



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

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	West University of Timișoara
Doctoral School:	Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science
Doctoral Domain:	Philosophy
The objective of the external evaluation:	Maintaining accreditation (MAC)



Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	Staicu Laurențiu	Expert evaluator	
2.	Sava Lucia	International Expert	
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I. Introduction

This External Evaluation Report was drafted in the context of the procedure for maintaining accreditation of the doctoral study domain Philosophy, organized within the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences of the West University of Timișoara. The evaluation was conducted by the ARACIS external evaluation panel, composed of the national expert evaluator Staicu Laurențiu, the international expert Sava Lucia and the PhD student evaluator Zbranca Ionuț, in accordance with the applicable quality assurance methodology. The evaluation covered the period since the previous external evaluation procedure and was based on the Internal Evaluation Report submitted by the institution, its supporting annexes, the public information made available by the university, as well as the findings resulting from the evaluation visit carried out from 24 to 26 June 2026.

The West University of Timișoara is a public higher education institution established by Royal Decree-Law no. 660 of 30 December 1944 and operating under its current name since 1994. The university defines its mission in terms of advanced education and research, knowledge transfer, civic engagement, and contribution to social, cultural, and economic development. Its governance structure includes the University Senate and the Administrative Council, while its academic activity is organised through 12 faculties, offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes in a broad range of fields. The West University of Timișoara is also an Organizing Institution for Doctoral Studies, with doctoral education structured in eight doctoral schools and several doctoral domains.

The doctoral domain Philosophy has an established academic presence at the West University of Timișoara, dating back to 2004, when the Doctoral School of Philosophy was founded. At present, the domain operates within the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences, alongside the domains Sociology, Political Sciences, Social Work and Communication Sciences. According to the Internal Evaluation Report, the Philosophy domain currently includes six PhD supervisors and a cohort of doctoral students whose evolution has remained relatively stable over the last five years. Following the previous external evaluation, completed by ARACIS Council Decision no. 100 of 25 November 2021, the doctoral domain Philosophy received the judgement of maintaining accreditation. Since then, the doctoral school has expanded institutionally, and the Philosophy domain has continued to develop through research activities, annual doctoral conferences, academic supervision structures and measures aimed at strengthening the quality of doctoral education.

II. Methods used

The external evaluation was based on the analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report submitted by the West University of Timișoara for the doctoral study domain Philosophy, together with its supporting annexes and the publicly available institutional documents relevant to doctoral studies, quality assurance, academic ethics, admission, supervision, research activity and student support services. Additional information and clarifications provided by the institution before and during the evaluation visit were also taken into account, where applicable.

The on-site evaluation visit took place from 24 to 25 June 2026 and included meetings with representatives of the university management, IOSUD, the doctoral school, PhD supervisors,

doctoral students, graduates, and other relevant stakeholders. The evaluation panel also analyzed the institutional framework in which the doctoral domain operates, including the administrative, educational, and research resources made available to doctoral students.

The evaluation combined document analysis, direct discussions with members of the academic community and verification of the correspondence between the information presented in the Internal Evaluation Report and the actual functioning of the doctoral study domain Philosophy.

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

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity

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

Standard S.A.1.1. Organisational components and institutional processes

The HEI has organisational components in its structure, which function based on adequate competences, responsibilities, processes, and implementation procedures, and ensure an effective management system.

Indicator I.P.A.1.1.1	For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.
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Presentation of the state of facts:

Doctoral studies at IOSUD-UVT are regulated by the [Institutional Regulation on the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies](#), periodically revised and approved by the UVT Senate. The same public section also includes the main methodologies and regulations concerning doctoral studies, admission, doctoral supervision, mobility and research support. The doctoral domain Philosophy operates within the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#), whose organisation and functioning are governed by specific regulations. At IOSUD level, the main management structure is the Council for Doctoral Studies, while the doctoral school is governed by its own Doctoral School Council. The [doctoral domain Philosophy](#) is subject to the institutional regulations, methodologies and procedures concerning admission, doctoral training, supervision, evaluation and completion of doctoral studies. The transparency of the decision-making framework is also supported by the publication of [CSUD decisions](#) on the doctoral studies website. These regulations, methodologies and procedures are publicly available, including through the IOSUD-UVT doctoral studies website, in Romanian and, where applicable, in English.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The documents analysed show that the doctoral domain Philosophy functions within a clearly defined institutional and administrative framework. The distribution of responsibilities between IOSUD, CSUD, the doctoral school and the Doctoral School Council is regulated through institutional documents, while the main academic and administrative processes are covered by specific methodologies and procedures. The public availability of these documents and their periodic revision support the transparency and predictability of the management system. Therefore, the organisational components and institutional processes appear adequate for the proper functioning of the doctoral domain Philosophy.

Recommendations:

No recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement

The HEI proves that it engages the relevant stakeholders in developing methodologies and regulations, as well as implementation procedures.

Indicator
I.P.A.1.2.1

The opinions of the faculty and department members, of the subsidiary or extension* and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.

Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, members of the doctoral schools meet at least twice a year in ordinary meetings and, whenever necessary, in extraordinary meetings. At the level of the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#), the Doctoral School Council meets whenever required, at the request of the doctoral school director or of at least half of its members. The adoption and revision of regulations and methodologies are governed by the UVT [System Procedure on the elaboration, approval, modification and withdrawal of regulations, methodologies and other similar documents](#). The relevant regulations and methodologies are published on the [CSUD – Legal framework](#) page, while information on the doctoral domain Philosophy is available on its [dedicated webpage](#). The Internal Evaluation Report also mentions that the main decisions and directions of action are discussed with teaching staff and doctoral students, and that academic staff from the department are involved in doctoral guidance committees.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The analysed documents indicate that the doctoral domain Philosophy operates within a consultative and transparent framework for adopting and revising regulations, methodologies and procedures. The involvement of teaching staff, doctoral students and members of the wider academic community supports the adequacy of the decision-making process and contributes to the regular improvement of doctoral studies.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources

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

Indicator
I.P.A.2.1.1

The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.

Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, IOSUD-UVT has dedicated premises within the West University of Timișoara, including office and archive spaces, as well as a room used for public doctoral thesis defences, habilitation thesis defences and academic events. Conferences and symposia may also be organised in UVT rooms A01 and A11, equipped with projection and sound systems. For the doctoral domain Philosophy, rooms P13, located in the Oituz 13 building, and B211, located in the

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

ICAM building, are allocated for teaching and research activities, while other university spaces may be used through the electronic reservation system. The university's material resources are presented in [CSUD Annexes – Philosophy, Annex 18: FLIFT spaces](#). The Internal Evaluation Report also states that teaching rooms comply with technical, safety and sanitary standards and are equipped with adequate furniture, internet connection and modern teaching equipment. UVT provides accommodation and study facilities for doctoral students through its [student housing services](#) and offers information and support services for students with disabilities through the institutional section on [accessibility for students with disabilities](#).

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy benefits from adequate educational, research and administrative spaces, as well as access to the broader infrastructure of the university. The availability of dedicated rooms, equipped teaching spaces, accommodation facilities and accessibility-related services supports the conclusion that the material resources are appropriate for the organisation and functioning of the doctoral study domain.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The possibility of using the broader university infrastructure through an electronic reservation system represents a positive practice, as it allows flexible access to institutional resources according to the needs of doctoral activities.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources

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

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

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, the management and maintenance of UVT premises are coordinated through the administrative structures of the university, as reflected in the [technical-administrative organisational chart of UVT](#). The Administrative Service, subordinated to the General Administrative Directorate, is responsible for managing the university's buildings and ensuring appropriate material, hygiene and safety conditions, in accordance with its [Regulation on organisation and functioning](#). The Internal Evaluation Report also states that accommodation facilities are managed by the dedicated student housing service, while each faculty has an administrator responsible for the management of its assets. Current maintenance is ensured by technical, repair and cleaning staff, and renovation or modernisation works are carried out according to institutional planning and identified needs. Information regarding UVT accommodation facilities is available on the university page dedicated to [student housing](#).

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the movable and immovable assets used for the doctoral domain Philosophy are properly maintained and administered through clearly defined institutional structures. The existence of central administrative services, faculty-level asset management and regular maintenance procedures supports the conclusion that adequate conditions are ensured for study, research, work and student life.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources

The HEI has the required human resources to organise and deliver the evaluated study programme/domain.

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.
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Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, the doctoral domain Philosophy functions within the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#) and includes PhD supervisors, teaching staff and members of doctoral guidance committees with responsibilities in teaching, research and supervision. The report states that the domain Philosophy has 6 PhD supervisors and 20 doctoral students, while the section dedicated to this indicator mentions that the active PhD supervisors within IOSUD-UVT meet the minimum CNATDCU standards required for habilitation. The scientific profile and qualifications of the PhD supervisors are documented through the [CNATDCU self-assessment files and supporting annexes](#) for the doctoral domain Philosophy, as well as through the information published on the [doctoral domain Philosophy webpage](#). The Internal Evaluation Report also provides examples of recent scientific publications and academic outputs of the teaching staff involved in the doctoral domain.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy has adequate human resources for organising and delivering doctoral studies. The PhD supervisors have the required academic qualifications and scientific competences, while the existence of doctoral guidance committees supports the supervision process. The correlation between the staff's scientific profile, the doctoral domain and the teaching/research activities assigned to them supports the conclusion that the human resources are appropriate for the functioning of the domain.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to develop a medium-term plan for attracting or affiliating additional PhD supervisors in the doctoral domain Philosophy, in order to further diversify the thematic and methodological profile of doctoral supervision.

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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Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, UVT supports the professional and personal development of its staff through periodic training courses, workshops and webinars organised by the [Centre for Academic Development](#), including activities focused on teaching, assessment, collaborative international learning and the use of GenAI in education. PhD supervisors also have access to support structures such as the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre for Researchers – West Region, which provides counselling, networking activities and resources for career development in research. In addition, the Directorate for Research, Development and Innovation Management informs the academic community about national and international funding opportunities and provides support for project applications and implementation. UVT also provides annual Develop grants for academic staff

and, through its participation in the [UNITA European University Alliance](#), offers opportunities for international cooperation, scientific events and access to partner university resources.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that UVT has institutional mechanisms supporting the continuous development of teaching and research staff. The availability of training programmes, research career counselling, funding support and international cooperation opportunities contributes to the professional and personal development of the staff involved in the doctoral domain Philosophy.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The annual Develop grants and the training programmes offered by the Centre for Academic Development represent positive practices, as they provide concrete support for teaching, research and academic career development.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures

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

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

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, recruitment procedures for teaching staff within IOSUD-UVT and within the doctoral domain Philosophy are carried out in accordance with the national legal framework and the institutional regulations applicable to habilitation, affiliation and recognition of academic qualifications. The relevant procedures include the [Institutional Regulation on the organisation and conduct of the process for granting the habilitation certificate](#), the [Framework Procedure for affiliation or disaffiliation within the doctoral schools of IOSUD-UVT](#) and the [IOSUD-UVT Methodology for the recognition of doctoral diplomas and doctoral titles obtained abroad](#). These documents are publicly available on the [IOSUD-UVT doctoral studies website](#), in the section dedicated to the legal framework for doctoral studies. The Internal Evaluation Report states that affiliation may be requested by persons who have legally acquired the right to supervise doctoral studies in Romania or abroad, subject to the applicable recognition procedures and institutional approvals.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that recruitment and affiliation procedures are regulated, transparent and aligned with the applicable legal provisions. The procedures define the conditions for habilitation, affiliation, disaffiliation and recognition of qualifications, while institutional approval mechanisms ensure that decisions are based on professional criteria, academic competence and thematic relevance to the doctoral domain.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion A.4. Digitalisation of institutional processes

Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation

The digital transformation process in the organisational component seeks to achieve administrative simplification and improve the quality of the services provided to the members of its own community, as well as to third parties.

Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1	The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.
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Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, IOSUD-UVT uses several digital platforms to support the academic and administrative management of doctoral studies. The University Management System allows the management of doctoral students' academic records, while doctoral students have access to [Student Web](#) for information regarding their academic and financial situation. Data related to doctoral studies are also integrated into national platforms such as the Single Matriculation Register and the Integrated Educational Register. The [UVT Intranet](#) is used by teaching staff for administrative procedures, including recording teaching activities, requesting certificates, consulting institutional email lists and booking rooms. In addition, the doctoral studies website provides public information on [doctoral admission](#) and [completion of doctoral studies](#). The Internal Evaluation Report also mentions the use of iThenticate and Turnitin for similarity checks of doctoral theses.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that IOSUD-UVT uses digital tools in the main academic and administrative procedures related to doctoral studies. These tools contribute to the simplification of administrative processes, improve access to relevant information and support the quality and traceability of services provided to doctoral students, PhD supervisors and administrative staff.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programmes

Standard S.B.1.1. Content of study programme/s*

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

Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.
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Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, the doctoral study programme in Philosophy is structured in accordance with the [IOSUD-UVT Regulation on doctoral studies](#) and with the curriculum published on the webpage of the [doctoral domain Philosophy](#). The curriculum is organised on the basis of transferable study credits and includes both the advanced university training programme and the individual scientific research programme. The advanced training programme includes four disciplines: Ethics and Academic Integrity, Academic Writing, Research Methods in the History of Philosophy and Applications of Critical Thinking in Philosophy. The curriculum also defines credit-bearing research activities, progress reports, academic support activities, mobility and thesis-related activities. The programme totals 240 ECTS, including 30 ECTS for the advanced training component and the remaining credits allocated to the individual research programme and thesis completion stages. Relevant information for doctoral students is also available on the [doctoral students' page](#).

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

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral study programme in Philosophy is structured according to expected learning outcomes and organised through ECTS credits. The programme includes learning, teaching, research and evaluation components, while the correlation between activities, credits and learning outcomes ensures a coherent and predictable doctoral pathway. The structure of the programme is adequate for achieving the intended doctoral qualification.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The explicit mapping of credit-bearing activities to learning outcomes represents a positive practice, as it clarifies the expectations regarding doctoral research, academic writing, progress reporting, mobility and thesis preparation.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to periodically review and, where feasible, expand the offer of optional courses or thematic modules within the doctoral domain Philosophy, in correlation with the expertise of PhD supervisors and the research interests of doctoral students.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.2.1. Alignment with the qualification level and the intended competences

In the curriculum design and development process, the organisational component seeks to ensure the qualification level, as well as correlation with the envisaged occupations.

Indicator
I.P.B.2.1.2

The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).

Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, the organisation, evaluation and approval of the doctoral training programme are regulated by the Regulation of the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences, available on the webpage of the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#). The curriculum for the doctoral domain Philosophy, published on the [doctoral domain Philosophy webpage](#), includes a matrix correlating activities with learning outcomes. The report indicates that the expected learning outcomes are correlated with occupations listed in the European Skills, Competences and Occupations classification (ESCO), such as philosopher, higher education teacher in philosophy, secondary education philosophy teacher, philosophers, historians and political scientists, and anthropologist. The curriculum and the individual research plan also include activities related to research, publication, dissemination and academic support, which are relevant to the intended competences of the doctoral qualification.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the expected learning outcomes are adequately correlated with the competences required by the occupations envisaged for the doctoral domain Philosophy. The existence of a matrix linking activities and learning outcomes, together with the correlation between research, teaching, dissemination and academic support activities, supports the alignment between the curriculum, the qualification level and the intended professional and academic competences.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.3.1 Principles

The organisational component implements the principles of student-centred learning.

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

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, UVT implements student-centred learning through institutional mechanisms and teaching strategies aimed at developing academic autonomy, research competences and critical thinking. At university level, the [Centre for Academic Development](#) supports the training of teaching staff and doctoral students involved in teaching activities. UVT has also developed a Teaching & Learning Brand, aimed at promoting a modern, competence-based and student-centred educational culture. Within the doctoral domain Philosophy, the curriculum and course syllabi, available on the [doctoral domain Philosophy webpage](#), include debates, projects, teamwork and applied research or analysis tasks, designed to support the achievement of learning outcomes and the development of academic autonomy. The Internal Evaluation Report also mentions the integration of doctoral students in research projects and research centres as a form of research-based learning.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy implements student-centred learning both through the structure of the curriculum and through the teaching and research activities carried out with doctoral students. The emphasis on debate, applied research, individual scientific work, guidance committees and integration into research activities supports the development of autonomy, critical thinking and advanced research competences.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The integration of doctoral students into research projects and research centres represents a positive practice, as it connects doctoral training with active research and supports the gradual development of academic autonomy.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, UVT implements the [Methodology regarding access to financial support for mobility and research activities of doctoral students](#), which provides financial support for research activities and national or international mobility of doctoral students. The methodology provides that an annual budget representing 20% of the doctoral grant funding and doctoral tuition fee income is allocated for this purpose. Doctoral students may request reimbursement of travel expenses or payment of participation fees related to mobility or training activities. Mobility opportunities are also supported through the institutional infrastructure managed by the [Department of International Relations](#), including [Erasmus+ mobility programmes](#) and international cooperation agreements. The Internal Evaluation Report also mentions opportunities offered through the [UNITA European University Alliance](#), including international co-supervision arrangements; in the doctoral domain Philosophy, one doctoral student is enrolled in an international co-tutelle with the University of Turin.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that doctoral students in the domain Philosophy have access to academic mobility opportunities, supported by institutional procedures, financial resources and international cooperation structures. The existence of dedicated funding for doctoral mobility and research activities,

together with Erasmus+ and UNITA opportunities, supports the conclusion that the organisational component ensures appropriate opportunities for participation in academic mobility programmes.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The allocation of a dedicated annual budget for doctoral students' mobility and research activities represents a positive practice, as it provides concrete financial support for participation in academic and research mobility.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.3.2. Fairness

The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students.

Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities
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Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, the [Charter of the West University of Timișoara](#) includes among its guiding principles equity, social inclusion, equal opportunities and non-discrimination. These principles are reflected in the [IOSUD-UVT Regulation on doctoral studies](#) and in the regulation of the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#). At doctoral level, the training pathway is structurally personalised, being built around the research topic and the supervisor–doctoral student relationship. The curriculum of the [doctoral domain Philosophy](#) includes disciplines designed to address the general training needs of doctoral students in the humanities, while the possibility to choose optional disciplines from the IOSUD offer allows further adaptation to individual research interests. The individual research plan, available on the [doctoral students' page](#), is discussed with the doctoral student at the beginning of each academic year and agreed upon with the PhD supervisor, including optional activities adapted to the student's research path and learning needs.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy provides fair opportunities for doctoral students and takes into account their potential, aspirations and individual learning needs. The personalised nature of doctoral training, the annual discussion of the individual research plan and the availability of optional activities support an equitable and flexible educational framework.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The annual discussion and adjustment of the individual research plan represents a positive practice, as it allows the doctoral pathway to be adapted to the research progress, interests and needs of each doctoral student.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.B.4.1. Access to resources and services

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

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

Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, UVT provides doctoral students with access to learning resources and support services adequate to their study cycle and research needs. These include material resources, study facilities, IT infrastructure, PhD supervisors, guidance committees, administrative support and counselling services. Doctoral students in the domain Philosophy have access to books, journals and specialised resources through the [“Eugen Todoran” Central University Library](#), including the digital library and domain-specific collections. UVT is also part of the [Anelis Plus consortium](#), which provides access to major international scientific databases. Support services for students are provided through institutional structures such as the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre and the [Centre for Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance and Integration](#). For students with special educational needs or disabilities, UVT provides learning counselling, individual psychological and learning support, sign language interpretation, accessible reading facilities in the Central University Library and the possibility to negotiate learning conditions.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that doctoral students in the domain Philosophy have access to adequate learning resources and support services. The availability of specialised library resources, scientific databases, counselling services and accessibility measures supports the conclusion that the organisational component provides appropriate support for the learning and research needs of doctoral students.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes

Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation

Learning outcomes are adequately defined and evaluated.

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

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, the learning outcomes for the doctoral domain Philosophy are described in the curriculum, available on the webpage of the [doctoral domain Philosophy](#), in the versions corresponding to doctoral students admitted in 2023, 2024 and 2025. The learning outcomes are expressed in terms of knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy, and are further integrated into the course syllabi of the four disciplines included in the advanced university training programme: Ethics and Academic Integrity, Academic Writing, Research Methods in the History of Philosophy and Applications of Critical Thinking in Philosophy. The curriculum also includes a grid of learning outcomes structured according to the national and European standards and correlates credit-bearing activities with the expected outcomes. These activities include documentation, research design, data collection and analysis, academic writing, publication, mobility, progress reports and academic support activities.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the learning outcomes are adequately described and operationally formulated. Their integration into the curriculum, course syllabi and individual research activities supports a clear understanding of the expectations regarding both taught disciplines and doctoral

research. The description of professional and transversal competences also contributes to the coherence and transparency of the doctoral training pathway.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

The course syllabi for the doctoral domain Philosophy include detailed provisions regarding the assessment of learning outcomes. The four disciplines included in the advanced university training programme — Ethics and Academic Integrity, Academic Writing, Research Methods in the History of Philosophy and Applications of Critical Thinking in Philosophy — include both ongoing assessment and summative assessment at the end of the teaching activities. The curriculum and course syllabi are available on the webpage of the [doctoral domain Philosophy](#). During the individual research programme, the achievement of learning outcomes is checked through periodic progress reports, usually one per year, which are credit-bearing and required for progression towards the thesis pre-defence stage. The completion of doctoral studies is regulated through the procedures published on the [completion of doctoral studies](#) page. The Internal Evaluation Report also mentions the use of the national guide for writing doctoral theses in Philosophy and the doctoral school's own thesis writing guide, available in the [CSUD annexes](#).

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the achievement of learning outcomes is assessed through complementary mechanisms: examinations and assessments linked to the advanced training programme, annual progress reports within the individual research programme, thesis pre-defence and the final public defence. This staged assessment process ensures that doctoral students' progress is monitored throughout the programme and that the learning outcomes are verified before completion of studies.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

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

Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, admission to doctoral studies at IOSUD-UVT is regulated by the [Methodology on the organisation and conduct of admission to doctoral studies](#) and by the admission regulation of the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#). Candidates use the UVT electronic admission platform, available at [admitere.uvt.ro](#), for registration, consultation of final results, confirmation of the allocated place and, where applicable, payment of the tuition fee. Procedural information concerning admission to doctoral studies is also published on the [doctoral admission page](#). The admission competition consists of an oral examination in which the candidate presents the doctoral research project. The evaluation is carried out according to the criteria

and indicators included in the admission evaluation grid provided in the doctoral school admission regulation.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy applies the institutional and doctoral school-level admission procedures in a regular and transparent manner. The existence of public regulations, a dedicated online admission platform and clearly defined evaluation criteria supports the conclusion that the admission procedures are properly implemented.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The use of an integrated electronic admission platform represents a positive practice, as it facilitates access to information, online registration, confirmation of places and administrative management of the admission process.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

The admission process at UVT is organised in accordance with the principles of fairness, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as stated in the [Charter of the West University of Timișoara](#). Admission to doctoral studies is regulated through the [IOSUD-UVT admission methodology](#) and through the admission regulation of the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#). Candidates have access to procedural information on the [doctoral admission page](#) and register through the [UVT electronic admission platform](#). The Internal Evaluation Report states that candidates with special educational needs or disabilities may benefit from adapted admission procedures, including individual assistance for online registration, additional time for the admission examination, online participation where appropriate, and alternative ways of accessing written materials. Support is also provided through the Centre for Counselling and Support for Students and through institutional services dedicated to [accessibility for students with disabilities](#). The admission regulations apply uniformly to Romanian and international candidates, while Roma candidates and Romanians from abroad benefit from the specific measures and places allocated according to national regulations.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that admission to the doctoral domain Philosophy is organised in accordance with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities. The existence of support measures for candidates with special educational needs or disabilities, together with the uniform application of admission regulations and the availability of specific national measures for vulnerable or underrepresented groups, supports the conclusion that access to doctoral studies is ensured in an equitable manner.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.B.7.2. Academic journey of students
The organisational component carries out actions supporting the students' academic journey.

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

The professional activity of doctoral students is regulated through the [IOSUD-UVT Regulation on doctoral studies](#), especially chapters IV–VI, the regulation of the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#), the individual study contract and the individual research plan. The relevant documents for newly admitted doctoral students are also available in the [enrolment kit](#). The Internal Evaluation Report states that, in addition to the PhD supervisor, the doctoral guidance and academic integrity committee has an essential role in supporting the doctoral student's academic journey. Its responsibilities include supporting access to research infrastructure, monitoring the fulfilment of the performance indicators established in the individual study contract, supervising the preparation of the doctoral thesis, participating in progress report presentations and thesis pre-defence, holding regular meetings with the doctoral student at least once per trimester, and providing career-related guidance. The individual study contract is also publicly available among the [CSUD annexes](#), as Annex 8.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy applies the regulations concerning the professional activity of doctoral students. The existence of the individual study contract, the individual research plan, regular progress reports and the doctoral guidance committee ensures a structured and monitored academic pathway, supporting doctoral students throughout their studies.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The regular involvement of the doctoral guidance and academic integrity committee, including meetings at least once per trimester, represents a positive practice, as it provides continuous academic and professional support for doctoral students.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.8. Internationalisation process

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

Presentation of the state of facts:

According to the Internal Evaluation Report, internationalisation is part of UVT's institutional strategy and is implemented in the doctoral domain Philosophy through research mobility, participation in international conferences, Erasmus+ exchanges and international cooperation agreements. The report mentions research mobility abroad and 10 participations in international conferences by doctoral students, documented in [CSUD Annexes – Annex 17: Activity of doctoral students](#). For the domain Philosophy, UVT has 29 Erasmus+ agreements for student mobility, 9 of which are available at doctoral level; information on Erasmus+ mobility opportunities is available on the [UVT Erasmus+ mobility page](#), while international cooperation agreements are published on the [UVT international partners page](#). The Internal Evaluation Report also refers to Erasmus+ doctoral mobility during the evaluated period, documented in [CSUD Annexes – Annex 14: Erasmus mobility of doctoral students](#). In addition, UVT's participation in the [UNITA European University Alliance](#) supports academic cooperation, research collaboration and international co-tutelle arrangements; in the doctoral domain Philosophy, one doctoral student is enrolled in an international co-tutelle with the University of Turin.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy benefits from institutional mechanisms that support international mobility and academic cooperation. Erasmus+ agreements, participation in international conferences, cooperation agreements and the UNITA framework provide relevant opportunities for doctoral students and academic staff to participate in international education and research activities.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The use of the UNITA framework for international doctoral co-tutelle represents a positive practice, as it strengthens doctoral supervision through structured cooperation with partner universities.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Criterion B.9. Scientific research results

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

Scientific research activities support students in achieving the learning outcomes.

**Indicator
I.P.B.9.1.1**

Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.

Presentation of the state of facts:

Learning in the doctoral domain Philosophy is based on scientific investigation and is supported by the curriculum published on the webpage of the [doctoral domain Philosophy](#). The advanced university training programme includes disciplines focused on research ethics, academic writing, research methods in the history of philosophy and applications of critical thinking in philosophy. The individual research programme requires doctoral students to formulate and refine their research problem, develop their conceptual framework, justify their methodological options and use relevant corpora, data or interpretive procedures. Research-based learning is further supported through seminars, workshops, periodic progress presentations, feedback from PhD supervisors and research groups or centres, as well as through dissemination activities such as conference participation, articles, book chapters and involvement in projects or collaborations. The Internal Evaluation Report also refers to [CSUD Annexes – Annex 8: Example of doctoral research report in Philosophy](#), documenting the integration of research activities into the doctoral pathway.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that scientific investigation is structurally integrated into the doctoral training process. The doctoral pathway combines taught activities, individual research, periodic reporting, academic feedback and dissemination of results, thereby supporting the achievement of the expected learning outcomes. The connection between research activities and learning outcomes appears coherent and adequate for doctoral studies in Philosophy.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

The organisational component carries out scientific research activities aligned with the objectives of the evaluated study programme.

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

The scientific research results of doctoral students in the domain Philosophy are visible at national and international level through participation in conferences, publications and involvement in research-related academic activities. These activities are documented in [CSUD Annexes – Annex 17: Scientific papers, conferences and teaching/research activities of doctoral students](#). The report mentions participation in relevant national and international events, such as the International Conference on Philosophical Counseling & Practice, the International Conference Literature, Discourse and Multicultural Dialogue, the Conference of the Semiotic Society of America and the International Summer Seminar on Philosophical Practices. Research results are also capitalised upon through publications in journals and volumes such as *Applied Corpus Linguistics*, *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*, *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*, *Revista de filosofie*, *Analele Universității din București – Seria Filosofie* and other specialised publications. Information on the doctoral domain and related academic activities is also available on the [doctoral domain Philosophy webpage](#).

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the scientific research results associated with the doctoral domain Philosophy have national and international visibility and are adequately capitalised upon. Participation in conferences, publication in specialised journals and volumes, and involvement in academic research activities show that doctoral research is integrated into relevant scholarly communities and contributes to the objectives of the study programme.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN C. Quality management

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

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

Presentation of the state of facts:

The doctoral domain Philosophy applies quality assurance procedures within the institutional framework of UVT. The curriculum includes the discipline Ethics and Academic Integrity, in accordance with Ministerial Order no. 3131/30.01.2018, and the relevant curriculum documents are available on the webpage of the [doctoral domain Philosophy](#). At university level, each faculty has a Quality Management Commission, which contributes to the development of evaluation tools, quality assurance mechanisms and quality standards for educational programmes. The quality assurance framework is also supported by institutional regulations and procedures published on the [UVT public documents page](#) and by the doctoral studies regulations available on the [CSUD – Legal framework](#) page. The Internal Evaluation Report also mentions student support services provided by the [Career Counselling and Guidance Centre](#) and financial support for doctoral students' participation in scientific events and publication activities.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy applies institutional procedures and actions aimed at improving the quality of doctoral education. The existence of quality management structures, ethics and integrity training, student support services and financial support for research dissemination shows that quality assurance is connected to both the educational and research components of the doctoral programme.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to further develop the evaluation process carried out by doctoral students, so that it covers not only the taught component of doctoral studies, but also the supervision and research guidance component.

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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Presentation of the state of facts:

The internal quality assurance system for the doctoral domain Philosophy is designed to be continuously evaluated and updated, in accordance with the institutional procedures adopted by UVT. The relevant quality assurance procedures and institutional regulations are available on the [UVT public documents page](#) and on the [CSUD – Legal framework](#) page. Doctoral students are represented in the Council of the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#), with voting rights on academic, methodological and ethical matters. Their opinions are also collected through satisfaction questionnaires applied at university level, covering teaching and scientific guidance activities. The Internal Evaluation Report also mentions stakeholder involvement through UVT consultative structures, including the Academic Advisory Council, the Strategic Partners Group and the Alumni Council.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the opinions of doctoral students, members of the academic community and external stakeholders are taken into account in the implementation of quality assurance procedures. The presence of doctoral student representatives in the Doctoral School Council, together with the use of satisfaction questionnaires and consultative structures involving alumni and external partners, supports the conclusion that stakeholder engagement is integrated into the procedure implementation process.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The representation of doctoral students in the Doctoral School Council, with voting rights on academic, methodological and ethical matters, represents a positive practice in terms of participatory governance.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

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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Presentation of the state of facts:

The [Academic Ethics Commission of UVT](#) operates in accordance with the [Code of Academic Ethics and Deontology of UVT](#), which is part of the University Charter, and on the basis of its own [Regulation on organisation and functioning](#), approved by the University Senate. The Ethics Commission is an independent deliberative structure and acts independently from any other structure or person within the university. The Internal Evaluation Report also states that a subcommittee dedicated to research ethics operates within the Commission, covering issues such as authorship and publication, research data management, conflicts of interest, fraud prevention and respect for research participants. Students are represented in this subcommittee, preferably by a doctoral or master's student. In addition, UVT has an Office for Ethics and Academic Integrity, which supports the prevention and combating of plagiarism and coordinates the procedure for checking compliance with ethics and academic deontology in doctoral theses.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the Academic Ethics Commission operates according to a regulation approved by the University Senate and performs its duties in accordance with the law and with institutional ethical standards. The existence of a dedicated research ethics subcommittee and of an Office for Ethics and Academic Integrity supports the implementation of academic ethics mechanisms relevant to doctoral studies, including the doctoral domain Philosophy.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The existence of a dedicated research ethics subcommittee, including student representation, represents a positive practice, especially in relation to doctoral research and academic integrity.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations are formulated for this indicator.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and implementation of procedures
The HEI has procedures for initiating, monitoring, and periodically reviewing the study programmes and domains and the performed activities, and applies them systematically.

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

UVT applies the [Regulation on the initiation, development, monitoring and periodic review of study programmes and domains and of their curricula](#). In the doctoral domain Philosophy, quality assurance is carried out through the regulations, methodologies and procedures adopted at IOSUD-UVT and doctoral school level. These include the [Charter of the West University of Timișoara](#), the [IOSUD-UVT Regulation on doctoral studies](#), the regulations of the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#), as well as methodologies concerning doctoral admission, doctoral supervision and guidance committees, financial support for doctoral students' mobility and research activities, completion of doctoral studies, habilitation, affiliation and recognition of doctoral titles obtained abroad. Relevant information and documents concerning the doctoral domain are also available on the [doctoral domain Philosophy webpage](#) and in the [CSUD annexes](#).

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy consistently applies institutional and doctoral school-level procedures relevant to the organisation, monitoring and quality assurance of doctoral studies. The procedures cover the main stages of the doctoral pathway, from admission and supervision to research support, thesis completion and academic recognition. Their application contributes to the transparency, coherence and predictability of doctoral education and supports the quality assurance framework of the domain.

Recommendations:

No specific 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:

The [Regulation on the initiation, development, monitoring and periodic review of study programmes and domains and of their curricula](#) applies also to doctoral studies within IOSUD-UVT and provides for the annual review of study programmes following consultation with teaching staff, students, graduates and employers. At IOSUD level, CSUD annually discusses the framework for doctoral admission and proposes specific admission methodologies, which are published on the [doctoral admission page](#). Based on the general admission methodology, endorsed by the UVT Administrative Council and approved by the University Senate, doctoral schools develop their own admission regulations, adapted to the specific features of each doctoral domain. The relevant regulations and procedures are available on the [CSUD – Legal framework](#) page and on the webpage of the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#).

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that members of the academic community and relevant stakeholders are involved in the implementation of procedures concerning doctoral studies. The annual review of programmes, the consultation of teaching staff, students, graduates and employers, as well as the adaptation of admission regulations at doctoral school level, support the conclusion that procedure implementation is not carried out in a purely formal manner, but involves relevant internal and external actors.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to document, in a concise annual report or internal quality assurance note, the way in which feedback from doctoral students, graduates, employers and other relevant stakeholders is used in the periodic review of the doctoral domain.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

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

Presentation of the state of facts:

Teaching activities at UVT are evaluated by students each semester through an anonymous standardised questionnaire, combining quantitative items and open-ended questions. The process is regulated by the [Methodology on the evaluation of teaching staff by students at UVT](#) and is carried out online through the institutional evaluation platform. The methodology provides that the results of the

evaluation are analysed by the directors of academic departments, discussed with teaching staff where necessary, and used for improving teaching, learning and assessment activities. General statistical results and analyses of the process are published by UVT, including in the institutional document concerning the [analysis of the evaluation of teaching staff by students, 2021–2025](#). The Internal Evaluation Report states that semester summaries are made public and that the results may be used for concrete adjustments of teaching and educational services.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the organisational component applies the institutional procedure for the semester-based evaluation of teaching staff by students and analyses the results within the quality assurance framework. The existence of an online evaluation platform, standardised questionnaires, department-level analysis and published general results supports the conclusion that student feedback is systematically collected and used for improving the quality of teaching activities.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The publication of general statistical results and analyses regarding the student evaluation process represents a positive practice, as it strengthens transparency and supports evidence-based quality improvement.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

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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Presentation of the state of facts:

UVT systematically collects and analyses data relevant to internal quality assurance through several institutional databases and digital platforms. The Directorate for Research, Development and Innovation Management maintains an updated record of publications with UVT affiliation, while IOSUD-UVT has previously carried out analyses of doctoral students' scientific output. The Doctoral School has access to the [doctoral studies website](#) for regulatory and administrative information, the [e-learning platform](#) for teaching activities, the University Management System used by the Doctoral Studies Office, and the Erasmus+ digital platforms managed by the International Relations Office, including tools for mobility agreements and mobility management. Financial data concerning grants for doctoral students and academic staff are also digitally centralised by the Accounting Service. Information concerning the doctoral domain Philosophy and related supporting documents is available on the [doctoral domain Philosophy webpage](#) and in the [CSUD annexes](#).

Analysis of the state of facts:

The information provided in the Internal Evaluation Report, corroborated with the findings made during the on-site visit, indicates that the doctoral domain Philosophy benefits from access to institutional databases and digital platforms that allow the systematic collection of data on doctoral students, academic progress, research activity, mobility and financial support. These data are analysed at doctoral school level and provide a basis for monitoring the quality of the educational and research process.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency

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

Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.
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Presentation of the state of facts:

Information of public interest regarding doctoral studies at UVT, including the doctoral domain Philosophy, is available online on the [IOSUD-UVT website](#) and on the webpage of the [doctoral domain Philosophy](#). The website also includes the [CSUD – Legal framework](#) section, where regulations, methodologies and procedures relevant to doctoral studies are published, as well as the [CSUD annexes](#) section, which contains supporting documents for the doctoral domain Philosophy.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the doctoral domain Philosophy. The online availability of regulations, admission information, enrolment documents, doctoral pathway resources and domain-specific information supports transparency and facilitates access for doctoral students, candidates and other stakeholders.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

The decision-making processes at IOSUD-UVT level are transparent, as CSUD decisions are publicly available on the [CSUD decisions](#) page. The doctoral studies website also includes information regarding the [CSUD structure and responsibilities](#), academic ethics, elections and relevant institutional procedures. Information concerning the [Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#) and the [doctoral domain Philosophy](#) is publicly available, including regulations, admission procedures, completion procedures, curriculum information, standards for doctoral thesis preparation, scientific profiles and research interests of PhD supervisors, and institutional contact details.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes. The public availability of CSUD decisions, regulations and domain-specific information, together with clear rules concerning the validity of meetings, voting and communication of decisions, supports the conclusion that decision-making is carried out in a transparent and predictable institutional framework.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples:

The online publication of CSUD decisions represents a positive practice, as it allows members of the academic community and other stakeholders to follow the institutional decisions relevant to doctoral studies.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.8.1. Compliance with the external evaluation obligation

The HEI undergoes external quality evaluation as required by the law.

Indicator I.P.C.8.1.1	The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.
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Presentation of the state of facts:

The doctoral domain Philosophy underwent the previous external quality evaluation procedure in 2021, when, by ARACIS Council Decision no. 100 of 25 November 2021, it received the decision of maintaining accreditation. The conclusions and recommendations resulting from the previous evaluation are documented in the external evaluation report available in the [CSUD annexes](#), under Annex 3, and in the progress report for the doctoral domain Philosophy for the period 2021–2024, available under Annex 19. The Internal Evaluation Report states that this progress report was prepared in 2025 and submitted to ARACIS according to the communicated procedure.

Analysis of the state of facts:

The organizational component carries out the procedures required for external quality evaluation in accordance with the legal framework. The preparation of the Internal Evaluation Report, the availability of supporting annexes and the follow-up of the recommendations from the previous evaluation show that the doctoral domain Philosophy complies with the obligation to undergo external quality evaluation.

Recommendations:

No specific recommendations.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths:		Weaknesses:
✓ The possibility of using the broader university infrastructure through an electronic reservation system represents a positive practice, as it allows flexible access to institutional resources according to the needs of doctoral activities. ✓ The annual Develop grants and the training programmes offered by the Centre for Academic Development represent positive practices, as they provide concrete support for teaching, research and academic career development. ✓ The explicit mapping of credit-bearing activities to learning outcomes represents a positive practice, as it clarifies the expectations regarding doctoral research, academic writing, progress reporting, mobility, and thesis preparation. ✓ The integration of doctoral students into research projects and research centres	INTERNAL FACTORS 	✓ It is recommended to develop a medium-term plan for attracting or affiliating additional PhD supervisors in the doctoral domain Philosophy, in order to further diversify the thematic and methodological profile of doctoral supervision. ✓ It is recommended to periodically review and, where feasible, expand the offer of optional courses or thematic modules within the doctoral domain Philosophy, in correlation with the expertise of PhD supervisors and the research interests of doctoral students. ✓ It is recommended to further develop the evaluation process carried out by doctoral students, so that it covers not only the taught component of doctoral studies, but also the supervision and research guidance component. ✓ It is recommended to

represents a positive practice, as it connects doctoral training with active research and supports the gradual development of academic autonomy. ✓ The allocation of a dedicated annual budget for doctoral students' mobility and research activities represents a positive practice, as it provides concrete financial support for participation in academic and research mobility. ✓ The annual discussion and adjustment of the individual research plan represent a positive practice, as it allows the doctoral pathway to be adapted to the research progress, interests, and needs of each doctoral student. ✓ The use of an integrated electronic admission platform represents a positive practice, as it facilitates access to information, online registration, confirmation of places, and administrative management of the admission process. ✓ The regular involvement of the doctoral guidance and academic integrity committee, including meetings at least once per trimester, represents a positive practice, as it provides continuous academic and professional support for doctoral students. ✓ The use of the UNITA framework for international doctoral co-tutelle represents a positive practice, as it strengthens doctoral supervision through structured cooperation with partner universities. ✓ The representation of doctoral students in the Doctoral School Council, with voting rights on academic, methodological and ethical matters, represents a positive practice in terms of participatory governance. ✓ The existence of a dedicated research ethics subcommittee,		document, in a concise annual report or internal quality assurance note, the way in which feedback from doctoral students, graduates, employers and other relevant stakeholders is used in the periodic review of the doctoral domain.
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including student representation, represents a positive practice, especially in relation to doctoral research and academic integrity. ✓ The publication of general statistical results and analyses regarding the student evaluation process represents a positive practice, as it strengthens transparency and supports evidence-based quality improvement. ✓ The online publication of CSUD decisions represents a positive practice, as it allows members of the academic community and other stakeholders to follow the institutional decisions relevant to doctoral studies.		
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: The doctoral domain Philosophy may benefit from the further development of applied and interdisciplinary research, from UVT's participation in the UNITA European University Alliance and from the university's existing national and international academic partnerships. These external opportunities can support international mobility, co-supervision arrangements, participation in joint research activities, and the attraction of doctoral students from abroad. The good relations with graduates and relevant stakeholders may also contribute to strengthening the connection between doctoral research and broader academic, cultural, and professional contexts.	 EXTERNAL FACTORS	Threats: The main external threats concern the decreasing number of graduates in Philosophy, which may affect the future recruitment of doctoral students, and the strong competition from foreign universities in attracting candidates with high research potential. Additional risks are related to socio-economic instability, limited predictability of research funding, and the possible marginalization of Philosophy in doctoral and postdoctoral funding schemes. These factors may affect the long-term sustainability and international competitiveness of the doctoral domain.

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

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	
2.	I.P.A.1.2.1 The opinions of the faculty and 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	
4.	I.P.A.2.2.1 The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.	F	
5.	I.P.A.3.1.1 The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.	F	It is recommended to develop a medium-term plan for attracting or affiliating additional PhD supervisors in the doctoral domain Philosophy, in order to further diversify the thematic and methodological profile of doctoral supervision.
6.	I.P.A.3.1.2 The HEI ensures professional and personal development for its staff.	F	
7.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	F	
8.	I.P.A.4.1.1 The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.	F	
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
9.	I.P.B.1.1.1 The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.	F	It is recommended to periodically review and, where feasible, expand the offer of optional courses or thematic modules within the doctoral domain Philosophy, in correlation with the expertise of PhD supervisors and

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			the research interests of doctoral students.
10.	I.P.B.2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).	F	
11.	I.P.B.3.1.1 The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.	F	
12.	I.P.B.3.1.2 The organisational component ensures opportunities for students to participate in academic mobility programmes organised in person and/or virtually.	F	
13.	I.P.B.3.2.1 The organisational component provides fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.	F	
14.	I.P.B.4.1.1 The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.	F	
15.	I.P.B.5.1.1 Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.	F	
16.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	
17.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	F	
18.	I.P.B.7.1.2 Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.	F	
19.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
20.	I.P.B.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out international cooperation	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.		
21.	I.P.B.9.1.1 Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.	F	
22.	I.P.B.9.2.1 The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in that scientific domain, and capitalised upon in an adequate manner.	F	
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
23.	I.P.C.1.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	It is recommended to further develop the evaluation process carried out by doctoral students, so that it covers not only the taught component of doctoral studies, but also the supervision and research guidance component.
24.	I.P.C.1.2.1 The opinions of the members of its own community and of other stakeholders are taken into account in the procedure implementation process.	F	
25.	I.P.C.2.2.2. The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.	F	
26.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
27.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	It is recommended to document, in a concise annual report or internal quality assurance note, the way in which feedback from doctoral students, graduates, employers and other relevant stakeholders is used in the periodic review of the doctoral domain.
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	F	

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	I.P.C.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.	F	

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

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

VI. Conclusions

Based on the analysis of the Internal Evaluation Report, the supporting annexes, the documents made publicly available by the West University of Timișoara and the findings made during the on-site evaluation visit, the evaluation panel concludes that the doctoral domain Philosophy operates within an adequate institutional, academic and administrative framework. The domain benefits from appropriate organisational structures, qualified human resources, adequate material and digital infrastructure, transparent procedures, mechanisms for quality assurance and academic ethics, as well as opportunities for research, mobility and international cooperation. The curriculum, supervision arrangements and research activities are consistent with the objectives of doctoral education and support the achievement of the expected learning outcomes. While further development is recommended in areas such as the systematic documentation of procedural impact, the continued diversification of supervision capacity and the strengthening of international visibility, the overall evidence supports the conclusion that the doctoral domain Philosophy fulfils the standards and performance indicators required for maintaining accreditation. Therefore, the decision of the evaluation panel is the following:

- a) **maintaining accreditation** (MAC).

VII. Annexes

Annex 1 – Timetable for the evaluation visit

Annex 2 – Documents reviewed: The Internal Evaluation Report submitted by the institution; The annexes to the Internal Evaluation Report; Publicly available resources on the websites of the higher education institution, IOSUD and the doctoral school.