

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education



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

Higher Education Institution/Education Provider Organization:	University of Craiova
Doctoral School:	"Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School of IOSUD
Doctoral Domain:	Music
The objective of the external evaluation:	Accreditation* (AC)



Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	Popa Florinela	Expert evaluator	
2.	Moraru Emilia	International Expert	
3.	Lăzărescu Adrian-Vasile	PhD Student Evaluator	



I. Introduction

The external evaluation report was prepared as part of the evaluation process for the accreditation of the doctoral study field Music within the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School (SDAP) of the University of Craiova (UCV). The evaluation panel consisted of two academic staff members, Florinela Popa (Chair) and Emilia Moraru (International Evaluation Expert), and one doctoral student representative, Adrian-Vasile Lăzărescu (Doctoral Student Evaluator). The institutional contact person was Gabriel Zamfir. The site visit to the Doctoral School took place on 1–2 July 2026.

The UCV is an accredited public higher education institution established pursuant to Law No. 138 of 25 April 1947 on the establishment and organization of the UCV and its Board of Trustees, and perpetuated under Decision No. 894 of 27 August 1965 of the Council of Ministers, which granted it independent legal status. The UCV carries out teaching and scientific research activities on the basis of university autonomy, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Romania, the applicable higher education legislation, and the University Charter. The UCV operates on the basis of an efficient administrative system that is continuously adapted to its institutional mission and strategic objectives. The institution has a governance structure and operational regulations for its administrative departments and services that comply with the applicable legal framework. Its governance system and internal operating regulations are supported by information and communication systems based on internet and intranet platforms (www.ucv.ro). The governing bodies and leadership positions are those established by Higher Education Law No. 199/2023 and the University Charter. The procedures for the election of academic staff and student representatives to the University's academic governance structures are laid down in the University's Election Methodologies.

According to the self-evaluation report, the UCV has a modern infrastructure that provides optimal conditions for doctoral education, scientific research, and administrative management. The University comprises one central administrative building, five university campuses, ten student residence halls, more than 230 lecture and seminar rooms, 363 laboratories, one central library, 14 faculty libraries and reading rooms, four teaching and experimental stations, and one university club. Its qualified human resources constitute a key guarantee of the quality of the services provided to students and the wider community. The facilities dedicated to educational and research activities—including lecture halls, seminar rooms, specialized laboratories, research centres, and support structures—are equipped with appropriate technical and functional resources.

As an institution of higher education and research organized across the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral cycles, the University's mission is to provide education and research at a high standard of quality, preparing highly qualified graduates capable of working in national and international companies and organizations in accordance with the professional standards required by employers in Romania and across the European Union.

At present, the University comprises twelve faculties corresponding to its main academic fields: the Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Faculty of Agronomy, Faculty of Horticulture, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, and the Faculty of Automation, Computers and Electronics.

The UCV is also an Institution Organising Doctoral Studies (IOSUD) and includes ten doctoral schools: the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School; the "Saint Nicodim" Doctoral School of Orthodox Theology; the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Humanities; the Doctoral School of the Faculty of Law; the "Eugeniu Carada" Doctoral School of Economic Sciences; the "Constantin Belea" Doctoral School; the Doctoral School of Electrical Engineering and Power Engineering; the "Academician Radu Voinea" Doctoral School; the Doctoral School of Animal and Plant Resources Engineering; and the Doctoral School of Science.



The University Charter is the University's fundamental governing document, establishing its guiding principles, functions, core objectives, and academic and institutional framework. At its most recent external institutional evaluation conducted by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), the University of Craiova was awarded the qualification "High Degree of Confidence", according to the certificate issued by ARACIS on 28 October 2021.

The "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School (SDAP) is part of the IOSUD of the UCV and constitutes the University's core academic unit responsible for the organisation and coordination of doctoral study programmes in the fields of Philology (accredited), Music (under accreditation), and Communication Sciences. SDAP is headed by a Director, who oversees the activities of the Doctoral School Council (CSD), as well as a team of doctoral supervisors (15 in Philology, 4 in Music, and 2 in Communication Sciences) and a Scientific Secretary.

In line with the mission and strategic objectives of the UCV, SDAP aims to educate highly qualified specialists in the humanities, leading to the award of a Level 8 qualification within both the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the Romanian National Qualifications Framework (NQF). This objective is pursued through advanced research and creative training in disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields. The programme offers candidates the opportunity to choose between a scientific doctorate and a professional doctorate, with the aim of developing the competencies required for high-level performance and recognition at both national and international levels.

The strategic objectives of SDAP focus on: developing professional competencies in line with the requirements of advanced scientific research; consolidating doctoral studies in Philology while expanding doctoral education in the fields of the Arts and Communication Sciences; promoting emerging, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research directions; increasing the scientific impact of doctoral and postdoctoral research outcomes; strengthening the internationalisation of advanced research; and fostering critical thinking, self-assessment skills, and academic competitiveness.

In the field of Music, the UCV currently offers several bachelor's and master's degree programmes, making the establishment of doctoral studies a natural continuation of its educational provision. The institution benefits from two permanent academic staff members who hold the right to supervise doctoral research—Professor Eugen Sandu, PhD Habil., and Senior Lecturer Gabriel Zamfir, PhD Habil.—as well as two associate academic staff members serving as doctoral supervisors: Associate Professor Ion-Alexandru Ardereanu, PhD Habil., and Associate Professor Mariana Doinița Hudea, PhD Habil.

The doctoral programme in Music, designed in accordance with the qualification requirements of Level 8 doctoral studies, has as its primary objective the development of both discipline-specific professional competencies and transferable skills among doctoral candidates. The programme is planned to commence in the 2026–2027 academic year and will be delivered over a period of four years (eight semesters), comprising 240 ECTS credits, in accordance with the requirements of the Romanian National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and the quality standards established by ARACIS.

II. Methods used

The external evaluation panel examined the information made available by the institution, including the Self-Evaluation Report and its annexes, the supplementary documentation, and the information published on the University of Craiova's website.

During the site visit to the SDAP, the external evaluation panel inspected the teaching and research facilities allocated to the doctoral study programme in Music, including lecture and seminar rooms, laboratories, the library, and the reading room. In accordance with the established schedule, the panel also held a series of meetings, which provided the opportunity for discussions with:

- the team responsible for preparing the Self-Evaluation Report;
- members of the leadership of the IOSUD-UCV, including the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), and the management of the SDAP, within which the doctoral study field Music will operate;
- the academic staff members who will supervise doctoral candidates in the field of Music;
- the coordinators of the research centres and laboratories;
- current and prospective employers of graduates of the doctoral study programme;
- representatives of the University's quality assurance structures, including members of the University and Faculty Commissions for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) and the Quality Monitoring Department (DMC);
- members of the University Ethics Committee of the UCV;
- representatives of the leadership of the IOSUD-UCV, the management of the organisational unit responsible for the evaluated programme, and the programme coordinator, for the presentation and discussion of the panel's preliminary conclusions following the site visit.

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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For the establishment and delivery of the doctoral study programme in Music, the UCV has appropriate organisational structures and a management system that ensure the effective, transparent, and legally compliant coordination of teaching, research, and administrative activities. According to the University Charter, the University's governing bodies are the University Senate, the President of the Senate, the Rector, the Vice-Rectors, and the Administrative Council. The University's executive management structure comprises the Rector, Vice-Rectors, Deans, Vice-Deans, and Heads of Departments.

At the level of the IOSUD-UCV, the activities of the University's ten doctoral schools are governed by the *Regulations on the Organisation and Conduct of Doctoral Study Programmes*. In accordance with the organisational structure of the University of Craiova, IOSUD-UCV operates through organisational units with clearly defined responsibilities, competencies, processes, and procedures that are subject to periodic review, most recently in 2025 and 2026:

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

The governance, organisation, operation, and decision-making processes of the SDAP are carried out in accordance with the *Regulations of the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School*. SDAP is managed by the Director of the Doctoral School and the Doctoral School Council, both of which are elected democratically through universal, direct, and secret ballot, with the participation of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students, in accordance with the *Methodology for the Election of Doctoral School Directors and Doctoral*

School Councils. The entire electoral process, from the election timetable to the publication of the final results, is made publicly available on the University's website:

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

The doctoral study fields within SDAP operate under a comprehensive internal regulatory framework based on the *University Charter*, as well as institutional regulations, methodologies, and procedures that are periodically reviewed. This framework governs all essential aspects of doctoral education, including the organisation of doctoral studies, the preparation, writing, and public defence of doctoral theses, the granting of the right to supervise doctoral research, the evaluation of academic performance, and the promotion of academic ethics and integrity.

- ✓ **Recommendations:** Adaptation of the document *Guidelines for the Preparation and Public Defence of Doctoral Theses* to the specific requirements of the doctoral study field in Music.

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.

The UCV promotes the active participation of relevant stakeholders in the development, review, and updating of its institutional methodologies, regulations, and procedures. This approach reflects the University's commitment to maintaining a transparent, inclusive, and quality-oriented decision-making framework that supports the continuous improvement of its academic and administrative processes.

In this context, members of the academic community, together with representatives of doctoral students, employers, and institutional partners, are consulted and actively involved in the drafting, evaluation, and revision of the institutional regulatory framework. This was confirmed during the meetings with employers held as part of the external evaluation visit, as well as by the minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2025 (submitted as supplementary evidence during the site visit), in which the participating employers unanimously expressed their support for the establishment of the doctoral study field in Music. Their contributions are taken into account to ensure that the University's regulations remain relevant, effective, and responsive to the needs of the educational, research, and socio-economic environment, while complying with the quality standards adopted by the institution. Both the *Strategic Plan of the University of Craiova* and the activities of the Quality Management Department demonstrate the University's commitment to maintaining close links with the economic and socio-cultural sectors.

The composition of both the Doctoral School Council (CSD) and the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD) includes doctoral supervisors and doctoral student representatives, who actively participate in the development, analysis, adoption, and revision of the methodologies, regulations, and procedures governing doctoral studies.

The views and feedback of doctoral students within the SDAP constitute an important mechanism for monitoring, evaluating, and continuously improving academic and administrative activities. Through their democratically elected representatives, selected in accordance with the *Methodology for the Election of Doctoral School Directors and Doctoral School Councils*, doctoral students participate effectively in institutional decision-making and contribute proposals aimed at enhancing the development and quality of the doctoral programmes.

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



Following review and endorsement by the CSD, the CSUD, and the Administrative Council, the relevant methodologies, regulations, and procedures are submitted to the Senate of the University of Craiova for approval. These documents are reviewed periodically as part of a continuous process of updating and adaptation to legislative changes, developments in the academic environment, and the quality standards applicable to doctoral education:

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

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.2.1. Material resources

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

Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The HEI legally owns venues for the related education, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and trainees, thus providing an enabling environment for living and studying, including for disabled persons. Optimal venues are also provided for activities of the staff. Such venues are adequately equipped.
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According to the Self-Evaluation Report (SER), the patrimony of the UCV provides appropriate conditions for the implementation of teaching, research, and administrative activities. The institution's infrastructure includes one central building, five university campuses, ten student residence halls, more than 230 lecture and seminar rooms, 363 laboratories, one central library, as well as 14 additional libraries and reading rooms, four teaching and experimental stations, and one university club. These material resources are complemented by qualified human resources, which contribute to ensuring a high level of quality in the educational, research, and support services provided to students and the academic community. In addition to library facilities, the University of Craiova provides access to major scientific databases, including SpringerLink, Scopus, ProQuest 5000, ScienceDirect, Cambridge Core – Journals & Books Online, Web of Science Core Collection (Clarivate), as well as access to the University's IT network.

According to the SER, the activities of future doctoral students and doctoral supervisors in the field of Music will be carried out primarily in the facilities of the Faculty of Letters, while research activities will be concentrated in six laboratories belonging to the Research Centre for Humanities and Arts of the Faculty of Letters. Among these, the Laboratory for Theatre, Music, and Film Studies focuses on multidisciplinary research in the field of Arts. During the external evaluation visit to the University of Craiova, the panel inspected four lecture/seminar rooms allocated to music studies, including doctoral activities, equipped with specific facilities (music notation boards, a piano, and an interactive smart board), as well as two additional rooms (208 and 210) dedicated exclusively to the activities of the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School. The teaching and research facilities are equipped with wireless internet access, ensuring optimal conditions for the implementation of specific activities.

Through partnerships established by the UCV with several local cultural and educational institutions, namely the Gorj County Centre for the Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture, the Gorj County School Inspectorate, the Romanian Opera of Craiova, and the "Oltenia" Philharmonic of Craiova, doctoral students in Music benefit from significant research, educational, creative, and performance infrastructure. These resources support research activities in fields such as folklore and ethnomusicology, the promotion of music education, as well as artistic creation and music performance, including the preparation and presentation of recitals, concerts, and other artistic events. The partnerships were presented to the evaluation panel during the site visit and are included as annexes to the present report.

The Doctoral Studies Office ensures the efficient management of academic activities and administrative support services, in accordance with the standards of a high-quality and inclusive higher education process. In order to identify and continuously monitor the specific needs of students with

disabilities or special educational requirements and to ensure inclusive and quality higher education, several structures and members of the University community are involved, including the Department for Teacher Training (DPPD), the Centre for Counselling and Career Guidance (CCOC), and student volunteers from bachelor's, master's, and doctoral study cycles.

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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The University's asset management report and the site visit to the institution confirm the efficient management of the movable and immovable assets used by the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School and allocated to doctoral studies in the field of Music, ensuring appropriate conditions for teaching, artistic research, and creative activities.

According to the Self-Evaluation Report (SER), the management and development of the university infrastructure are supported through annual financial allocations dedicated to the maintenance, modernisation, and optimisation of teaching and research facilities. Furthermore, the University provides access to international scientific databases and other relevant documentary resources for the field of Music, including books and musical scores available in the University of Craiova Library and materials accessible in the reading room, in order to support doctoral research activities and advanced training.

The University's administrative services provide the necessary logistical support for the effective implementation of teaching, research, and administrative processes, contributing to the efficient management and responsible use of the available material resources.

With regard to occupational health and safety, according to the SER, the institution regularly organizes training and information activities addressed to academic staff, administrative personnel, and doctoral students concerning occupational safety regulations, the prevention of professional risks, and emergency management procedures. These measures contribute to maintaining a safe, functional educational and research environment that complies with the applicable legal requirements.

- ✓ **Recommendations:** Developing and implementing a plan to modernize research infrastructure and identify additional facilities to support research and doctoral training activities.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources

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

Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.
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The doctoral study field Music comprises four doctoral supervisors: two permanent academic staff members from the Faculty of Letters, specialised in Music, and two associate doctoral supervisors. All four doctoral supervisors hold doctoral degrees in Music, obtained their habilitation between 2017 and 2025, and became affiliated with the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School between 2023 and 2025. The recruitment of teaching and research staff affiliated with SDAP is carried out in accordance with the *Methodology for the Competition-Based Recruitment of Vacant Teaching and Research Positions at the University of Craiova*, in compliance with the applicable legal provisions.

The IOSUD-UCV and SDAP ensure the full coverage of all teaching activities included in the curriculum throughout the entire doctoral study cycle in the field of Music. The academic staff involved possess the appropriate qualifications and competencies corresponding to the subjects included in the programme. The curriculum provides, in the first year of study, first semester, for the completion of three compulsory courses and one elective course selected from a portfolio of three elective courses.

According to the CVs included in the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) and the documents demonstrating compliance with minimum performance standards (reviewed during the external evaluation visit), the doctoral supervisors demonstrate significant scientific and creative activity, reflected in publications in journals indexed in Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (ISI), ERIH+, and other international databases; participation in research and artistic projects, festivals, competitions, and national and international juries; and the organisation of national and international scientific and artistic events, among other activities. The academic staff members possess the expertise and professional experience required by the specific demands of the doctoral study field Music.

- ✓ **Recommendations:** Recruitment of new doctoral supervisors with expertise in the fields of musical performance and musicology.

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.

The University of Craiova is committed to recruiting highly qualified and high-performing academic staff capable of ensuring excellence in teaching and in the activities specific to the IOSUD-UCV, including those related to the doctoral study field Music, in accordance with institutional and national quality standards.

The recruitment procedures for the academic staff involved are conducted in compliance with the applicable national legislation and the University's internal regulations, ensuring transparency, objectivity, and equal opportunities. The recruitment process is preceded by the publication of vacancy announcements on the official University website, specifying the qualification requirements, professional competencies, and responsibilities associated with each position. Recruitment is carried out in accordance with the *Methodology for the Competition-Based Recruitment of Vacant Teaching and Research Positions at the University of Craiova*, which establishes the minimum eligibility criteria, as well as the procedures for organising and conducting competitions for vacant academic and research positions. Candidates are evaluated by specially appointed selection committees, and the decisions are recorded in official documents that clearly document the assessment criteria applied and justify the selection of the successful candidate. The results are communicated to all applicants in a clear and transparent manner, while the supporting documentation is archived for audit and subsequent verification purposes, as confirmed by the external evaluation panel during the site visit.

According to the *Regulations of the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School* (UCV), applicants seeking affiliation with the Doctoral School as doctoral supervisors must hold a habilitation certificate in a doctoral

field that is accredited or undergoing accreditation within the Doctoral School; meet the habilitation standards in force at the time of submitting the affiliation application; not be affiliated with another doctoral school; demonstrate relevant academic activity during the previous three years; and undertake to participate actively in the academic and administrative activities of the SDAP.

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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With the aim of increasing the efficiency of its administrative processes and facilitating access to high-quality educational services, the University of Craiova adopted a *Digitalisation Strategy* in 2022. Through this strategy, the University seeks to become, by 2027, a digital ecosystem for high-performance education and research by promoting and supporting innovation, initiative, entrepreneurship, academic excellence, and research performance.

The digitalisation of administrative processes ensures the efficient management of institutional resources, enhances communication within the academic community, and contributes to increased user satisfaction. The EvStud academic management platform, together with the websites of the University, its administrative units, and the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School, provides doctoral students with online access to a wide range of academic and administrative services. These include accommodation applications, scholarship administration, tuition fee payments, access to bibliographic databases, course descriptions, teaching materials, assessment results, and student evaluations of academic staff. The digital platforms also enable users to submit and monitor requests in real time and provide rapid access to the information required for the effective conduct of academic activities.

Access to educational resources is supported through the Google Classroom e-learning platform, which enables doctoral students to communicate with the institution, collaborate on academic projects, and access teaching and learning materials in electronic format.

The Information Technology and Communications Service provides technical support and consultancy for the use of the University's digital infrastructure. The implementation of digital tools has had a positive impact on the academic community by streamlining administrative workflows and increasing the transparency of institutional processes. Doctoral students and academic staff benefit from rapid access to information and educational resources, thereby contributing to an enhanced learning and research experience.

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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The doctoral study field Music has been designed and structured in accordance with the ARACIS standards, taking the intended learning outcomes as its starting point and following an architecture based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The programme structure reflects the full range of educational activities, including advanced academic study (teaching, practical training, and independent learning), scientific research and/or artistic creation, and assessment, which collectively lead to the achievement of the intended learning outcomes and, consequently, to the award of an advanced higher education qualification corresponding to Level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the Romanian National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The procedural framework governing the teaching and research activities required to ensure the quality, coherence, and periodic updating of the doctoral programmes is established primarily by the *Regulations on the Initiation, Approval, Monitoring and Periodic Evaluation of University Study Programmes*. The curriculum includes both the courses comprising the advanced doctoral training programme (delivered during the first semester of the first year) and the staged research and/or artistic creation activities leading to the completion of the doctoral thesis, culminating in the pre-defence stage during the second semester of the fourth year.

The curriculum includes three compulsory courses—Academic Ethics and Integrity, Scientific Research and Academic Writing, and Musical Forms and Analysis—as well as one elective course selected from a portfolio of three options: Perspectives on Musical Performance, Technology and Artistic Informatics, and Methodological Principles and Directions in Musicological Research. This structure provides doctoral students with the opportunity to tailor their doctoral studies to their individual academic interests, artistic profiles, and research objectives.

The information presented in the Self-Evaluation Report stating that doctoral students in the field of Music choose between the *scientific doctorate* and the *professional doctorate* only in the second semester of the first year is the result of a material error. This has been clarified by the document *Admission Requirements for the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School*, according to which doctoral candidates select the nature of their doctoral pathway (research-oriented or artistic creation/performance-oriented) at the time of admission:

https://litere.ucv.ro/litere/sites/default/files/litere/Invatamant/Doctorat/conditii_admitere_sdap.pdf.

Consequently, their doctoral trajectory is defined from the project proposal stage in a clear, coherent, and realistic manner.

According to the curriculum, in addition to preparing and publicly presenting the three doctoral reports (scheduled for the first semester of the second, third, and fourth years), doctoral students undertake a series of activities during the second semester of the first, second, and third years, depending on whether they are enrolled in the scientific or the professional doctoral track. Their research or professional activity consists of two activities selected from a list of three options in the first year and from a list of five options in the second and third years.

Activities common to both doctoral pathways include: extensive documentation and literature review related to the doctoral research topic (Years I–III); participation in a national or international mobility period for doctoral research purposes (Years II–III); and attendance at masterclasses, workshops, lectures

* 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.

delivered by distinguished specialists, and scientific symposia (Years II–III). Activities specific to the *scientific doctorate* include the publication of scientific articles in specialist journals and the presentation of research papers at symposia and academic conferences (Years I–III). Activities specific to the *professional doctorate* include giving a recital or concert as a soloist, chamber ensemble member, or conductor, as well as composing a musical score or a section of the artistic work proposed in the doctoral project (Years I–III).

The curriculum defines four intended learning outcomes, each articulated in terms of the three descriptors Knowledge, Skills, and Responsibility and Autonomy, in accordance with ARACIS standards and European good practice. Each intended learning outcome is also explicitly linked to the courses that contribute to its achievement.

The programme has been designed to develop the professional, scientific, artistic, and transferable competencies required of future researchers and specialists. It promotes interdisciplinarity, knowledge transfer, and the integration of applied research and artistic practice, in line with societal needs and current European developments in higher education, research, and innovation.

✓ **Recommendations:**

1. Clearly distinguish, in the curriculum for each semester, between periods allocated to educational activities and vacation periods. In its current form, the total of 26 weeks per semester (52 weeks per academic year), indicated as educational activities, evidently also includes vacation periods (amounting to a total of 8 weeks per academic year).
2. Specify in the curriculum the number of weeks during which the courses and seminars included in the Advanced University Studies Programme will be delivered in the first semester of the first year. According to the course syllabi, this amounts to 14 weeks per semester.
3. Clarify and standardize the wording of certain research/professional activities included in the curriculum by renaming the activities listed under items 1.3 and 2.3 in the first year so that they are consistent with the corresponding activities listed under items 1.3 and 2.3 in the second and third years.
4. Increase the flexibility of the periods allocated in the curriculum for the publication of scientific articles in scholarly journals, which are currently limited to the second semester of each year (Years I–III), by also accepting certificates or other documentary evidence issued by journals confirming that manuscripts have been accepted for publication. In addition, include the option of publishing scientific articles in edited volumes, thereby broadening the opportunities for disseminating doctoral research.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

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

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

Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2	The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).
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The doctoral programme in Music has intended learning outcomes formulated in accordance with the national regulatory framework, Level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), and the requirements of the European Higher Education Area (ESCO). The curriculum is designed to develop the professional and transferable competences required for academic and research careers through a coherent sequence of courses and a curriculum aligned with ARACIS standards. The intended learning

outcomes are student-centred and combine theoretical knowledge with practical skills, critical thinking, and professional autonomy.

The programme is also aligned with labour market needs through the periodic revision of the curriculum and course syllabi, informed by consultation with socio-economic stakeholders and by the integration of applied research activities into each doctoral candidate's individual study and research pathway.

Doctoral candidates have the opportunity to provide feedback on the content of the courses through the teaching evaluation questionnaire administered at the end of each semester for all courses included in the study programme.

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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The University of Craiova promotes, through its institutional regulations and methodologies, the principles of student-centred learning within its doctoral programmes, including the doctoral programme in Music. The educational process emphasizes the active involvement of doctoral candidates in learning, research, and creative activities designed to foster critical thinking, autonomy, and professional competences.

The teaching, learning, and assessment methods, as reflected in the course syllabi, include individual study activities (such as projects, portfolios, and assignments) that are integrated into the assessment process and supported by modern digital resources. Academic staff employ interactive teaching methods that encourage dialogue, debate, and collaboration, while providing personalized supervision tailored to the individual needs of each doctoral candidate.

Complementing the educational process, the SDAP regularly organizes, in partnership with prestigious national and international institutions and organizations, scientific events such as conferences, workshops, and round-table discussions. These activities contribute to the development of research competences and the professional training of doctoral candidates.

The assessment of doctoral candidates is based on clear and transparent criteria established in the course syllabi and institutional regulations (the *Framework Regulation on Student Assessment and Grading and the Regulations of the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School*). Assessment focuses not only on academic achievement but also on the development of competences, research performance, and the dissemination of scientific results. Throughout their doctoral studies, each doctoral candidate is supported by a Supervisory and Academic Integrity Committee, which provides scientific guidance, supports research activities, and facilitates participation in conferences as well as research, artistic creation, and performance projects.

Doctoral candidates are regularly invited to express their opinions and level of satisfaction through teaching evaluation questionnaires administered at the end of each semester for all courses included in the programme. The results are analysed at the doctoral school level and are used to support the continuous improvement of teaching, learning, and assessment processes.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

learning

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

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

Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.
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The Doctoral Studies Organising Institution of the University of Craiova (IOSUD-UCV) ensures equitable access to educational resources and support services for all doctoral candidates, including those with special educational needs or disabilities, in accordance with the *Regulations on the Organisation and Implementation of Doctoral Study Programmes of the Institution Organising Doctoral Studies*.

The educational process is supported by information technology services and digital learning platforms, including Google Classroom, Moodle, the Tesys e-Learning System (developed by the University of Craiova), Zoom, and Webex, which facilitate communication and access to academic resources. Doctoral candidates also benefit from institutional access to major scientific databases, including SpringerLink, Scopus, ProQuest 5000, Oxford Academic Journals, Cambridge Core, and the Web of Science Core Collection (Clarivate).

Teaching materials and instructional methods are adapted to individual learning needs, while individual research plans are designed in accordance with each doctoral candidate's educational objectives and the specific requirements of the doctoral field of Music. In addition, counselling and career guidance services support the academic integration and professional development of doctoral candidates. According to the information available on the website of the University of Craiova, the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre provides career counselling, psychological counselling, job search assistance, and educational guidance services (<https://ccoc.ucv.ro/servicii/>).

IOSUD-UCV and the SDAP are committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible learning environment. Appropriate facilities are provided for doctoral candidates with special educational needs or disabilities in teaching, research, and accommodation facilities, ensuring equal opportunities, accessibility, and a safe environment that supports full participation and academic achievement.

- ✓ **Recommendations:** Acquisition of access to music-specific academic databases (JSTOR, Oxford Music Online).

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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At the level of the Music doctoral study programme, four clearly defined and appropriate learning outcomes have been formulated. In accordance with the current ARACIS standards, these are structured according to the three components: Knowledge – Skills – Responsibility and Autonomy, and are correlated with the courses included in the curriculum.

Course syllabi represent the main guidance tool for doctoral candidates, who are provided with detailed information about them by academic staff during the first course meeting, as stated in the Self-Evaluation Report. The course syllabi include information regarding ECTS credits, individual study workload, targeted professional and transversal competences, learning outcomes, objectives, content, bibliography, as well as teaching and assessment methods. To ensure the quality and coherence of the educational pathway, course syllabi are updated annually and approved at the level of the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School.

For the courses included in the programme based on advanced university studies (all of which are undertaken in the first semester of the first year), the learning outcomes are taken directly from those formulated at the level of the entire Music doctoral study programme. Consequently, this approach may lead to the incorrect assumption that, during the first semester of the first year, all learning outcomes associated with the doctoral programme are achieved. Furthermore, in the case of three separate courses (*Academic Ethics and Integrity; Scientific Research and Academic Writing; Methodological Principles and Directions in Musicological Research*), the learning outcomes are identical (the series of outcomes labelled as 1 in the curriculum). This approach may make it more difficult for doctoral candidates to understand the specific requirements and expectations associated with the semester assessment for each individual course.

✓ **Recommendations:** Developing, for each course, specific learning outcomes that are distinct from those formulated at the level of the entire doctoral programme, relevant, measurable, and aligned with the course content, in order to facilitate doctoral candidates' understanding of the requirements related to the acquisition of the knowledge and competences associated with the respective course.

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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Within the SDAP, the assessment of doctoral candidates is carried out in accordance with the curriculum, course syllabi, and the applicable institutional regulations (the *Regulation on the Organisation and Delivery of Doctoral Study Programmes of IOSUD-UCV*). The curriculum is the document that structures the entire doctoral candidate pathway, being organised by years of study, stages, and assessment methods. Each academic year is allocated 60 ECTS credits. Learning outcomes are integrated into the curriculum and are progressively achieved throughout the doctoral training period.

For the courses and seminars corresponding to the subjects included in the curriculum and undertaken in the first semester of the first year, assessment is conducted both through continuous evaluation and through examinations or other forms of assessment scheduled at the end of the semester for each course. The percentage allocated to continuous assessment is established in the course syllabus. The assessment criteria and methods, assessment content, and minimum performance standards are specified in the course syllabi.

During semesters 2–8, the verification of the achievement of learning outcomes focuses on the individual research programme, endorsed by the Doctoral School Council (CSD) and approved by the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), in order to ensure a coherent doctoral pathway and monitor scientific progress. Examinations and assessments include the presentation of research reports, specialised papers, and the analysis of individual progress. These documents are evaluated by the Supervisory and Academic Integrity Committees appointed at the doctoral school level, in accordance with IOSUD–UCV regulations.

The final assessment consists of the public defence of the doctoral thesis before a specialised committee, in accordance with IOSUD–UCV regulations, which validates the scientific progress achieved and the competences acquired.

Prior to the public defence, the thesis is checked using an anti-plagiarism software tool in order to ensure originality and compliance with academic integrity standards. In addition, the thesis is made available for public consultation for a period of 90 days on the UEFISCDI platform, during which observations regarding potential breaches of ethical standards, including suspected cases of plagiarism, may be submitted to SDAP.

At the final stage, a report addressing these observations is prepared and serves as the basis for the decision regarding the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

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.

The admission procedures established at the level of IOSUD-UCV and SDAP are also applied to the Music doctoral field, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions and institutional regulations (UCV's own Admission Regulation, Chapters VIII–XIII), ensuring a transparent, fair, and objective selection process.

In the section dedicated to doctoral admission on the website of the Faculty of Letters – University of Craiova, the following information is available: the admission requirements for SDAP, the SDAP admission topics for 2025 and 2026 (including the research topics proposed by doctoral supervisors for available doctoral candidate positions in the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 academic years), information regarding the admission calendar for the September 2026 session, the number of available places (for Romanian and international candidates), the documents required for registration for the September 2026 admission session, and the level of tuition fees for the 2026–2027 academic year.

According to the Self-Evaluation Report, information regarding the number of places, admission criteria, required documents, and tuition fees is published six months prior to the registration period. At the time of the evaluation, all information regarding the organisation and conduct of the admission competition for doctoral studies in the field of Music for the September 2026 session was publicly available. However, in some of these documents, for example in the SDAP Admission Topics 2026 document, it is stated that the Music doctoral field is currently undergoing the accreditation process: (https://litere.ucv.ro/litere/sites/default/files/litere/Invatamant/Doctorat/tabel_centralizator_teme_admitere_2026_sdap.pdf).

Graduates holding a Bachelor's degree (or an equivalent qualification for long-cycle university studies) and graduates holding a Master's degree may participate in the admission competition, in accordance with the applicable legislation. For candidates who have completed studies abroad, the recognition and equivalence of diplomas are carried out through the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas within the Ministry of Education. Candidate registration is conducted online through the EvStud electronic platform.

The document *Admission Requirements for SDAP* provides detailed information on the admission competition for the Music doctoral field, both for scientific doctoral studies and professional doctoral studies (https://litere.ucv.ro/litere/sites/default/files/litere/Invatamant/Doctorat/conditii_admitere_sdap.pdf).

According to this document, candidate selection consists of:

A. Passing an eliminatory foreign language competence examination at B2 level, graded as PASS/FAIL (applicable to both types of doctoral studies).

B. Candidate assessment based on the following three criteria:

For scientific doctoral studies

C1. Evaluation of the quality of the doctoral research project – the grade for this component is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the grades awarded by the members of the examination committee.

For professional doctoral studies

C1. Evaluation of the quality of the doctoral research project and of the specialised performance examination, the latter consisting of a recital with a repertoire correlated with the selected research topic – the grade is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the grades obtained in the two components.

For both types of doctoral studies:

C2. Evaluation of the level of general professional preparation and of the candidate's knowledge in the field of the proposed research topic, based on the arithmetic mean of the Bachelor's degree average grade and the Master's dissertation grade.

C3. Evaluation, for candidates applying for scientific doctoral studies, of previous scientific experience (publications, conference presentations, awards and distinctions), and, respectively, of previous professional experience (concert activity, musical creations, artistic projects, awards and distinctions) for candidates applying for professional doctoral studies.

For both types of doctoral studies, the admission grade is calculated according to the following weighting scheme: C1 – 50%, C2 – 40%, and C3 – 10%.

- ✓ **Recommendations:** Introducing, also for scientific doctoral studies, within criterion C1, a specialised examination (History of Music) equivalent in terms of difficulty and preparation requirements to the specialised performance examination (recital) taken by candidates applying for professional doctoral studies. This would ensure a fair and non-discriminatory admission process between the two types of doctoral studies: scientific and professional.

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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IOSUD–UCV organises admission to doctoral studies in a transparent, fair, and non-discriminatory manner, ensuring public access to all relevant information through the institutional website and other digital communication channels. Admission requirements, registration periods, examination components, and the admission methodology are published at least six months before the admission competition takes place. Candidates holding a Bachelor's degree (or an equivalent qualification) or a Master's degree may participate in the admission process, in accordance with the applicable legislation, while international candidates have access under the conditions established by law. The University supports *Romanians from everywhere* and candidates from vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities or special educational needs, by ensuring equal opportunities and providing appropriate conditions adapted to their needs. Candidate registration is conducted online through the EvStud electronic platform.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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



Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1	The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.
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The professional activity of doctoral candidates is carried out in accordance with the applicable legislation, the *Charter of the University of Craiova*, and institutional regulations (the *Regulation on Students' Academic Activity*; the *Code of Students' Rights and Obligations*), which ensure a coherent, transparent, and predictable academic pathway. These documents establish the rules concerning the organisation of studies, assessment, progression, students' rights and obligations, as well as the implementation of doctoral programmes. The relevant information is made available on the SDAP website. In accordance with Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, doctoral candidates may request the suspension of their studies for a period of one to two years in justified cases. Furthermore, doctoral candidates in the field of Music may undertake their doctoral studies under national or international joint supervision arrangements, based on agreements concluded by IOSUD–UCV.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN C. Quality management

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

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

UCV has developed and implemented clear procedures for the initiation, monitoring and periodic review of study programmes. The initiation, approval, monitoring and periodic evaluation of study programmes are a basic component of academic activities at the University of Craiova and are applied in compliance with Senate regulations.

IOSUD-UCV adopts a coherent and sustainable approach to the management of study programmes and fields, through clearly defined and periodically reviewed regulations and evaluation procedures. This approach ensures the maintenance of academic quality, contributing to increasing the competitiveness of the educational offer, meeting the needs of doctoral students and aligning graduates' skills with the requirements of the labour market.

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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As indicated in IER, the established procedures provide clear stages and defined responsibilities for: periodic review of programmes based on evaluation results and feedback from stakeholders; the active involvement of SDAP decision-making structures.

At the request of the evaluation committee, evidence was submitted regarding consultation with key stakeholders – such as academic staff who are not members of the councils or the senate, alumni, or employers – which is included as an annex to this report.

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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In 2021, the University of Craiova was institutionally evaluated by ARACIS, following which it was accredited and received the qualification "High Degree of Confidence", confirming the quality of educational, research and academic management activities. This qualification validated the coherent functioning of the quality assurance system, as well as the institution's commitment to excellence and constant improvement.

The doctoral field of Music is undergoing evaluation for accreditation as a new field within SDAP-
IOSUD-UCV, entities that were also periodically evaluated in 2021.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths:		Weaknesses:
✓ The existence of a well-structured, coherent, and functional academic and administrative management system across all hierarchical levels (UCV, IOSUD, SDAP). ✓ The extensive digitalisation of administrative and academic processes within the UCV. ✓ High-quality human resources in the newly established doctoral field. ✓ Curriculum flexibility: the doctoral study programme allows the selection of optional courses (<i>Coordinates of Musical Interpretation, Technology and Artistic Informatics, Methodological Principles and Directions in Musicological Research</i>), providing doctoral candidates with the opportunity to tailor their doctoral pathway according to their individual interests and performance objectives.	INTERNAL FACTORS 	✓ Dependence on public funding; the need to diversify funding sources through SDAP participation in international grant competitions. ✓ Limited number of state-funded doctoral study places.
SWOT analysis		

Opportunities:		Threats:
✓ Collaborations within the ACROSS international consortium: opportunities to develop joint doctoral supervision arrangements and double-degree programmes; opportunities to advance collaborative, high-quality research by leveraging the consortium's infrastructure. ✓ Emerging research directions: the potential to develop inter-, multi-, and transdisciplinary research areas, given the comprehensive profile of the University.	 EXTERNAL FACTORS	✓ Demographic decline: the reduction in the number of eligible candidates for doctoral studies at regional and national levels. ✓ Legislative instability: the decreasing interest in doctoral studies in the context of the reduction of the financial incentive granted for holding a doctoral degree. ✓ Artificial Intelligence: ethical challenges related to the use of AI in the drafting of scientific texts, including doctoral theses.

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	Adaptation of the document <i>Guidelines for the Preparation and Public Defence of Doctoral Theses</i> to the specific requirements of the doctoral study field in Music.
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	



No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
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	Developing and implementing a plan to modernize research infrastructure and identify additional facilities to support research and doctoral training activities.
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	Recruitment of new doctoral supervisors with expertise in the fields of musical performance and musicology.
6.	I.P.A.3.2.1 Recruitment procedures comply with the provisions of the law, and are established and carried out transparently.	F	
7.	I.P.A.4.1.1 The organisational component uses IT tools in its own procedures, to improve access and provide good quality services for the members of its own community and the indirect beneficiaries of education.	F	
DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy			
8.	I.P.B.1.1.1 The study programme is developed and structured according to the expected learning outcomes, and organised based on transferable study credits. It includes all learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.	F	1. Clearly distinguish, in the curriculum for each semester, between periods allocated to educational activities and vacation periods. In its current form, the total of 26 weeks per semester (52 weeks per academic year), indicated as educational activities, evidently also includes vacation periods (amounting to a total of 8 weeks per academic year). 2. Specify in the curriculum the number of weeks during which the courses and seminars included in the Advanced University Studies Programme will be delivered in the first semester of the first year. According to the course syllabi, this amounts to 14 weeks per semester. 3. Clarify and standardize the wording of certain research/professional activities included in the curriculum by renaming the activities listed under items 1.3 and 2.3 in the first year so that they are consistent with the corresponding activities listed under items 1.3 and 2.3 in the second and third years.



No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			4. Increase the flexibility of the periods allocated in the curriculum for the publication of scientific articles in scholarly journals, which are currently limited to the second semester of each year (Years I–III), by also accepting certificates or other documentary evidence issued by journals confirming that manuscripts have been accepted for publication. In addition, include the option of publishing scientific articles in edited volumes, thereby broadening the opportunities for disseminating doctoral research.
9.	I.P.B.2.1.2 The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competences required by those occupations, according to the occupational standards and/or the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO).	F	
10.	I.P.B.3.1.1 The organisational component ensures implementation of the student-centred learning in the curriculum and through the teaching strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.	F	
11.	I.P.B.4.1.1 The organisational component provides students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, with access to resources and services designed to support the learning process, adequate for the individual learning needs, the study domain, the study cycle, and the form of organisation of the study programme.	F	Acquisition of access to music-specific academic databases (JSTOR, Oxford Music Online).
12.	I.P.B.5.1.1 Learning outcomes are adequately described, and they support understanding of the students' and teachers' expectations regarding the content of the subject matters in the curriculum.	F	Developing, for each course, specific learning outcomes that are distinct from those formulated at the level of the entire doctoral programme, relevant, measurable, and aligned with the course content, in order to facilitate doctoral candidates' understanding of the requirements related to the acquisition of the knowledge and competences associated with the respective course.
13.	I.P.B.5.1.2 Achievement of the learning outcomes is checked in ongoing examinations and study completion exams.	F	
14.	I.P.B.7.1.1 The organisational component applies the admission procedures.	F	Introducing, also for scientific doctoral studies, within criterion C1, a specialised examination (History of Music) equivalent in terms of difficulty and preparation

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			requirements to the specialised performance examination (recital) taken by candidates applying for professional doctoral studies. This would ensure a fair and non-discriminatory admission process between the two types of doctoral studies: scientific and professional.
15.	I.P.B.7.1.2 Admission in higher education study programmes complies with the principles of fairness and equal opportunities, and with the establishing of support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.	F	
16.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
DOMAIN C. Quality management			
17.	I.P.C.3.1.1 The organisational component consistently applies the procedures, and proves their impact on quality assurance.	F	
18.	I.P.C.3.1.2 Members of its own community and other stakeholders are involved in the procedure implementation process.	F	
19.	I.P.C.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.	F	

Summary Table of Performance Indicators – Degree of Fulfillment

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

VI. Conclusions

The external evaluation confirms that favourable conditions exist for the establishment of the Music doctoral study field within the "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School of IOSUD-UCV, which is expected to operate within a coherent institutional, academic, and quality assurance framework.

The field benefits from qualified doctoral supervisors and relevant infrastructure supporting research and artistic creation.



The institutional capacity is considered adequate for supporting doctoral study programmes. The organisational structures, regulations, procedures, managerial responsibilities, as well as stakeholder involvement mechanisms provide the necessary conditions for the effective organisation and delivery of doctoral studies. At the same time, the existing material resources, specialised infrastructure, digital platforms, and administrative structures appropriately meet the specific requirements of doctoral training in the field of Music.

The educational effectiveness of the doctoral study field is demonstrated through the structure and relevance of the doctoral training programme. The curriculum is designed in accordance with the specific requirements of doctoral-level education and facilitates the development of advanced competences in research, artistic creation, methodology, and professional practice. The programme is distinguished by the coexistence of scientific and professional doctoral studies, both of which address the specific characteristics of the Music field.

The quality assurance management system is functional. The "Alexandru Piru" Doctoral School implements quality assurance procedures, collects and analyses relevant data, uses feedback mechanisms, applies procedures related to academic ethics, and participates in external evaluation processes. The existence of stakeholder consultations and mechanisms ensuring academic integrity demonstrates institutional responsibility and continuity.

Taking into consideration the analysis of the standards and performance indicators, the evaluated documentation, the institutional context, and the quality of the doctoral training provided, the evaluation committee concludes that the Music doctoral study field fulfils the requirements necessary for accreditation.

Proposed decision

Following the completion of the provisional authorisation to operate/accreditation procedure, the evaluation panel proposes:*

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

for the doctoral study domain Music organised by IOSUD – University of Craiova, Doctoral School „Alexandru Piru”.

VII. Annexes

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