



HOTĂRÂRE

privind validarea rezultatelor procedurilor de evaluare externă a calității educației

Având în vedere prevederile generale și specifice aferente proceselor sau procedurilor privind:

- **evaluarea externă a calității și validarea rezultatelor cuprinse în Rapoartele de evaluare externă:** art. 223-226, art. 229-230 și art. 249 alin. (1) lit. f), g) și h) din Legea nr. 199/2023 a învățământului superior nr. 199/2023, cu modificările și completările ulterioare, denumită în continuare Legea, precum și în Metodologia de evaluare externă a calității educației în învățământul superior, aprobată prin Hotărârea Guvernului nr. 962/2024, cu modificările și completările ulterioare, denumită în continuare Metodologia;
- **autorizarea de funcționare provizorie pentru programele de studii universitare din ciclul I de licență:** art. 235 alin. (1) lit. a) și lit. b) pct. (ii), alin. (2)-(5) și art. 236 alin. (1)-(2) din Lege; art. 27, art. 29 și art. 32-33, coroborate cu art. 59, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **autorizarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul II de masterat:** art. 235 alin. (1) lit. a) și lit. b) pct. (iii), alin. (2)-(5) și art. 236 alin. (1)-(2) din Lege; art. 27-29 și art. 34-35, coroborate cu art. 59, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **autorizarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul III de doctorat:** art. 235 alin. (1) lit. b) pct. (iv), alin. (2)-(5) și art. 236 alin. (1) și (3) din Lege; art. 27-29 și art. 37-38, coroborate cu art. 59, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **acreditarea pentru programele de studii universitare din ciclul I de licență:** art. 239 alin. (1) lit. b) și alin. (6)-(7), art. 240 alin. (1) din Lege; art. 39-40 și art. 42, coroborate cu art. 60, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **acreditarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul II de masterat:** art. 239 alin. (3) și alin. (6)-(7), art. 240 alin. (1) din Lege; art. 39-40 și art. 43-44, coroborate cu art. 60, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **acreditarea pentru domeniile de studii universitare din ciclul III de doctorat:** art. 239 alin. (4) și alin. (6)-(7), art. 240 alin. (2) din Lege; art. 39-40 și art. 46-47, coroborate cu art. 60, art. 62 și art. 63 din Metodologie;
- **analiza și validarea în vederea verificării respectării Metodologiei, de către comisiile de experți evaluatori în cadrul rapoartelor de evaluare externă:** art. 235 alin. (4), pentru autorizare, respectiv art. 239 alin. (6) lit. d), pentru acreditare și menținerea acreditării, din Lege, precum și art. 62-63 din Metodologie.

Luând în considerare:

a. Ghidul aplicabil programelor de studii universitare de licență, aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 42/06.02.2025, cu modificările și completările ulterioare;



b. Ghidul aplicabil domeniilor de studii universitare de masterat, aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 83/03.04.2025;

c. Ghidul aplicabil domeniilor de studii universitare de doctorat, aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 84/03.04.2025;

Întrucât Consiliul ARACIS validează, prin vot deschis și pe baza verificării respectării Metodologiei, propunerile formulate de către comisiile de experți evaluatori și poate solicita refacerea Rapoartelor de evaluare externă atunci când constată că Metodologia nu a fost respectată ori respectivele rapoarte nu cuprind suficiente date și dovezi pentru adoptarea deciziei,

Ținând seama de considerentele Consiliului aferente validării rezultatelor individualizate în procesele verbale de ședință, al căror format a fost aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului nr. 170/H/03.07.2025,

În temeiul art. 258 alin. (1) din Lege și al art. 62 alin. (1) și (2) din Metodologie, precum și al art. 7 alin. (1) și alin. (3) lit. b) și h), art. 11 alin. (1) și al art. 23 alin. (5) din Regulamentul de organizare și funcționare al ARACIS, aprobat prin Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 188/H/27.06.2024 și completat prin Hotărârea nr. 116/H/02.04.2026,

Consiliul Agenției Române de Asigurare a Calității în Învățământul Superior HOTĂRĂȘTE:

Art. 1. (1) Se validează rezultatele procedurilor de evaluare externă a calității educației pentru programele de studii universitare de licență, domeniile de studii universitare de masterat și de doctorat, precum și pentru programul pregătitor de limba română pentru cetățenii străini, după caz, cuprinse în anexele nr. 1-13 care fac parte integrantă din prezenta hotărâre.

(2) Pentru fiecare dintre programele sau domeniile de studii universitare, anexa corespunzătoare indică, conform art. 230 alin. (2) și alin. (3) lit. b), c) și d), art. 231 lit. a) și b), art. 232 lit. c), d) și e), art. 235 alin. (1) lit. b), punctele ii-iv, alin. (3)-(5), art. 239 alin. (1) lit. b), alin. (3), (4), (6) lit. a)-d) din Lege, procesul sau procedura de evaluare parcursă, rezultatele din Raportul de evaluare externă care se validează, precum și considerentele analizei de validitate și concluzia motivată a Consiliului.

(3) Rezultatele prevăzute la alin. (1) se comunică Ministerului Educației și Cercetării și instituțiilor solicitante și se publică pe site-ul ARACIS.

Art. 2. Analiza de validitate se exercită în limitele art. 235 alin. (4), respectiv ale art. 239 alin. (6) lit. d) din Lege și ale art. 62 raportat la art. 63 din Metodologie.

Art. 3. Rapoartele de evaluare externă, inclusiv numele experților, se publică integral pe site-ul ARACIS, în condițiile art. 229 alin. (2) din Lege și ale art. 62 alin. (3) din Metodologie.



Art. 4. Prezenta hotărâre intră în vigoare la data de 17.09.2026.

Art. 5. Prezenta hotărâre va fi dusă la îndeplinire de Direcția Asigurarea Calității și de Compartimentul Tehnologia Informației.

Prof. univ. dr. ing. Cristian-Vasile DOICIN
Președinte

Daniela Cristina GHIȚULICĂ
Director general

Carmen MIRIAN
Director Direcția Asigurarea Calității

Cristina-Vasilica ICOCIU
Director Direcția Juridică, Cooperare, Comunicare și Formare
Consilier juridic

NR. 286/H/17.09.2026



AGENȚIA ROMÂNĂ DE ASIGURARE A CALITĂȚII ÎN ÎNVĂȚĂMÂNTUL SUPERIOR

Membră în Asociația Europeană pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior - ENQA

Înscrisă în Registrul European pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior - EQAR

ANEXA NR. 9

Hotărârea Consiliului ARACIS nr. 286/H/17.09.2026

Anexa 9.3

DATE DE IDENTIFICARE		
Instituția de învățământ superior/organizația furnizoare de educație	Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara	
Școala(ile) doctorală(e)	Filosofie, Sociologie și Științe Politice	
Domeniul de studii universitare de doctorat (DSUD)	Științe politice	
Procedura/procesul de evaluare externă a calității educației	Menținerea acreditării	
DECIZIA		
Descrierea pe scurt a procesului de luare a deciziei		
Raportul de evaluare externă (REE) a fost analizat în ședința Comisiei permanente de specialitate Științe Sociale, Politice și ale Comunicării C4 (CPS_C4) din 04.09.2026, propunerea de decizie fiind consemnată în PV nr. 4538/04.09.2026. Propunerea de decizie a fost analizată de către Departamentul de evaluare Studii Universitare (DESU), opinia DESU fiind consemnată în PV nr. 4655/17.09.2026.		
Gradul de îndeplinire a standardelor și indicatorilor de performanță și motivarea deciziei		
Domeniul	Standarde Î / N	Indicatori de performanță Î / PÎ / N
A	Î: S.A.1.1, S.A.1.2., S.A.2.1., S.A.2.2., S.A.3.1., S.A.3.2., S.A.4.1. N: -	Î: I.P.A.1.1.1, I.P.A.1.2.1, I.P.A.2.1.1, I.P.A.2.2.1, I.P.A.3.1.1, I.P.A.3.1.2, I.P.A.3.2.1, I.P.A.4.1.1 PÎ:- N: -
B	Î: S.B.1.1., S.B.2.1., S.B.3.1., S.B.3.2., S.B.4.1., S.B.5.1., S.B.7.1., S.B.7.2., S.B.8.1., S.B.9.1., S.B.9.2. N: -	Î: I.P.B.1.1.1., I.P.B.2.1.2, I.P.B.3.1.1, I.P.B.3.1.2, I.P.B.3.2.1, I.P.B.4.1.1., I.P.B.5.1.1, I.P.B.5.1.2, I.P.B.7.1.1, I.P.B.7.1.2, I.P.B.7.2.1, I.P.B.8.1.1, I.P.B.9.1.1, I.P.B.9.2.1 PÎ:- N: -
C	Î: S.C.1.1, S.C.1.2, S.C.2.2., S.C.3.1, S.C.4.1., S.C.5.1., S.C.6.1., S.C.8.1 N: -	Î: I.P.C.1.1.1, I.P.C.1.2.1, I.P.C.2.2.2, I.P.C.3.1.1, I.P.C.3.1.2, I.P.C.4.1.1., I.P.C.5.1.1, I.P.C.6.1.1, I.P.C.6.1.2, I.P.C.8.1.1 PÎ:- N: -



Motivarea deciziei	
<i>Consiliul ARACIS în ședința din 17.09.2026 analizează și validează propunerea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității, constatând că din:</i> • <i>Total indicatori: 32 sunt îndepliniți, 0 parțial îndeplinit și 0 neîndeplinit</i> • <i>Total standarde: 26 sunt îndeplinite, 0 neîndeplinite,</i> <i>și, astfel, prin aplicarea art. 63 din Metodologie decide că standardele sunt ÎNDEPLINITE.</i>	
Decizia	Mentținerea acreditării

The Romanian Agency for
Education

Quality Assurance in Higher



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

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



**THE ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER
EDUCATION**

*Member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - **ENQA**
Listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education - **EQAR***

Members of the ARACIS Evaluation Panel

No.	Last Name and First Name	Team role	Signature
1.	Matiuța Cristina Maria	Expert evaluator	
2.	Spătaru Tatiana	International Expert	
3.	Alupei Andi Nicolae	PhD Student Evaluator	



I. Introduction

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

This External Evaluation Report (EER) is the result of the periodic evaluation for maintaining accreditation of the Political Science field of doctoral studies, organized within the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences of the West University of Timișoara (UVT). The team designated by ARACIS included: prof. univ. dr. Cristina Matiuța, the international expert prof. univ. dr. Tatiana Spătaru from the Free International University of Moldova and doctoral student Andi Nicolae Alupei from Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca. The visit to the institution took place between July 15-16, 2026 and was carried out according to the attached program, agreed with the representatives of the host institution.

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

The West University of Timișoara (UVT) is a public and non-profit higher education institution, established by a Royal Decree in December 1944 and operating continuously since then. Today, the University has 12 faculties and offers 83 bachelor's degree programmes and 98 master's degree programmes in 35 fields of study. UVT is member of the *Universitaria* Consortium including 10 universities in Romania, as well as a founding member of the European Alliance UNITA and member of other international organizations (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie –AUF, European University Association –EUA, European Association for International Education -EAIE etc.).

According to the University Charter (Article 5), the general mission of the UVT is education and advanced research, generating, transferring and certifying knowledge to society through initial and continuing education, scientific research and community involvement. UVT operates and is governed on the basis of the principle of university autonomy, in compliance with the law and its own regulations. The governing body of the UVT is the University Senate, composed of university teaching staff and students elected by universal, direct and secret ballot. The executive management of the university's activities is ensured by the Board of Directors.

The organisation of doctoral studies is one of the important components of the West University of Timișoara. IOSUD-UVT operates on the basis of the *Institutional Regulations for the Organisation and Conduct of Doctoral Studies*, which is approved by the UVT Senate, in accordance with the law. There are 8 doctoral schools, within which 26 doctoral study programmes are organised. According to RAE, in 2025- 89 theses were uploaded on the National Doctoral Platform for consultation. Sixty doctoral theses were defended, of which 31 have already received a favourable opinion from the National Commission for the Award of Academic Titles and Diplomas (CNATDCU) and have been confirmed. In the same year (2025), 33 teaching staff defended their habilitation thesis, of which 25 have obtained their habilitation certificate to date. At the same time, there is an increase in the number of joint doctorates, from 2 in 2021 to 23 in 2025. The number of postdoctoral researchers in 2025 is 15, of which 7 are international researchers.

The last external evaluation of the quality of education at doctoral level took place in 2021, concluded by ARACIS Council Decision No. 100 of 25.11.2021, which maintained the accreditation for IOSUD-UVT.

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

The field of doctoral studies in Political Science obtained its operating authorisation by decision of the UVT Senate in 2013, obtaining accreditation in 2016 (cf. MENCS Order 5382/29.09.2016). The first doctoral students in political science were enrolled in 2013. Currently, the following teaching staff are involved in doctoral supervision in this field of doctoral studies: Prof. Silviu Rogobete (UVT), Prof. Lucian Vesalon (UVT), Assoc. Prof. Emanuel Copilaș (UVT), Prof. Ileana-Cristina Stănuș (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu), Prof. Gabriel Andreescu (SNSPA). They coordinate a total of 19 doctoral students enrolled now: Prof. S. Rogobete- 8 students, Prof. L. Vesalon- 4 students, Prof. E. Copilaș- 6 students and Prof. Andreescu- 1 student.



The main mission of the evaluated doctoral field is to develop and promote high-performance research programmes and to generate new knowledge in the fundamental and applied fields of political science. Doctoral topics are constantly adjusted to cutting-edge research topics relevant to the new geopolitical context and developments in AI technology. The Doctoral School encourages the attraction of doctoral students from both Romania and abroad and encourages doctoral studies in international co-supervision. Scientific activity in English is encouraged and all compulsory courses are offered in English.

II. Methods used

- Analysed documents (internal evaluation report and its annexes; additional documents requested before and during the on-site visit, if any; other documents or data);
- On-site visit (general list of visited locations and categories of persons with whom debates have been organised);
- Other relevant methods or aspects.

To prepare this External Evaluation Report, the following were used: the Internal Evaluation Report (REI), available to the ARACIS team, the annexes to the REI, and other documents available on the institution website. During the visit, the ARACIS team had discussions, recorded in the minutes of the meetings, with the coordinator of the study program, with representatives of the management of the doctoral school of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science, with the teaching staff, with students and graduates of the doctoral program, with employers of graduates, with members of the CEAC and the University Ethics Commission, with the heads of research centers/Laboratories in the field of the evaluated program. The visit to the institution's headquarters, between July 15-16, 2026, included the following locations: Spaces for conducting courses and seminars; offices and administrative spaces of the faculty; IT and digital infrastructure (access to databases, learning platforms); research laboratories and teaching staff offices; access to online bibliographic resources.

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

The University has adequate organizational components and a management system, whose operation is based on methodologies, regulations and procedures periodically reviewed, under the conditions of the law (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/csud/baza-legala/>). At the level of IOSUD-UVT, including in the field of political science doctoral studies, the national provisions in force regarding the completion of doctoral studies apply. Admission to doctoral studies within IOSUD-UVT is regulated by the *Methodology for the organisation and conduct of the admission competition for doctoral studies* and by the *Regulations on the organisation and conduct of the admission competition for doctoral studies organised within the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences*. Every year, the CSUD discusses the framework for the admission of doctoral

students, proposing specific admission methodologies, which are available online in a timely manner (Admission Regulations 2025-26: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/csud/baza-legala/>).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The regulations set out the conditions for the election of the IOSUD management structures, the powers and composition of the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), the operating framework of the doctoral school council, the duties of the director of the doctoral school, the minimum operating standards of the doctoral school, the competences it develops, and the structure of the doctoral studies programme.

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 extension¹ and of other stakeholders are considered in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations and implementation procedures.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The Council of the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science meets, as stipulated in the documents governing the activity of this forum, "whenever necessary, but at least twice a year". The Council is mainly convened to decide on the proper functioning of doctoral studies in the fields covered by the doctoral school, and to develop, evaluate and validate the relevant methodologies and regulations. In addition to the tenured teaching staff and those formally affiliated with the doctoral school, the Council benefits from the vast experience of two leading international figures in their fields of expertise (Professor Emeritus Hans-Georg Ziebertz from the University of Würzburg and Prof. Dr. Dumitru Mircea from the University of Bucharest).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

Following the REIs consultation and the discussions held with representatives of the managerial structures, administrative and academic staff, doctoral students in the field of Political Science, it results that within UVT the process of developing, adopting and revising the methodologies, regulations and procedures specific to doctoral studies is carried out in a consultative and transparent manner. Regular meetings are organised at the doctoral school level with students, graduates, employers and other stakeholders in the field (researchers, experts, civil servants) to evaluate the quality of the doctoral programme, to update the content, skills and abilities taught, as well as to identify new trends in the field at national and international level.

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.

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



✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The institutional assets of the West University of Timișoara (UVT) include dedicated facilities for teaching, research, administrative activities, as well as services for students and doctoral candidates. The Doctoral Studies Organising Institution (IOSUD-UVT) has its own dedicated premises, comprising administrative offices, archive facilities, and a conference room used for the public defence of doctoral and habilitation theses, as well as for the organization of scientific events. Doctoral candidates benefit from the University's extensive infrastructure, including lecture halls A01 and A11, equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual and projection systems, as well as the research facilities provided by the Advanced Environmental Research Institute (ICAM). Within the Faculty of Government and Communication Sciences, the doctoral field has access to dedicated teaching and research facilities (rooms 501, 601, 603 and 705). Access to additional university facilities is managed through an electronic room booking system.

The "Eugen Todoran" Central University Library holds 1,002,603 documents, including 672,121 books, 6,685 serial titles (260,929 issues), and 69,553 other library materials. Its electronic catalogue contains 334,656 bibliographic records, representing more than 90% of the active collection. The library operates the integrated ALEPH-500 library management system and provides 99 computers, 38 of which are available to users. It also offers two study rooms with 16 seats and a reading room with 90 seats, ensuring appropriate conditions for doctoral study and research. Through the ANELIS Plus national programme, doctoral candidates have institutional access to major international scientific databases, including Web of Science, Scopus, ScienceDirect, Springer, Wiley, and Sage.

The teaching and research facilities are well maintained, comply with health and safety regulations, and are equipped with ergonomic furniture, multimedia projectors, LCD/LED displays, wireless Internet access, and modern digital infrastructure supporting teaching, learning and research activities.

The University provides a comprehensive digital infrastructure. Each doctoral candidate receives an institutional account granting access to the University's electronic platforms, Microsoft Office services, intranet resources and e-learning platforms, thereby facilitating both academic activities and communication with doctoral supervisors (www.uvt.ro; <https://doctorat.uvt.ro>).

UVT provides 3,377 accommodation places in nine student dormitories, equipped with study rooms and Internet access (<https://admitere.uvt.ro/student-la-uvt/cazare-in-caminele-uvt/>). Functional infrastructure is also available to ensure accessibility and support services for students and doctoral candidates with disabilities.

Research activities are further supported by several research centres relevant to the doctoral field of Political Science, including the Institute for Socio-Political Research, the Romanian Centre for Penitentiary Studies, the COMMSCIE Postdoctoral Research Centre, the Centre for Jewish and Israeli Studies, and the Ubuntu Centre for African Studies, which provide doctoral candidates with additional opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary research projects and academic activities.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the institutional documentation, the evidence provided, and the findings of the site visit demonstrates that the Doctoral Studies Organising Institution (IOSUD) of the West University of Timișoara provides adequate material resources and educational, research, documentation, and administrative infrastructure for the implementation of the doctoral study programme in Political Science. The facilities dedicated to teaching and research activities are well maintained, modern, accessible, and appropriately equipped. Doctoral candidates benefit from access to extensive bibliographic resources, major international scientific databases, advanced digital infrastructure, accommodation services, and dedicated support for students with disabilities. Overall, the available material and logistical resources provide a favourable academic environment for doctoral education and the development of high-quality research activities.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- modern infrastructure tailored to the educational and research needs of doctoral candidates;
- use of an electronic room reservation system (Google Calendar), ensuring efficient and flexible access to teaching and research facilities;
- effective use of the research infrastructure of the Advanced Environmental Research Institute (ICAM);
- access to major international scientific databases through the "Eugen Todoran" Central University Library;



- digitalisation of services for doctoral candidates through institutional accounts, e-learning platforms, intranet services, Microsoft 365, and other academic applications available from the beginning of the doctoral programme;
- well-developed accessibility services and infrastructure for doctoral candidates with disabilities;

The indicator is: fulfilled.

Standard S.A.2.2. Management of material resources The organisational components manage the movable and immovable assets used for the evaluated study programme/domain in an optimal, sustainable manner.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1	The movable and immovable assets are properly maintained to ensure optimal conditions for studying, living and research, as well as for work.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

The Faculty of Government and Communication Sciences, within which the doctoral field of Political Science operates, demonstrates a continuous commitment to the maintenance and modernisation of its material resources through periodic investments in educational and research infrastructure. The University implements institutional policies for the sustainable management of movable and immovable assets, ensuring their maintenance in accordance with quality assurance, occupational health and safety, and security standards.

Over the past two years, the Faculty has significantly strengthened its digital infrastructure through the acquisition of 15 Apple Studio Display monitors and 15 Apple Mac Pro M2 Ultra workstations, thereby enhancing the technological resources available for teaching, research, and innovation activities.

The maintenance of buildings, equipment, and technical infrastructure is ensured by the University's administrative services, which include specialised technical, maintenance, and cleaning personnel responsible for preserving the functionality, safety, and operational efficiency of the facilities. Renovation and refurbishment works are carried out periodically in accordance with the University's institutional investment plans and identified infrastructure needs.

Infrastructure development is further supported through external funding, including projects financed under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) (<https://pnrr.uvt.ro/>), the West Regional Programme (<http://prvest.uvt.ro/>), as well as national and structural funding schemes.

(ile:///C:/Users/user/Desktop/5_Timisoara_Stiinte%20politice_15-16%20iulie%202026/RAPORT%20RECTOR%20UVT.pdf), all of which contribute to the continuous modernisation of the University's educational and research infrastructure. Teaching facilities are equipped with modern furniture, multimedia equipment, video projectors, LCD/LED displays, and wireless Internet connectivity, while laboratories and research centres benefit from high-performance computing equipment and licensed software that comply with international academic standards, thereby ensuring optimal conditions for teaching, learning, and research activities.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the institutional documentation, the supporting evidence, and the findings of the site visit confirms that the West University of Timișoara has established effective procedures for the sustainable management, maintenance, and continuous modernisation of its material resources. The University ensures that its buildings, teaching facilities, research infrastructure, and technical equipment are maintained in optimal operating condition through systematic maintenance activities, periodic investments, and the effective use of external funding. The recent acquisition of advanced digital equipment demonstrates the institution's ongoing commitment to continuously improving the quality of its educational and research environment. The evidence reviewed confirms that the University's movable and immovable assets are properly maintained and provide optimal conditions for the delivery of academic, teaching, and research activities.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- successful attraction and implementation of externally funded projects supporting the maintenance and modernisation of the University's infrastructure;



- continuous investment in advanced digital equipment to enhance teaching, learning, and research activities;
- availability of a specialised administrative service responsible for the management, maintenance, and operation of the University's infrastructure;
- provision of teaching facilities equipped with modern multimedia technologies, wireless Internet connectivity, and licensed software supporting research activities and doctoral education;
- implementation of a sustainable institutional approach to infrastructure management based on strategic investment planning, preventive maintenance, and the continuous upgrading of equipment and facilities.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.A.3.1. Human resources	
The HEI has the required human resources to organise and deliver the evaluated study programme/domain.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organisational component are suitable to perform the activities pertaining to the evaluated study programme/domain. The teaching staff has the required qualifications and professional competences to teach the subject matters assigned to them in the job list.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

Currently, there are five doctoral coordinators in the field of doctoral studies in political science: Prof. Silviu Rogobete, Prof. Lucian Vesalon, Assoc. Prof. Emanuel Copilaş, Prof. Ileana-Cristina Stănuş, Prof. Gabriel Andreescu, all of them experienced teachers, recognised nationally and internationally, meeting the CNATDCU standards currently in force, and having relevant publications in the field (e.g. Prof. Dr. Lucian Vesalon published six articles indexed in Web of Science, all with a high impact factor (Q1, Q2) in last five years). Doctoral students are involved in research projects and publish articles in collaboration with their supervisors in internationally renowned journals or publishing houses (e.g. Rogobete and Pricopiuc, Routledge, 2024).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The teaching staff has the necessary qualifications and professional skills to teach the subjects included in the curriculum. Also, the guidance committees of doctoral students are composed of prestigious, high-performing and academically recognized teaching staff and researchers from Romania and abroad.

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**

Teaching staff and doctoral supervisors benefit from systematic opportunities for professional and personal development through courses and training workshops offered by the *Centre for Academic Development (CDA)* that organizes a series of workshops each semester on topics of interest (e.g. *GenAI for learning assessment; Co-design, implementation and assessment of international collaborative learning; Authenticity of learning outcomes*). PhD coordinators and doctoral students have access to the services of the *Research Career Counselling and Guidance Centre - Western Region*, established with PNRR funding, that organizes networking events for researchers and provides them with useful materials for personal development in the field of research (e.g. the *Guide to Career Development in Research*).

Also, the University provides diverse opportunities for international collaboration. Thus, tenured and affiliated teaching staff involved in doctoral supervision, as well as doctoral students in political science, have benefited from ERASMUS+ exchanges with Stellenbosch University, the University of the Western Cape, both in South Africa, and Gonzaga University in the USA.



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

The Regulation on doctoral studies -Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science (<https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/02/Regulament-SDFSSP.pdf>) complies with the Romanian legislation in force as well as the institutional regulations on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies in order to resolve any situations of incompatibility/conflict between the doctoral coordinator and the doctoral student, or aspects such as the prevention of intellectual fraud, including plagiarism. The acceptance of new members into doctoral school is validated by the Doctoral School Council, based on opportunity analyses and taking into account the fulfillment of scientific criteria and scientific and professional integrity.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The recruitment of teaching staff within IOSUD-UVT, namely within the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences and the doctoral programme in political sciences (habilitation, affiliation) is carried out in compliance with the legislative provisions in force at national level and institutional regulations of the UVT. All information is regularly updated and available online, in Romanian and English at <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/>, under the section Legal Basis - Authorisation, Affiliation, Title Recognition.

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

The West University of Timișoara has implemented a comprehensive digital transformation process that supports the organization and delivery of doctoral studies. Doctoral students and academic staff have access to a dedicated doctoral studies portal providing information on admission, the doctoral journey, completion of studies, regulations, methodologies, and the necessary administrative forms. The platform enables the online completion of various administrative procedures and ensures the transparency of information of public interest (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/>). The Doctoral Field of Political Science also provides dedicated public information through its webpage (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdfssp/stiinte-politice/>).

The management of doctoral students' academic activities is supported by integrated information systems (UMS, Student Web, the National Student Register, and the Integrated Educational Register), which facilitate the administration of academic records and the documentation specific to doctoral studies. Administrative processes have been digitalized through the UVT Intranet platform, which is used to manage teaching activities, administrative requests, and institutional communication. The university also uses iThenticate and Turnitin applications to verify the similarity of doctoral dissertations and to promote academic integrity.



In the field of internationalization (<https://ri.uvt.ro/>), digital tools such as the Beneficiary Module are used to manage Erasmus+ mobilities, together with the Erasmus Without Paper platform and the European Student Card initiative. Doctoral students benefit from the InfoCentre and StudentWeb digital services, while academic staff have access to dedicated digital platforms, including their personalized PaginaTa (YourPage) portal and the Online Gradebook (CatalogOnline).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis of the documentation and digital infrastructure demonstrates the existence of a well-developed information system that supports the main academic and administrative processes associated with doctoral studies. Digital tools facilitate rapid access to information and services, reduce the administrative workload, and enhance communication between doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, and administrative structures. The integration of institutional platforms with national registers, together with the use of specialized software for originality and similarity checking, demonstrates the maturity of the university's digitalization process and its commitment to transparency, efficiency, and quality assurance.

Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- the use of an integrated digital ecosystem to support the entire doctoral journey;
- integration of institutional information systems with national registers and European platforms supporting academic mobility;
- the systematic use of iThenticate and Turnitin to ensure academic integrity and enhance the quality of research.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN B. Educational efficacy

Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programmes

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

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

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

The curriculum of the doctoral study program in the field of Political Science includes a set of disciplines that aim to achieve the expected learning outcomes. There are the following compulsory subjects (equivalent to 30 transferable credits, first semester of first year), taught entirely in English: *PhD Research Methods and Academic Writing*, *Mapping Perspectives in Social Research*, *Political Ideologies*, and *Research Ethics and Intellectual Property*. In addition to these compulsory subjects, the Curriculum includes a detailed four-year Individual Research Programme (30 ECTS in the second semester of the first year and 60 ECTS/year in years II–IV), reinforcing the predictability of the doctoral path.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The Curriculum ensures the formation of professional competencies (content, cognitive and research), as well as transversal competencies and includes learning outcomes (in terms of knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy). The individual programme credits both typical research activities (documentation, design, data collection and analysis, writing, editorial/publishing process) and training and academic support activities (e.g. teaching/tutoring support, organizational involvement), forming a complete portfolio of learning, research and academic practice experiences. Assessment is integrated through the submission of four progress reports and the

² The term “programmes” concerns the external quality evaluation for the study programmes contained in a master/doctoral domain. The term “programme” shall be used hereinafter.



defense of the thesis before the supervisory committee and public defense is conditional on the accumulation of 240 ECTS and the successful completion of the internal assessment stages. The curriculum and course descriptions/syllabus for the doctoral field of Political Science are available online at: (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdfssp/stiinte-politice/>) .

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**

The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the professional and transversal competences related to the qualification. The Curriculum contains a matrix that links the activities carried out during the doctoral research programme in political science with the theoretical and practical learning outcomes, correlated with the skills required by the corresponding occupations, in accordance with occupational standards and/or the European Classification of Occupations (ESCO).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The PhD program in the field of Political Science develops specific professional skills (advanced knowledge in the field, knowledge of advanced research methods, of new research procedures and solutions, ability to write advanced scientific papers, the ability to process data at an advanced level, the application of ethical principles and values in the respective field etc) as well as transversal skills (self-management skills and competencies, social and communication skills and competences, critical thinking skills and competencies etc) required of graduates of doctoral studies at European level.

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.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

One of the permanent priorities of UVT is to ensure a quality, student-centred educational process, directly connected to the most current benchmarks in the pedagogical and psycho-educational field. The [Academic Development Centre \(CDA\)](#) operates at UVT as the structure responsible for the training and development of teaching staff who carry out teaching activities at UVT, including doctoral students. The CDA has developed several postgraduate programmes for the training of university teaching staff, details of which are [available online here](#). These programmes benefit both teaching staff and doctoral students in the field of political science. In 2019, the West University of Timișoara began the process of implementing a Teaching & Learning Brand, whose objective is to create an authentic culture of quality in order to ensure a modern university education process, centred on students and the development of skills, as well as based on current scientific benchmarks.



The subjects taught, including in the doctoral programme, ensure, through learning outcomes, the necessary skills for future doctors in political science, as specified in [the subject descriptions for the field of political science](#). Teaching and mentoring activities use methods that engage doctoral students and shift the focus from unilateral information transfer to critical and collaborative learning: debates, projects (including team projects) and applied research/analysis tasks, calibrated to achieve learning outcomes and develop academic autonomy.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The integration of doctoral students into research projects and centres is encouraged as a form of learning through research and consolidation of advanced skills. The acquisition of these skills is demonstrated, among other things, by their scientific output. The organisation of activities ensures a balance between assisted activities and independent work, with a workload correlated to the number of credits (25 hours/credit), and individual study is supported by authentic activities (documentation in bibliographies and databases, specialised reading, writing, presentations, projects and practical exercises) that prepare the stages of research.

The students indicated that it would be useful to have a doctoral student handbook to provide consistent access to all information relevant to first-year PhD students, including information on eligibility for and access to the doctoral grant.

✓ **Recommendations**

Develop a PhD Student Guide that clearly presents all essential aspects related to doctoral studies, including information on available doctoral grants.

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**

[The Methodology for accessing financial support for mobility and research activities of doctoral students](#) is being implemented, according to which UVT provides financial support for research activities, national and international mobility of doctoral students who occupy a place funded from the state budget or who occupy a fee-paying place and who are not in arrears with their fee payments (Art. 2). For this purpose, an annual budget representing 20% of the value of doctoral grant funding and tuition fee revenue from the doctoral cycle is allocated (Art. 3). Doctoral students may request reimbursement of travel expenses related to mobility activities or payment of invoices related to participation fees for mobility or training activities (Art. 6). Doctoral students are also guaranteed access to academic mobility through the institutional internationalisation infrastructure. [The UVT International Relations Department](#) manages the implementation of student mobility programmes and the administration of Erasmus+/EEA bilateral agreements, to which doctoral students in the evaluated field have access. Mobility and the recognition of related results are procedurally supported by institutional regulations and operational procedures regarding Erasmus+ (outgoing) mobility: [Regulations on the organisation and functioning of the UVT International Relations Department](#); [Regulations on the organisation of Erasmus+ Outgoing mobility](#); [Operational procedure for making payments for Erasmus+ mobility](#).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The evaluation commission finds that the professional development mechanisms are both functional and diverse, addressing both the international dimension (Erasmus+, UNITA, international conferences) and the internal dimension (20% of the value of the doctoral grant funding and support for research projects).

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

The [Charter of the West University of Timișoara](#) mentions among the principles governing the organisation and functioning of UVT the principle of fairness, the principle of social inclusion and the principle of ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination, which thus provide the institutional framework for fair opportunities for all students, without discrimination. These principles form the basis for the drafting of [the IOSUD-UVT Regulations on doctoral studies](#), as well as [the Regulations on doctoral studies within the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences](#). At doctoral level, learning is structurally directed and personalised: the training programme is built around the research topic and the coordinator-doctoral student relationship, which allows the objectives, pace of work and type of support to be adapted to the potential and aspirations of each doctoral student, in line with the logic of individualised and niche development.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The diversity of learning styles and abilities was taken into account when designing the individual scientific/applied research plan. The list of activities included in [the template of this plan](#), which is part of the curriculum, is discussed with the doctoral student at the beginning of each academic year and the optional activities are planned in agreement with the coordinator. At the end of each year of study, the doctoral student prepares an activity report, following a [template](#) similar to the initial plan, in which he/she presents, with evidence, the achievements during the period in question. In order to obtain credits, the report is validated by the coordinator and by the members of the guidance committee.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

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

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

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

UVT has adequate funding for learning and teaching activities and ensures appropriate and easily accessible learning resources and support services for doctoral students. These include material resources (libraries, study facilities, IT infrastructure), human resources (doctoral supervisors, guidance committees, support staff, counsellors), and access to an extensive range of scientific databases through the Anelis+ consortium. IOSUD-UVT has an institutional partnership with the "Eugen Todoran" Central University Library, which provides access to doctoral theses, specialised books and journals, digital library services, study rooms, and computer facilities that support the learning and research process.

Student support services are designed to facilitate learning and mobility while addressing the needs of a diverse student population, including international, part-time, employed, and mature students, as well as students with disabilities. UVT is committed to equity and inclusion, providing counselling, psychological and learning support, sign language interpretation, accessible library facilities, and flexible learning arrangements through the



Centre for Psychopedagogical Assistance and Integration (CAIP), including dedicated projects supporting inclusive education.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

Internal quality assurance guarantees that all resources are fit for purpose and accessible, and that students are informed about the services available to them. The role of administrative staff is crucial in providing support services to students and, therefore, they must be qualified and have opportunities to develop their skills. During the meetings, it was also observed that many doctoral students and graduates require specialised software and licences for research data collection and analysis; however, access to such software and licences is not currently available to students.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

For doctoral students with disabilities, the university explicitly commits to equity and access and carries out activities to identify needs, provide support and counselling, including through projects dedicated to inclusive education (e.g. 'UVT – Support for INCLUSIVE EDUCATION', CNFIS-FDI-2023-F-0395).

✓ **Recommendations**

Provide doctoral students with access to licences for specialised software used in research data collection and analysis, thereby enhancing the accessibility of essential research tools.

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**

The learning outcomes, expressed in terms of knowledge, skills, responsibility and autonomy, are described and explicitly detailed in [the Curriculum](#) for the first year starting in 2025 for the field of political science and in the two versions - for doctoral students admitted in the first year in [2023](#) and [2024](#), respectively), and subsequently integrated into [the course descriptions](#) of the four courses that make up the training programme based on advanced university studies taught entirely in English: [PhD Research Methods and Academic Writing](#), [Mapping Perspectives in Social Research](#), [Political Ideologies](#), and [Research Ethics and Intellectual Property](#). The learning outcomes have also been defined for the activities that are part of the individual applied research programme for the entire period of doctoral studies.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The learning outcomes are formulated explicitly and in an operational manner, so as to clearly support the understanding of expectations for both the doctoral student and the teaching staff involved. At programme level, the document specifies the targeted professional and transversal y competences (from advanced knowledge in the field and mastery of research methods to advanced digital skills, academic communication, management and ethics), providing a comprehensive framework of expected outcomes. The applicable legislation is complied with regarding the formulation of the learning outcomes, and there is a clear commitment to adapting them to developments in the scientific field.

The indicator is: fulfilled

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

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The course descriptions contain detailed provisions on how learning outcomes are assessed. All four subjects that are part of the advanced university studies programme ([PhD Research Methods and Academic Writing](#), [Mapping Perspectives in Social Research](#), [Political Ideologies](#) and [Research Ethics and Intellectual Property](#)) provide for both ongoing assessment and summative assessment methods at the end of the course.

The verification of learning outcomes within the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science (SDFSSP) is organised in two complementary registers, as shown in the curriculum: i) ongoing assessment (during the advanced training stage - by completing the courses in the first semester of the first year of study - and during the annual research process) and ii) final assessment (during the pre-defence and public defence of the doctoral thesis).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The assessment system complies with the applicable legislation, operates coherently, is tailored to each stage of the process, and ensures the appropriate evaluation of the learning outcomes.

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

Admission to doctoral studies at IOSUD-UVT is regulated by [the Methodology for the organisation and conduct of the admission competition for doctoral studies](#), specifically for the field of political science, by [the Regulations on the organisation and conduct of the admission competition for doctoral studies organised within the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science](#). To register for the admission exam, UVT provides candidates with an electronic platform (<https://admitere.uvt.ro/>), where they can consult the final results, confirm their place and pay the tuition fee (if applicable). Procedural information for these stages can be found at <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/studii-doctorale/admitere/>.

The admission competition for doctoral studies in political science consists of an oral admission exam in which the candidate presents their doctoral research project (see Annex 8 of [the SDFSSP Admission Regulations](#)). Candidates will be assessed in the entrance examination based on the criteria and indicators included in the assessment grid for candidates in the entrance examination in the chosen doctoral field (see Annex 9 of [the SDFSSP Admission Regulations](#)).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The admission process complies with the applicable legislation. No discriminatory criteria are applied. The relevant information is publicly available and transparent.

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The principles of fairness and equal opportunities are fundamental principles underlying the organisation and functioning of the West University of Timișoara, as stipulated in the Charter of the West University of Timișoara. ely, in order to support candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities, the Centre for Psychopedagogical Assistance and Integration was established at the West University of Timișoara, whose objectives include creating an institutional support framework for students with disabilities at UVT; developing the accessibility of the West University of Timișoara for students with disabilities; ensuring the interface between students with disabilities and teaching staff, with a view to implementing specific educational measures; providing educational and psychological counselling to students with disabilities; providing support for the integration of students with special needs at UVT by making assistive technologies available to them, by making teaching spaces accessible, and by adapting teaching and assessment methods according to the type and degree of disability. Even during the admission period, vulnerable candidates or those with special needs benefit from counselling services offered by the Student Counselling and Support Centre (CCSS), which is part of the Educational Management Department (DME). The team of career counsellors and psychologists at SCSS-UVT has developed the services offered through activities organised both in person and online.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The institution complies with the applicable legislation, ensures respect for the principles of equity and equal opportunities, and provides support measures to facilitate access for candidates from vulnerable groups and those at risk of social and educational exclusion, including candidates with special educational needs.

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 regulations governing the organisation and functioning of the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Sciences stipulate that, alongside the doctoral coordinator, the guidance committee plays an essential role in guiding doctoral students. Article 4.25 details the obligations of this committee. These include advising doctoral students on possible career paths and on their involvement in specific activities, as well as helping to determine the number of ECTS credits earned by doctoral students from these activities.

These regulations are also found in the individual study contract (for which there is also an English version), in the individual research plan, and in the IOSUD - UVT Regulations on doctoral studies (in particular chapters IV-VI).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The regulations governing students' academic activity are in accordance with the applicable legislation and demonstrate a commitment to ensuring a solid and transparent institutional framework.

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

The Doctoral Studies Organising Institution (IOSUD) of the West University of Timișoara pursues an active internationalization policy that supports the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff, while fostering the development of academic and research collaborations in the field of Political Science. This policy is underpinned by well-established institutional partnerships formalized through Erasmus+ agreements and other cooperation agreements with universities across Europe, the United States of America, and South Africa, as well as by active participation in international academic networks.

During the evaluation period, numerous teaching, training, and research mobility activities were carried out involving both academic staff and doctoral students, either at partner institutions or at the West University of Timișoara. International cooperation includes the participation of distinguished international professors and researchers in doctoral supervision and dissertation examination committees, the organization of courses and lectures delivered by visiting scholars, and the implementation of joint research projects.

Furthermore, the doctoral field benefits from its collaboration with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) (https://www.esdc.europa.eu/index_en), which provides doctoral candidates with opportunities for advanced training and research at the European level. It also benefits from the university's participation in the UNITA – Universitas Montium European University Alliance (<https://uvt.ro/unita/>), which promotes international joint supervision (cotutelle) arrangements and doctoral mobility. The doctoral programme also attracts international doctoral candidates, thereby enhancing the diversity of the academic environment and strengthening the international dimension of doctoral research.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis of the documentation and institutional activities demonstrates the existence of a coherent and well-implemented internationalization strategy, supported by functional international partnerships and active participation in international academic networks. Academic mobility, the involvement of international experts in doctoral supervision and assessment, the development of international joint supervision arrangements (cotutelle), and the integration of doctoral candidates into European research projects and educational programmes contribute significantly to enhancing research quality and strengthening the international competencies of the academic community.

The level of internationalization extends well beyond conventional Erasmus+ mobility schemes, being supported by sustainable academic collaborations and active engagement in European initiatives that have a tangible impact on doctoral education, research excellence, and institutional development.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- active participation in international academic networks, including the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and the UNITA – Universitas Montium European University Alliance;
- the involvement of internationally recognized professors and researchers in doctoral supervision and doctoral dissertation evaluation committees;
- the development of international joint supervision (cotutelle) arrangements and international mobility opportunities for doctoral candidates and doctoral supervisors;
- the recruitment of international doctoral candidates and the regular organization of courses, seminars, and lectures delivered by visiting professors from partner universities.

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	Learning based on scientific investigation and research results support and are capitalised upon in achieving the learning outcomes envisaged through the study programme.
I.P.B.9.1.1	

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The doctoral study programme in Political Science (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdfssp/stiinte-politice/>) is founded on the principle of research-based learning, whereby educational activities are closely integrated with the scientific research undertaken by doctoral candidates and doctoral supervisors. The curriculum (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n7drpo6FnKdc7Ovj9QFrOqxhc6gEZGSb/view>) includes courses focusing on research methodology, research ethics, academic writing, and the development of the doctoral research project, all of which contribute to the acquisition of advanced research competences. Representative courses include Mapping Perspectives in Social Research (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FEvpHoPY1-8vSmxF8nqQnDwMeIB46W2D/view>), Political Ideologies (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gjYvx7a30Rw3N-vcLZh8kv5Gzncx5FjN/view>), PhD Academic Writing and Research (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_cV63cYG4XlDun19e9C-D5J1TIuoYkqe/view), and Research Ethics and Intellectual Property (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jeMNTbZZAEz0hKySQ8Emv77TAdvB9-XN/view>).

The doctoral training process is further supported through research seminars, workshops, regular presentations of research progress, and structured feedback sessions provided by doctoral supervisors and members of the doctoral guidance committees. Research outcomes are disseminated through doctoral candidates' participation in national and international scientific conferences, publication of research articles, and involvement in research projects and collaborative initiatives, including those developed with international partners.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis of the documentation and academic activities confirms that the learning process is firmly centred on scientific inquiry, with research outcomes being systematically integrated into doctoral education. Research activities directly contribute to the development of advanced analytical, critical thinking, argumentation, and scientific dissemination skills, in accordance with the intended learning outcomes of the doctoral programme. Furthermore, the active participation of doctoral candidates in scientific conferences, together with the publication and dissemination of research findings, fosters an academic culture based on excellence, academic integrity, scientific responsibility, and international visibility. The programme demonstrates a coherent integration of education and research, reflecting the principles of the European Higher Education Area and promoting the development of independent researchers capable of contributing to the advancement of knowledge in Political Science.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- systematic integration of research activities throughout all stages of doctoral education;
- regular organization of research seminars and workshops dedicated to monitoring and presenting research progress;
- active involvement of doctoral candidates in research projects and scientific dissemination activities;
- promotion of publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals and participation in national and international scientific conferences.

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



✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The research activity carried out within the doctoral field of Political Science is closely aligned with the objectives of the doctoral programme and generates research outcomes with both national and international visibility. Doctoral supervisors, including Andreescu Gabriel https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel_Andreescu; Copilaș Ciocanu Emanuel <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kpEs4Q8qN8E66VTI9y9rgEJzk15qidI7/view>; Rogobete Silviu Eugen <https://uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Rogobete-Silviu..pdf>; Vesalon Lucian Gheorghe https://uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/FSPFSC_86634-17-11-2023_VESALON_Lucian_Gheorghe_M_CF_Stiinte-Politice.pdf; Stănuș Ileana-Cristina <https://socioumane.ulbsibiu.ro/team/cristina-stanus/>) together with doctoral candidates, publish research results in internationally indexed scientific journals, including high-impact Q1 and Q2 journals, as well as with internationally recognized academic publishers. Research activities are further supported through participation in national and international research projects, academic networks, scientific conferences, and research seminars. Doctoral candidates are actively involved in research collaborations alongside their doctoral supervisors, thereby strengthening their research skills and scientific integration.

The dissemination and valorisation of research outcomes are further supported through the regular organization of doctoral research seminars, during which doctoral candidates present the progress of their research, receive constructive feedback from doctoral supervisors and members of the academic community, and further develop their scientific communication, critical thinking, and academic argumentation skills (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdfssp/stiinte-politice/>).

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis of the documentation and the research outputs demonstrates that the doctoral field maintains a research environment characterized by a high level of academic quality, visibility, and scientific relevance. Publications in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals and with prestigious academic publishers, participation in national and international research projects and academic networks, and the active involvement of doctoral candidates in collaborative research activities provide strong evidence of their effective integration into the international scientific community.

Furthermore, the institutional mechanisms established to support research activities, together with the regular organization of doctoral research seminars, significantly contribute to the dissemination of research results, the continuous monitoring of doctoral research progress, and the development of the competencies required for successful academic and research careers. Overall, the doctoral programme effectively promotes research excellence, academic integrity, and international scientific collaboration, in accordance with the expectations of the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- publication of research results in internationally indexed peer-reviewed journals, including high-impact journals, and with internationally recognized academic publishers;
- active involvement of doctoral candidates in national and international research projects and research groups alongside their doctoral supervisors;
- regular (monthly or bi-monthly) organization of doctoral research seminars dedicated to the presentation, discussion, and evaluation of research progress;
- active participation of doctoral candidates and academic staff in national and scientific conferences and academic events.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

DOMAIN C. Quality management

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



Standard S.C.1.1. Application

Adequately implemented strategic directions, actions, and procedures

Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1	The organisational component consistently carries out actions and applies procedures, proving their impact on improving the quality of education at the level of the study programme
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The West University of Timișoara has implemented an institutional quality management system that is fully applied within the doctoral field of Political Science. Quality assurance is supported through the activities of the Quality Management Commission (<https://fsgc.uvt.ro/managementul-calitatii/>) and the Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) (<https://uvt.ro/educatie/comisia-pentru-evaluarea-si-asigurarea-calitatii-ceac/>), as well as through a comprehensive framework of institutional regulations and operational procedures governing doctoral education, including:

Procedure for the Affiliation of Doctoral Supervisors to Doctoral Schools within IOSUD-UVT: <https://uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Anexa-7.-Procedura-afiliere-conduc.-de-doc.-la-scoli-doct.-IOSUD-UVT-ed.-a-II-a-1.pdf>

Procedure for the Organization and Conduct of Online Doctoral Thesis Defences: <https://uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Procedura-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-procesului-de-sustinere-a-tezelor-de-doctorat-in-cadrul-UVT-in-varianta-online-editia-a-II-a.-HS-25-din-22.10.2020.pdf>

Procedure for the Organization and Conduct of the Habilitation Process in an Online Format: <https://uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Procedura-privind-organizarea-si-desfasurarea-procesului-de-obtinere-a-atestatului-de-abilitare-in-varianta-online-la-UVT-editia-a-II-a.-HS-10-din-15.05.2020.pdf>

System Procedure for the Monitoring and Periodic Review of Study Programmes: <https://uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Procedura-de-sistem-privind-monitorizarea-si-revizuirea-periodica-a-programelor-de-studii.-HS-54-din-19.02.2015.pdf>

These regulations and procedures govern the monitoring and periodic review of study programmes, the evaluation of teaching activities, the organization of doctoral studies, and the promotion of academic integrity.

The doctoral programme includes the compulsory course Research Ethics and Academic Integrity, while the originality of doctoral dissertations is systematically verified using the iThenticate and Turnitin software applications, in accordance with the institutional methodology.

The quality of the educational process is continuously monitored through the periodic evaluation of academic staff by doctoral candidates, the annual monitoring of doctoral research progress by the Doctoral Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, the regular revision of curricula and course descriptions, and the active participation of doctoral student representatives in the governing bodies of the doctoral school. In addition, doctoral candidates benefit from academic advising, career guidance, psychological counselling services, and financial support for participation in scientific conferences and the publication of research results.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The documentation reviewed demonstrates the existence of a coherent and well-functioning quality assurance system based on standardized procedures and continuous monitoring mechanisms. The periodic evaluation of teaching activities, the systematic monitoring of doctoral research progress, the verification of academic integrity, and the effective use of doctoral candidates' feedback all contribute to the continuous enhancement of the doctoral programme.

Furthermore, the integration of academic and social support services complements the institutional quality assurance framework and promotes the development of a high-quality educational environment founded on academic excellence, responsibility, and continuous improvement. Overall, the institutional arrangements are consistent with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) and effectively support the sustainable development of doctoral education.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples



- the existence of a comprehensive and integrated quality management system consistently implemented across doctoral studies;
- systematic use of iThenticate and Turnitin to promote academic integrity and ensure the originality of doctoral dissertations.

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 Doctoral Studies Organising Institution (IOSUD) of the West University of Timișoara systematically involves relevant stakeholders in the implementation of quality assurance procedures for the doctoral field of Political Science. Doctoral candidates are represented on the Doctoral School Council and actively participate in the decision-making processes concerning both the academic and organizational aspects of the doctoral programme. Their views are regularly collected through institutional surveys evaluating teaching activities and doctoral supervision, and the results are systematically used to support the continuous improvement of the doctoral programme (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdfssp/>).

At the institutional level, consultative bodies bring together representatives of the academic community, alumni, and the socio-economic sector. Their recommendations are incorporated into the development of study programmes and the alignment of research priorities with societal needs and labour market requirements. Doctoral supervisors actively contribute to the revision of institutional regulations, the development of research plans, and the implementation of procedures governing the organization and evaluation of doctoral studies.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis of the documentation demonstrates the existence of a participatory and well-functioning mechanism for implementing quality assurance procedures, based on the systematic consultation of the principal stakeholder groups. Feedback provided by doctoral candidates, contributions from doctoral supervisors, and ongoing dialogue with representatives of the academic community, alumni, and the socio-economic environment are effectively integrated into the institutional decision-making process and contribute to aligning the doctoral programme with developments in both the scientific and professional fields.

These participatory mechanisms strengthen institutional transparency, accountability, and the quality culture, while ensuring that the doctoral programme remains responsive to stakeholder expectations and compliant with the principles of continuous quality enhancement promoted within the European Higher Education Area.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- operation of consultative councils comprising representatives of the academic community, alumni, and the socio-economic sector;
- active involvement of doctoral supervisors in the implementation, review, and continuous improvement of institutional procedures.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.2.2. Operation

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



Indicator I.P.C.2.2.2.	The academic ethics commission operates based on the regulation approved by the University Senate, and performs actions that are compliant with the law, independently from any other structure or person in the higher education institution.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The West University of Timișoara has established a University Ethics Committee (<https://uvt.ro/organizare/comisia-etica/>), which operates in accordance with the regulations approved by the University Senate, the provisions of the University Charter, and the Code of University Ethics and Professional Conduct (<https://uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/codul-de-etica.pdf>). The Committee functions independently, in compliance with the applicable national legislation, and includes a dedicated Research Ethics Subcommittee responsible for promoting academic integrity and good research practices. The Committee also includes student representatives, including doctoral candidates.

The activities of the Ethics Committee are supported by the Office for Ethics and Academic Integrity (BEIA), which coordinates initiatives aimed at preventing and combating plagiarism, develops institutional procedures for verifying compliance with ethical standards in the preparation of doctoral dissertations, and contributes to the implementation of the University's policies on academic integrity.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis of the institutional documentation confirms that the University has established an appropriate organizational and procedural framework for promoting ethics and academic integrity. The Ethics Committee performs its responsibilities independently, in accordance with its internal regulations and the applicable legal framework. Furthermore, the existence of a specialized Research Ethics Subcommittee, together with the Office for Ethics and Academic Integrity, strengthens the institutional mechanisms for preventing, identifying, and addressing breaches of academic ethics.

These institutional structures play a significant role in fostering an organizational culture based on responsibility, transparency, academic honesty, and research integrity, thereby contributing to the maintenance of high ethical standards in doctoral education and research.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- the operation of a specialized Research Ethics Subcommittee dedicated to promoting research integrity;
- the involvement of doctoral candidate representatives in institutional bodies responsible for research ethics;
- the establishment of the Office for Ethics and Academic Integrity (BEIA) with dedicated responsibilities for plagiarism prevention and the promotion of academic integrity;
- the existence of clear institutional procedures governing the ethical review and verification of doctoral dissertations.

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The West University of Timișoara has established a well-structured institutional framework governing the initiation, monitoring, and periodic review of study programmes and academic fields, including the doctoral



field of Political Science (<https://uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/02/Regulament-initiere-elaborare-monitorizare-revizuire-programe-domenii-planuri.pdf>).

The process is regulated through a comprehensive set of institutional regulations, methodologies, and operational procedures covering all stages of doctoral education, including admission, programme delivery, monitoring of doctoral candidates' academic progress, the activities of the doctoral guidance and academic integrity committees, completion of doctoral studies, the affiliation of doctoral supervisors, and the award of the habilitation qualification.

At the level of the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science, institutional mechanisms are in place for the periodic monitoring of key performance indicators, including admission data, doctoral candidates' academic progress, completion and dropout rates, the performance of doctoral supervisors, and feedback provided by doctoral candidates.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The analysis of the institutional documentation demonstrates that the procedures governing the initiation, monitoring, and periodic review of the doctoral programme are implemented consistently and systematically. The regular monitoring of performance indicators, together with the systematic use of feedback collected from doctoral candidates, enables the identification of opportunities for improvement and supports the implementation of measures aimed at enhancing the quality of both doctoral education and research.

The existence of a comprehensive procedural framework, complemented by regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, contributes to the effective operation of the doctoral programme and ensures its continued compliance with the national standards for quality assurance in higher education.

✓ **Aspects that constitute best practice examples**

- the existence of a comprehensive framework of institutional regulations and methodologies covering all stages of doctoral education;
- periodic monitoring of the key performance indicators of the doctoral programme;
- systematic use of doctoral candidates' feedback in the review and continuous improvement of the doctoral programme;
- institutional monitoring of doctoral supervisors' performance and doctoral research progress through established quality assurance mechanisms.

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 West University of Timișoara ensures the systematic involvement of members of the academic community and other stakeholders in the implementation of procedures governing doctoral studies (<https://uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/02/Regulament-initiere-elaborare-monitorizare-revizuire-programe-domenii-planuri.pdf>). In accordance with the institutional regulations on the monitoring and periodic review of study programmes, the annual review of doctoral programmes is conducted through consultations with academic staff, doctoral candidates, alumni, and employers.

Furthermore, the admission methodologies are developed and periodically updated through the collaboration of the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD), the doctoral school, and the University's governing bodies. Information regarding doctoral admission and the organization of doctoral studies is published in a transparent manner and is readily accessible to prospective applicants and other stakeholders.

The implementation of procedures governing the doctoral pathway and the completion of doctoral studies involves doctoral supervisors, the Doctoral Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees, doctoral candidates, and the administrative structures of the Doctoral Studies Organising Institution (IOSUD).



✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The analysis of the institutional documentation confirms the existence of a participatory mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of institutional procedures, based on the regular consultation of the principal stakeholders involved in the organization of doctoral studies. The active involvement of doctoral candidates, doctoral supervisors, and representatives of the academic and professional communities contributes to the continuous adaptation of institutional procedures and enhances the transparency of the decision-making process. These participatory mechanisms support the effective implementation of the University's quality assurance system and foster an institutional culture based on collaboration, shared responsibility, stakeholder engagement, and continuous quality enhancement. During the meetings, it was found that consultations conducted as part of the procedure review process are carried out only on an informal basis, with no formalised mechanisms in place.

✓ Aspects that constitute best practice examples

- active involvement of the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD) and the doctoral school in the development and periodic revision of doctoral admission methodologies;
- active participation of doctoral supervisors and the Doctoral Guidance and Academic Integrity Committees in the implementation and continuous improvement of institutional procedures.

✓ Recommendations

It is recommended that academic staff, doctoral students, alumni, and employers be consulted annually as part of the doctoral programme review process. It is also recommended to strengthen the mechanisms for incorporating feedback from alumni and employers by preparing periodic reports on the measures implemented and their impact on the development of the doctoral programme.

The indicator is: fulfilled.

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

Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures

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

Indicator I.P.C.4.1.1	The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.
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✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The teaching staff evaluation process focuses on the evaluation of teaching staff performance in courses by students, through an online platform of the UVT, and is carried out in accordance with the Methodology for the evaluation of teaching staff by students at the West University of Timișoara. This process is conducted online, via the evaluate.uvt.ro platform, each semester in **three stages**, following the steps described in a public online guide. Teachers are required to analyse their own evaluation forms available on the evaluate.uvt.ro platform after the end of each evaluation stage and to take into account the feedback received from students in planning future teaching activities, which may lead to improvements in the teaching process.

The report on UVT students' perception of the student evaluation process and the summaries of the evaluation process for each semester are available on the dedicated website, in the Education - Quality Management section, together with a summary of the improvement measures adopted following the analysis of the evaluation process results. The directors of the academic departments are required to analyse the results of each student evaluation process and to have individual discussions with each full or associate professor who teaches in the respective semester in the study programmes managed by the department for which they are responsible, subsequently monitoring how they implement the recommendations received and the evolution of the evaluation process results from one evaluation session to another.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts



The review panel finds that UVT analyses the results of the semester-based student evaluations of teaching performance and uses this information to improve the quality of teaching, in compliance with the applicable legal provisions.

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	The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the
I.P.C.5.1.1	internal quality assurance process.

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

At UVT level, **the Directorate for Research, Development and Innovation Management** keeps a record of publications affiliated with UVT, which is updated periodically. At the IOSUD level, an analysis was carried out in March 2021 on the scientific output of doctoral students between 2016 and 2021, which showed that the 456 doctoral graduates have 264 entries in Web of Science (Core). Thus, **ŞDFSSP** has access to the doctorat.uvt.ro website for all information related to the legal basis for carrying out activities in doctoral schools, the elearning.uvt.ro platform for teaching activities, the UMS school management information system used by the Doctoral Studies Office, the platforms available at the Erasmus+ Office for managing contracts with partners and the mobility of doctoral students and teaching staff (Online Learning Agreement, Erasmus Without Paper, Beneficiary Module); digital centralisation at the Accounting Service for recording accounts for grants that support the professional activity of doctoral students and teaching staff (e.g. grants for participation in conferences, summer schools, the Develop grant, etc.).

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**

The review panel finds that UVT collects important data regarding internal quality assurance processes and effectively analyses them in order to improve the quality of the educational process.

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

✓ **Presentation of the state of facts**

All information of public interest regarding the evaluated doctoral study programme is available online on the page of the Doctoral School of Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science (<https://doctorat.uvt.ro/scoli/sdfssp/stiinte-politice/>). Also, the website dedicated to doctoral studies contains the institutional regulations on the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies, as well as a whole range of specific information on enrolment in doctoral studies, the conduct of doctoral studies/research, and the public defence of the doctoral thesis: <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/studii-doctorale/doctoranzi-nou-admisi/>.

✓ **Analysis of the state of facts**



The information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme is detailed and transparent, both in terms of doctoral studies and ongoing projects, the content of advanced university study programmes, information on doctoral research (research reports, study interruptions, study extensions, etc.), mobility, scholarships available to doctoral students, training, etc.

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

All decisions made by the CSUD are public and available online at <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/csud/hotarari/>, which is freely accessible.

The page <https://doctorat.uvt.ro/csud/> contains CSUD structure and responsibilities, ethics, elections etc. CSUD decisions are sent for validation to the UVT Senate, where decisions are taken by a majority vote of the members present. Decisions at this level are made public within a maximum of 5 days of their adoption (cf. Art. 26 of the Regulations on the Organisation and Functioning of the UVT Senate). Students are regularly informed about legislative and organisational developments within the IOSUD.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The institution has created a transparency framework that supports public access to relevant information regarding institutional processes. The transparency of decision-making processes is ensured at a satisfactory level.

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.

✓ Presentation of the state of facts

The Political Science field was evaluated in 2021, when it was awarded the rating of Accreditation Maintenance, by ARACIS Council Decision No. 100 of 25.11.2021. The external quality assessment procedure identified three partially fulfilled performance indicators (A.1.3.1, A.1.3.3. and C.3.1.2.), regarding the implementation of at least one research project with a multidisciplinary team, the adequate funding of doctoral students' research activities and encouraging joint doctoral programmes and doctoral-level cooperation with other international institutions.

✓ Analysis of the state of facts

The indicators are now fulfilled, as Prof. Dr. Silviu Rogobete and Dr. Andrei Ghitea are members of the International Empirical Research Group on Religion and Citizenship, at the Technical University of Dortmund. The group is interdisciplinary, bringing together specialists from several fields such as political scientists, sociologists, theologians, philosophers, specialists in education sciences, communication sciences, and social work. The second indicator referred to the adequate funding of doctoral students' research activities, a situation that has been completely remedied at UVT. The third indicator on encouraging joint doctoral programmes and

doctoral-level cooperation with other international institutions can be illustrated by the affiliation of two doctoral students in political science to the Doctoral School of the European Union's College of Security and Defence.

The indicator is: fulfilled

IV. SWOT Analysis

Strengths: - The existence of a teaching staff with the highest level of professional training, reflected in international recognition and academic publications at the highest level (Q1, Q2, prestigious publishers, etc.) - International visibility of research in the field of political science, collaborations with universities in the EU, the US and South Africa. - opportunities for international study mobility through the Erasmus+ programme, within the European university alliance UNITA; - Access to prestigious international databases; - The existence of a project that funds the infrastructure necessary to support students with special educational needs and disabilities (Support for Inclusive Education, CNFIS-FDI-2023-F0395). -A modern curriculum taught entirely in English, focused on advanced research methods, research ethics, and academic competencies. - Institutionalised seminars for doctoral students aimed at developing academic and research competencies.	INTERNAL FACTORS ↻	Weaknesses: - A relatively small doctoral student cohort (19 students), which may limit the critical mass for research and the diversity of research topics. - Low involvement of doctoral students in competitive projects. - Fewer individual workspaces for doctoral students in the field. - Less information for doctoral students about available learning resources. - Lack of a digital platform for collecting information on scientific research results for both coordinators and doctoral students.
SWOT analysis		
Opportunities: ✓ Better funding for university education in general and	EXTERNAL FACTORS ↻	Threats: ✓ Continued underfunding of education in Romania



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doctoral research in particular ✓ Development and opening up of the field of political science to interdisciplinary research ✓ Collaboration within the European university alliance UNITA ✓ Strengthening partnerships with public institutions, think tanks, and international organisations to increase the societal and scientific impact of research. ✓ Extensive and long-term collaborations in areas specific to doctoral schools with international universities in the field. ✓ Growing interest in emerging topics such as artificial intelligence, security, geopolitics, and European governance can further enhance the attractiveness of the doctoral programme. ✓ The development of digital competencies and the use of artificial intelligence in research can increase the competitiveness of doctoral students.		✓ Socio-economic instability and lack of predictability. ✓ Competition from the North-West region of Romania and foreign universities that attract students with high research potential. ✓ The rapid evolution of digital technologies and artificial intelligence requires the continuous updating of the curriculum and the competencies of academic staff. ✓ The geopolitical context and potential restrictions on academic mobility may reduce opportunities for international cooperation.
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V. Extent to which the standards and performance indicators are fulfilled, and recommendations

No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity			
1.	I.P.A.1.1.1 For delivering the study programme/domain, the HEI has adequate organisational components and an adequate management system, which operate based on methodologies, regulations and procedures that are periodically reviewed as required by law.	F	



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No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
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	
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	F	



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No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	experiences, which, together, lead to a higher education qualification.		
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	Develop a PhD Student Guide that clearly presents all essential aspects related to doctoral studies, including information on available doctoral grants.
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	Provide doctoral students with access to licences for specialised software used in research data collection and analysis, thereby enhancing the accessibility of essential research tools.
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	F	



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No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
	support measures to ensure access of vulnerable groups at social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.		
19.	I.P.B.7.2.1 The organisational component applies the regulations concerning the students' professional activity.	F	
20.	I.P.B.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out international cooperation actions supporting mobility of the members of its own community and collaboration in academic and research activities.	F	
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	
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 that academic staff, doctoral students, alumni, and employers be consulted annually as part of the doctoral programme review process. It is also recommended to strengthen the mechanisms for incorporating



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No.	Performance Indicator	Extent to which it was fulfilled (F/PF/UF)	Recommendations
			feedback from alumni and employers by preparing periodic reports on the measures implemented and their impact on the development of the doctoral programme.
28.	I.P.C.4.1.1 The organisational component analyses the results of the students' biannual evaluation of teachers.	F	
29.	I.P.C.5.1.1 The organisational component systematically collects and analyses data required for the internal quality assurance process.	F	
30.	I.P.C.6.1.1 The organisational component ensures publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study programme.	F	
31.	I.P.C.6.1.2 The organisational component ensures transparent decision-making processes.	F	
32.	I.P.C.8.1.1 The organisational component carries out the procedures pertaining to the external quality evaluation process, aiming to organise the evaluated study programme as provided by the law.	F	

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

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



field. The evaluation panel recommends the MAINTENANCE OF ACCREDITATION for the Doctoral Studies Domain of Political Science.

VII. Annexes

Site Visit Schedule
Minutes of the Meetings
Institutional Agreement

Calendarul vizitei de evaluare externă a calității domeniului de studii universitare de doctorat

Instituția de învățământ superior/Organizația furnizoare de educație: Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara

Școala doctorală: Filosofie, Sociologie și Științe Politice

Domeniul de doctorat: Științe Politice

Obiectivul evaluării externe: *menținerea acreditării domeniului de doctorat*

Perioada vizitei de evaluare: 15-16 iulie 2026

Interval orar	Activitate	Participanți	Locație/Listă participanți
Ziua 1, 15 iulie			
09:30-10:00	Discuții tehnice în cadrul comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS	Sala/Locația: 518
10:00-10:40	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu reprezentanții conducerii componentei organizatorice	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS - Reprezentanți ai conducerii componentei organizatorice aferente domeniului de studii de doctorat evaluat - Persoana de contact	Sala/Locația/ Room/Location Bd Vasile Parvan 4 sala 518 -Director CSUD – UVT -director Școala doctorala si responsabil domeniu Stiinte Politice -3 membri in Consiliul Școlii doctorale



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Interval orar	Activitate	Participanți	Locație/Listă participanți
10:40-11:20	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți evaluatori în evaluarea externă a calității cu echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă (REI)	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS - Echipa care a realizat REI	Sala/Locația: 518 Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire: echipa care a realizat raportul de evaluare internă (REI)
11:20-12:15	Vizitarea bazei materiale	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS - Reprezentanți ai instituției sau Academiei Române, după caz	-Director BCUT - redactor BCUT -administrator imobil ICAM, --Admin Șef, Facultate
12:15-13:15	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu personalul didactic implicat în activitățile din cadrul DSUD	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS - Cadre didactice conducători de doctorat	Sala/Locația: 518 Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire: Cadre didactice conducători de doctorat
13:15-15:00	Pauză de prânz		
15:00-16:00	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu studenți doctoranzi din cadrul DSUD	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS - Studenți doctoranzi	Sala/Locația: 518 Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire: - 6 studenti doctoranzi (anul 1, 2 și 3)
16:00-17:00	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu angajatori ai absolvenților DSUD	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS - Angajatori	Sala/Locația: 518 Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire: -Ambasada RO în Irlanda (online) -Associate Dir. Sustainalytics -Primaria Timisoara -Consiliul Judetean Timis -Dr. Adj BCUT
Ziua 2, 16 iulie			
9:00 - 9:30	Întâlnirea tehnică a comisiei de experți evaluatori	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS	Sala/Locația: 518



Interval orar	Activitate	Participanți	Locație/Listă participanți
	(Activitate în colaborare pentru clarificarea aspectelor prezentate în REI)		
9:30 - 10:20	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu responsabilii centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS - Responsabilii centrelor/laboratoarelor de cercetare	Sala/Locația: 518 Reprezentanți care vor participa la întâlnire: -American Studies Centre -Centrul de studii evreiești și israeliene -Director, Inst Cercetări Avansate de Mediu, ICAM-UVT -Centrul de studii africane -Colegiul European de Securitate și Aparare
10:20 - 11:10	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu reprezentanți ai CEAC/reprezentanți ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calității 16 iulie	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS - Reprezentanți ai CEAC / reprezentanți ai structurilor organizatorice în domeniul asigurării calității - Persoana de contact	Sala/Locația: 518 Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire: - Reprezentanți ai CEAC
11:10 - 12:00	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu membri ai Comisiei de etică universitară	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS - Membri ai Comisiei de etică universitară	Sala/Locația: 518 Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire: 2 membri ai Comisiei de etică universitară
12:00 - 13:00	Întâlnirea comisiei de experți în evaluarea externă a calității cu absolvenți ai DSUD 16 iulie	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS	Sala/Locația: 518 Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire: Absolvenți ai domeniului de studii evaluat (3 fizic, 2 online)
13:00- 14:00	Pauză de prânz		



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Interval orar	Activitate	Participanți	Locație/Listă participanți
14:00 - 15:00	Finalizarea activităților de evaluare	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS	Sala/Locația: 518
15:00-16:00-	Întâlnirea membrilor comisiei de experți evaluatori cu reprezentanții conducerii ÎÎS sau a OFE, după caz și ai conducerii componentei organizatorice pentru comunicarea concluziilor procesului de evaluare	- Comisia de experți evaluatori ai ARACIS	Sala/Locația: 518 Lista persoanelor care vor participa la întâlnire: - Reprezentanți ai conducerii și ai domeniului de studii evaluat - Persoana de contact