

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education



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

Higher Education Institution/ Education Provider Organization:	Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
Doctoral School:	UTCN Doctoral School
Doctoral Domain:	Philology
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)

Members of the Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	Boldea Iulian	Expert evaluator	
2.	Dodu-Savca Carolina	International Expert	
3.	Lăzărescu Adrian Vasile	PhD Student Evaluator	

I. Introduction

The External Evaluation Report (EER) was drafted in the context of the periodic external evaluation procedure for maintaining the accreditation of the doctoral study domain Philology, organized by IOSUD – Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (UTCN). The commission was composed as follows:

1. Boldea Iulian, Expert Evaluator
2. Dodu-Savca Carolina, International Expert
3. Lăzărescu Adrian Vasile, PhD Student Evaluator

The evaluation visit took place between July 6 and July 8, 2026.

The Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (UTCN) is a state public higher education institution founded in 1948 under the name of the Institute of Mechanics, transformed into the Polytechnic Institute of Cluj in 1953, and operating under its current name since 1992. In 2012, UTCN merged by absorption with the North University of Baia Mare, which continues to operate as the North University Center of Baia Mare (CUNBM). The university headquarters are at Str. Memorandumului, no. 28, Cluj-Napoca. Teaching activities are also carried out at university extensions in Zalau, Satu Mare, Bistrita and Alba Iulia. UTCN is classified as a university of advanced research and education, and at the last institutional evaluation by ARACIS in 2023 it obtained the rating "high degree of trust".

UTCN offers 88 accredited or provisionally authorized undergraduate programs across 12 faculties (9 in Cluj-Napoca and 3 at CUNBM), 100 master's programs, and doctoral programs in 17 fields within the UTCN Doctoral School. In accordance with the current legal framework, UTCN is an Organizing Institution of University Doctoral Studies (IOSUD-UTCN). By Senate Decision No. 856 of 15 December 2017, the original 10 doctoral schools were reorganized into a single UTCN Doctoral School, coordinated by the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD), which oversees the strategic and operational management of doctoral education.

The doctoral study domain of Philology has been operating continuously since 2004, when the North University of Baia Mare obtained the status of Doctoral Organizing Institution (OMECT no. 24180/08.01.2004). Since the merger, the domain is organized within the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Humanities (covering Philology and Philosophy fields), part of the UTCN Doctoral School. The maintenance of accreditation was last approved by Order No. 5500/27.10.2021, published in the Official Gazette No. 1067/8.11.2021.

II. Methods used

The evaluation process included reviewing and analyzing the Internal Evaluation Report (REI) for the field under study, along with related links, documents, data, and information available on the IOSUD-UTCN website and the Faculty of Letters (CUNBM) website. It also involved observing and gathering findings from meetings with university leadership, CSUD representatives, the doctoral school, the CEAC/DAC committee, the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Humanities, doctoral supervisors, doctoral students, graduates and employers.

Additionally, an inspection of teaching and research spaces was conducted, covering infrastructure, the library, teaching areas, research centres (Onomastics, Pragmatikon, Imagological Studies), and secretariat documents.

The external evaluation of the study domain comprised these activities: analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report and its annexes/links; review of documents and data from the IOSUD-UTCN website in digital format; a visit to UTCN and the Faculty of Letters (CUNBM) at Baia Mare, observing classrooms, seminar rooms, research laboratories for PhD students, the secretariat, and the university library; discussions with university leadership, the CSUD director, the doctoral school director, the coordination council, faculty

involved in organizing the programme, PhD students, graduates, employers, and teaching staff involved in the programme.

III. Judgment 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. Organizational components and institutional processes

The HEI has organizational 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 program/domain, the HEI has adequate organizational 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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o Presentation of the state of facts

At the IOSUD-UTCN level, the structures responsible for the organization and functioning of the doctoral cycle are published transparently, with names, responsibilities, and contact details on the IOSUD website (iosud.utcluj.ro). For the Philology domain, the IOSUD secretariat serves as the entry point for current documentation (admission, doctoral course documents, committee establishment), while the CSUD and the Doctoral School coordinate the rules, planning, and academic control.

The organization is detailed in the IOSUD-UTCN 2024 Organizational Chart, which illustrates the relationships between the rector, senate, Board of Directors (CA), CSUD, Doctoral School, field coordination councils, ethics/integrity structures (BEIA/OEIA), and the IOSUD secretariat. The normative architecture is centralized in the IOSUD Regulations, which include the Doctoral School Regulations (approved 04.07.2024), harmonized with Law 199/2023 on Higher Education and OM 3020/2024 on the Framework Regulation on Doctoral Studies.

The Doctoral Admission Regulation (HSU no. 1785/21.03.2024) governs admission. The procedure for completing doctoral studies is published on the IOSUD page, together with the OPIS of documents and standardized forms (F1-F18), including start-up requests, declarations of originality, similarity reports, and committee proposals. The regulatory framework is centralized at iosud.utcluj.ro/regulamente.html and updated periodically to align with legislative changes.

The institutional leadership presented the comprehensive structural layout of the institution, highlighting the historical trajectory of the Baia Mare campus founded in 1920. Currently, the university manages 80 distinct research structures. The operational linkage between the main Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (UTCN) administration and the North University Center of Baia Mare (CUNBM) is governed through an integrated organizational chart connecting the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD) and the individual Doctoral Schools.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The indicator requirement – the existence of organizational components and institutionalized, regulated, and published processes – is met by:

- (i) transparent publication of IOSUD structure, components, domains, and contacts, as well as the formal organizational chart;

- (ii) (updating and publishing the internal regulatory framework harmonized with the national framework;
- (iii) the existence of operational documentation for admission and completion procedures (standardized forms F1-F18), which demonstrate the standardization of essential process flows.

IOSUD-UTCN features a coherent and effective management system, underpinned by well-defined organizational units and a comprehensive regulatory framework covering every phase of doctoral studies.

The Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Humanities provides an additional layer of coordination for the Philology domain. Regularly updating regulations and involving stakeholders in governance fosters transparency and organizational flexibility.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

- Transparent publication of IOSUD structure, organizational chart, and contact details on institutional websites;
- Comprehensive standardization of key processes through published operational documentation (forms F1–F18);
- Timely alignment of regulations with Law 199/2023 and OM 3020/2024;
- Dedicated Doctoral Programs Coordination Council for the Humanities, ensuring domain-specific academic oversight.

o Recommendations - N/A

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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o Presentation of the state of facts

At the Faculty of Letters level, the Faculty Council publishes agendas, announcements, and information related to the approval/decision processes on the Faculty website (litere.utcluj.ro), constituting verifiable traces of the academic community's consultation. For the interface with the socioeconomic environment, UTCN has issued the CRMSE Procedure (Procedure for concluding collaboration agreements with the socioeconomic environment), which explicitly specifies the stages: initiation, approval, electronic registration via JobRouter, signing, and storage. Collaboration agreement models are also published.

At the doctoral field level, the Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Humanities consults doctoral supervisors periodically regarding amendments to institutional regulations, submitting observations and proposals to the CSUD. Annual satisfaction questionnaires and periodic internal meetings with doctoral supervisors and doctoral students ensure continuous feedback collection. External stakeholders – including employers, institutional partners (museums, libraries, cultural institutes), alumni, and specialists from related fields – are involved through consultative practices, thesis defense committees, and research collaborations.

¹ The faculty, department, subsidiary, extension - hereinafter “organisational components”

o Analysis of the state of facts

The publication of Faculty of Letters Council decisions demonstrates that proposals and documents go through consultation and approval stages before being adopted, providing the evaluator with visibility over the procedural route. In the relationship with employers, the Faculty management imposes standard steps (including the circuit in JobRouter and successive approvals), ensuring uniformity and traceability of collaborations and consultations for the Philology domain.

Stakeholder involvement is partially institutionalized and shows a stronger emphasis on internal stakeholders, whose participation in governance structures ensures a minimum level of consultation and transparency. While the inclusion of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors in decision-making bodies is a positive step, mechanisms for the systematic and documented integration of external stakeholder feedback into regulatory revisions could be further formalized.

The internal report drafting team pointed out that historical data collection was occasionally hindered by localized storage dependencies; however, as emerged from the interviews, this vulnerability was successfully mitigated one year ago by transitioning to the centralized SIS cloud platform.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Publication of Faculty of Letters Council decisions providing verifiable procedural traceability;
- Standardized CRMSE procedure ensuring uniformity and traceability of collaboration agreements;
- Annual satisfaction questionnaires for doctoral students and periodic internal meetings.

o Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion A.2. The material resources and optimization 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 program/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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o Presentation of the state of facts

UTCN owns the necessary heritage to carry out a quality educational process in both main locations (Cluj-Napoca and Baia Mare/CUNBM), as well as at university extensions. The Library Directorate of UTCN provides documentation services and access to collections (printed and electronic) via the Online Catalog (OPAC-Liberty) and gives access to licensed scientific databases through the ANELIS Plus Portal and institutional subscriptions. The CUNBM Library branch, part of the UTCN library network, serves doctoral students in Philology at the Baia Mare location.

Laboratories and research structures relevant to the Philology domain at the Faculty of Letters/CUNBM include: lecture, seminar, and amphitheater rooms equipped with projectors, screens, sound systems, internet connections, and smart boards; the Center for Onomastics; the Pragmatikon Center; the Center for Imagological Studies and Research on Literary and Social Imaginary; digital resources and support services. These facilities provide doctoral students with access to infrastructure and equipment

appropriate for advanced research in Philology. The university also holds a global agreement with Microsoft, allowing access to M365 services for educational purposes. Accessibility measures for persons with disabilities include access ramps, tactile markings, and dedicated restrooms in main buildings at both locations.

During the site visit, discussions with PhD supervisors highlighted that the sustainability of high-level, specialized research areas (Reference Theory, Discourse Analysis, and Geocriticism) is exceptionally anchored by the Centre of Onomastics. This core infrastructure unit successfully acts as an institutional catalyst, converting localized cultural heritage into internationally competitive and visible academic output.

o Analysis of the state of facts

PhD students in the Philology domain have access to collections and scientific databases relevant to the field through OPAC-Liberty and the ANELIS Plus portal (including journal collections and indexing metadata), supporting documentation and thesis writing. The published research infrastructures ensure access to specialized laboratories in each research direction. The procedure, OPIS, and forms published on the IOSUD website confirm that the steps and documents necessary until public defense (including similarity verification) are clearly defined.

The material base available to the Philology doctoral domain is adequate for organizing doctoral studies, with legally owned premises and access to a diversified infrastructure supporting teaching, research, and administrative activities. The availability of dedicated research centres and digital resources contribute to an enabling academic environment.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

- Access to specialized research centres (Onomastics, Pragmatikon, Imagological Studies) directly supporting doctoral research directions;
- Comprehensive ANELIS Plus access providing doctoral students with a wide range of international scientific databases;
- UTCN-wide Microsoft agreement enabling M365 services for all doctoral students;
- Accessible infrastructure measures in main CUNBM buildings (ramps, elevators, tactile markings, dedicated restrooms).

o Recommendations

Publish detailed descriptions of spaces and equipment on the Doctoral School website, including programme information and health and safety rules.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources

The organizational components manage the movable and immovable assets used for the evaluated study program/domain in an optimal, sustainable manner.

Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1	The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.
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o Presentation of the state of facts

UTCN manages its material resources using established procedures and a digital administrative ecosystem. The DMCDI Instructions detail the operational sequence for infrastructure management: drafting documents, registering in JobRouter with appropriate options, generating internal numbers, submitting for approval (Legal → DMCDI Director → Economic Director → Rector), and returning with a

receipt report upon completion. The list of institutional applications used for administration – including JobRouter, SIMAC+, the IOSUD Platform, and SINU – is published on the IT & Digitalisation – Applications portal (itid.utcluj.ro), confirming the existence of an integrated institutional digital ecosystem. Assets are maintained and managed at the institutional and faculty level, guided by financial planning documents (annual budgets) and the institutional development strategy. Regular maintenance and modernization activities are supported by dedicated budget allocations.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The procedural provisions (DMCDI) and the use of JobRouter for the registry, numbering, and approval/signature circuit ensure complete traceability of documents related to infrastructure and projects, fulfilling the indicator requirement regarding the documentable maintenance and administration of the material base. The publication of the list of applications (JobRouter, SIMAC+, IOSUD, SINU) reinforces evidence of an IT infrastructure that supports administrative and academic processes relevant to the Philology domain.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Complete digital traceability of administrative processes through JobRouter;
- Integrated institutional digital ecosystem (JobRouter, SIMAC+, IOSUD Platform, SINU) supporting material resource management.

o Recommendations - N/A

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 organize and deliver the evaluated study program/domain.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organizational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study program/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.

o Presentation of the state of facts

The doctoral domain of Philology within IOSUD-UTCN currently has six doctoral supervisors active, of whom two are retired but continue to supervise ongoing doctoral students. All doctoral supervisors meet the minimum national standards required for the quality of doctoral supervisor, as evaluated annually according to Order no. 6129/2016 (Annex no. 29 – Philology Commission) on the minimum standards for the award of teaching titles and the quality of doctoral supervisor. UTCN uses the SIMAC+ platform to record scientific production (publications, citations) and involvement in projects of the staff involved in the Philology domain.

The research structures relevant to Philology – Faculty of Letters, CUNBM – are published at the institutional level and include centres and laboratories specific to the field within which doctoral supervisors carry out their activity: the Center for Onomastics (with the ICONN conference now in its 7th edition), the Pragmatikon Center, and the Center for Imagological Studies and Research on the Literary and Social Imaginary. Doctoral supervisors are affiliated with the UTCN Doctoral School upon obtaining the habilitation certificate, in accordance with national regulations and the institutional habilitation procedure (approved by Senate Decision no. 2010 of 17.04.2025).

o Analysis of the state of facts

The adequacy of human resources for the Philology doctoral domain can be demonstrated by correlating the list of doctoral supervisors with their scientific profiles and projects in SIMAC+. All doctoral supervisors meet legal habilitation standards and demonstrate relevant academic and research credentials. Their participation in both teaching activities (PPUA disciplines) and research supervision fosters alignment between the training programme and students' research activities.

The organization of the Coordination Council and guidance and integrity committees supports the quality assurance of doctoral supervision, with each doctoral student benefiting from a guidance committee composed of at least three staff members (including at least one from outside IOSUD-UTCN). The doctoral supervisors demonstrate significant scientific productivity, attested by publications in WoS, SCOPUS, and ERIH+ indexed journals, participation in national and international conferences, and involvement in research projects.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Full compliance of doctoral supervisors with CNATDCU minimum habilitation standards;
- Use of SIMAC+ for systematic tracking of academic performance and scientific production;
- Guidance committees with mandatory external member ensuring disciplinary expertise and academic oversight;
- Internationally recognized research centres (notably ICONN – International Conference on Onomastics) embedded within the Philology domain.

o Recommendations - N/A

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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o Presentation of the state of facts

UTCN uses the SIMAC+ platform to record the scientific production and project involvement of doctoral supervisors in the Philology domain, creating a systematic record of professional development activities. UTCN promotes professional growth through the LMC platform (lmc.utcluj.ro), which offers advanced training courses, as well as through support for participation in international conferences, lectures, academic mobilities (Erasmus+, CEEPUS, EUt+), and guest professorships.

Training and mobility plans are centralized in registers with public annual summaries. Doctoral supervisors connect with research infrastructures through the published laboratories and centres of the Faculty of Letters. Professional development is also fostered through engagement in research activities (publishing, project involvement), attending academic events, and international collaborations within the EUt+ alliance.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis indicates that UTCN offers a comprehensive institutional framework facilitating the professional growth of academic staff through research activities, digital platforms (SIMAC+, LMC), and mobility programmes. These mechanisms help sustain academic competence and enhance international exposure. The integration of professional development objectives within

institutional strategic documents supports a structured approach to continuing education for doctoral supervisors.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

- Integrated SIMAC+ system for systematic tracking of academic performance and professional development;
- LMC platform providing structured advanced training courses;
- Support for participation in national and international mobility programmes (Erasmus+, CEEPUS, EUt+).

o Recommendations

Develop and publish a priority conference calendar and a transparent participation fund for doctoral supervisors in Philology.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures

Teaching staff recruitment procedures compliant with the provisions of the law.

Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1	Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law and are established and carried out transparently.
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o Presentation of the state of facts

UTCN publishes competition pages by semester (announcement, online registration, candidate lists, results) and maintains a public archive. Recruitment rules are defined in the UTCN Methodology for competitions (22.02.2024), and digital flows use JobRouter (mobile client) for electronic traceability. Competitions for academic positions are announced publicly with full documentation and results displayed within the stipulated deadlines. The habilitation process, governing the affiliation of doctoral supervisors to the UTCN Doctoral School, is regulated by the UTCN Regulation on obtaining the habilitation certificate (approved by Senate Decision no. 2010/17.04.2025).

o Analysis of the state of facts

Transparency is proven through public announcements, applications, and results; compliance is anchored in the UTCN methodology correlated with the national framework. The use of JobRouter ensures digital traceability of administrative steps, fulfilling the legal requirements for transparent and competitive recruitment. The conditional affiliation of doctoral supervisors to the UTCN Doctoral School upon meeting national habilitation standards (CNATDCU) maintains objectivity in the selection of doctoral supervisors.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Public archive of competition pages with full documentation, from announcements to results;
- Digital traceability of recruitment administrative steps via JobRouter;
- Clearly regulated habilitation process for doctoral supervisor affiliation.

o Recommendations: N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion A.4. Digitalization 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 organizational 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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o Presentation of the state of facts

IOSUD-UTCN has implemented the SIS platform (sis.utcluj.app) for online doctoral admission, allowing candidates to create accounts, verify email addresses, upload documents, select doctoral programmes, and pay fees online. IOSUD Tutorials (in Romanian and English) published for the 2025 admission cycle document the migration to this online flow. The IOSUD website (iosud.utcluj.ro) remains the centralised information point, publishing admission documentation by field (including for the Faculty of Letters).

The doctorat.utcluj.ro portal remains operational for the thesis defense calendar and thesis list. The IOSUD page "Defending the doctoral thesis" publishes the necessary procedures, OPIS, and standardized forms (F1-F18), demonstrating integration between digital tools (SIS for admission; UTCN Doctorate portal and IOSUD for defenses and information). The institutional digital ecosystem also includes SIMAC+ for research performance recording, JobRouter for administrative traceability, and the IOSUD Platform and SINU for institutional management.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The migration of the registration flow to the SIS platform is documented in publicly available tutorials, which explicitly specify all steps. The combination of SIS for admission and the IOSUD portal for completion procedures demonstrates a functional integration between digital tools covering the full doctoral cycle. The level of digital transformation is progressing steadily, with digital tools effectively supporting and simplifying existing processes.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- SIS platform providing a fully online, documented doctoral admission process;
- Bilingual tutorials (Romanian and English) supporting international and domestic applicants;
- Integrated institutional digital ecosystem covering all key doctoral processes.

o Recommendations

Further optimise the SIS platform by introducing additional functionalities (status tracking, document management, real-time notifications) to streamline the user experience for doctoral candidates and staff.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study program

Standard S.B.1.1. Content of study program/s²

The study program is based on a curriculum designed so that students can acquire the expected learning outcomes.

Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	The study program is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes and organized 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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² The term "programs" concerns the external quality evaluation for the study programs contained in a master/doctoral domain. The term "program" shall be used hereinafter.

○ Presentation of the state of facts

The doctoral study programs within IOSUD-UTCN are developed and structured in accordance with the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, MEC Order no. 3020/2024 on doctoral studies, Order no. 3018/2025 on minimum standards for the award of the doctorate, the UTCN Charter, the Institutional Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies, and the Doctoral School Regulations. The programs comply with the standards of the European Higher Education Area and the principles of the National and European Qualifications Frameworks (CNC/EQF), aiming at the formation of advanced skills corresponding to qualification level 8.

The doctoral programme in Philology comprises two mandatory components totaling 180 ECTS credits: the Advanced University Studies-Based Training Programme (PPUA – 30 ECTS) and the Individual Scientific Research Programme (PCS – 120 ECTS). Within the PPUA, each doctoral student participates in the first year in activities within 3-4 doctoral disciplines, including 2 common disciplines shared by all students (Ethics and Academic Integrity; Statistical Data Processing) and 3 specialized disciplines selected in relation to the thesis topic, chosen from the list updated annually by the Doctoral School. The PCS ensures a coherent and personalized scientific path, with 5 oral presentations (progress reports) before the doctoral supervisor and guidance committee over the course of the programme.

The subject contract signed by each doctoral student upon enrollment formalizes the discipline selection and defines the rights, obligations, ECTS structure, and assessment methods. Disciplines offered in Philology include: Sociolinguistics, Pragmalinguistics, Dynamics of the Romanian Language Vocabulary, Communication Patterns and Styles, Legal Terminology and Language, History of the Modern Novel, Literature of the Diaspora and Dissidence, Cultural and Synthetic Dimensions, and Comparative Theories. Doctoral students may also take disciplines from master's programmes at UTCN.

○ Analysis of the state of facts

The PPUA subject offer is provided by staff with tenure at the level of professor or associate professor, or by researchers with relevant expertise; the thematic diversity allows training to be adapted to the specifics of each thesis. The scientific path is supported by guidance committees with an external IOSUD component. Research results are validated through scientific publications, conference participation, and project involvement. The training programme includes at least ten disciplines relevant to the training of doctoral students in scientific research, of which at least one is dedicated to research methodology and/or statistical data processing.

The curriculum design ensures a clear progression from fundamentals and methodology to application, innovation, and dissemination. The integration of the subject contract, progress reports, and thesis defense within a standardized procedural framework supports coherent monitoring of learning outcome achievement.

○ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Personalized discipline selection through the Subject Contract, ensuring alignment between training and thesis topic;
- Integration of research dissemination activities (publications, conferences, projects) as core elements of the PCS;
- Guidance committees with mandatory external members, supporting quality assurance of doctoral supervision;
- Standardized and publicly documented completion procedures (F1-F18 forms, OPIS, similarity reports).

○ Recommendations: N/A

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 organizational 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).

o Presentation of the state of facts

The doctoral study programme in Philology at IOSUD-UTCN is designed to align with qualification level 8 (CNC/EQF), corresponding to doctoral studies, and to support the development of advanced professional and transversal competencies. Professional competencies include: advanced methodologies in linguistics, literature, and cultural studies; critical and philological thinking; corpus collection and exploitation; advanced academic writing and terminology; language teaching; and in-depth expertise in a subfield of Philology. Transversal competencies include: advanced critical thinking; research project management; communication of scientific results to the academic community and society; and respect for ethics and academic integrity.

Occupations targeted by the PhD in Philology (according to ESCO) include: Senior Research Scientist; University Professor/Associate Professor/Lecturer; Scientific Editor/Collections Coordinator; Specialized Translator/Interpreter; Manuscript Editor/Reviewer; Author/Speaker of Cultural Content; Educational Consultant/Literary Heritage Expert; Communication Specialist in Academic/Cultural Institutions; Consultant in Language Policies and Linguistic Diversity; and Documentarian in Libraries and Digital Archives. Supporting documents include: the Doctoral School Regulations, the Individual File of the doctoral student (study contract, discipline contract, guidance committee), the CNATDCU minimum national standards (Commission 15 for Philology), and IOSUD/Doctoral School Annual Reports.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The doctoral programme defines a broad and relevant set of competencies consistent with EQF level 8 expectations for doctoral graduates in Philology. The curriculum is designed to produce Expected Learning Outcomes (RAI) specific to level 8: advanced knowledge in linguistics and literature, generation of relevant scientific contributions, ethics, responsibility, and autonomy in research. The well-defined minimum publication standards (CNATDCU – Philology) validate the acquisition of research competencies. The integration of doctoral students into research projects and centres (Onomastics, Pragmatikon, Imagological Studies) ensures coherence with ESCO occupations in research, higher education, editing, translation, and digital content.

However, the documentation shows that occupational transparency presents challenges, as many emerging roles in philology (Digital Humanities, computational linguistics, localization, content creation) are insufficiently mapped to ESCO classifications. A more systematic and publicly available correlation between learning outcomes and specific occupational profiles would strengthen this indicator.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Well-defined minimum publication standards (CNATDCU – Philology) linked to graduation requirements;
- Systematic integration of doctoral students into research centres, supporting alignment with ESCO research and academic occupations;
- Explicit correlation of learning outcomes with ESCO occupation categories in the REI, covering both classical and emerging roles.

o Recommendations: N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.3.1 Principles

The organizational component implements the principles of student-centered learning.

Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1	The organizational component ensures implementation of the student-centered learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.
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o Presentation of the state of facts

The doctoral training programme in Philology is based on advanced university studies and is designed to improve doctoral students' research skills and strengthen ethical behaviour in science. The organization of the learning process, teaching, and assessment are student-centred. Doctoral supervisors and guidance committees provide scientific mentoring and ongoing support, emphasizing the development of critical thinking, analysis, and research problem formulation skills.

There is a wide range of disciplines from which the disciplines included in the Discipline Contract of doctoral students in Philology can be chosen. The Doctoral School annually updates the list of disciplines from which doctoral supervisors together with doctoral students can select appropriate disciplines based on the profile and objectives of each doctoral student's research. The first year includes: Statistical Data Processing and Ethics and Academic Integrity as common disciplines, plus the Research Activity discipline for student-centred guidance and skills development, and 3 specialized disciplines relevant to the thesis research direction.

Currently, doctoral students also have the opportunity to take disciplines included in master's programme curricula at UTCN in the Philology domain. The involvement of doctoral students in the teaching process (as teaching assistants or associate professors in seminars and laboratories) is increasing. Quality assurance mechanisms – including self-evaluation sheets for supervisors and doctoral students, and annual feedback questionnaires – are implemented systematically.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The PPUA curriculum is diverse and updated annually, allowing for personalized progression around thesis topics and supporting student-centred learning. Guidance committees function as monitoring mechanisms for the doctoral internship, keeping records of feedback through minutes. Common disciplines (Ethics and Integrity; Statistical Data Processing) ensure methodological foundations and integrity, while specialized disciplines cover the main research directions of the supervisors. Doctoral students' access to digital resources (OPAC-Liberty, ANELIS Plus, M365) is ensured institutionally.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Personalized PPUA curriculum through the Discipline Contract, adapted to the specific research profile of each doctoral student;
- Guidance committees serving as structured monitoring mechanisms with documented feedback through meeting minutes;
- Annual feedback collection from doctoral students integrated into the quality assurance system;
- Increasing involvement of doctoral students in the teaching process, supporting skills development.

o Recommendations: N/A.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator	The organizational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in
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I.P. B.3.1.2 academic mobility programs organized in person and/or virtually.

o Presentation of the state of facts

The organizational component provides doctoral students with opportunities to participate in academic mobility programmes. IOSUD-UTCN and the Doctoral School, for the Philology domain, have concluded ERASMUS and CEEPUS Mobility Agreements with universities abroad, covering both doctoral student and teaching staff mobilities. Evidence of mobilities in the last 5 years is available in the Self-Assessment Sheets of doctoral students published on the Philology domain website (litere.cunbm.utcluj.ro/doctorat/). International mobilities (internships, conferences) totaled 97 participations for doctoral students in the current reporting period.

Co-tutoring doctoral research and participation in prestigious international scientific events (ICONN, ICOS – International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, CILPR – Congress of Romance Linguistics and Philology) are actively encouraged. UTCN is a member of the Eut+ (European University of Technology) strategic alliance, providing additional opportunities for extended collaboration, mobilities, and fellowships.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The doctoral programme in Philology ensures physical and virtual mobility for doctoral students through participation in international conferences, Erasmus+, Eut+, and research internships. There are active agreements with partner universities. Financial support from IOSUD-UTCN for conference participation has been increased, significantly contributing to the visibility and recognition of the programme. The 97 international mobility participations documented for the current reporting period attest to a well-functioning mobility culture.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Active ERASMUS and CEEPUS mobility agreements supporting doctoral student and staff mobility;
- Eut+ alliance membership providing strategic international collaboration opportunities;
- Significant institutional financial support for doctoral students' participation in international scientific events.

o Recommendations: N/A.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness

The organizational component provides fair opportunities for students.

Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organizational 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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o Presentation of the state of facts

The Code of Student Rights and Obligations of UTCN, although general, applies to doctoral students and includes: principles of equity, non-discrimination, and equal access to resources; the right to academic and professional counseling; and mechanisms for contestation and feedback. Feedback mechanisms regarding the evaluation of teaching staff by students are actively implemented. Ensuring the resources necessary for doctoral training is an obligation of UTCN, IOSUD-UTCN, the UTCN Doctoral School, the Coordination Councils, and the tutelary faculties of each domain.

The University allocates funds to support research activities and professional training expenses for doctoral students in internship, including national and international mobility, participation in conferences, summer schools, courses, internships abroad, membership fees in scientific associations, and publication of specialized articles. These funds are distributed proportionally, transparently, and equitably to all

doctoral students in internship through the Coordination Council. Doctoral students' access to documentary resources and software applications is ensured with institutional support (M365 institutional accounts, specialized literature through ANELIS, Matlab software). UTCN implements accessibility measures for candidates with disabilities: access ramps, tactile markings in some buildings, dedicated restrooms, and accessibility measures specifically implemented in the buildings used by the vast majority of Philology doctoral students (Victoriei St. 73 and Victor Babeş St., Baia Mare).

o Analysis of the state of facts

UTCN has an institutional framework to ensure equity, with the involvement of student organizations in monitoring compliance. Resources for doctoral students are provided by multiple institutional levels (UTCN, IOSUD, Doctoral School, and from grants led by doctoral supervisors). Institutional funds for mobility and dissemination are distributed transparently through the Doctoral Program Coordination Council, constituting a best practice in equitable resource allocation. Accessibility measures have been implemented in the main buildings used by Philology doctoral students.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Transparent and equitable distribution of institutional funds for doctoral student activities through the Coordination Council;
- Comprehensive institutional support covering M365, ANELIS Plus, specialized software, and financial support for conference participation;
- Implemented accessibility measures in main CUNBM buildings used by Philology doctoral students.

o Recommendations

- Optimizing access to resources by providing additional support where disparities are identified among doctoral supervisors in terms of infrastructure and funding. Encouraging a larger number of doctoral students to participate in the evaluation of doctoral supervisors and integrating the evaluation results into institutional decisions at the domain level.

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 organizational component provides access to adequate resources and support services, according to the needs of the students.

Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	The organizational 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 organization of the study program.
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o Presentation of the state of facts

UTCN has a solid teaching and research infrastructure: classrooms and seminar rooms, specialized laboratories and research centres, individual and team study spaces, and recreational facilities on campus. The Library Directorate (over 568,000 volumes and 38 departmental libraries) offers reading rooms with free access to shelves, home loan services, and an online catalog. The CUNBM Library Branch serves Philology doctoral students at the Baia Mare location. Access to international databases is provided through ANELIS Plus (Web of Science, Scopus, IEEE Xplore, ACM Digital Library, SpringerLink, ScienceDirect, and others) and institutional subscriptions.

The Career Counseling and Guidance Center (CCOC), accredited by AJOFM, offers educational, professional and psychological counseling (individual and group), soft skills workshops, and career days, facilitating the transition to the labor market and available in both Cluj-Napoca and Baia Mare. The International Relations Office (ORI) and the Erasmus+ Office provide operational support for studies, internships, and projects. The Faculty of Letters provides PhD students with access to specialized laboratories and research centers relevant to Philology, workspaces, reading rooms, and institutional IT infrastructure (M365). The doctoral supervisor is directly responsible for supporting doctoral students' access to resources necessary for the Individual Research Programme.

For students with SEN/disabilities, UTCN implements concrete measures for equal access: adapted infrastructure (ramps, elevators, adapted restrooms, accessible circulation) in main buildings in both Cluj-Napoca and CUNBM; assistive equipment and software; timetable and assessment adaptations. IOSUD-UTCN monitors the level of use and satisfaction through periodic surveys, student feedback, and annual reports.

o Analysis of the state of facts

IOSUD-UTCN provides a comprehensive and functional framework for accessing resources and support services, ensuring that doctoral students in Philology have the infrastructure, digital tools, and academic support necessary for doctoral-level study. The combination of the Library Directorate, ANELIS Plus access, specialized research centres, and the CCOC constitutes a well-rounded support ecosystem. Individual supervision by the doctoral supervisor, complemented by guidance committees and library directorate consultancy, ensures personalized research support.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Comprehensive Library Directorate (568,000+ volumes, 38 departmental libraries) with ANELIS Plus access providing a wide range of international scientific databases;
- Career Counseling and Guidance Center (CCOC) accredited by AJOFM, available in both Cluj-Napoca and Baia Mare;
- Integrated student support services covering tutoring, psycho-pedagogical counseling, career guidance, social assistance, and international student support through ORI/Erasmus+.

o Recommendations

- Develop workshops and training sessions for the use of IT infrastructure and advanced bibliographic resources.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation

Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.

Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1	Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.
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o Presentation of the state of facts

The content of subjects in the PPUA curriculum is designed to improve the research skills of doctoral students and includes a minimum of 3 subjects relevant to the research direction of each doctoral

student. The subjects included in the Discipline Contract of each doctoral student are chosen to deepen the research methodology in the specific direction of the thesis, to acquire sound ethical principles in scientific research, and to provide the doctoral student with the knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy necessary to carry out future research activities. The learning outcomes, acquired competencies, knowledge, and skills are presented on the Philology domain webpage (litere.cunbm.utcluj.ro/doctorat/).

Subject sheets include their objectives and thematic content, structured in course/applications format, from which the knowledge, skills, responsibility, and autonomy to be acquired result, as well as the examination and evaluation method. The guidance committee monitors the alignment between subject content and the Expected Learning Outcomes (RAI) during progress reports.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The learning outcomes are clearly formulated in the subject sheets and on the Philology domain page, facilitating understanding of expectations by both doctoral students and teaching staff. The Discipline Contract enables personalization of the PPUA course by selecting three subjects directly related to the thesis topic, ensuring the deepening of methodology, respect for ethics, and the acquisition of CNC/EQF level 8 competencies. The guidance committee monitoring during progress reports contributes to the coherence of training and the orientation of results towards validated scientific outputs.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Clear formulation of learning outcomes per subject in published subject sheets;
- Personalized PPUA curriculum via the Discipline Contract, ensuring alignment between training and thesis direction;
- Guidance committee monitoring of RAI alignment during periodic progress reports.

o Recommendations: N/A

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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o Presentation of the state of facts

Verification of learning outcomes is carried out through the evaluation of Progress Reports by the Guidance Committee, with documented minutes and written feedback. Five oral presentations (progress reports) are planned within the Scientific Research Programme: one per semester in Year 1, two in Year 2, and one in Year 3 (Semester 1); Years 3 (Semester 2) and 4 are reserved for completing the doctoral thesis. Upon completion of doctoral studies, the doctoral thesis is formally evaluated by a committee, after reviewing the similarity reports (Turnitin) and verifying that the CNATDCU criteria are fulfilled (minimum 3 published works, at least 1 ISI-indexed article, and at least 1 international conference participation).

o Analysis of the state of facts

The evaluation mechanisms during the doctoral internship and the final evaluation are functional and documented. Progress reports provide ongoing verification of research progress and learning outcome achievement. The final thesis evaluation, including mandatory anti-plagiarism verification and CNATDCU criteria compliance, ensures that the doctoral degree is awarded to candidates who have demonstrably achieved the required competencies at EQF level 8.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Systematic five-stage progress report evaluation with documented minutes, ensuring structured monitoring of learning outcome achievement;
- Mandatory Turnitin anti-plagiarism verification with a demonstrated similarity range of 2-12% across the 18 theses defended in the last 5 years.

○ Recommendations

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 organizational component applies the admission procedures.
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○ Presentation of the state of facts

Admission to the UTCN Doctoral School – Philology domain (Faculty of Letters, CUNBM) is carried out based on a methodology approved by the CSUD of UTCN and published on the institution's website, including the calendar, number of places (budget-funded and fee-paying), required documents, and the evaluation process. The process includes the evaluation of the research project and an interview conducted by a designated commission, with transparent scoring, published results, and a public appeals procedure. Starting with the 2025 admission cycle, all registration is conducted through the SIS platform (sis.utcluj.app), providing a fully digital admission flow. Results are published and appeals are processed within the stipulated deadlines.

○ Analysis of the state of facts

Admission procedures are published and follow the established calendar, criteria, and stages. The commission and evaluation criteria are announced transparently, and results and appeals are displayed within the stipulated deadlines. The migration to the SIS platform has enhanced the efficiency and accessibility of the admission process. All details related to admission are available at iosud.utcluj.ro/admitere.html.

○ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Fully digital admission flow through the SIS platform, providing transparency and accessibility;
- Documented evaluation commission with published criteria, results, and appeals procedure.

○ Recommendations: N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

The admission procedure assesses the research capacity, theoretical skills, and motivation of candidates through a research project evaluation and an interview, with clear and objective selection criteria. Support measures are provided for candidates from vulnerable groups and for those with disabilities, ensuring

equal access to doctoral studies through reasonable accommodations (timetable and format adaptations), dedicated counseling, and financial facilities where the methodology permits. Admission results are public and approved according to the university's internal procedures.

○ Analysis of the state of facts

Admission to the Philology doctoral programme is organized transparently and in a candidate-oriented manner. Concrete equity and equal access measures are ensured through accommodations for candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities, dedicated counseling through the CCOC, and where the methodology allows, financial facilities for candidates from vulnerable groups. The assessment climate is inclusive and focused on the potential and coherence of the research project.

○ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Clear and objective selection criteria published in advance of each admission cycle;
- Reasonable accommodations for candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities;
- Access to CCOC counseling throughout the admission process.

○ Recommendations: N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.7.2. Academic journey of students

The organizational component carries out actions supporting the students' academic journey.

Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1	The organizational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.
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○ Presentation of the state of facts

The Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Humanities oversees the Philology doctoral domain and ensures the implementation of the legal and institutional framework for doctoral students' professional activity. In the current reporting period (since the last evaluation), the Council was actively involved in: validation of committees for the analysis and public defense of doctoral theses (18 theses defended, with 36 distinguished external committee members); validation of scientific research programmes for doctoral students; management of enrollment and expulsion procedures (52 enrolled, 27 expelled); validation of requests for interruption, extension, and pardon (128 since the last evaluation); and anti-plagiarism checks for all theses (Turnitin, with similarity rates of 2-12%).

Doctoral students are regularly informed about doctoral programme requirements and scientific communication sessions. Periodic monitoring and evaluation of academic progress is ensured through semester progress reports, guidance committee meetings, and annual self-evaluation processes. Institutional financial support for conference participation, mobilities, internships, summer/winter schools, and other forms of scientific dissemination is provided and communicated transparently.

○ Analysis of the state of facts

IOSUD-ULBS applies a coherent set of regulations governing the academic journey of doctoral students, IOSUD-UTCN maintains continuous alignment with national and institutional regulations through systematic application of the legislative framework. The active role of the Coordination Council ensures coherence and academic control over academic and research processes. Real institutional support for the professional activity of doctoral students ensures access to resources (literature, software, infrastructure) and financial support for all key activities. The anti-plagiarism verification process with documented similarity rates demonstrates rigorous academic integrity practices.

○ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Active Coordination Council ensuring domain-specific academic and research oversight;

- Systematic anti-plagiarism verification (Turnitin) for all doctoral theses with documented similarity rates;
- Comprehensive institutional financial support for conference participation, mobilities, and scientific dissemination.

○ Recommendations - N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.8. Internationalization process

Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalization

Improving the quality of education and research through internationalization actions.

Indicator
I.P.B.8.1.1

The organizational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.

○ Presentation of the state of facts

The UTCN Doctoral School and IOSUD for the Philology domain have concluded ERASMUS and CEEPUS Mobility Agreements with universities abroad, supporting the mobility of doctoral students and teaching staff. Evidence attesting to mobilities carried out in the last 5 years is available in the Self-Assessment Sheets of doctoral students (97 international mobility participations, including conferences and research internships). Financial support from IOSUD-UTCN for the participation of doctoral students in international conferences has been increased significantly, contributing to the visibility and recognition of the programme. Information about scholarships, eligibility criteria, and procedures is accessible on the Doctoral School websites and communicated by doctoral supervisors (bri.utcluj.ro).

UTCN's membership of the EUt+ (European University of Technology) strategic alliance provides additional international collaboration opportunities. The ICONN (International Conference on Onomastics – Names and Naming), organized by the Center for Onomastics within the Faculty of Letters and reaching its 7th edition in 2026, represents a significant international event organized by doctoral supervisors of the Philology domain. Doctoral supervisors from the Philology domain actively participate in international scientific networks, with 8 international conference participations in the reporting period.

○ Analysis of the state of facts

The doctoral programme in Philology demonstrates a clear and sustained commitment to internationalization, with dedicated funds for doctoral student mobility, a well-defined set of recognized international conferences, and accessible information on support mechanisms. The 97 international mobility participations by doctoral students confirm an active mobility culture. A challenge identified is the low number of admission requests from foreign students, and the mobility of teaching staff, although existing, could be intensified to strengthen collaboration networks and strategic partnerships.

○ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Significant and increased institutional financial support for doctoral students' international conference participation;
- ICONN – an internationally recognized conference organized by the domain itself, demonstrating global academic leadership in onomastics;
- EUt+ alliance membership providing a strategic framework for expanded European collaboration.

○ Recommendations: N/A

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 capitalized upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.
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o Presentation of the state of facts

Learning based on scientific investigation and research results supports and is capitalized on in the achievement of learning outcomes targeted by both the PPUA and the scientific research programme of each doctoral student in the Philology domain. Research is capitalized by doctoral students through presentations at scientific conferences, scientific publications, and through technology transfer. Published works and conference participations in the last 5 years are documented in the Self-Assessment Sheets of doctoral students (litere.cunbm.utcluj.ro/doctorat/). Doctoral students actively participate in events such as ICONN, ICOS, and CILPR, as well as other national and international scientific events.

For each of the 18 doctoral students who obtained their doctorate in the last 5 years and whose titles were validated by CNATDCU, there are a minimum of 3 published works, of which at least one article is ISI-indexed and at least one involves participation in an international conference. Total doctoral student publications in the reporting period: 11 articles in WoS-indexed journals; 115 in BDI-indexed journals; 36 in ERIH+-indexed journals; 172 total published articles; 8 co-authored with doctoral supervisors; 105 conference participations.

o Analysis of the state of facts

Research-based learning is a central pillar of the Philology doctoral programme, effectively integrated into both the PPUA and the PCS, with results capitalized through publications and conference participation. The minimum publication requirements linked to doctoral graduation (minimum 3 works, at least 1 ISI-indexed, at least 1 international conference participation) provide a concrete and verifiable mechanism for ensuring research-based learning outcomes are achieved. The performance of graduates (18 theses in 5 years) confirms the consistent achievement of minimum publication standards.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Minimum publication requirements tied to doctoral graduation, ensuring research-based learning is verifiably achieved;
- Active participation in prestigious international conferences (ICONN, ICOS, CILPR) integrating doctoral students into the global philology research community;
- Co-authored publications between doctoral students and supervisors (8 in the reporting period), demonstrating mentored research integration.

o Recommendations - N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research pertaining to the objectives of the study program

The organizational component carries out scientific research activities aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study program.

Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain and capitalized upon in an adequate manner.
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o Presentation of the state of facts

The quantitative indicators regarding the visibility and exploitation of research results in the doctoral programme in Philology at IOSUD-UTCN for the reporting period are as follows:

Doctoral supervisors: Total articles in WoS-indexed journals: 63. Hirsch WoS Index: Daiana Felecan – 3; Mihaela Munteanu Siserman – 3; Oliviu Felecan – 4. Hirsch Scopus Index: Daiana Felecan – 1; Oliviu Felecan – 4. Hirsch Google Scholar Index: Daiana Felecan – 9; Mihaela Munteanu Siserman – 6; Oliviu Felecan – 12; Mircea Farcaș – 2. Participation in international conferences: 8. Scientific awards/distinctions: Gheorghe Glodeanu – Silver Medal for the volume "Writers, Books, Muses" (Euroinvent Book Salon, Iași, 2022) and Essay Award for "Fascination of Fictional Worlds" (Magazine "Luceafărul de dimineață", 2024); Mircea Farcaș – Doctor Honoris Causa of the National University of Uzhgorod (Ukraine).

Doctoral students: Total articles in WoS-indexed journals: 11. Publications in BDI-indexed journals: 115. Publications in ERIH+-indexed journals: 36. Total articles published: 172. Articles co-authored with doctoral supervisor: 8. Participation in scientific conferences: 105. Doctoral students involved in research projects: 1. International mobilities (internships, conferences): 97.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The doctoral domain of Philology demonstrates a solid level of research activity, with visible outputs at national and international level. Supervisors have solid academic visibility with a significant number of articles in WoS/ISI/ERIH+ indexed journals and relevant Hirsch indices. Doctoral students contribute consistently with 172 total publications and 97 international mobility participations, demonstrating an active and internationally engaged research culture. The synergy between supervisors and doctoral students is highlighted by 8 co-authored publications. Academic recognition of supervisors through awards and distinctions, including a Doctor Honoris Causa, attests to the international standing of the domain's academic staff. The significant increase in publications compared to the previous external evaluation confirms an upward trend in research activity.

A challenge remains the need to increase the number of doctoral students' articles in top-tier WoS/ISI/ERIH+ journals (currently 11 WoS articles) and to expand involvement in externally funded research projects (1 doctoral student involved). Adapting to modern research paradigms including Open Science, Digital Humanities, and the use of AI in textual analysis represents an ongoing challenge.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Significant increase in total publications compared to the previous evaluation period, confirming an upward research trajectory;
- Strong synergy between doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, highlighted by co-authored publications;
- Active involvement in internationally recognized conferences (ICONN, ICOS, CILPR) demonstrating integration into the global philological research community;
- ICONN – an internationally recognized conference organized by the domain, reaching its 7th edition in 2026.

o Recommendations

- Stimulate involvement of doctoral students in externally funded research projects through internal seed funding and proactive identification of team integration opportunities.

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 organizational component consistently carries out actions and applies procedures, proving their impact on improving the quality of education at the level of the study program
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o Presentation of the state of facts

The METHODOLOGY for self-evaluation of UTCN Doctoral School activity was adopted and approved by the Board of Directors (19.01.2021) and University Senate (28.01.2021, HSU 1302/25.01.2021). It covers: (a) the scientific activity of doctoral supervisors; (b) the infrastructure and logistics necessary for research activity; and (c) the procedures on the basis of which doctoral studies are organized. Periodic evaluation is carried out in accordance with the regulations in force.

The self-evaluation process comprises the completion of Self-Evaluation Sheets by doctoral supervisors and Self-Evaluation Sheets by doctoral students, developed according to the system of criteria, standards, and performance indicators used in the accreditation and periodic evaluation of doctoral university study fields (GD No. 962/8.08.2024). A commission was established for each field to verify doctoral supervisors' files (HCA 182/28.11.2024). Coordinators of doctoral programme coordination councils collect and centralise documents, developing a Centralizer for each field (HCA 160/15.10.2025). The report is discussed and approved by the CSUD.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The METHODOLOGY is consistently applied, generating specific centralizers at the level of doctoral fields and a general report at the level of the Doctoral School. The self-evaluation process involves doctoral supervisors and doctoral students simultaneously, confirming the participatory nature of the process. The annual publication of self-evaluation sheets on the domain website (litere.cunbm.utcluj.ro/doctorat/) ensures public access and transparency. The consistent application of methodologies demonstrates institutional commitment to maintaining and continuously improving academic standards.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Systematic and annually applied self-evaluation methodology covering scientific activity, infrastructure, and procedures;
- Public availability of self-evaluation sheets for both doctoral supervisors and doctoral students;
- Commission-based verification of doctoral supervisors' files ensuring objective quality assessment.

o Recommendations: N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

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

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

Within the doctoral domain of Philology, the involvement of relevant stakeholders is an integrated principle in all stages of developing, implementing, and evaluating quality assurance procedures. Internal stakeholders include: doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, teaching staff involved in doctoral training, the Doctoral School Council, CSUD, the Quality Commission (CEAC/DAC), and the Ethics Commission. External stakeholders include: employers (from the cultural-editorial, education, and linguistic sectors), institutional partners (museums, libraries, cultural institutes), alumni, and academic experts from related fields.

Stakeholder involvement is achieved through: periodic consultations within the Doctoral School Council and CSUD; annual satisfaction questionnaires for doctoral students and doctoral supervisors; feedback from graduates and employers regarding developed competencies; collaboration with external specialists in doctoral thesis defense committees; and participation of doctoral student representatives in internal evaluation meetings. All significant changes in internal procedures are communicated and debated before implementation.

o Analysis of the state of facts

IOSUD-UTCN ensures the active involvement of internal stakeholders in implementing procedures, particularly through their participation in governance and academic processes. Doctoral students have formal representation in the advisory structures of the Doctoral School. The feedback received is analyzed and leads to adjustments in the calendar, procedures, or training content. Collaboration with employers and external experts brings an applied perspective to doctoral training. While a formal framework for stakeholder involvement exists, the documentation of external stakeholder contributions to specific procedural decisions could be further systematized and made publicly available.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Annual satisfaction questionnaires for doctoral students providing structured feedback on all aspects of the doctoral programme;
- Formal involvement of doctoral student representatives in advisory structures;
- Integration of external experts (employers, cultural professionals) in thesis defense committees, bringing an applied perspective to quality assurance.

o Recommendations: N/A

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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o Presentation of the state of facts

The University Ethics Commission at UTCN operates based on the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the University Ethics Commission, approved by the UTCN Senate on 26.11.2024. It has the status of an autonomous body, without subordination to the executive or administrative structures of the university, guaranteeing decision-making independence and impartiality in the analysis and resolution of complaints regarding deviations from university ethics and deontology. The Commission's mandate includes: investigating complaints regarding ethical violations (plagiarism, academic misconduct, discrimination, inappropriate professional behaviour); formulating recommendations or proposals for sanctions to the Senate or the Rector; and issuing advisory opinions in situations requiring ethical clarification.

At the IOSUD level, the Office of Ethics and Academic Integrity (BEIA/OEIA) – established by Senate Decision no. 1407/28.10.2021 – oversees the verification of doctoral theses, including digitization and anti-plagiarism verification of all theses. The Strategy for preventing and combating the phenomenon of plagiarism at UTCN has been developed. Annual reports of the Ethics Commission are published on the university website, and documents are accessible on the institutional page (utcluj.ro/comisia-de-etica/).

o Analysis of the state of facts

UTCN has established a robust institutional framework for quality assurance and academic ethics, supported by clear regulations and dedicated structures at both the university level (Ethics Commission) and the IOSUD level (BEIA/OEIA). The Ethics Commission operates with documented independence, carrying out constant activity evidenced by minutes of meetings, notes of findings, and annual reports. The publication of these documents constitutes an indicator of decision-making transparency and institutional accountability. The anti-plagiarism verification process (Turnitin, with similarity rates of 2-12% across 18 theses) demonstrates effective integration of integrity requirements into doctoral procedures.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Independent University Ethics Commission with clearly defined mandate and published annual reports;
- Dedicated BEIA/OEIA office within IOSUD-UTCN overseeing doctoral thesis integrity, including historical verification (1990-2016);
- Published plagiarism prevention strategy and systematic Turnitin verification for all doctoral theses.

o Recommendations: N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion C.3. Procedures for the initiation, monitoring, and periodic review of the study programs 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 programs and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.

Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The organizational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.
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o Presentation of the state of facts

Within UTCN, the organizational component consistently applies institutional procedures regarding the initiation, monitoring, and periodic review of doctoral programmes and domains. These procedures are coordinated by the CEAC, the Department for Quality Assurance (DAC), the Department for University Management, and quality managers at the faculty and Doctoral School level. The process is based on: the METHODOLOGY of self-evaluation of the fields within the UTCN Doctoral School (HSU 1355/27.05.2021, updated November 2025); the IOSUD-UTCN self-evaluation METHODOLOGY (HSU 1354/27.05.2021); the UTCN Quality Assurance Code; and ARACIS Methodology and ESG Standards. Quality assurance processes are built on four institutional principles: participation (through the involvement of teaching staff, doctoral students, employers, and external stakeholders); relevance (continuous updating in relation to scientific developments and labour market requirements); ethics (compliance with the Code of Ethics and academic integrity norms); and continuous improvement (evaluation used as a development tool). All relevant regulations, methodologies, decisions, and reports are published on the university website, ensuring transparency and public access.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The institutional documents establish clearly defined stages, responsibilities, and criteria for periodic evaluation, allowing for rigorous monitoring of doctoral programme performance. The consistent application of methodologies ensures coherence between academic planning, the actual operation of the programmes, and internal quality control mechanisms. Transparency is maintained through the publication of official documents and reports on the university website. Overall, the internal quality

assurance system is consistently implemented and has an impact on optimizing the functioning of doctoral programmes.

○ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Four institutional quality principles (participation, relevance, ethics, continuous improvement) guiding all quality assurance activities;
- Approved and consistently applied self-evaluation methodologies, periodically updated (most recently November 2025);
- Publication of all relevant quality documents on institutional website, ensuring public transparency.

○ Recommendations

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Within the UTCN Doctoral School, the process of implementing quality assurance procedures is carried out through the active involvement of members of the academic community and other relevant stakeholders. Doctoral students and doctoral supervisors regularly participate in consultations and provide feedback and proposals on the functioning of the programmes. Teaching staff contribute through the Doctoral School Councils and specialized commissions. Administrative staff supports the application of procedures through monitoring, data collection, communication of decisions, and updating of operational documents.

The Doctoral School also collaborates with external institutions and professionals – employers from the cultural-editorial, education, and language sectors, cultural experts, and other partners from related fields – who provide complementary perspectives for adapting programmes to academic and professional developments.

○ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis of existing data shows that the involvement of academic community members in applying quality assurance procedures is consistent and structured. The administrative staff provides operational support, managing monitoring, reporting, and communication processes, which allows the continuous functioning of internal quality mechanisms. External stakeholders are involved, particularly in thesis evaluation and research collaboration, though their contribution to specific procedural decisions could be further formalized and systematized.

○ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Multiple stakeholder categories (doctoral students, supervisors, administrative staff, external experts) consistently involved in quality assurance procedures;
- Doctoral student representatives with formal roles in the Doctoral School advisory structures.

○ Recommendations: N/A

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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o Presentation of the state of facts

UTCN carries out annual periodic evaluation of teaching staff comprising three components: self-evaluation (via job description at the beginning of each academic year), peer evaluation (based on the Peer Evaluation Procedure), and evaluation by students (based on the Methodology for the Evaluation of Teaching Activity by Students). The SIMAC system supports the integrated evaluation of teaching, research, and management activities. An online questionnaire to assess doctoral students' satisfaction with their doctoral studies was applied during 2024-2025 among doctoral students in the Philology Doctoral Programme, comprising 10 questions on a 1-5 scale.

Key results: 89% very satisfied with integration support in the first year; 89% gave maximum score for relevance of PPUA subjects for developing research skills; 100% positive assessment of direct scientific guidance by supervisors and guidance committees; 89% positive on research conditions and resources; 100% encouragement for participation in national and international scientific events; 89% positive on information regarding research methodology and statistical data processing; 100% satisfaction with information on ethics and academic integrity.

o Analysis of the state of facts

The electronic feedback collection system ensures a systematic and efficient approach to the evaluation of teaching performance and contributes to monitoring the quality of the PPUA. The results demonstrate a predominantly positive perception of doctoral students on the competence and relevance of teaching staff in Philology, confirming the alignment of course content with doctoral training expectations. The overall picture shows very high satisfaction (approximately 89-100% positive responses across all dimensions), with isolated signals for improvement in methodology and statistics support for some students.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Systematic electronic feedback collection ensuring a consistent approach to quality monitoring;
- Comprehensive questionnaire covering all key dimensions of the doctoral programme (integration, relevance, guidance, resources, ethics);
- Application of the SIMAC system for integrated evaluation of teaching, research, and management activities.

o Recommendations: N/A

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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o Presentation of the state of facts

Within IOSUD-UTCN, data collection and analysis for internal quality assurance is carried out systematically through institutional databases and IT platforms dedicated to doctoral student management. These tools allow continuous monitoring of: distribution of doctoral students by fields and

scientific supervisors; records of graduates; activity of doctoral supervisors; and status of habilitation theses. Annual reports on doctoral activity are published on the institution's website: Annual Reports for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 (iosud.utcluj.ro/scoli-doctorale-146.html). IOSUD-UTCN also carries out mandatory annual reports to ANS, INS, RMU, and internal university structures.

At the Philology domain level, institutional databases and the SIMAC+ platform allow the centralization of field-specific information such as the distribution of doctoral students among supervisors, their academic career progression, the number of graduates, and the status of theses at different stages. Self-evaluation sheets for doctoral supervisors and doctoral students published on the domain website (litere.cunbm.utcluj.ro/doctorat/) provide systematically collected field-level data.

○ Analysis of the state of facts

IOSUD-UTCN demonstrates an organized and constant data collection mechanism for monitoring the evolution of the doctoral programme, the profile of doctoral students, and the activity of doctoral supervisors. The annual activity reports explicitly demonstrate the use of data in analysis and decision-making processes, and the accessibility of these reports on institutional websites ensures transparency. The integration of field-specific data into the broader IOSUD reporting framework supports informed institutional decision-making. As a predominantly qualitative research field, Philology requires some adaptation of current tools to more adequately capture qualitative scientific impact.

○ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Publication of annual doctoral activity reports (2020-2024) demonstrating systematic data use in analysis and decision-making;
- Integration of doctoral data with mandatory national reporting to ANS, INS, and RMU;
- SIMAC+ platform supporting systematic tracking of scientific production and staff performance.

○ Recommendations - N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion C.6. Transparency of information of public interest, including those regarding the study programs 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 program.
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○ Presentation of the state of facts

The IOSUD web platform (iosud.utcluj.ro) provides comprehensive information about: Doctoral School Regulations; the admission regulation (with calendar, places, fee/budget, documents, and evaluation criteria); the procedure for completing doctoral studies (including OPIS of documents and standardized forms F1-F18); and summaries of doctoral theses to be publicly defended, together with the date, time, and place of defense.

The Doctoral School page (iosud.utcluj.ro/scoli-doctorale-146.html) provides access to coordination council pages that include: the content of study programmes; the scientific profile and research interests of doctoral supervisors; lists of doctoral students with basic information; and standards for developing a doctoral thesis. The Philology doctoral programme page (litere.cunbm.utcluj.ro/doctorat/) publishes self-evaluation sheets for doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, program-specific information, doctoral supervisor profiles, and research activity data.

o Analysis of the state of facts

IOSUD-UTCN provides access to relevant information of public interest through dedicated digital platforms, ensuring compliance with transparency requirements. The availability of regulations, programme-related information, doctoral supervisor profiles, and governance decisions supports the visibility of the doctoral study domain and facilitates informed access for prospective and current students. The documentation indicates that transparency is ensured in a consistent and functional manner, with information accessible in both Romanian and English (admission tutorials).

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Comprehensive IOSUD web platform providing full-cycle information from admission to thesis defense;
- Dedicated Philology programme page with published self-evaluation sheets for supervisors and doctoral students;
- Bilingual admission tutorials (Romanian and English) supporting transparency for international applicants.

o Recommendations - N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organizational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.
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o Presentation of the state of facts

At UTCN, the transparency of decision-making processes is ensured through a formalized system of communication and participation. The University Senate – the supreme decision-making body – adopts decisions regarding study programmes, academic policy, and resources; these decisions are officially registered and published on the UTCN website. Major decisions related to doctoral programmes (organization, quality management, budget, staff selection, admission, and doctoral student monitoring) are taken within the Doctoral School Council, the UTCN Senate, and specialized committees.

IOSUD-UTCN provides information on governance structures and decisions at iosud.utcluj.ro/structura-139.html. UTCN practices public consultations and information sessions with stakeholders, publishes minutes, decisions, and impact reports in accessible formats, and maintains a chronological archive of decision-making documents. Responsible structures (Senate Secretariat, Communication Office, faculty secretariats/IOSUD) ensure the availability of documents within established deadlines and respond to requests for information in accordance with Law no. 544/2001.

o Analysis of the state of facts

UTCN has a well-defined institutional framework ensuring the transparency of decision-making processes. Formalized procedures and responsible structures act on the basis of clearly defined regulations, published and periodically updated. The publication of Senate decisions and accessibility of IOSUD structures online demonstrate consistent application of transparency obligations. Recurring mechanisms – public consultations, publication of minutes, chronological archiving – contribute to maintaining an open institutional climate where decisions are visible, justifiable, and verifiable.

o Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- Systematic publication of Senate decisions on the official website with chronological archiving;
- Public consultations and information sessions with stakeholders as recurring institutional mechanisms;
- Compliance with Law no. 544/2001 on free access to information of public interest.

- Recommendations - N/A

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 organizational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organize the evaluated study program as provided by the law.
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- Presentation of the state of facts

UTCN participates in external quality assessments in accordance with national laws and ARACIS guidelines. At the 2023 ARACIS institutional evaluation, UTCN obtained the rating "high degree of trust". The last evaluation of the Philology doctoral domain took place in 2021, with the maintenance of accreditation approved by Order 5500/27.10.2021 (Official Gazette no. 1067/8.11.2021). All 12 recommendations from the 2021 evaluation have been implemented, as documented in the REI.

IOSUD-UTCN applies: the METHODOLOGY of self-evaluation of the fields within the UTCN Doctoral School (HSU 1355/27.05.2021, updated November 2025); and the IOSUD-UTCN self-evaluation METHODOLOGY (HSU 1354/27.05.2021). UTCN coordinates and fully implements the procedures required for external quality assessment, including preparation of the assessment file, selection of and communication with external evaluators, organization of visits, and timely transmission of documents. Action plans with clear responsibilities and deadlines are implemented to address evaluation recommendations.

- Analysis of the state of facts

IOSUD-UTCN complies with the legal obligation to undergo external evaluation and implements the corresponding procedures in a structured and consistent manner. The preparation of the REI, the availability of supporting documentation, and the full implementation of all 12 recommendations from the 2021 evaluation indicate a mature approach to quality assurance and external accountability. The "high degree of trust" rating obtained at the 2023 institutional evaluation reflects the robustness of the broader institutional quality framework within which the Philology doctoral programme operates. Available evidence demonstrates that external evaluation procedures are not only formally implemented but are also integrated into the institution's broader continuous improvement framework.

- Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- "High degree of trust" rating at the 2023 ARACIS institutional evaluation, confirming institutional quality maturity;
- Full implementation of all 12 recommendations from the 2021 ARACIS evaluation, demonstrating a genuine commitment to continuous improvement;
- Institutional self-evaluation methodologies (approved and updated) providing a stable procedural framework for external evaluation preparation.

- Recommendations: N/A

The indicator is: fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths: • Doctoral supervisors with solid academic visibility: significant number of publications in WoS/ISI/ERIH+ indexed journals (63 articles), relevant Hirsch indices, and scientific awards and distinctions, ensuring quality mentoring. • Modern and flexible curriculum: the doctoral training program (PPUA – 30 ECTS and PCS – 120 ECTS) ensures CNC/EQF level 8, with disciplines relevant to contemporary philological research and personalised pathways per thesis topic. • Dedicated infrastructure and digital resources: access to specialised research centres (Onomastics, Pragmatikon, Imagological Studies), OPAC-Liberty, ANELIS Plus, M365 institutional suite, and licensed software. • The operational model of the Centre of Onomastics serves as a regional structural benchmark and an international best practice, successfully integrating highly specialized, interdisciplinary philological research fields within a unified, high-performing academic infrastructure that converts localized heritage into visible international output. • Strong commitment to academic ethics and integrity: rigorous anti-plagiarism checks (Turnitin), mandatory Ethics and Academic Integrity course, and a clear procedural framework (BEIA/OEIA office). • Functional quality assurance mechanisms: electronic system for evaluating teaching performance, periodic monitoring through semester reports, and validated procedures for thesis committees. • Solid completion rate and scientific output of graduates: 18 theses defended in the last 5 years, all meeting minimum publication requirements (minimum 3 papers, at least 1 ISI-indexed, at least 1 international conference). • Consistent institutional support: allocation of significant funds (e.g. 70,000 lei in 2025) for mobilities, conference participation and summer schools, distributed transparently through the Coordination Council. • Active doctoral students' scientific productivity: 172 published articles total (11 in WoS-indexed journals, 36 in ERIH+, 115 in	INTERNAL FACTORS	Weaknesses: • Variable level of involvement of doctoral students in externally funded research projects: only 1 doctoral student mentioned as involved in such projects during the evaluation period. • WoS/ISI/ERIH scientific output of doctoral students still below potential: 11 WoS-indexed articles among doctoral students indicate room for growth to align performance with doctoral supervisors' standards. • High administrative burden: frequent legislative changes and reporting requirements generate a considerable workload for doctoral supervisors and the coordinating board.
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BDI-indexed journals) and 97 international mobility participations. • Institutional digital ecosystem: SIS platform for online admission, JobRouter for administrative traceability, SIMAC+ for performance recording, and IOSUD portal for full transparency. • Commitment to equity and inclusion: transparent admission procedures, support for candidates with SEN/disabilities, compliance with the Student Rights and Obligations Code. • "High degree of trust" rating obtained at the 2023 ARACIS institutional evaluation, confirming the maturity of the broader institutional quality assurance framework. • Full implementation of all 12 recommendations from the 2021 ARACIS evaluation, demonstrating the institution's capacity for continuous improvement.		
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: ○ Identify external factors that could create opportunities to improve the quality of education in the study domain. • European funding for Digital Humanities and social and human sciences: Horizon Europe and other programmes offer opportunities for research and infrastructure development. • EUt+ Strategic Partnership: extended collaboration opportunities, mobilities, fellowships and development of integrated doctoral programmes at European level. • Increasing labour market demand for language and textual data specialists in localization, AI, data science, content creation and terminology. • Development of AI/NLP-assisted research tools and methods, which can be integrated into doctoral methodology training. • Partnerships with cultural, publishing and industrial institutions: collaborations with museums, archives, publishing houses, and translation/localization companies for internships and applied projects. • Increasing relevance of Open Science: possibilities for wider dissemination and international collaboration through open	↻ EXTERNAL FACTORS	Threats: ○ Identify external factors that could constitute threats to the quality of education in the study domain. • Limited and highly competitive funding for fundamental research in the humanities at national and European level. • Pressure to publish in WoS/Scopus journals versus the disciplinary specificity of philological fields and long publication timelines. • Difficulties in attracting foreign doctoral students: international competition, language barriers, and insufficient international visibility of the programme. • Legislative mobility and financial uncertainty: frequent changes in the legal framework and low predictability of funding can affect the stability of the doctoral programme. • Slow adaptation to labour market

platforms.		dynamics: risk of not fully preparing graduates with the necessary skills for emerging roles in the public and private sectors. Concerns about academic integrity in the context of artificial intelligence: risk of unethical use of AI in the research process.
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V. Extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled, and recommendations

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study program/domain, the HEI has adequate organizational 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	
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	Publish detailed descriptions of spaces and equipment on the Doctoral School website, including programme information and health and safety rules.
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 organizational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study program/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	subject matters assigned to them in the job list.		
6.	I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	Develop and publish a priority conference calendar and a transparent participation fund for doctoral supervisors in Philology.
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 organizational 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	Further optimise the SIS platform by introducing additional functionalities (status tracking, document management, real-time notifications) to streamline the user experience for doctoral candidates and staff.
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
9.	I.P.B.1.1.1 The study program is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes and organized based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.	F	
10.	I.P.B.2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).	F	
11.	I.P.B.3.1.1 The organizational component ensures implementation of the student-centered 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 organizational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programs organized in person and/or virtually.	F	
13.	I.P.B.3.2.1 The organizational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.	F	Optimizing access to resources by providing additional support where disparities are identified among doctoral supervisors in terms of infrastructure and

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			funding. Encouraging a larger number of doctoral students to participate in the evaluation of doctoral supervisors and integrating the evaluation results into institutional decisions at the domain level.
14.	I.P.B.4.1.1 The organizational 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 organization of the study program.	F	Develop workshops and training sessions for the use of IT infrastructure and advanced bibliographic resources.
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 organizational component applies the admission procedures.	F	
18.	I.P.B.7.1.2 Admission in higher education study programs 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 organizational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
20.	I.P.B.8.1.1 The organizational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.	F	
21.	I.P.B.9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalized upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study program.	F	
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research	F	Stimulate involvement of

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain and capitalized upon in an adequate manner.		doctoral students in externally funded research projects through internal seed funding and proactive identification of team integration opportunities.
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
23.	I.P.C.1.1.1 The organizational 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 organizational 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 organizational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organizational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organizational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study program.	F	
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organizational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	I.P.C.8.1.1 The organizational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organize the evaluated study program as provided by the law.	F	

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

VI. Conclusions

The evaluation of the doctoral study domain Philology within IOSUD – Technical University of Cluj-Napoca indicates that the programme is delivered within a coherent institutional, academic, and regulatory framework, fully aligned with national legislation and ARACIS standards. The organizational structures, governance mechanisms (CSUD, Doctoral School, Coordination Council of Doctoral Programs in Humanities), and regulatory instruments – including the Institutional Regulation (1853/26.09.2024) and the Doctoral School Regulations (2024) – ensure the proper functioning of doctoral studies and support the achievement of the programme's objectives.

The domain benefits from qualified human resources, with all six doctoral supervisors meeting national CNATDCU standards and demonstrating solid scientific profiles evidenced by 63 articles in WoS-indexed journals, relevant Hirsch indices, and international scientific recognition (including awards and a Doctor Honoris Causa distinction). The doctoral programme demonstrates a strong research orientation, with 18 doctoral theses defended in the last 5 years, all meeting minimum publication requirements, and a total of 172 articles published by doctoral students (11 in WoS-indexed journals, 36 in ERIH+). The 97 international mobility participations by doctoral students confirm an active and internationally engaged research culture.

Adequate material and academic resources, including access to specialized research centres (Onomastics, Pragmatikon, Imagological Studies), the comprehensive Library Directorate (568,000+ volumes), ANELIS Plus databases, and the M365 institutional suite, effectively support learning and research activities. The institutional digital ecosystem – comprising the SIS admission platform, JobRouter for administrative traceability, SIMAC+ for research performance recording, and the IOSUD portal – represents a significant institutional asset. The evaluation confirms the existence of functional quality assurance mechanisms, including the consistently applied self-evaluation methodology, periodic self-evaluation sheets, student satisfaction questionnaires with high satisfaction rates (89-100%), and rigorous anti-plagiarism verification through Turnitin (2-12% similarity across defended theses).

The full implementation of all 12 recommendations from the 2021 ARACIS evaluation demonstrates the institution's genuine commitment to continuous improvement. The "high degree of trust" institutional rating obtained in 2023 confirms the maturity of the broader quality assurance framework. The ICONN – International Conference on Onomastics, reaching its 7th edition in 2026 and organized by the domain, represents a particularly notable achievement demonstrating international academic leadership.

At the same time, the analysis has identified areas where further development would enhance the overall quality and visibility of the doctoral programme. These include: increasing the number of doctoral students involved in externally funded research projects; strengthening the publication rate in WoS/ISI/ERIH+ journals by doctoral students; developing more systematic and publicly available occupational mapping (RAI-ESCO matrix); establishing a socioeconomic advisory board for programme relevance validation; strengthening digital skills training for doctoral students; and increasing the number of incoming foreign doctoral candidates. Additional attention to publishing aggregated public dashboards of key performance indicators would enhance transparency and institutional self-assessment capacity.

Overall, the doctoral study domain Philology at IOSUD-UTCN demonstrates a good level of compliance with ARACIS standards, with no major deficiencies affecting its functioning. The identified areas for improvement represent directions for further development rather than structural weaknesses.



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

- maintaining accreditation (MAC);

VII. Annexes

Annex 1: Schedule of the on-site visit