



Decision no. 32/10.03.2025

Amendment of the Babeş-Bolyai University Regulation on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral University Studies

Having regard to decision of the Board of Administration of Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca no. 2505/03.03.2025,

Taking into consideration the favorable opinion and amendments of the Commission for Regulations and Legal Matters , and of the Commission for Scientific Research,

Pursuant to article 37, letter e), of the Charter of Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj - Napoca.

**The Senate of Babeş-Bolyai University,
Having convened in session on 10th March, 2025,**

Hereby decides:

Art. I. The amendment and completion of the *Regulation of Babeş-Bolyai University on the organization and conduct of Doctoral Studies* is hereby approved, as follows:

1. Article 33, after paragraph 1), point 1¹) is introduced and shall have the following content:

1¹) In the event that the procedure for the public defence is resumed with the thesis made available for transparency and observations are received again and found to be justified, the doctoral thesis shall be invalidated and the doctoral student shall be expelled from the Doctoral Studies.

2. Article 44 is modified, and shall have the following content:



For doctoral students who have completed a previous doctoral program and for whom, after enrollment, full or partial recognition of the previous program and of the research results published during that period has been requested and approved, the duration of the new doctoral program may be reduced. In the case of full recognition of the previous doctoral program (3 or 4 years, as applicable), the procedures for the public defence of the doctoral thesis may begin as early as the first semester of the 2nd year of the doctoral program. If the doctoral program for which recognition is requested had a duration of 3 years, the doctoral student will be required to defend the research report corresponding to the 4th year.

Art. II. The regulations, with the amendments and completions adopted through this decision, shall be republished.

President,

Prof. Florin STRETEANU, PhD.

Secretary,

Anca GHINGHELI



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REGULATIONS OF BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY

ON

ON THE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

Amended and completed by Board of Administration Decision no.

32/10.03.2025

2025



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1. Preamble

Article 1

This Regulation is based on the following documents:

- a) The Higher Education Law no. 199/2023;
- b) Emergency Ordinance no. 95 of 28th June 2024 for amending and completing the Pre-university Education Law no. 198/2023 and the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023;
- c) Order No. 3020/2024 of 8th January 2024 approving the Framework Regulation regarding Doctoral Studies;
- d) Order No. 3692/2024 of 1st February 2024 regarding the list of programs recognized at the national level for determining the degree of similarity for final academic works;
- e) Order No. 3693/2024 of 1st February 2024 approving the Framework Methodology for organizing admission to higher education in short-cycle, bachelor, master's, and doctoral programs;
- f) Emergency Ordinance no. 95/29 June 2024 for amending and completing the Pre-university Education Law no. 198/2023 and the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023;
- g) Order no. 3482 of 24th March 2016 approving the Regulation on the Organization and Functioning of the National Council for the Certification of University Titles, Diplomas, and Certificates, and the Regulation on the Organization and Functioning of the National Council for the Certification of University Titles, Diplomas, and Certificates;
- h) Ministerial Order no. 5110 of 17th September 2018 approving the national minimum standards for awarding the title of Doctor;
- i) Order no. 3131/2018 of 30th January 2018 regarding the inclusion in the curricula, for all higher education programs organized in institutions within the national higher education system, of courses on academic ethics and integrity.

2. General Provisions

The terms and expressions below are used in this Regulation and have the same meaning as given in Order no. 3020/2024 in the Framework Regulation on Doctoral Studies, Art. 2:

- a) Doctoral Studies;
- b) doctoral study program;
- c) doctoral field of study;
- d) institution organizing Doctoral Studies (IDUS). In this Regulation, IDUS refers to Babeș-Bolyai University (BBU) or IDUS-BBU;
- e) Council for Doctoral Studies (CDUS);
- f) Doctoral School (SD);



- g) doctoral student;
- h) doctoral supervisor;
- i) doctoral study contract;
- j) academic mobility;
- k) doctoral thesis;
- l) doctoral diploma;
- m) council of the Doctoral School (CDS);
- n) co-author of a publication;
- o) fabrication of results or data;
- p) falsification of results or data;
- q) plagiarism;
- r) self-plagiarism;
- s) joint Doctoral Studies - the doctoral student carries out activities under the simultaneous supervision of a doctoral supervisor from Romania and a doctoral supervisor from another country, or under the simultaneous supervision of two doctoral supervisors from different IDUSs in Romania, or under the supervision of two supervisors from the same IDUS, in accordance with legal provisions and based on a written agreement between the involved organizing institutions. These aspects will be reflected in the joint doctoral study contract;
- t) dual higher education - the form of higher education in which responsibilities regarding learning, teaching, applied activities, research, and assessment are shared between the accredited higher education institution and economic operators.

Article 3 - Types of Doctorate (Scientific and Professional, Dual Doctorate)

(1) Doctoral programs are organized within Doctoral Schools and are of two types:

- a) Scientific Doctorate, which aims to produce original scientific knowledge with international relevance, based on scientific methods. It can be offered in full-time or part-time formats. The scientific doctorate forms the basis for a professional career in higher education and research. Upon completion of a scientific doctoral program, Babeş-Bolyai University awards the diploma and the title of Doctor of Science, abbreviated as Dr. The diploma explicitly states the disciplinary or interdisciplinary field of the doctorate.
- b) Professional Doctorate, in all fields, including dual higher education, which aims to produce original knowledge based on the application of scientific methods, systematic reflection, or applied research on artistic creations, high-level national and international sports performance, or topics of practical importance, forming a basis for a professional career in higher education and research in the relevant fields. The professional doctorate



can be offered in full-time or part-time formats. Upon completion of a professional doctoral program, Babeş-Bolyai University awards the diploma and the title of Doctor in a Professional Field, abbreviated as Dr.P. The diploma explicitly states the professional field of the doctorate. In the fields of arts and sports, scientific Doctoral Studies may also be conducted if the research topic aligns with the criteria described above.

(2) Each Doctoral School at Babeş-Bolyai University will specify individually, for each doctoral student position offered at admission, the type of doctorate provided, based on a decision of the Doctoral School council, in accordance with the school's accreditation documents and its internal regulations.

(3) Dual higher education is organized at the third cycle level through a professional doctorate, according to a methodology approved by ministerial order. The main characteristics of dual higher education are:

a) The curriculum for dual higher education includes learning, teaching, work-based learning, and evaluation activities. The workload for learning, teaching, and work-based learning activities is equally shared and estimated according to ECTS/SECT credits.

b) IDUS-BBU organizes and carries out learning, teaching, and evaluation activities, while economic operators organize work-based learning activities and participate in evaluation. Applied and research activities may take place at IDUS-BBU or at economic operators.

c) IDUS-BBU signs a partnership contract with economic operators, establishing collaboration conditions, rights and obligations of the parties, and costs assumed by the partners.

d) The doctoral student signs an individual study and practical/research training contract with IDUS-BBU and the economic operator, which establishes the rights and obligations of all parties.

(4) Competences acquired upon completing Doctoral Studies correspond to level 8 qualifications in the EQF/CEC and CNC.

(5) Doctoral programs provide professional competences (content, cognitive, and research) in specialized fields, as well as transversal competences.

(6) For the purposes of this regulation, professional competences include:

a) Advanced knowledge in the field;

b) Ability to identify, formulate, and solve research problems creatively;



- c) Mastery of advanced research methods and techniques;
- d) Knowledge of research project management;
- e) Mastery of new research procedures and solutions;
- f) Skills in documenting and utilizing scientific works;
- g) Ability to write scientific and academic materials at an advanced level, in a style appropriate to the field, respecting national and international standards;
- h) Ability to process and analyse data at an advanced level, including through dedicated software, depending on the field;
- i) Academic language skills in international languages necessary for documentation and preparation of scientific works;
- j) Understanding and application of principles and values of research ethics in the relevant field.

(7) For the purposes of this regulation, transversal competences include:

- a) Written and oral communication skills in science and culture;
- b) Advanced language skills in international languages, including expressing and formulating ideas in multicultural and multilingual contexts;
- c) Advanced digital skills, part of societal digital transformation, including the use of artificial intelligence;
- d) Interpersonal and teamwork skills;
- e) Knowledge of human, material, and financial resource management;
- f) Knowledge of career management, including job search techniques and creating jobs for others;
- g) Knowledge of risk, crisis, and failure management;
- h) Critical thinking skills, including the ability to analyze, interpret, and reason in various contexts;
- i) Knowledge of intellectual property legislation;
- j) Innovation skills and understanding of economic, technological, and social entrepreneurship concepts.

Article 4 - Forms of Study (Full-Time, Part-Time), Clarifications

- (1) Doctoral programs may be organized in the following forms of study: full-time and part-time.
- (2) Doctoral programs organized as full-time studies include a scholarship. Doctoral programs organized as part-time studies do not include a scholarship.
- (3) The obligations related to full-time and part-time study forms are proposed by each Doctoral School through its internal regulations, according to the characteristics of the field and the



activities necessary to respect the student's individual doctoral program and to complete the doctoral thesis. These obligations must be endorsed by the Faculty Council to which the Doctoral School is subordinated, by the CDUS, and by the BBU Board of Administration, and approved by the University Senate.

(4) When establishing these obligations, the number of mandatory credits and the workload corresponding to each credit for the doctoral student, according to current legislation, shall be taken into account.

(5) In preparing the individual study plans, the doctoral supervisor, together with the doctoral student, shall respect these obligations, taking into consideration that each course may have a role as fundamental, specialized, or complementary, as well as its research component within the individual doctoral study program.

(6) Candidates for professional Doctoral Studies may choose, at the time of registration for the admission competition, one of the study forms in accordance with the obligations established in the regulations.

Article 5 - Forms of Funding (State-Funded / Tuition-Fee / Other Sources), Clarifications

(1) Doctoral Studies are organized by the Institute for Doctoral University Studies (IDUS) of Babeş-Bolyai University. They are conducted exclusively within the doctoral programs offered by the Doctoral Schools, which are either provisionally authorized or accredited, under the authority of Babeş-Bolyai University. Doctoral Schools are subordinated to the Institute of Doctoral Studies.

(2) Doctoral Studies may be funded from the state budget, through tuition fees, or from other legally established sources.

(3) Funding for Doctoral Studies may also be provided by private legal entities or research-development institutes based on a contract with IDUS-BBU.

(4) Private legal entities may propose research topics relevant to their area of interest to doctoral supervisors at IDUS-BBU and may agree to provide additional funding. At the proposal of the doctoral supervisors, IDUS-BBU may enter into contracts with such private legal entities, specifying the rights and obligations of the parties.

(5) By government decision initiated by the Ministry of Education, an annual number of state-funded doctoral positions equal to the number of grants is allocated. The methodology for calculating higher education funding takes into account the costs, by field and type of doctoral



program, for both the advanced studies program and the individual research program, whether scientific or applied.

(6) The allocation of positions and grants to IDUS-BBU is approved by order of the Minister of Education.

(7) Grants for Doctoral Studies include the amount of individual scholarships for full-time scientific/professional doctoral programs, but do not include scholarships for part-time doctoral programs.

(8) IDUS-BBU transparently validates, through its own regulations, the criteria and method for distributing state-funded positions and doctoral scholarships to the Doctoral Schools, as well as the minimum percentage of the doctoral grant allocated exclusively to the professional training of doctoral students.

(9) IDUS-BBU will allocate at least 20% of doctoral grant funding to research activities conducted by doctoral students, including for their national and international mobility.

(10) Payment of doctoral student benefits is made in accordance with the law, without excluding other forms of remuneration provided by current legal provisions.

(11) A person may receive state-funded support for only one doctoral program.

(12) Individuals who have the necessary financial resources, either from their own means or from scholarships provided by individuals or legal entities, may be admitted as tuition-fee doctoral students, in accordance with the rules set out in the IDUS-BBU tuition regulations.

3. Institute for Doctoral Studies (IDUS)

Article 6

(1) IDUS is the higher education institution that has obtained recognition of this status following an external quality evaluation process, according to the law.

(2) The legal representative of IDUS is the Rector of the University.

(3) IDUS-BBU is responsible for approving, communicating, and ensuring compliance with its own regulations on the organization and conduct of doctoral programs, developed based on the law and this regulation, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 12 of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions.



- (4)** IDUS-BBU shall continuously work to enhance the quality of the educational and research experience of its doctoral students by creating as many opportunities as possible for personal and professional development, ensuring study and research conditions in foreign languages, and increasing the number of international mobility opportunities for doctoral students. At least 20% of doctoral grant funding shall be allocated to research activities carried out by doctoral students, including for their national and international mobility.
- (5)** The involvement of IDUS-BBU in developing partnerships with prestigious foreign higher education institutions, as well as the number of international mobilities of doctoral students and supervisors, constitutes a criterion for periodic evaluation of IDUS.
- (6)** Doctoral Schools, through their own regulations, establish the criteria for recognizing internships completed in previous programs or mobilities undertaken by the doctoral student. Activities for which credits have been earned may be recognized in accordance with the transferable credits regulations, as well as with the specifications in the curricula and the similarity elements in syllabi.
- (7)** CDUS validates the recognition of internships approved by subordinate Doctoral Schools and completed by doctoral students during internal and international mobilities.
- (8)** IDUS-BBU may establish partnerships for conducting doctoral programs with other higher education institutions and/or research-development units or private legal entities.
- (9)** IDUS-BBU provides institutional, administrative, and logistical support to its subordinate Doctoral Schools.
- (10)** Within its institutional framework, IDUS-BBU has specific management and administrative structures for doctoral programs, including at the level of Doctoral Schools. These structures operate in accordance with the law and this regulation.
- (11)** IDUS-BBU develops and implements mechanisms to increase the retention of doctoral students in the university environment, including support for doctoral students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, without eliminating academic merit and criteria.
- (12)** IDUS-BBU, in collaboration with the Career Counselling and Guidance Center (BBUCORE) or other structures within IDUS, organizes specific activities for doctoral students: guidance on participation in academic/research events; periodic courses on academic writing, academic integrity, scientific communication; administrative support; and other activities to support doctoral students.



4. Council for Doctoral Studies (CDUS)

Article 7

- (1) At the level of IDUS-BBU, doctoral training activities are coordinated by CDUS.
- (2) CDUS operates based on the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments, the provisions of this regulation, and IDUS-BBU's own regulations.
- (3) The main responsibilities of CDUS are:
 - a) defining the strategy of IDUS-BBU;
 - b) developing its own regulations for organizing and conducting doctoral programs at IDUS level and obtaining the approval of the BBU Senate;
 - c) making proposals for the establishment and dissolution of Doctoral Schools within IDUS-BBU;
 - d) selecting doctoral supervisors for newly established Doctoral Schools;
 - e) setting requirements for the preparation of doctoral theses;
 - f) developing ethical and deontological standards applicable during Doctoral Studies;
 - g) performing other specific duties as established by IDUS-BBU's own regulations, in accordance with the law;
 - h) establishing criteria regarding the organization and functioning of doctoral programs in Doctoral Schools, including those related to admission, curricula, evaluation of doctoral students, and selection criteria for official referees for doctoral committees;
 - i) ensuring compliance with criteria for completion, evaluation, and utilization of doctoral program outcomes, including doctoral theses;
 - j) developing procedures for periodic evaluation, at intervals not exceeding 5 years, of the supervision activities performed by tenured doctoral supervisors;
 - k) approving doctoral programs of Doctoral Schools and submitting them to the BBU Senate for approval;
 - l) making proposals, including normative initiatives, to support the employment of graduates of doctoral programs;
 - m) developing methodologies to track the professional progression of doctoral graduates over time;
 - n) proposing and reviewing proposals from Doctoral Schools regarding agreements, partnerships, or consortia for conducting doctoral programs and co-tutelle doctorates;
 - o) proposing the allocation of resources for financing doctoral programs and submitting them for approval to the BBU Senate;



- p) promoting the image of BBU's doctoral programs nationally and internationally;
 - q) analyzing and resolving complaints submitted to the Institute of Doctoral Studies.
- (4) CDUS is led by a director, who is an ex officio member of CDUS. The position of CDUS Director is equivalent to that of a Vice-Rector.
- (5) The CDUS Director is appointed following a public competition organized by IDUS-BBU's legal representative, based on a methodology approved by the university Senate.
- (6) CDUS members are elected by universal, direct, secret, and equal vote of doctoral supervisors and doctoral students within IDUS-BBU's Doctoral Schools.
- (7) CDUS consists of 17 members.
- (8) The mandate of CDUS members is 5 years.
- (9) CDUS members include:
- a) doctoral supervisors within IDUS-BBU, according to legislation defining doctoral supervisors;
 - b) doctoral supervisors from national or international institutions;
 - c) representatives of doctoral students from IDUS-BBU's Doctoral Schools, comprising 25% of the members.
- (10) The status of a doctoral student representative in CDUS, in the Doctoral School council (CȘD), or other representative structures at the higher education institution cannot be conditioned in any way, except for fulfilling obligations under Art. 15. Interference by faculty members in the election of doctoral student representatives constitutes a disciplinary violation and is sanctioned according to Art. 175 of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments.
- (11) CDUS meets monthly or whenever necessary, at the request of the CDUS Director or at least one-third of its members.
- (12) Administrative activities related to the conduct of Doctoral Studies at BBU and actions of the Institute for Doctoral University Studies (IDUS) are carried out by the Institute's Secretariat. Secretariat members are employed under fixed- or open-term contracts by BBU and report to the CDUS Director.



5. Doctoral Schools

Article 8

The purpose of Doctoral Schools is to train a new generation of researchers by providing advanced and extended education, building on the diploma obtained upon completion of master's studies. This training includes teaching, seminars, evaluation, scientific research, research valorization, technological development, design, and artistic creation, according to the specific field of the doctorate.

- (1) The general framework for organizing and operating Doctoral Schools is established by this regulation and the Doctoral Schools' own regulations.
- (2) Within IDUS-BBU, one or more Doctoral Schools may operate. The establishment or dissolution of Doctoral Schools is proposed by CDUS and approved by the university Senate.
- (3) Doctoral Schools provide advanced training for doctoral students through teaching, seminars, evaluation, scientific research, technological development, design, and artistic creation, adapted to the specific fields in which the doctoral programs are offered.
- (4) Within IDUS, a Doctoral School has the same status as a department. It is led by the Doctoral School director and the Doctoral School council. The director is equivalent to a department head, and the council is equivalent to a departmental council. The director is an ex officio member of the Doctoral School council.
- (5) The outcomes of a Doctoral School must be reflected in the scientific level of publications and doctoral theses produced by its students.
- (6) Each academic year, Doctoral Schools organize at least one scientific communication session for doctoral students, open also to other young researchers from BBU or elsewhere.
- (7) The director manages the operational leadership of the Doctoral School, overseeing the preparation and implementation of curricula, staffing, research and quality management, and supporting IDUS leadership in financial management of the school. The director is assisted by the Doctoral School council.
- (8) The selection, hiring, periodic evaluation, training, motivation, and termination of employment of staff are the responsibility of the director, in accordance with the university charter.



- (9) Staffing plans are developed at the department or Doctoral School level, in consultation with members, and approved by the faculty council or, as applicable, by the Doctoral School council, the university rector, and finally the university Senate.
- (10) The staffing plan includes all doctoral supervisors required for the operation of the school and all doctoral student positions under their supervision. Minimum numbers of supervisors and students are calculated based on the number of fields in which the school offers programs.
- (11) Positions for auxiliary teaching and administrative staff are determined by the university Senate based on budget, school specifics, and technical-administrative structure.
- (12) If teaching load requirements cannot be fully met by law, the difference up to the minimum teaching load may be covered by research activities, with council approval, director proposal, and administration approval. Research hours are counted as 0.5 conventional hours. Faculty retain tenure in their teaching position.
- (13) Separate research staff may also be employed on fixed- or open-term contracts.
- (14) Research staff perform duties as defined in their job descriptions by the school leadership.
- (15) Doctoral Schools operate with doctoral supervisors who have obtained the legal right to supervise. A school can only be constituted if it includes at least three doctoral supervisors.
- (16) A Doctoral School can be established if it meets at least the following criteria:
- a) has a core of at least three doctoral supervisors with permanent contracts at BBU;
 - b) has access to scientific resources and facilities necessary for high-quality research;
 - c) ensures financial sustainability through budgetary or extra-budgetary resources;
 - d) maintains links with scientific, economic, cultural, and social environments that support school objectives and may provide additional funding or equipment.
- (17) Schools may set transparent minimum scientific performance standards for supervisors to become members.
- (18) Other researchers or faculty involved in research or teaching may also affiliate with the school, from partner institutions of IDUS or other national/international institutions or research units.
- (19) At the school level, the director and council members are elected by universal, direct, secret vote of the school's doctoral supervisors and students.
- (20) Only doctoral supervisors within the school may be elected to the council. Council members serve a 5-year term.



- (21) The Doctoral School council may include 3–5 supervisors.
- (22) Doctoral students have at least one representative in the council.
- (23) Schools provide a program of advanced studies including courses, seminars, laboratories, and similar activities.
- (24) The advanced studies program includes a mandatory course in ethics and academic integrity, including research ethics, for all enrolled doctoral students.
- (25) Schools may establish research centers or laboratories operating as revenue and expenditure units within IDUS-BBU.
- (26) The implementation of the doctoral program is determined by the supervisor, in consultation with the student, and approved by the school council.

Article 9 - Doctoral School Council Responsibilities

The council's main responsibilities include:

- a) developing the school's regulations;
- b) granting/withdrawing status of full doctoral supervisor, affiliated faculty, or affiliated researcher;
- c) deciding, upon supervisor proposal, on student enrollment;
- d) deciding, if applicable, on student dismissal;
- e) reassigning supervision if a supervisor reaches 65 and does not wish to continue;
- f) approving staffing plans;
- g) determining the content of each doctoral program, including course hours, credits, and teaching staff, and weighting individual, group, and research activities;
- h) approving individual study plans;
- i) implementing procedures to track research outcomes for thesis evaluation;
- j) ensuring strict adherence to doctoral program structures;
- k) conducting internal program evaluation to revise and adapt curricula;
- l) providing complete and accurate information to candidates on admissions, program content, evaluation criteria, and research valorization;
- m) defining rules for collaboration between supervisors and doctoral students;
- n) setting scientific performance standards for doctoral committee members and creating a list of eligible institutions for official referees;
- o) approving doctoral committees;
- p) assisting external evaluators in accreditation processes.



Article 10 - Doctoral School Regulations

- (1) The school regulations are developed by the council in consultation with all full supervisors, respecting current legislation.
- (2) Regulations are approved by universal, direct, secret vote of the majority of full supervisors, then reviewed by the faculty council, and finally approved by CDUS.
- (3) Regulations are updated as needed to reflect new legal provisions affecting the school.
- (4) Regulations set mandatory criteria, procedures, and standards for each doctoral program, covering at least:
 - a) granting/revoking supervisor status or affiliated staff status;
 - b) types of doctorate offered (scientific/professional, dual);
 - c) student selection and admission;
 - d) prior performance and study requirements of candidates;
 - e) attendance obligations;
 - f) advanced studies program activities;
 - g) research activities, team involvement, and resource access;
 - h) supervision procedures, including changing supervisors;
 - i) fraud prevention and sanctions, including plagiarism;
 - j) student evaluation, including research dissemination;
 - k) periodic evaluation of full supervisors, focusing on research outcomes;
 - l) internal monitoring and evaluation indicators;
 - m) organization of bodies to handle appeals regarding regulations.
- (5) Staffing plans for teaching and research personnel are developed by the director in consultation with members, approved by the council, faculty council, administration, and finally by the university Senate.
- (6) Staffing plans are prepared annually before the academic year begins and cannot be modified during the year, following the staffing plan preparation regulations approved by the Senate.

6. Admission to Doctoral Studies

Article 11



- (1) Admission to Doctoral Studies is the process of selecting candidates for vacant doctoral student positions that supervisors within a Doctoral School decide to offer during admission sessions organized by IDUS-BBU through the Doctoral Schools.
- (2) Only graduates with a master's degree or equivalent are eligible to apply, and the cumulative number of transferable credits earned in the bachelor's and master's cycles must be at least 300. Recognition of credits required for admission is based on a specific procedure approved by the university's Board of Administration.
- (3) According to legislation, long-cycle bachelor's degrees obtained before the implementation of the three-cycle Bologna system are equivalent to a master's degree in the relevant field. Therefore, holders of such degrees may apply to Doctoral Studies without completing the master's cycle.
- (4) Citizens of EU member states, EEA states, Switzerland, as well as British citizens and their family members (under the UK Withdrawal Agreement 2019/C 384 I/01), may participate in all cycles of higher education on the same terms as Romanian citizens, including tuition fees.
- (5) Research topics for each vacant doctoral student position are proposed by the supervisor and approved by the Doctoral School council.
- (6) The funding type for each doctoral student position is approved by CDUS before the position is announced, based on the research topic proposed, the institutional funding strategy for priority areas, and IDUS's internal regulations.
- (7) Admission is conducted through a competitive process organized by Babeş-Bolyai University via IDUS and the Doctoral Schools, following the national framework methodology for admission to higher education institutions and BBU's internal regulations.
- (8) Enrollment in a doctoral program is not conditional on the field of the candidate's bachelor's or master's degree.
- (9) At application, the candidate selects a supervisor from those offering positions and competes for one of their allocated positions. Foreign candidates (*EU and non-EU*) and "*Romanians Everywhere*" must obtain a signed "Letter of Intent" from the prospective supervisor.
- (10) Admission is conditional on passing the entrance exam according to legal provisions.
- (11) The selection of candidates for a vacant position is organized by the supervising doctoral supervisor. If successful, the supervisor will guide the student within their Doctoral School.



- (12) The admission exam includes at least two components:
- a) a written specialty test based on a topic announced by the supervisor at least two months prior;
 - b) an interview evaluating the candidate's scientific/artistic interests, research/creative skills, and proposed thesis topic.
- (13) Additional (even eliminatory) tests may be included depending on the field, at the request of supervisors and with council approval.
- (14) Exams are conducted before an admission committee composed of the supervisor offering the position and at least two other BBU specialists (associate professors or senior researchers). The supervisor chairs the committee.
- (15) The minimum average required for admission is 7.00, calculated to two decimal places without rounding.
- (16) Admission committees are proposed by Doctoral School councils and approved by the CDUS director.
- (17) Based on evaluation criteria, the committee nominates the candidate to fill the position. Enrollment requires the Doctoral School council's approval and provisional or full accreditation of the school.
- (18) ISD specifies and publishes required documents for admission at its headquarters, on its website, and on Doctoral School websites. Information must be posted at least 30 days before the exam.
- (19) Doctoral Schools ensure transparency of admission procedures and candidate access to information.
- (20) Schools establishing specific admission criteria must post them on their website and submit them to ISD at least two months before enrollment. Admission may be held online if permitted by the regulations.
- (21) Evaluation and selection criteria must not promote any form of direct or indirect discrimination.
- (22) After admission, the school publishes the ranking of admitted/rejected candidates, indicating doctoral grant recipients and type of enrollment.
- (23) The school handles appeals according to IDUS-BBU regulations and publishes the results.



- (24) Doctoral School directors are responsible for proper conduct of admission in accordance with quality, academic ethics, and law.
- (25) All admitted candidates are included in CDUS's admission decision, detailing funding type for that session.
- (26) After enrollment, all doctoral students are registered in the Unified Student Register (USR).
- (27) Doctoral student status is granted upon enrollment and is conditional on:
 - a) passing the entrance exam;
 - b) confirming the admitted place;
 - c) signing the Doctoral Studies contract;
 - d) completing and signing the individual doctoral study plan;
 - e) completing other annexes required for interruptions, status changes, or exceptional cases.

Article 12 - Doctoral Studies Contract

- (1) The contract governs the activities of the doctoral program, defining the rights and obligations of IDUS-BBU, the supervisor, and the student, in accordance with the law, university charter, and Senate decisions.
- (2) A model framework contract is prepared by CDUS according to IDUS-BBU regulations and made available to all Doctoral Schools.
- (3) Each student signs an individual contract with their supervisor, the Doctoral School director, and the legal representative of IDUS-BBU.
- (4) Contracts can be modified by addenda signed by all parties.
- (5) Tuition fees remain constant for the normal duration of study, indexed at most by inflation, for the same student cohort.
- (6) The individual doctoral study plan is an annex to the contract, detailing the student's doctoral path, including type of study, funding, thesis title/topic, advanced studies program, scientific/artistic research plan, and other relevant information regarding the doctoral period.

7. Conduct of Doctoral Studies

Article 13



- (1) Doctoral Studies are conducted based on a Doctoral Studies contract concluded, through the Institute for Doctoral University Studies (IDUS), between the doctoral student, their supervisor, and Babeş-Bolyai University, which defines the rights and obligations of the student, the supervisor, and, through the Doctoral School, the university.
- (2) The individual doctoral study plan is an annex to the contract and includes obligations regarding the doctoral path, signed by both the supervisor and the doctoral student. The plan is approved by the Doctoral School council and serves as a reference for staffing and workload allocations.
- (3) The supervisor is assisted in their work with the doctoral student by a Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee composed of three additional faculty or research staff members holding a PhD and at least the position of assistant professor or scientific researcher grade III (or equivalent). Members of this committee may belong to the supervisor's research team, may be affiliated or unaffiliated faculty/researchers. For doctoral students admitted from the 2024-2025 academic year, at least one member of the committee must be from outside the university.
- (4) The composition of the guidance and integrity committee is established by the supervisor in consultation with the student after admission but before the start of the academic year. Changes may only occur at the start of the academic year (except in cases of death, medical/maternity leave, or termination of employment) upon request approved by the Doctoral School and CDUS director.
- (5) A doctoral student's program is planned in the individual study plan for four academic years (each consisting of two semesters) and includes:
 - a) a program of advanced studies conducted within the Doctoral School, consisting of structured study activities;
 - b) an individual research/artistic creation program.
- (6) The advanced studies program provides training through didactic-scientific activities (courses, seminars, labs, etc.) and is conducted in one of the two semesters of the first year. Its duration is 12-14 weeks and cannot be extended.
- (7) The individual research/artistic creation program is organized in the field of research/art in which the supervisor specializes and is planned for the entire doctoral period. In special cases requiring a longer period, the program may be extended once by 2 or 4 semesters according to this regulation.



- (8) Doctoral Studies may be suspended upon request, in accordance with Art. 23 of this regulation.
- (9) Suspension may be requested from the second semester of the first year at the earliest and no later than the beginning of the second semester of the fourth year. Suspensions cannot be requested during extended study periods.
- (10) The cumulative duration of suspensions for a doctoral student may not exceed 4 semesters.
- (11) Suspensions are approved by the CDUS director upon request from the student, with the consent of the supervisor and the Doctoral School council.
- (12) The normal duration of Doctoral Studies is 4 years. In special cases, the duration may be extended or reduced with the necessary approvals.
- (13) Extensions may be granted only once, in accordance with Art. 22 of this regulation.
- (14) For programs regulated at the European level, doctoral study duration follows applicable regulations.
- (15) During the extension period mentioned in (13), the doctoral student is not eligible for a scholarship from a Ministry doctoral grant.
- (16) Suspensions and extensions are formalized through addenda to the Doctoral Studies contract.
- (17) Doctoral Studies conclude with the public defense of an original work, the doctoral thesis, representing the student's research or artistic activity. The thesis must meet the Doctoral School's requirements. Awarding the doctoral title depends on the thesis and its public defense.
- (18) A student is considered to have completed their Doctoral Studies if they have publicly defended the thesis and received at least a "*Satisfactory*" grade from all committee members.
- (19) During their studies, doctoral students are credited for work experience; students under 26 are entitled to free medical and dental care, without mandatory social contributions, according to the law.
- (20) The period of Doctoral Studies counts toward pension contributions according to relevant legislation.
- (21) Doctoral students may be employed by IDUS-BBU as research assistants and perform activities in accordance with Art. 15 of this regulation.



(22) Upon thesis defense, at the student's request, IDUS-BBU issues a certificate confirming the period of Doctoral Studies.

(23) Exmatriculation of a doctoral student is decided by the BBU Rector. It occurs when the supervisor, Doctoral School, ISD, or university ethics committee determines that the student has failed to meet contract obligations, violated doctoral regulations, or breached academic ethics and integrity, resulting in unilateral termination of the Doctoral Studies contract.

8. Doctoral Supervisors

Article 14

(1) Doctoral supervisors are individuals who obtained the right to supervise Doctoral Studies before the entry into force of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023 (as subsequently amended) or individuals who have obtained the habilitation certificate and become members of a Doctoral School within an IDUS, under an individual employment contract.

(2) A doctoral supervisor may supervise doctoral students only in the *field(s)* for which they have obtained this right. Exceptionally, when establishing a new doctoral study field, supervisors from the same scientific branch may supervise students.

(3) Faculty or research staff with the right to supervise Doctoral Studies at a non-IDUS higher education or research institution may join a Doctoral School at IDUS-BBU.

(4) A doctoral supervisor may only supervise doctoral students in one IDUS at a time, except in the case of joint/cotutelle doctoral programs.

(5) Starting with the 2026-2027 academic year, a doctoral supervisor may supervise a maximum of 8 doctoral students simultaneously, regardless of the number of fields in which they are habilitated. Students supervised under a cotutelle arrangement in a secondary role are not included. Exceptionally, up to 12 doctoral students per supervisor may be allowed with the approval of the University Senate, but this applies to no more than 20% of supervisors in a Doctoral School.

(6) Until the date specified in (5), the maximum number of doctoral students that a supervisor can supervise simultaneously is 12.

(7) Supervisors are remunerated for their activities in accordance with current legislation.



(8) Upon a justified request from the doctoral student, the Doctoral School Council may approve a change of supervisor if the current supervisor has failed to fulfill legal or contractual obligations, for other issues affecting the supervisory relationship, or if the supervisor is unavailable. In such cases, the council must appoint a new supervisor in the same field within 30 days.

(9) If the termination of supervision occurs due exclusively to the supervisor's fault, the Doctoral School will propose disciplinary measures to CDUS according to IDUS-BBU regulations.

(10) When appointing a new supervisor, the Doctoral School council prioritizes ensuring the student can complete their doctoral program in the field specified in the study contract. If no available supervisor exists within IDUS-BBU, the university will facilitate the student's academic mobility to another IDUS in the same field.

(11) The supervisor is assisted by a Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee. The formation of this committee is determined by IDUS-BBU regulations.

(12) Members of the committee may be part of the supervisor's research team, may be affiliated or unaffiliated faculty/researchers. At least one member must be from outside the higher education institution.

(13) Members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee cannot be members of the doctoral thesis defense committee.

(14) Supervisors' rights and obligations are derived from Law no. 199/2023 (as amended), IDUS-BBU regulations, the Doctoral School regulations, and their employment contract.

(15) Supervisors' rights include:

- a) to guide and evaluate the doctoral student's work according to professional and academic autonomy while respecting the doctoral program's requirements and the student's professional interests;
- b) to propose the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and the doctoral defense committee;
- c) to receive impartial internal and external evaluations per the evaluation methodology;
- d) to know the evaluation methodology used for internal and external evaluations;
- e) to know the results of their internal and external evaluations;
- f) to refuse supervision of a doctoral student if it would place them in a conflict of interest;
- g) to request the Doctoral School council to terminate supervision of a student with



justification;

- h) to request that the Doctoral School organize an admission competition for each vacant doctoral position under their supervision;
- i) to decide the study components of the advanced study program in which the student must participate, in accordance with this regulation;
- j) to participate in competitions for doctoral grants.

(16) Supervisors' obligations include:

- a) ensuring scientific, professional, and ethical guidance for each doctoral student;
- b) proposing research topics;
- c) providing conditions and fostering progress in the students' research;
- d) objectively and rigorously monitoring and evaluating each doctoral student;
- e) supporting doctoral students' mobility;
- f) avoiding conflicts of interest in supervising doctoral students;
- g) taking all necessary steps to verify that Doctoral Theses comply with the requirements for original work.

9. Doctoral Students

Article 15

(1) A person admitted to a doctoral program holds the status of doctoral student for the entire duration of their enrollment, from registration until completion of the program or exmatriculation, excluding periods of study interruption but including any extensions granted according to the study contract and IDUS-BBU regulations.

(2) The status of doctoral student is maintained during approved internal and international mobility periods. For international doctoral students studying independently with their own funding, the recognition of transferable credits is carried out by IDUS-BBU under its academic autonomy.

(3) Recognition of transferable credits for national or international mobility is granted by IDUS-BBU only to those who can prove their status as a doctoral student with official study documents issued by the higher education institution they attended.

(4) The conditions and procedures for academic mobility are established by a methodology approved by order of the Minister of Education.



(5) Recognition, equivalence, and validation of studies completed in Romania or abroad are carried out according to a framework methodology approved by the Minister of Education and specific methodologies approved by the University Senate of each higher education institution, following European standards for the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

(6) Doctoral students may be employed by IDUS-BBU as research or teaching assistants for a fixed term following a competitive selection process. Participation conditions are determined by each Doctoral School.

(7) Doctoral students receiving a scholarship will carry out teaching activities of 2 to 6 hours per week within their area of competence, over at least 3 semesters (seminars or labs) or other documentable activities (through a monthly activity report) in support of their department and/or Doctoral School.

(8) Doctoral students employed as research assistants may also carry out paid teaching activities per hour, in accordance with current legislation.

(9) During their doctoral program, doctoral students have the following rights:

- a) to receive support, guidance, and supervision from their doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee;
- b) to participate in seminars or meetings of research-development staff at IDUS-BBU when topics relevant to Doctoral Studies are discussed;
- c) to be represented in decision-making bodies of the Doctoral School, according to this regulation;
- d) to access and use IDUS-BBU research infrastructure, including logistics, documentation centers, libraries (including international databases), and equipment for their research projects and doctoral thesis;
- e) to enroll in courses and seminars organized by other Doctoral Schools;
- f) to collaborate with research teams within IDUS-BBU or partner research units, with interdisciplinary initiatives encouraged and supported;
- g) to be included in research project teams, including participation in drafting and submitting funding proposals;
- h) to benefit from national or international mobility;
- i) to receive institutional support to attend conferences, workshops, summer/winter schools, and seminars in their doctoral field;
- j) to participate in scientific communication sessions organized by the Doctoral School



and/or IDUS-BBU;

k) to be informed about the doctoral curriculum within their school;

l) to benefit from student support services at the institution, including accommodation and canteen facilities;

m) to request a change of supervisor for well-founded reasons;

n) to be represented in the decision-making bodies of the Doctoral School, CDUS, and the BBU Senate, according to Doctoral School regulations, this regulation, and the BBU Charter;

o) to carry out internships with public or private economic agents domestically or abroad;

p) to engage in other professional activities at the request of their supervisor or Doctoral School;

q) to conduct teaching activities according to regulations.

(10) Doctoral students have the following obligations:

a) to comply with the schedule agreed with their supervisor and fulfill research and presentation obligations;

b) to accumulate 30 credits for mandatory courses upon completion of the advanced studies program and 60 credits at the end of each year of the 4-year doctoral pathway;

c) to present, at least once every 12 months, the progress of their research program to the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and their supervisor; scheduling these presentations in the individual study plan replaces the obligation to submit annual project and report requests;

d) to maintain regular contact with their supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee;

e) to respect institutional discipline without restriction of academic freedom;

f) to comply with university ethics and deontology policies and conduct studies and research in accordance with academic integrity standards;

g) to submit activity reports to the supervisor and committee upon request;

h) to respect BBU regulations and rules and maintain behavior appropriate to the status of doctoral student.

(11) Conflicts between the doctoral student and their supervisor are mediated by the Doctoral School council, and if unresolved at this level, by CDUS.

(12) Conflicts between the doctoral student and the Doctoral School are mediated by CDUS.

(13) The doctoral student is responsible for the originality of their doctoral thesis.



10. Doctoral Pathway

Article 16

(1) Doctoral Studies have a duration of 4 years and require the accumulation of a minimum of 240 transferable ECTS/SECT credits. Typically, one of these years, usually the first year, is dedicated to advanced doctoral preparation, totaling at least 60 transferable ECTS/SECT credits. Each of the 4 study years must accumulate at least 60 credits for the mandatory activities included in the individual doctoral study plan.

(2) The doctoral study program is conducted under the supervision of a doctoral advisor and includes:

- a) a program of advanced studies within the Doctoral School, for which a minimum of 30 credits must be accumulated;
- b) an individual program of scientific or applied research, depending on the fields where professional doctorates are organized. Within the research program, a research project must be completed in the first year, credited with 30 ECTS/SECT, and a research report must be submitted every 12 months in the following years, each credited with 60 ECTS/SECT.

Program of Advanced University Studies

Article 17

(1) The details of the program of advanced university studies and the individual program of scientific/artistic research are recorded in an individual doctoral study plan, prepared by the doctoral advisor and the doctoral student.

(2) The individual plan is approved by the Council of the Doctoral School where the doctoral advisor holds their position.

(3) The approved individual doctoral study plan must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Institute for Doctoral University Studies (IDUS) within 30 days from the date established by the Senate of Babeş-Bolyai University as the enrollment date for doctoral students admitted through the entrance examination.

(4) The individual doctoral study plan is an integral part of the Doctoral Studies contract.



- (5) Doctoral Schools provide students with a program of advanced studies consisting of activities conducted in institutionalized study formats, including courses, seminars, laboratories, and other complementary activities.
- (6) Within the advanced studies program, in the first year of Doctoral Studies, the doctoral student must participate in activities in at least 3 doctoral study courses. These courses should be offered in the same semester of the academic year, which lasts 12-14 weeks and cannot be extended.
- (7) Courses to be taken by a doctoral student within the advanced studies program can be selected from courses offered by the student's own Doctoral School or from another Doctoral School within Babeş-Bolyai University.
- (8) The annual curriculum plan of each Doctoral School must include courses relevant to the doctoral study fields accredited by NCCATDUC. For each course included, a number of ECTS credits must be assigned in accordance with national legislation on ECTS credit allocation.
- (9) The advanced studies program must include a course on ethics and academic integrity, including research ethics, which all enrolled doctoral students **must** complete.
- (10) **Other mandatory courses within the advanced studies program** are selected from the curriculum according to the doctoral student's choices and the recommendations of the doctoral advisor, taking into account the doctoral field and thesis topic.
- (11) Completion of the mandatory courses in the advanced studies program concludes with an evaluation determined by each Doctoral School and leads **to the acquisition of 30 ECTS**.
- (12) Doctoral students may optionally choose additional courses in the advanced studies program. If evaluated and credited, these optional courses cannot replace the credits of mandatory courses nor be counted toward the individual research program.
- (13) For each course attended within the advanced studies program, the doctoral student receives a certificate indicating the grade and credits obtained, issued and signed by the course instructor(s) and countersigned by the doctoral advisor/main doctoral advisor.
- (14) A course within the advanced studies program may be changed once, at the student's request, with the advisor's endorsement, and approved by the director of the Doctoral School.
- (15) The doctoral student cannot request a course change after the activities for that course have begun.



(16) If the doctoral student fails to accumulate the minimum 30 mandatory credits for courses in the advanced studies program, the doctoral advisor drafts a proposal for expulsion and requests the approval of the Doctoral School council. This request, signed by the advisor and endorsed by the council, is submitted to the CDUS director within 10 days after the end of the advanced preparation year.

Article 18

(1) The number of transferable credits constitutes the reference element used by higher education institutions for the recognition, equivalence, or validation of prior studies or study periods, for the purpose of continuing studies and transferring credits.

(2) The Doctoral School may, according to the law, recognize previous doctoral stages and/or research periods carried out domestically or internationally, under the conditions specified in Art. 24 of this regulation or subsequent regulations.

(3) Studies completed by a doctoral student in accordance with paragraph (2) may be recognized by the Doctoral School council, upon the doctoral advisor's proposal, as equivalent to the advanced studies program for that student. This takes into account both the field of the previous master's research program and the curriculum undertaken, as well as the doctoral thesis subject and the knowledge required for its development. Equivalence may be established according to the provisions of Art. 24 of this regulation.

Individual Program of Scientific Research / Artistic Creation

Article 19

(1) The individual program of scientific research or artistic creation has as its main objective the preparation of the doctoral thesis by the doctoral student. Responsibility for the structure, content, implementation, and organization of this program rests with the doctoral advisor.

(2) Recognition of certain elements or the entire individual program of scientific research/artistic creation can be made under the conditions described in Article 24, paragraph 5 of this regulation.

Article 20

(1) The doctoral student, together with the doctoral advisor, will present at least once every 12 months the progress of their doctoral thesis to the academic guidance and integrity committee through an oral presentation.



(2) To ensure a coherent scientific or artistic trajectory, the following activities are planned within the individual program of scientific research/artistic creation:

- a) In the first year of Doctoral Studies, the doctoral student presents a research/artistic project aimed at completing the doctoral thesis. Achieving a grade of “*pass*” for this activity grants 30 ECTS;
- b) In the second, third, and fourth years of Doctoral Studies, the doctoral student presents a research/artistic progress report on their scientific/artistic activity and results. Each report graded as “*pass*” is credited with 60 ECTS;
- c) If the doctoral thesis defense occurs before the fourth year, submission of all three reports remains mandatory. The presentations will be scheduled in advance accordingly, before the pre-defense procedures of the thesis.

(3) The doctoral advisor must attend every presentation, and at least two members of the academic guidance and integrity committee must be present at each presentation.

(4) Doctoral Schools may provide in their internal regulations the possibility of presenting the project or research reports via videoconference. In such cases, the Doctoral School must establish a methodology for conducting these presentations, including all organizational details and participants.

(5) Regardless of the mode of presentation, a record is drawn up after each presentation, noting the grade (“*pass*” or “*fail*”) and main observations and recommendations made by the doctoral advisor and the members of the academic guidance and integrity committee, including the date set for a second presentation of a “*failed*” project. The record must be signed in ink by the doctoral advisor and all committee members present.

(6) If the oral presentation is graded as “*fail*,” the doctoral student is required to revise and resubmit the research project or report within the same academic year.

(7) If the student again receives a “*fail*” grade or does not resubmit the project/report within the designated period, the doctoral advisor drafts a proposal for expulsion and requests the approval of the Doctoral School council. This request, signed by the advisor and endorsed by the council, is submitted to the CDUS director within 10 days of the second failed project/report or, if resubmission does not occur, no later than the beginning of the following academic year.

(8) Records signed by the doctoral advisor and committee members present are submitted to the Doctoral School secretariat.



(9) Completion of the advanced studies program and the individual program of scientific research or artistic creation within the doctoral cycle is certified through the issuance of a certificate.

Provisions Regarding the Doctoral Path

Article 21

The duration of the doctoral university program is 4 years. In special cases, the duration of the doctoral program may be extended by 1-2 years, with the approval of the University Senate, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, and within the limits of available funding, or reduced by one year, at the request of the doctoral student, with the agreement of the doctoral supervisor and the approval of the University Senate.

Extension of Doctoral Studies

Article 22

1. In special cases where a funded doctoral student (with or without a scholarship) has not completed their individual research program on time or has not defended their doctoral thesis, their doctoral supervisor may request, with the approval of the Doctoral School council, an extension of the Doctoral Studies by 2 or 4 university semesters.
2. The extension period is granted with the obligation to pay the tuition fees for the entire extension period, except in cases where:
 - a) the doctoral student has completed their individual scientific/applied research program and has successfully defended the doctoral thesis before the guidance and integrity committee; or
 - b) the doctoral student is included in national or international projects of strategic interest for the university, as defined by the BBU Scientific Council and approved by the BBU Board of Administration.

For doctoral students enrolled in fee-paying positions, the extension is granted under the fee-paying regime, except in the situations specified in points (a) and (b) above.

3. The extension can be granted only once. The extension request is submitted by the doctoral supervisor to the Secretariat of the Institute for Doctoral University Studies (IDS) and will then be forwarded by the CDUS Director for approval by the Babeş-Bolyai University Senate. The request must be filed at least 15 calendar days before the start of the academic year. If the request is not submitted on time, the doctoral student will be expelled, with the right to re-enroll under the conditions provided by law.



These provisions apply to all categories of doctoral students (funded or fee-paying), in all forms of education. The following rules also apply:

- a) During the extension period, the doctoral student is not entitled to scholarships and/or doctoral grants awarded by the relevant Ministry and may no longer request a suspension of studies.
 - b) During the fee-paying extension period, the doctoral student will continue to receive guidance from the doctoral supervisor and the guidance/integrity committee. Their activity will be remunerated in accordance with the legal provisions applicable to the doctoral stage.
 - c) If, at the end of the extension period, the doctoral student has not completed the individual doctoral study program and has not defended the doctoral thesis, they will be expelled by decision of the University Rector at the initiative of the Institute for Doctoral Studies.
4. The request for extension of the doctoral program must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Institute for Doctoral University Studies (IDUS) at least 15 days before the start of the academic year.
 5. The extension is formalized through an addendum to the Doctoral Studies contract.
 6. The fee for defending the doctoral thesis must be paid, according to the applicable Tuition Fee Regulations, only by students who entered the extension from a fee-paying position.

Interruption of Doctoral Studies

Article 23

1. Doctoral Studies may be suspended, based on a request, in the following situations: for medical reasons, for maternity leave or parental leave, or for other justified reasons. The reasons must be documented by submitting medical certificates or other supporting documents as annexes to the suspension request. The duration of studies is extended by the total length of all approved suspensions.
2. Any suspension of Doctoral Studies must begin on the first day of a university semester and end on the last day of a university semester, ensuring that the suspension period covers a whole number of semesters.



3. The cumulative duration of suspension periods granted to a doctoral student may not exceed 4 university semesters.
4. Suspensions are approved by the CDUS Director, at the request of the doctoral student, with the agreement of the doctoral supervisor and the Doctoral School council. For each suspension, an addendum to the Doctoral Studies contract is drawn up.
5. Requests for suspension of the doctoral program must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Institute for Doctoral University Studies (IDUS) at least 15 days before the start of the semester/academic year.
6. The suspension is formalized through an addendum to the Doctoral Studies contract.
7. Upon returning from the suspension period, a request to resume studies must be submitted by the doctoral student with the agreement of the doctoral supervisor and the Doctoral School.
8. From the moment of resuming studies after a suspension, fee-paying doctoral students will pay tuition fees in accordance with the conditions set out in Art. 31 of this regulation.

Recognition of Previous Studies / Credit Transfer

Article 24

1. The Doctoral School may recognize, in accordance with the IDUS-BBU regulations and the law, the completion of previous doctoral stages and/or scientific research stages, carried out in Romania or abroad, at higher education institutions or recognized research centers, as well as courses completed within research-oriented master's programs.
2. Recognition of a previous doctoral stage is possible only if the following cumulative conditions are met:
 - a) the previous stage is in the same field as the current one;
 - b) the research topic remains the same as in the previous stage;
 - c) the courses in the current curriculum match those previously completed, or at least the topics covered are similar.
3. Starting with the 2024–2025 academic year, recognition of courses from a previous individual study plan can be done:
 - a) directly, based on a recognition request, if ECTS credits have been accumulated for the courses in the previous plan. This must be certified by the ISD issuing a transcript



regarding the previous doctoral path.

- b) if the Doctoral School's regulations include a recognition mechanism and issue a certificate approved by the Doctoral School council. This certificate must be submitted to the ISD together with the recognition request signed by the doctoral supervisor. Documents must be submitted to the ISD no later than the first week of the academic year in which the doctoral student was admitted to the new doctoral program.
4. In the case of course recognition from the individual plan, the doctoral supervisor requests the Doctoral School to recognize credits based on the previous and current curricula. The Doctoral School council will examine the request, in consultation with the course instructor, following the established recognition procedures. As a result of the council meeting regarding recognition, a formal report will be prepared showing the completion of this process and the recognition of the plan.
 5. Recognition of elements or the entire individual scientific/artistic research plan can only occur if the thesis topic has remained unchanged, provided that credits were obtained for previous activities, or if the Doctoral School's regulations include a recognition mechanism and issue a certificate approved by the Doctoral School council. This certificate must be submitted to the IDUS together with the recognition request signed by the doctoral supervisor.

Student-Doctoral Mobility During Doctoral Studies

Article 25

1. Academic mobility of students may be internal or international and, as applicable, permanent or temporary.
2. Academic mobility can be carried out at the initiative of the doctoral student, subject to the following conditions:
 - a) existence of inter-institutional agreements;
 - b) approval from the accredited/provisionally authorized higher education institutions involved, both sending and receiving institutions. Inter-institutional approval consists of completing and signing the standard mobility request form, as provided in OM no. 4,262 of April 15, 2024.
3. Permanent academic mobility can take place within the same doctoral field, between accredited Doctoral Schools, after completing the advanced studies preparation program, in compliance with the relevant legal provisions.



4. Permanent academic mobility of doctoral students can also occur within the same Doctoral School in cases duly justified regarding doctoral supervisors (retirement, death, etc.).
5. The permanent mobility options available to the doctoral student are as follows:
 - a) from one doctoral supervisor to another, in cases duly justified regarding the supervisors (retirement, death, etc.), or with the agreement of all parties in other well-justified situations;
 - b) from one Doctoral School to another within IDUS while maintaining the same field and research topic;
 - c) from one IDUS to another IDUS.
6. Doctoral student mobility may only take place under a supervisor in the field in which the student was originally enrolled.
7. Mobility is carried out while maintaining the initially chosen research topic. In exceptional situations, if it is mutually agreed with the new supervisor to change the research topic, the reason for the change must be justified.
8. Mobility may only start at the beginning of the academic year, except in exceptional cases (death of the supervisor, illness, or other well-justified reasons).

Article 26

Mobility within IDUS is carried out based on a request justifying the mobility, approved by both doctoral supervisors and the councils of the two Doctoral Schools, and endorsed by the CDUS Director.

Permanent Mobility Between IDUS-BBU and Another IDUS or Universities Abroad

Article 27

1. Permanent academic mobility with foreign universities applies to:
 - a) member states of the European Union, citizens of countries belonging to the European Economic Area and the Swiss Confederation, as well as British citizens and their family members, as beneficiaries of the Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic



- Energy Community (2019/C 384 I/01);
- b) third countries to which the provisions of permanent academic mobility, bilateral agreements, and international agreements in force at the time of mobility apply.
2. For permanent mobility between IDUS-BBU and another IDUS or foreign university, the doctoral student must obtain prior approval from the receiving IDUS before initiating the transfer process.
 3. The doctoral student must submit the following original documents to the university where the mobility will take place:
 - a) the mobility request (approved by both IDUSs, represented by the doctoral supervisors, the councils of both Doctoral Schools, and the CDUS Directors/Rectors);
 - b) the study contract and annexes from IDUS-BBU;
 - c) documents certifying the doctoral path (certificates of participation in courses, minutes from projects, and research reports);
 - d) the academic transcript;
 - e) proof of payment of the permanent mobility (transfer) fee.
 4. The doctoral student may undertake permanent mobility from IDUS-BBU to another IDUS only during the active period of the doctoral program (during the doctoral stage), except in exceptional cases (retirement, death, etc.).

Change of Doctoral Supervisor

Article 28

1. The Doctoral School council may decide to change the doctoral supervisor of a student from that Doctoral School by replacing them with another supervisor in the same doctoral field in the following situations:
 - a) if the current supervisor has reached the age of 65 and does not wish to continue supervising doctoral students;
 - b) at the request of the Doctoral School director, if they find the supervisor unavailable for a period longer than one year;
 - c) at the justified request of either the supervisor or the doctoral student, if it is found that legal or contractual obligations are not being fulfilled by either party, or for any other reasons regarding their supervisory relationship;
 - d) at the joint request of the doctoral student and their supervisor, where, for well-founded reasons, a new supervisor is proposed.
2. In situations (a), (b), and (c) of paragraph (1), the new supervisor may be proposed either by the Doctoral School council or by the doctoral student.



3. The change of supervisor may only be approved with the prior written consent of the new supervisor regarding the acceptance of the student and the research topic, submitted at least 15 days before the start of the new academic year. Exceptions are cases of force majeure: death, resignation of the supervisor, or their transfer to another Doctoral School, in accordance with Art. 24. If the new supervisor works at another doctoral institution, approval from that institution's administration is also required, and the transfer request from the doctoral student must be submitted at least 15 days before the start of the new academic year.
4. After the doctoral supervisor has been changed, the new supervisor shall, within 15 days from the approval of the change, establish a new supervisory committee for that doctoral student, which may include members of the previous committee if they agree to continue supervising the student.

Withdrawal from Doctoral Studies

Article 29

1. A doctoral student may withdraw from the doctoral program by submitting a request to the CDUS Director, approved by the doctoral supervisor and endorsed by the Doctoral School council. Except in exceptional administrative cases, it is recommended that withdrawal take place at the beginning of the academic year or semester.
2. The request will be processed only if accompanied by a clearance form approved by all relevant departments (the clearance form can be initiated online at: <https://doctorat.BBUcluj.ro/ro/fisa-de-lichidare/>).

Expulsion from Doctoral Studies

Article 30

1. A doctoral student may be expelled in the following situations:
 - a) For failing to fulfill the obligations arising from the Doctoral Studies contract:
 - failing one or more courses specified in the study plan for the corresponding semester of the Doctoral School curriculum; course completion is evidenced by submission of participation certificates;



- failure to submit the research project/report within the legally prescribed timeframe; lack of cooperation with the supervisor and/or the ethics and guidance committee in completing these;
 - non-payment of tuition fees.
 - b) If, upon resubmission of the project or research report, the doctoral student receives a grade of “*failed*,” or if the project/report is not resubmitted within the legal deadline;
 - c) If the doctoral student fails to defend the doctoral thesis within the legally prescribed timeframe;
 - d) If the doctoral student receives a grade of “*Unsatisfactory*” for the thesis defense and, upon resubmission, again receives “*Unsatisfactory*,” or if the thesis is not resubmitted within the legal deadline;
 - e) If the doctoral thesis receives a decision for invalidation or dossier completion from NCCATDUC and is not resubmitted for validation within one year from the date of the first invalidation/request for completion, or if the thesis is invalidated a second time;
 - f) In cases of breaches of academic ethics and integrity.
2. Expulsion is initiated based on a written request from the doctoral supervisor, approved by the council of the Doctoral School in which the supervisor holds their position, if the supervisor determines that the doctoral student has failed to fulfill the obligations arising from the Doctoral Studies contract.
 3. If the IDUS finds that a doctoral student has an unresolved status at the end of a semester or academic year, or has outstanding debts at the end of the academic year, it will request clarification from the Doctoral School. If the Doctoral School does not provide supporting documents resolving the issue, the IDUS will prepare a report on the student’s situation, which will be submitted to the CDUS for analysis. The CDUS will determine whether expulsion is warranted and will issue a recommendation for expulsion.
 4. Expulsion of a doctoral student is executed by decision of the BBU Rector.

Tuition Fees

Article 31

1. During their Doctoral Studies, excluding any approved suspension periods or grace periods, a doctoral student enrolled in a fee-paying program is required, under conditions



set by the University Senate, to pay tuition fees for each semester, including the semester in which the public defence of the doctoral thesis takes place, as well as the fee for the thesis defence itself.

2. A doctoral student is considered to be actively enrolled in the doctoral program from the date of enrollment until the date of the public defence of the doctoral thesis or the date of expulsion, this period being limited to the duration covered by the Doctoral Studies contract and any addenda to it. The tuition fee for one semester, hereafter referred to as the semester fee, represents 50% of the annual tuition fee established by the University Senate for the respective academic year.
3. The tuition fee is maintained throughout the normal duration of the study cycle and may be indexed by up to the inflation rate for the same cohort of students.
4. The doctoral student is obliged to respect the payment deadlines established by the University Senate and bears penalties of 0.04% of the unpaid amount per day of delay, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on tuition fees (admission, enrollment, and completion fees), approved for each academic year by a decision of the Babeș-Bolyai University Senate. Payment of penalties is made at the time of payment of the principal amounts due.
5. The doctoral student is not entitled to request a refund of tuition fees in the event of withdrawal from the doctoral program, expulsion, or transfer to another institution offering Doctoral Studies.
6. A fee-paying doctoral student is required to pay the semester fee either in a single instalment (by October 15 for the first semester or by March 15 for the second semester) or in up to two instalments, in such a way that:
 - a) at least 50% of the first semester fee is paid by October 15, and the full amount is paid by December 5;
 - b) at least 50% of the second semester fee is paid by March 15, and the full amount is paid by May 15.
7. If a fee-paying doctoral student fulfils their contractual obligations and initiates the public defence procedure before completing the full four years of Doctoral Studies, they must pay the full tuition fees for the period of enrollment completed, including the fee for the semester in which the defence takes place.



8. From the moment of resuming studies after a suspension, a fee-paying doctoral student must pay a semester tuition fee for each semester in which they participate in the doctoral program, calculated based on the annual tuition fee established by the University Senate for the academic year to which that semester belongs.
9. Failure to pay tuition fees and/or penalties for late payment results in the doctoral student being prohibited from participating in specific evaluation activities within the doctoral program and entails the consequences of non-participation.
10. Non-payment of tuition fees and/or penalties for late payment constitutes a breach of the obligations and conditions set out in the Doctoral Studies contract.

11. Completion of the Doctoral Program ***Preparation and Public Defence of the Doctoral Thesis***

Article 32

1. Completion of Doctoral Studies, regardless of the type of doctoral program undertaken, is achieved through the public defence of the doctoral thesis before the thesis defence committee, hereafter referred to as the doctoral committee.
2. The doctoral thesis must be an original work, and it is mandatory to cite the source for any material used.
3. The doctoral student is the author of the thesis and assumes responsibility for the accuracy of the data and information presented, as well as for the opinions and arguments expressed in the thesis.
4. Doctoral supervisors share responsibility with the thesis author for maintaining quality and professional ethical standards, including ensuring the originality of the content.
5. Doctoral theses (including annexes) and their abstracts must also be prepared in digital format. In the arts, they may be accompanied by a digital recording of the original artistic creation.
6. The content of the doctoral thesis is determined by the doctoral student in consultation with the supervisor and must comply with the framework structure and limitations set by the Doctoral School regulations. The thesis preparation guide is an integral part of the Doctoral School regulations and specifies elements such as formal thesis structure,



minimum page count, reference citations, citation rules, formatting requirements, ethical standards, co-authorship conditions, and more.

7. The title of the doctoral thesis may be modified with the supervisor's approval up to the moment of completion for public defence.
8. The doctoral thesis is a public document. The full names of the thesis author, the supervisor, and the members of the guidance and academic integrity committee, as well as the identifying data of IDUS-BBU, are also considered public information.

Defense Procedure

Article 33

1. To initiate the organization of the public defence of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student follows these steps:
 - a) The doctoral student submits the doctoral thesis in electronic format to the Doctoral School secretariat, together with the thesis abstract and a declaration of originality signed by the student.
 - b) The Doctoral School performs a similarity analysis using a software program specified by ministerial order; the check is carried out according to the standards set out in the National Guide for Doctoral Thesis Preparation, developed by NCCATDUC. The results of the analysis are made available to the doctoral student, the supervisor, and the doctoral committee.
 - c) The analysis and interpretation of the similarity report are conducted both by the guidance and academic integrity committee and by a member of the Doctoral School appointed by the Doctoral School council. The similarity report must be verified by the guidance and integrity committee before the preliminary defence and by the appointed person(s) before the official submission of the thesis.
 - d) If the similarity report indicates the need for modifications to the thesis, the doctoral student and supervisor are officially notified by the Doctoral School; after addressing the identified issues, the similarity analysis procedure is repeated.
 - e) The doctoral thesis is presented to the guidance and academic integrity committee.
 - f) Following this preliminary (public) defence, the supervisor, in accordance with the committee's recommendation and the results of the similarity analysis, decides on the official



submission of the thesis and the organization of the public defence through a document hereafter referred to as the Approval.

g) If favorable approval is obtained from the guidance and integrity committee and the supervisor, the following documents must be submitted in physical format to the Doctoral School secretariat:

1. Supervisor's acceptance report;
2. Approval of the guidance and integrity committee members;
3. The doctoral thesis and its annexes, in printed and electronic format;
4. Results of the similarity analysis;
5. Thesis abstract in electronic format;
6. Doctoral student's CV in electronic format;
7. A document specifying the estimated date of the public defence;
8. Proof of payment of the defence fee, if applicable.

h) The Doctoral School secretary submits all documents listed above, along with the similarity report, to the IDUS office for uploading to the UEFISCDI platform.

i) The doctoral thesis and its annexes are available for public consultation for 90 calendar days on the UEFISCDI platform, in accordance with current copyright laws.

j) During the public consultation period, any individual or legal entity may submit observations regarding possible breaches of ethical and professional standards, including plagiarism. Observations may be submitted online to an email provided by the Doctoral School or to the BBU registry for the relevant faculty. Only observations clearly and unambiguously submitted with identification details and professional capacity will be considered, in the format: "In Chapter ... Page ... Paragraph ... Text ..., Image/Figure/Table shows deviations from ethical and professional standards because ..."

k) If no observations are received, the Doctoral School will prepare a document stating that no observations were submitted during the public consultation period. This document will be signed by the supervisor and the Doctoral School director and submitted to the IDUS as part of the doctoral file.



l) If observations are received, they are recorded in a report prepared by the Doctoral School, which is submitted to the CDUS for analysis and a decision on validating the initiation of the public defence procedure. The report becomes part of the doctoral file. If the CDUS decision is:

- validation – the public defence procedure is initiated by establishing the doctoral committee;
- invalidation – the Doctoral School receives recommendations to revise the thesis and eliminate any content inconsistent with ethical and professional standards. The doctoral student is required to correct the thesis within 3 months of receiving the invalidation decision, with the full public defence procedure repeated.

m) If the public defence procedure is resumed with the revised thesis made public and observations are again submitted and found valid, the doctoral thesis will be invalidated, and the doctoral student will be expelled from the doctoral program.

Article 34

1. For the public defence of the doctoral thesis, a committee of specialists, called the doctoral committee, is established. It is proposed by the doctoral supervisor, approved by the Doctoral School council, and validated by the CDUS director.
2. The doctoral committee consists of at least 5 members, as follows:
 - a) The committee president, representing Babeş-Bolyai University;
 - b) The doctoral supervisor(s);
 - c) At least three official reviewers from Romania or abroad, specialists in the field of the thesis, selected so that at least two are affiliated with institutions outside Babeş-Bolyai University. It is recommended that external members come from universities participating in the “Universitaria” Consortium, the Union of Cluj Universities, the EUTOPIA alliance, The Guild consortium, legally established consortia by domain/specialization involving BBU faculties, or from prestigious foreign universities. Participation of a member from other institutions must be justified in writing;
 - d) Members of the guidance and academic integrity committee cannot be appointed as members of the public defence committee.
3. All members of the doctoral committee must meet the following requirements:
 - a) Hold a doctoral degree;



- b) Hold at least the position of associate professor or senior researcher, or have the status of doctoral supervisor, in Romania or abroad.
4. In the case of a cotutelle doctoral program with a supervisor from outside Babeş-Bolyai University, the doctoral committee will include representatives from both institutions. The cotutelle agreement must specify the composition of the committee (number of members from Babeş-Bolyai University, the partner university, and any additional external members).
 5. If, after validation of the doctoral committee, the committee president or any official reviewer becomes unavailable, the CDUS director may approve, at the supervisor's proposal and with the approval of the Doctoral School director, the replacement of that committee member.
 6. The thesis defence can take place in the presence of at least four committee members, with mandatory physical attendance of the president and the supervisor; other members may participate via online videoconference.
 7. The request to set the public defence date is submitted by the doctoral student and endorsed by the supervisor, the Doctoral School director, and the committee president. The request must be registered at the Doctoral School secretariat at least 25 calendar days before the proposed defence date. The proposed date cannot be earlier than the previously estimated defence date.
 8. Along with the request to set the defence date, the doctoral student completes a declaration regarding thesis publication options:
 - a) If the student does not opt for separate publication of the thesis or its chapters, the digital version of the thesis remains publicly accessible on the national UEFISCDI platform, including after the doctoral diploma is awarded. A copyright protection license is assigned to the thesis.
 - b) If the student opts for separate publication of the thesis or its chapters, a grace period of up to 24 months is granted for publication, during which the digital thesis is inaccessible to the public. Obligations in this case include:
 - Before the grace period expires, the author must provide IDUS with the publication link, ISBN, and publisher, which will be made publicly available on the UEFISCDI platform. If the author does not wish the thesis to be publicly accessible, a written refusal must be submitted to IDUS with the bibliographic details.



- If the author does not provide these details, the thesis automatically becomes publicly accessible on the UEFISCDI platform with a copyright protection license.
- 9. The doctoral thesis is prepared in digital format. In the arts, it may include a digital recording of the original artistic creation.
- 10. The evaluation reports prepared by the reviewers must be submitted to IDUS at least 25 days before the public defence.
- 11. IDUS-BBU must publish the announcement of the public defence on its website at least 20 calendar days before the proposed defence date. The announcement must include the location, date and time of the defence, the supervisor, and where the full thesis can be consulted in printed format, as well as the thesis abstract in electronic format, the scientific report, the doctoral student's CV, and the CVs of the committee members.
- 12. The public defence must include a question-and-answer session with the doctoral committee and the public, which will be recorded in the defence minutes.
- 13. Based on the public defence, reviewer reports, declaration of originality, and similarity analysis, the doctoral committee evaluates and deliberates on awarding the doctoral degree, in accordance with the minimal standards established by NCCATDUC.
- 14. If minimal standards are not met, the committee specifies which elements must be revised or completed and requests a new public defence.
- 15. The second defence takes place before the same doctoral committee. If minimal standards are still not met, the doctoral degree will not be awarded, and the student will be expelled.
- 16. If the doctoral student meets all research program requirements and minimal standards for the field, the doctoral committee proposes awarding the degree. The proposal, along with the doctoral file, is submitted to NCCATDUC within 30 calendar days.
- 17. NCCATDUC issues a compliance opinion within 90 calendar days of receiving the doctoral file, verifying administrative procedures at IDUS and compliance with minimal criteria. This includes verifying the originality declaration and reviewing similarity reports.
- 18. If NCCATDUC determines that IDUS's administrative procedures did not comply with the regulations, the doctoral file is returned to IDUS for reanalysis and completion. It can be resubmitted after the entire public defense procedure is repeated.



19. Within 30 calendar days of receiving NCCATDUC's compliance opinion, Babeș-Bolyai University issues the doctoral diploma, signed by the rector, and prepares and issues the diploma.
20. After the diploma is issued, the digital and printed thesis is archived in the university library permanently. Within 180 days, ISD must submit one printed and one electronic copy of the thesis and its annexes to the National Library of Romania for public consultation.

12. Quality Assurance of Doctoral Study Programs

Article 35

1. External evaluation of IDUS-BBU, as well as of the doctoral fields of study, for provisional operation authorization or accreditation, is conducted in accordance with the provisions of Title IV - Quality Assurance in Higher Education of the Law of Higher Education no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions.
2. Doctoral study programs are periodically subject, on dates established at IDUS-BBU level, to internal evaluation processes.
3. Internal quality evaluation of a doctoral study program is conducted by the Doctoral School.
4. Internal evaluation procedures of doctoral study programs are developed by CDUS in collaboration with other BBU entities responsible for quality assurance. They shall address:
 - a) the mission and objectives of the doctoral program;
 - b) the content and curriculum of the doctoral program;
 - c) compatibility of the program with the qualification description registered in RNCIS;
 - d) research outcomes of doctoral students and their supervisors, materialized through publications, patents, and participation in scientific events;
 - e) online presentation of doctoral students' research results;
 - f) cooperation with other institutions;
 - g) requirements specific to teaching modalities and program formats;
 - h) availability of resources for documentation, learning, and research, as well as logistical support for doctoral students;
 - i) personnel involved in program delivery;
 - j) methods of assessing knowledge and skills of doctoral students and tracking their



- progress;
- k) degree of doctoral students' involvement in program quality assurance;
 - l) existence of a code of ethics defining and sanctioning academic and professional misconduct, including plagiarism;
 - m) fulfilment of specific indicators for external evaluation of doctoral programs.
5. Internal quality evaluation procedures rely on multiple sources of information, including:
- a) evaluation by doctoral students, obtained through anonymous questionnaires processed confidentially and statistically;
 - b) confidential peer evaluation of supervisors' research activities, based on information from reviewers both within Babeş-Bolyai University and from other research institutions.

Article 36

1. Each Doctoral School is subject to external evaluation every 5 years.
2. External evaluation of doctoral programs is carried out by ARACIS or another recognized quality assurance agency, nationally or internationally, based on a system of criteria and methodology established by ministerial order.
3. A Doctoral School that, five years after its last accreditation, has not undergone external evaluation or reaccreditation loses its accreditation.
4. A Doctoral School that has lost accreditation cannot enroll new doctoral students, but current students continue their studies according to their doctoral contracts until completion.

Article 37

1. Evaluation of doctoral students' activity focuses primarily on research outcomes, including publications, conference participation, patents, and their quality (citations, integration into international research flows, awards, etc.).
2. Evaluation also explicitly targets all competencies doctoral students must develop according to Level 8 qualifications in the European and National Qualifications Frameworks.



3. Evaluation is conducted periodically, per the Doctoral School council's decision, by committees of evaluators approved by the council.
4. Evaluation procedures and criteria are established by the Doctoral School council and must allow:
 - a) accurate measurement of doctoral student performance, reflecting differences among students;
 - b) analysis of students' progress in acquiring knowledge and skills associated with the targeted qualification;
 - c) administrative and academic verification to ensure procedural correctness;
 - d) transparency and clear communication of evaluation criteria;
 - e) informing students about the evaluation strategy, methods, criteria, and expected performance.
5. Compliance with scientific, professional, and academic ethics is an explicit criterion for continuous and final evaluation.
6. Evaluation is conducted with maximum transparency, and students are informed of the grades awarded by the evaluators.

Article 38

1. Doctoral Schools periodically evaluate supervisors every 5 years, based on CDUS procedures involving self-evaluation and internal/external peer review.
2. Internal evaluation considers especially the quality of research results and supervision of doctoral students, including:
 - a) the supervisor's own research outcomes (publications, patents, other research valorization);
 - b) research outcomes of the supervised doctoral students (publications, patents, other valorization);
 - c) other indicators of the supervisor's scientific activity (research projects, participation in national/international conferences, membership in professional organizations);
 - d) other indicators of the supervised students' scientific activity (research projects, conference participation, professional memberships).
3. Supervisors are also subject to external evaluation every 5 years, following procedures proposed by NCCATDUC via ministerial order. Results are publicly available.



4. Based on internal or external evaluations, a Doctoral School may extend or revoke a supervisor's right to supervise doctoral students in a program, in accordance with the Doctoral School regulations.

Article 39

1. The following positions at Babeş-Bolyai University are incompatible (per Art. 171 para. of Law 199/2023) and cannot be held simultaneously by spouses, in-laws, or relatives up to the 3rd degree:
 - a) Senate President and CDUS director or Doctoral School director;
 - b) Rector and CDUS director or Doctoral School director;
 - c) Vice-Rector and Doctoral School director;
 - d) CDUS director and Doctoral School director;
 - e) Board member and Doctoral School director.
2. Doctoral candidates may not have familial relationships (spouses, in-laws, relatives up to 3rd degree) with members of the admission committee evaluating them.
3. Doctoral students may not have familial relationships with their supervisor, guidance committee members, or doctoral defence committee members.
4. Persons related as spouses, in-laws, or up to the 3rd degree cannot be appointed to the same doctoral admission, guidance, or defence committees.

13. Transitional and Final Provisions

Article 40

Doctoral study programs at Babeş-Bolyai University shall be reorganized in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation. This reorganization shall be completed within 12 months from the entry into force of the Framework Regulation on Doctoral Studies (OM 3020/2024).

Article 41

1. For doctoral students whose dissertations have already undergone preliminary review within the relevant department or research group and are scheduled for defense by September 27, 2024 (last working day of the 2023–2024 academic year), defenses shall be conducted according to the previous regulation.



2. For doctoral students whose dissertations have not undergone preliminary review by September 6, 2024, or have not received recommendation for public defense, starting with the 2024–2025 academic year (from September 30, 2024), the provisions of OM 3020/2024 and this Regulation shall apply, including rules for appointing the doctoral committee, taking into account the procedural stage of the student’s dissertation.
3. Doctoral students who began their studies before the entry into force of Law 199/2023 in a non-full-time program may continue in that program until completion, regardless of the type of doctorate (scientific or professional).
4. If a doctoral student who started studies before Law 199/2023 is in a special situation where the research/artistic creation topic is complex and, by the end of the doctoral period—including interruptions—they have not defended their final-year research report, then, upon request and with approval from the supervisor, Doctoral School director, CDUS director, and University Senate, the student may be granted an extension of 2 or 4 semesters, paying tuition fees for the extension and the defence fee. During this extension, the student is not entitled to scholarships or grants and cannot request further interruption. Guidance from the supervisor and guidance/integrity committee will continue and be compensated according to legal provisions.
5. If a doctoral student who started studies before Law 199/2023 has completed all advanced study and research/creative activities but has not defended the dissertation, an extension of 2 or 4 semesters may be granted for writing and defending the dissertation without tuition fees or defence fees, except for fee-paying students. During this period, the student does not receive scholarships or grants, and supervisors/committee members are not remunerated.
6. If a student in this situation does not complete the dissertation by the end of the extension, they shall be expelled by the Rector’s decision at the initiative of the Institute of Doctoral Studies.
7. Students enrolled before the 2023–2024 academic year with previously approved grace/deferral periods under OM 3020/2024 shall continue to benefit from those periods until completion.
8. Students enrolled from the 2023–2024 academic year onward shall follow the provisions of Law 199/2023 and this Regulation.

Article 42



1. If a supervisor guides more than 8 doctoral students who began studies before Law 199/2023, those students may continue under the same supervisor until completion.
2. By the start of the 2026–2027 academic year, supervisors at Babeş-Bolyai University shall progressively comply with the maximum number of doctoral students per supervisor set in Art. 14(5).
3. Supervisors who were supervising doctoral students at the entry into force of Law 199/2023, and who either have reached or will reach 70 years of age, may continue supervising those students until completion.

Article 43

1. Fee-paying doctoral students enrolled before October 1, 2024, who continue their studies thereafter, are subject to the transitional tuition provisions below.
2. If a fee-paying student had paid tuition covering a period not ending at the semester's end, they have two options:
 - a) Continue the semester and pay pro-rated tuition for the remaining days (1 month = 30 days, rounded down). Subsequent semesters follow the current Regulation.
 - b) Suspend studies from the end of the paid period to semester's end. Resume studies next semester per current Regulation.
3. If a fee-paying student had started an interruption that does not end at semester's end, they may:
 - a) Continue the interruption until semester's end, then resume studies per current Regulation.
 - b) Resume studies in the semester, paying pro-rated tuition for the remaining period, calculated as in 2(a).

Article 44

For doctoral students with a previous doctoral period recognized fully or partially, the new doctoral period may be shortened. If the previous period is fully recognized (3 or 4 years), public defence can begin no earlier than the first semester of the 2nd doctoral year. If the recognized period was 3 years, the student must submit the research report for the 4th year.

Article 45

For students enrolled before the entry into force of the new doctoral standards, the rules at the time of enrollment remain valid for evaluation purposes.



UNIVERSITATEA BABEŞ-BOLYAI
BABEŞ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÁT
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Article 46

This Regulation constitutes an annex to the Charter of Babeş-Bolyai University and enters into force upon adoption by the University Senate.