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/images/files/scoala-doctorala/ROF_SD_aprobat_fara_anexa_1_a.pdf). The doctoral programme combines an advanced training component with an individual scientific research programme (<https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/A-4-PCS.pdf>) developed under the supervision of the doctoral supervisor and endorsed by the Doctoral School Council. Doctoral students benefit from scholarships (<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/departamente/scoala-doctorala/anunturi/apel-concurs-burse-de-cercetare-si-formare-postuniversitara-si-postdoctorala-vasile-parvan-la-accademia-di-romania-din-roma-si-nicolae-iorga-la-istituto-romeno-di-cultura-e-ricerca-umanistica-din-venetia>), research funding opportunities, access to scientific resources, international mobility programmes, conferences, workshops, and mentoring activities. The programme also establishes clear academic requirements, including scientific publications, conference participation, research activities, and compliance with academic ethics standards. All educational, research, and assessment activities are organized according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), ensuring a structured and transparent academic pathway.

The regulatory and institutional framework demonstrates the consistent application of provisions governing the professional activity of doctoral students. The doctoral programme clearly defines academic responsibilities, research obligations, supervision mechanisms, and performance standards, while simultaneously providing extensive support for professional and scientific development. The integration of research, publication, conference participation, mobility opportunities, and mentoring within the doctoral pathway promotes both academic progression and research excellence. Furthermore, the use of individualized study and research plans, combined with continuous supervision and clearly established graduation requirements, ensures effective monitoring of doctoral students' progress and supports the achievement of programme objectives. These elements indicate a high degree of compliance with the analysed performance indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalisation

Improving the quality of education and research through internationalisation actions.

Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.
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"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași (<https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/PLAN-STRATEGIC.pdf>) and the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences (https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/images/fssp/PS_FSSP_2024-2029.pdf) actively promote the internationalization of doctoral studies through the development of academic and scientific cooperation with higher education institutions and research organizations across Europe and beyond. The doctoral field of Political Science benefits from the institutional internationalization framework developed at the University level, which includes participation in academic mobility programmes, inter-university partnerships, international projects, and academic cooperation networks. During the evaluation period, academic staff and doctoral students participated in conferences and scientific



events organized both in Romania and abroad, contributing to the increased international visibility of the research conducted within the doctoral field. The University is a member of several international academic consortia and networks, including the European University Alliance EC2U and the Coimbra Group, which facilitate academic exchanges, participation in joint projects, and the development of international competencies among doctoral students and academic staff. Doctoral students benefit from institutional financial support for participation in international conferences, workshops, training activities, and other academic events. The implementation of the European Doctorate, through the *Methodology for the Implementation of the European Doctorate at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași* (2026), represents an important instrument for advancing the internationalization agenda, with a particular focus on promoting the international mobility of doctoral students. (<https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Metodologie-doc-european.pdf>). The site visit, discussions with administrative staff, doctoral supervisors, and doctoral students, as well as the analysis of information available on the University's website, indicate that internationalization constitutes a significant component of the development strategy of the doctoral field of Political Science. Participation in European and international academic networks, together with institutional support for academic mobility and participation in international scientific events, contributes to the integration of the doctoral field into the European Research Area and the European Higher Education Area. The involvement of doctoral students and academic staff in international academic activities facilitates the exchange of good practices, strengthens research competencies, and enhances the international visibility of scientific outputs. Furthermore, access to international programmes and projects creates additional opportunities for the development of academic partnerships and the enhancement of the quality of doctoral research activities. The existing institutional mechanisms demonstrate a sustained commitment to strengthening the international dimension of doctoral education and to integrating the academic community into European and global education and research networks.

Examples of best practice

Institutional financial support provided to doctoral students for participation in international conferences and scientific events; Enrollment of international doctoral students from countries such as Albania, Algeria, Morocco, Germany, and Israel within the doctoral field of Political Science; Participation of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors in scientific events organized abroad; Implementation of the European Doctorate framework as a mechanism supporting international mobility and academic cooperation. During the evaluation period (2021–2024), four doctoral students benefited from academic mobility opportunities.

Recommendations

Increase the involvement of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students in the development of joint research projects with international partners.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.9. Scientific research results

Standard S.B.9.1 Scientific research in the education process

Scientific research activities support students in achieving the learning outcomes.

Indicator I.P.B.9.1.1	Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.
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The doctoral study programme in Political Science is grounded in the principle of integrating scientific research into doctoral education and training. Learning and research activities are organised in such a way as to enable doctoral students to acquire advanced competencies in scientific inquiry, critical analysis, and the production of original knowledge in the field of Political Science. The doctoral supervisors involved in the programme are actively engaged in research activities, as evidenced by their scientific publications and participation in academic conferences. The outcomes of their research are incorporated into the doctoral training process through the continuous updating of academic content, the guidance of research topics, and the integration of doctoral students into research



activities. Doctoral students have access to the University's research infrastructure, bibliographic resources, and relevant international databases, which facilitates the use of the most recent research findings in the preparation of doctoral dissertations. The training process includes doctoral students' participation in conferences, workshops, seminars, and other scientific events, as well as the publication of research results in academic journals and edited volumes. The University provides financial support for doctoral students' participation in scientific events and research dissemination activities. On the University's website, the Research Section (Research Section) provides updated information regarding research strategies, regulations, management structures, funding opportunities, and ongoing or completed research projects. (<https://www.uaic.ro/cercetare/>). The analysis of the available information demonstrates that scientific research constitutes the core component of the doctoral educational process. Research outcomes are systematically integrated into learning activities and contribute directly to the development of the competencies specified in the intended learning outcomes, including analytical and synthesis skills, independent research abilities, critical use of sources, and the capacity to produce original contributions to the field of Political Science. Through its research-oriented nature, the doctoral programme creates the necessary conditions for achieving the learning outcomes associated with the doctoral qualification and contributes to the training of researchers capable of generating and valorising advanced scientific knowledge. Based on the information provided in Annex 2, it can be concluded that, through the diversity of its funding sources and eligible expenditure categories, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași ensures a robust and flexible financial framework that enables doctoral students to conduct their research activities under appropriate conditions and in accordance with ARACIS standards and European good practices. This financial structure contributes to enhancing the quality of doctoral research, promoting the internationalisation of scientific activities, and developing doctoral students' advanced research competencies (Annex 2).

Examples of best practice

Doctoral students' participation in national and international conferences and scientific events; Access to international scientific databases and bibliographic resources; Financial support for doctoral students' research activities and scientific dissemination; The orientation of the educational process towards the development of advanced research and innovation competencies.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research pertaining to the objectives of the study programme
The organisational component carries out scientific research activities aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study programme.

Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.
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The doctoral field of Political Science conducts scientific research activities in alignment with the objectives of the doctoral programme and with contemporary developments and priorities within the discipline. Research activities are carried out by doctoral supervisors, doctoral candidates, and academic staff affiliated with the Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences. The doctoral supervisors involved in the programme maintain a sustained scientific output, reflected in publications in peer-reviewed journals and scholarly volumes, as well as active participation in national and international academic conferences. According to the 2025 Report of the Director of the Doctoral School, Professor Virgil Stoica has authored 23 publications indexed in the Web of Science database, while Professor Bogdan Ștefanachi has authored 11 Web of Science-indexed publications, demonstrating a significant contribution to the scientific visibility of the doctoral field. (https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/images/files/scoala-doctorala/Raport_SD_FSSP_2025.pdf).

Research outcomes are disseminated through scientific publications, papers presented at academic conferences, and participation in national and international research networks. These activities contribute to the advancement of knowledge in Political Science and to the strengthening of the academic profile of the doctoral field. The University provides researchers and doctoral candidates



with access to internationally recognized scientific databases and documentary resources. Furthermore, it supports participation in scientific conferences and workshops through the allocation of dedicated financial resources for doctoral candidates. Research activities are further supported through the University's participation in international projects, academic consortia, and collaborative research networks, as well as through the publication of a substantial number of scientific journals and academic series under the auspices of the institution. These mechanisms provide a favourable framework for the production, dissemination, and international visibility of scientific knowledge. (<https://www.uaic.ro/cercetare/publicatii-stiintifice/>). The analysis of the evidence presented in the 2025 Internal Evaluation Report of the Director of the Doctoral School (https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/images/files/scoala-doctorala/Raport_SD_FSSP_2025.pdf) and in the Internal Evaluation Report (IER) demonstrates that the research outcomes generated within the doctoral field of Political Science enjoy visibility at both national and international levels. The publication of research findings in scholarly journals and academic volumes, participation in international conferences, and integration into academic research networks contribute significantly to enhancing the impact, dissemination, and recognition of scientific activities carried out within the field. The alignment of research topics with contemporary political, administrative, and international challenges further enhances the relevance and societal value of the research conducted. As a result, the scientific outputs generated within the doctoral field address issues of both academic significance and practical importance, contributing to evidence-based understanding of contemporary political phenomena and public affairs.

Examples of best practice

Sustained and widely recognized scientific activity of doctoral supervisors; Publication of research outcomes in journals and academic volumes with national and international visibility; Active participation of academic staff and doctoral candidates in international conferences and scientific events; Access to internationally recognized scientific databases and documentary resources; Integration of doctoral candidates into research activities and scientific dissemination processes; Institutional financial support for participation in scientific events and research valorization activities. The research activity of doctoral students remained active throughout the evaluation period. In 2024, doctoral candidates published 7 scientific papers and participated in 15 academic conferences. In 2025, they produced 4 scientific publications and took part in 12 scientific conferences, demonstrating their continued engagement in research dissemination and academic networking activities.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN C. Quality management

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

Standard S.C.1.1. Application

Adequately implemented strategic directions, actions, and procedures

Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1	The organisational component consistently carries out actions and applies procedures, proving their impact on improving the quality of education at the level of the study programme
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"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași has established a well-structured and operational institutional quality management system, which is implemented at all organizational levels, including the Doctoral Studies University Consortium (IOSUD) and the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences. The system is grounded in the University Charter, the Institutional Regulation for the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral University Studies, the doctoral school regulations, operational procedures, and the methodology for the evaluation and monitoring of study programmes. (<https://cdn-1.info.uaic.ro/info-uaic-ro/UAIC/Asigurarea%20calit%C4%83%C8%9Bii/Manualul%20Calitatii%20edi%C8%9Bia%202.pdf>;



https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Carta-UAIC_29-ianuarie2026.pdf). At the institutional level, the Quality Management Unit is responsible for coordinating activities related to evaluation, monitoring, and the continuous improvement of educational and administrative processes. The doctoral programme is subject to periodic self-evaluation, monitoring, and internal review procedures, the outcomes of which are systematically used to update institutional procedures and optimize academic activities. The quality assurance process involves the participation of academic staff, doctoral students, representatives of the academic community, and other relevant stakeholders. Regulations and procedures are published on the institutional platforms and are accessible to all beneficiaries of the doctoral programme. The University implements specific policies and procedures concerning academic ethics and integrity, plagiarism prevention, the evaluation of teaching and research activities, and the monitoring of stakeholder satisfaction. The analysis of institutional documents and implemented mechanisms demonstrates the existence of a functional and effective quality management system that contributes to the continuous enhancement of the doctoral study programme. The procedures and instruments employed enable the systematic monitoring of academic performance, the identification of development needs, and the implementation of improvement measures. The involvement of doctoral students and other stakeholder groups in evaluation and consultation processes contributes to strengthening the quality culture and adapting the programme to the requirements of the academic and professional environment. The periodic revision of regulations and procedures demonstrates the institution's capacity to respond effectively to legislative changes and developments in doctoral education. The impact of quality assurance measures is reflected in the modernization of educational and research infrastructure, the advancement of digitalization processes, the strengthening of the international dimension, and the increased visibility of research activities.

Examples of best practice

The existence of an integrated institutional quality management system applied across all organizational levels; Periodic monitoring of the doctoral programme through self-evaluation and internal evaluation processes; Active involvement of doctoral students in quality consultation and evaluation procedures; Transparency of regulations and procedures through their publication on institutional platforms; Integration of the principles of academic ethics and integrity into all educational and research activities; Use of evaluation outcomes as a basis for the continuous improvement of the doctoral programme.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI proves that it engages the stakeholders who have relevant activity in applying the procedures.

Indicator	The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.
I.P.C.1.2.1	

"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași and the Doctoral Studies University Consortium (IOSUD-UAIC) promote a participatory model of academic governance and quality assurance, based on consultation with and active involvement of members of the university community and other relevant stakeholders.

(https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Anexa-1_Manualul-Calitatii-varianta-pentru-site-fara-semnatura.pdf)

At the doctoral studies level, doctoral students are represented in the governing and consultative bodies of both the doctoral schools and the IOSUD, participating in processes of analysis, evaluation, and the formulation of proposals concerning the development of doctoral programmes. Their views are collected through institutional feedback mechanisms, consultations, and periodic evaluation procedures. The development, revision, and implementation of regulations, methodologies, and procedures involve academic staff, doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, administrative personnel, and representatives of other beneficiary groups. The University promotes transparency in decision-



making by publishing relevant documents and consulting the academic community prior to the adoption of significant amendments. Furthermore, the development of the doctoral programme benefits from the contributions of external partners, public institutions, professional organizations, and other stakeholders relevant to the field of Political Science, whose perspectives are incorporated into programme evaluation and enhancement processes. (<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/despre-facultate/organizare/comisii-ale-facultatii>).

The analysis of institutional mechanisms demonstrates the existence of an organizational culture oriented towards participation and consultation. The involvement of doctoral students and other stakeholder groups in evaluation and decision-making processes contributes to increasing the relevance and effectiveness of measures adopted for the development of the doctoral programme.

The procedures in place enable the collection and effective use of feedback from both direct and indirect beneficiaries of the study programme, while the outcomes of consultation processes are employed to adapt and improve academic and administrative activities. The participation of doctoral student representatives in decision-making bodies contributes to strengthening institutional transparency and accountability. The involvement of external partners and representatives of the socio-professional environment facilitates the alignment of the doctoral programme with developments in the field of Political Science and with the requirements of contemporary society, thereby enhancing the relevance of doctoral education outcomes.

Examples of best practice

Representation of doctoral students within the governing and consultative structures of the IOSUD and the Doctoral School; Systematic use of mechanisms for the collection and analysis of feedback from programme beneficiaries; Transparency of decision-making processes and accessibility of institutional documents; Consultation of the academic community in the development and revision of regulations and procedures.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.2.2. Operation

Quality assurance and academic ethics and conduct organisational structures adequately perform their specific role and functions.

Indicator I.P.C.2.2.2.	The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.
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"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași has established a University Ethics Committee, constituted and organized in accordance with the provisions of national legislation governing higher education, scientific research, ethics, and academic integrity. Its activity is regulated by the Regulation on the Organization and Functioning of the Ethics Committee, approved by the University Senate and published in the institutional documentation. The Ethics Committee is the body responsible for promoting and monitoring compliance with the principles of ethics and academic integrity in teaching, research, and administrative activities. It examines complaints concerning potential breaches of academic ethics, issues opinions, and adopts decisions in accordance with the responsibilities established by legislation and its own regulations. At the level of the Doctoral Studies University Consortium (IOSUD) and the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences, regulations and procedures are implemented concerning research ethics, plagiarism prevention and detection, compliance with standards of good academic and research conduct, and the use of similarity-detection tools for verifying the originality of scientific works. Information regarding regulations, procedures, and institutional structures responsible for ethics and academic integrity is accessible to members of the university community through the University's institutional platforms. (https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Componenta-CEU-Ia-12.12.2025_site-UAIC.pdf)



The analysis of institutional documents demonstrates that the University has established functional mechanisms, fully compliant with national legislation, for the promotion and monitoring of ethics and academic integrity. The Ethics Committee operates on the basis of regulations approved by the University Senate and exercises its responsibilities autonomously within the limits of the competencies established by law. The existence of procedures for the prevention and sanctioning of breaches of ethical standards, together with the use of similarity-checking systems for academic papers and doctoral theses, contributes to strengthening the culture of academic integrity and ensuring the credibility of educational and research processes. The consistent application of ethical standards and the existence of dedicated structures responsible for examining complaints and resolving cases of misconduct demonstrate the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms and contribute to maintaining an academic environment founded on responsibility, transparency, and respect for professional standards.

Examples of best practice

The existence of a fully operational Ethics Committee organized in accordance with national legislation; The approval and public dissemination of regulations governing ethics and academic integrity; The implementation of originality-verification procedures for academic works and doctoral theses; The promotion of the principles of ethics and academic integrity within doctoral programmes; The accessibility of information concerning ethical standards and procedures to the entire academic community; The integration of ethical standards and principles of good conduct into doctoral research activities.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and implementation of procedures

The HEI has procedures for initiating, monitoring, and periodically reviewing the study programmes and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.

Indicator	The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their
I.P.C.3.1.1	impact on quality assurance.

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași has established an institutional and procedural framework governing the initiation, monitoring, evaluation, and periodic review of study programmes and doctoral fields. These processes are based on the provisions of the University Charter, the IOSUD regulations, quality assurance methodologies, and the operational procedures approved at the institutional level. At the level of the Doctoral Studies University Consortium (IOSUD) and the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences, procedures are implemented for monitoring academic and research activities, periodically evaluating the performance of the doctoral programme, analysing achieved results, and formulating improvement measures. The doctoral programme is included in the University’s periodic self-evaluation and institutional reporting processes, and the outcomes of these evaluations are reviewed by the competent academic bodies. Doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, academic management structures, and representatives of other stakeholder groups are actively involved in the evaluation and review processes. The feedback collected is used to update programme documentation, optimize educational and research activities, and enhance the supporting infrastructure. The continuous monitoring of activities is supported by the University’s quality management system and by the internal evaluation mechanisms implemented across the institution.

(https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/CartaUAIC_29ianuarie2026.pdf.pdf)

The analysis of institutional documents and mechanisms demonstrates the existence of a systematic approach to the monitoring and continuous improvement of the doctoral programme. Institutional procedures are applied consistently and enable the periodic evaluation of academic performance, research activities, and the degree of achievement of programme objectives. The results of monitoring and evaluation processes are used as a basis for decision-making regarding the



development of the doctoral programme, the revision of regulations, and the adaptation of activities to the requirements of the academic environment and the legislative framework. The involvement of doctoral students and other stakeholders contributes to increasing the relevance of the measures adopted and to strengthening the institutional culture of quality. The impact of these procedures is reflected in the continuous modernization of educational and research infrastructure, the advancement of digitalization processes, the strengthening of the international dimension, and the improvement of conditions for the conduct of doctoral studies.

Examples of best practice

The existence of an integrated institutional system for the monitoring and evaluation of doctoral programmes; The periodic implementation of self-evaluation processes and programme performance reviews; The use of evaluation outcomes to support evidence-based improvement measures; The involvement of doctoral students in the evaluation and review of academic activities; The transparency of procedures and accessibility of institutional documentation; The alignment of monitoring processes with the institutional development strategy and the objectives of the doctoral programme.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator	Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure
I.P.C.3.1.2	implementation process.

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași has established a comprehensive framework for quality assurance and programme monitoring, involving a broad range of stakeholders in decision-making and evaluation processes. The University Quality Evaluation and Assurance Commission includes academic staff, student representatives, and representatives of the business sector. At the doctoral level, quality assurance activities involve the members of the University-level and Faculty-level Quality Assurance Commissions, the Director of the Doctoral Studies University Consortium (CSUD), the Director of the Doctoral School, the Doctoral School Council, and programme coordinators.

These structures participate in the implementation and monitoring of procedures concerning the initiation, monitoring, evaluation, and periodic review of doctoral programmes. Doctoral students are represented in the relevant governance structures and contribute to consultation and feedback processes. Institutional procedures and regulations governing quality assurance are publicly available and regularly updated.

The evidence examined demonstrates that the University has implemented a functional and participatory quality assurance system that ensures the systematic monitoring and periodic review of doctoral programmes. The involvement of academic staff, doctoral students, management structures, and external stakeholders contributes to the transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of decision-making processes.

The institutional mechanisms allow for the collection and use of feedback from relevant stakeholders and support evidence-based improvements to academic and administrative activities. The participation of doctoral student representatives in governance structures enhances the responsiveness of the doctoral programme to student needs and expectations. The integration of external stakeholders further contributes to maintaining the relevance of doctoral education in relation to societal and professional developments.

(<https://cdn-1.info.uaic.ro/info-uaic-ro/UAIC/Asigurarea%20calitat%C4%83%C8%9Bii/Comisia%20de%20evaluare%20si%20asigurare%20a%20calitatii%20UAIC.pdf>)

Examples of best practice

Active participation of doctoral students in governance, consultation, and quality assurance processes; Inclusion of representatives of the business sector and external stakeholders in quality assurance structures; Integrated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms operating at institutional, faculty, and doctoral school levels; Transparent publication of regulations, procedures, and quality



assurance documents; Systematic use of stakeholder feedback to support programme improvement and strategic decision-making.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures

Applying the methodologies and procedures contributes to improving the quality of the staff's activities.

Indicator I.P.C.4.1.1	The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.
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The evaluation of teaching staff by students is conducted within a formal institutional framework established by the regulations governing the recruitment, evaluation, and promotion of academic personnel (<https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Recrutare-promovare-complet.pdf>). At the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, students from all study cycles participate in the evaluation of teaching activities through an anonymous digital system. The evaluation process allows students to assess course quality, teaching performance, and to provide recommendations or suggestions for improvement, with the dedicated evaluation platform being publicly available through the faculty website (<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/despre-facultate/anunturi/evaluarea-activitatii-cadrelor-didactice>).

The existence of a structured and institution-wide student evaluation system demonstrates the university's commitment to monitoring and improving teaching quality. By collecting feedback directly from students regarding course delivery and academic performance, the organizational component obtains relevant information for the assessment of teaching activities and the identification of potential improvement measures. The anonymous and digital nature of the process encourages objective participation and contributes to the continuous enhancement of educational quality, indicating that the analysed performance indicator is appropriately fulfilled.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

Standard S.C.5.1. Databases

The HEI uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.

Indicator I.P.C.5.1.1	The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.
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The Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași systematically collects and manages data relevant to quality assurance through an integrated digital infrastructure coordinated by the Digital Communications and Computerization Directorate (<https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/departamentul-de-comunicatii-digitale-d-c-d/>). The university operates a wide range of information systems dedicated to student records, scholarships, academic progression, admissions, career services, resource management, and educational administration (<https://cariera.uaic.ro/>). These platforms facilitate the collection, processing, and monitoring of institutional data, while providing real-time access to information related to academic activities, student performance, curricula, and administrative processes. In addition, a dedicated quality management platform is being implemented to support the preparation of internal evaluation documentation and quality assurance activities.

The existence of an integrated digital ecosystem enables the systematic collection, centralization, and analysis of data required for the internal quality assurance process. The information generated through these institutional platforms supports evidence-based decision-making and allows continuous monitoring of academic and administrative performance indicators. Furthermore, the use of collected data within the Doctoral School Council and quality assurance structures contributes to the preparation of evaluation reports, the identification of improvement areas, and the implementation of measures aimed at enhancing doctoral education and institutional effectiveness. These mechanisms demonstrate a structured and continuous approach to quality management, indicating a high level of fulfilment of the analysed performance indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency

The organisational component ensures transparency of information, as required by the law.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.
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The University provides public information regarding admission criteria, the study contract, the regulations for carrying out the students' activity, the ECTS transferable credit system, the methodologies for completing studies, the University Charter, the code of ethics, the quality management system etc.- especially through the information available on the university's website (www.uaic.ro) and on the websites of the faculties (<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/departamente/scoala-doctorala/documente>). According to the REI (p. 40), the record of doctoral students and the monitoring of their academic career is carried out through the eSIMS platform, developed within the project "Integrated information system on the management of students' professional activities in the context of the transformations generated by the Bologna process", a project funded by the Ministry of Education and Research (<https://simsweb.uaic.ro/eSIMS/>). The platform is constantly updated and improved by the specialists of the Department of Statistics and Informatization of IOSUD-UAIC, in order to continuously align with the institutional requirements and the applicable regulatory framework.

The indicator is: fulfilled

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.
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The regulations, methodologies and procedures applicable within IOSUD are developed, updated and reviewed in conditions of decision-making transparency. *The procedure for developing documented information* ([Procedura-Informațiilor-documentate-regulamentemethodologii-ghiduri-de-studii-si-alte-documente-asimilate-SMC.pdf](#)) ensures access to information and traceability of decisions adopted. In accordance with the principle of transparency of decision-making, Institutional Regulation for the Organization and Functioning of Doctoral Studies ([Regulament_institutional_organizare_functionare_studii_doctorale.pdf](#)) provides for the publication on the institutional website of the self-assessment report and other relevant information, as well as the dissemination to the members of the Doctoral School of the extracts from the minutes of the meetings, ensuring the complete and continuous information of the academic community.

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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During the visit for evaluation the field of doctoral studies in Political Science carried out in September 2021, the ARACIS team assessed that 4 criteria (which are no longer found in the list of current criteria- <https://www.aracis.ro/iosud/universitatea-al-i-cuza-din-iasi-iosud270/>) were partially met. The first two criteria refer to the sources of funding for doctoral students, different from government sources and the spending of at least 10% of the total doctoral grants, for the professional development of doctoral students. UAIC has awarded a significant number of scholarships from its own funds. For the field of Political Science, out of the total of 18 doctoral students currently enrolled, only three are on a tuition fee basis, four have scholarships from the university's own funds and 11 have scholarships from the Ministry of Education. The expenses with the professional development of

doctoral students have increased, the university paying the equivalent of the fees for participation in doctoral students' conferences, publication fees, as well as the purchase of software necessary for data collection (Socialinsider). The other two criteria refer to internationalization. The University and the Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences have made efforts towards internationalization, by increasing the number of collaboration agreements signed with partner universities abroad. The number of lectures given by foreign lecturers to doctoral students within the Doctoral School of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences, as well as the number of doctoral students from abroad, has also increased. Unfortunately, no PhD student in the field of Political Science is coordinated in international co-supervision.

✓ **Recommendations**

Increasing the visibility and international cooperation for doctoral studies in the field of political science by organizing doctorates in co-tutorship with universities abroad.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths:	INTERNAL FACTORS ⑨	
✓ The existence of an institutional and normative framework, which ensures the efficient organization of doctoral studies and compliance with quality standards; ✓ Doctoral supervisors with relevant academic and scientific experience, who meet national standards of habilitation and research performance; ✓ Access of doctoral students to modern educational and research infrastructure, including libraries, international scientific databases, digital platforms and specialized electronic resources. ✓ Implementation of the principles of student-centered learning, by promoting independent research, flexibility of the doctoral path and active participation in academic and scientific activities. ✓ The existence of functional mechanisms for quality assurance and monitoring, including the periodic evaluation of teaching activities and the analysis of feedback from doctoral students. ✓ Supporting the participation of doctoral students in scientific conferences, research activities and publishing scientific results in		Weaknesses: ✓ The low number of active doctoral supervisors in the field of Political Science, which may affect the development capacity and sustainability of the doctoral program in the long term. ✓ Concentration of doctoral coordination activity on a limited number of teaching staff, with the risk of overburdening them and limiting the diversity of research topics. ✓ Insufficient degree of internationalization of the field, reflected by the low number of academic mobilities and international doctoral collaborations. ✓ Absence of doctoral programs conducted under international co-supervision. ✓ The need to periodically update some curricular documents and information published on institutional platforms. ✓ Lack of participation in research projects with external partners.



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academic journals. ✓ Attracting and integrating foreign citizens who are beneficiaries of scholarships offered by the Romanian state through the "Romanians from abroad" Program into doctoral programs represents a relevant mechanism for the internationalization of doctoral studies, favoring academic exchange, cultural diversity and strengthening educational and scientific cooperation relations at regional and international levels.		
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: ✓ Development of a trilateral academic platform Romania-Republic of Moldova-Ukraine to strengthen doctoral cooperation and scientific research. ✓ Expanding collaborations with universities and research centers from the European Higher Education Area and other relevant academic regions. ✓ Developing international co-supervision doctoral programs and double degree agreements. ✓ Intensifying participation in international academic and scientific networks in the field of political science. ✓ Taking advantage of opportunities offered by digital transformation for the development of interdisciplinary research. ✓ Strengthening relations with diplomatic institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the socio-economic environment in order to carry out applied research with local / regional impact.	① EXTERNAL FACTORS	Threats: ✓ The trend of decreasing interest in doctoral studies and academic careers. ✓ Increasing competition among European and international universities in attracting high-performing doctoral students and highly qualified academic staff. ✓ Rapid evolution of international requirements regarding scientific performance and academic competitiveness, which require constant investments in human resources and research infrastructure. ✓ The border conflict, the international geopolitical and economic context, which may negatively influence academic mobility, international cooperation and access to external funding.

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



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recommendations

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme / domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	
2.	I.P.A.1.2.1 The opinions of the faculty and 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	Recording in minutes the results of consultations with relevant stakeholders.
3.	I.P.A.2.1.1 The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.	F	
4.	I.P.A.2.2.1 The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.	F	
5.	I.P.A.3.1.1 The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.	F	Increasing the number of doctoral supervisors in the field of Political Science
6.	I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	
7.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	F	
8.	I.P.A.4.1.1 The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.	F	Expanding digital administrative services and electronic processes related to the management of doctoral studies
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
9.	I.P.B.1.1.1 The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.	F	Updating all courses syllabus
10.	I.P.B.2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills,	F	Including expected learning outcomes in the curriculum



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No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	Competences and Occupations (ESCO).		
11.	I.P.B.3.1.1 The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.	F	
12.	I.P.B.3.1.2 The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.	F	
13.	I.P.B.3.2.1 The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.	F	
14.	I.P.B.4.1.1 The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs / disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.	F	
15.	I.P.B.5.1.1 Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.	F	
16.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	
17.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	F	
18.	I.P.B.7.1.2 Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.	F	
19.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
20.	I.P.B.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.	F	Increase the involvement of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students in the development of joint research projects with international partners.
21.	I.P.B.9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.	F	
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.	F	



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No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
23.	I.P.C.1.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
24.	I.P.C.1.2.1 The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.	F	
25.	I.P.C.2.2.2. The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	
26.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
27.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	F	
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	I.P.C.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.	F	Increasing the visibility and international cooperation for doctoral studies in the field of political science by organizing doctorates in co-tutorship with universities abroad.

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

Evaluation Domain	Number of Performance Indicators		
	Fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Unfulfilled
Domain A. Institutional capacity	8	0	0
Domain B. Educational efficacy	14	0	0
Domain C. Quality management	10	0	0
Total	32		

Development of a trilateral academic platform Romania-Republic of Moldova-Ukraine to strengthen doctoral cooperation and scientific research, through the development of joint research programs, international fellowships, summer schools, academic mobilities and interdisciplinary research networks, in order to support regional academic integration and support university communities affected by the current geopolitical context.

Establishment of a network between doctoral schools in the field of Political Science at the country level. Instead of each doctoral school operating in isolation, doctoral students from universities that are accredited for the training of doctoral students in the field of Political Science could participate in



joint courses, summer schools and research seminars. This type of collaboration is in line with European trends regarding doctoral schools and research networks. Creating an interuniversity research space in political science, based on resources, facilities and expertise reserves, would allow doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, and researchers to exchange information about ongoing research, develop their methodological skills, collaborate on projects and build connections with colleagues working on similar topics.

Creating a “Digital Research Lab for PhD Students” at the level of the doctoral profile in political science in Romania. Mandatory minimum package for the modern doctoral student, which would include online training for mastering digital analysis tools, such as Zotero; Scopus and Web of Science; SPSS; R; NVivo; MAXQDA; Turnitin; Elicit; Tableau; Power BI. Developing online guides for applying digital tools.

Developing collaborative relationships with institutions considered benchmarks for modern doctoral schools in Political Science, due to the combination of research, internationalization and impact on public policies (for example: Sciences Po – for the integration of research with public policies and European institutions; European University Institute – for the international character and doctoral co-supervision; London School of Economics – for rigorous methodological training and applied research on policies; University of Oxford – for academic excellence and global research networks, developed in the segment of policies and international relations).

Regulating the use of artificial intelligence tools as academic integrity. Preserving intellectual autonomy, cognitive dependence on AI, eliminating tendencies to standardize style, standardizing discourse – are current challenges we face in the development of scientific text. The use of artificial intelligence tools in doctoral work is allowed for the purposes of documentation, organization, analysis and support of editing, provided that their use is declared transparently. The doctoral student must remain fully responsible for the content, originality, validity and scientific integrity of the thesis. The use of artificial intelligence for the unassuming generation of scientific content, data or conclusions constitutes a deviation from the norms of ethics and academic integrity.

VI. Conclusions

The evaluation findings confirm that the Doctoral Studies Domain in Political Science at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași demonstrates a consolidated institutional capacity, educational efficacy and active engagement in research, as well as a strong commitment for enhancing quality standards. The evaluation panel did not find any unfulfilled indicators, and the recommendations made are intended to improve the performance of the evaluated field. The evaluation panel recommends the MAINTENANCE OF ACCREDITATION for the Doctoral Studies Domain of Political Science.

VII. Annexes

- the schedule of the on-site visit
- the minutes of the visit