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**MULTIDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL SCHOOL**  
**REGULATIONS ON ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT**

**- SEPTEMBER 2025 -**

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## CHAPTER I. General Provisions

**Art. 1.** This Regulation is based on the following documents:

- a) The Higher Education Law no. 199/2023
- b) Order No. 3020/2024 for the approval of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies,
- c) Order of the Ministry of Education and Research No. 3018/2025 of January 13, 2025, on the approval of the minimum national standards necessary and mandatory for awarding the doctoral degree
- d) Order of the Ministry of Education and Research No. 3741/2025 of April 8, 2025, on the approval of the Methodology regarding the review of the administrative procedure carried out at the level of the institutions organizing doctoral studies for the granting of the doctoral degree
- e) Order no. 3692/2024 of February 1, 2024, on the list of nationally recognized programs in order to establish the degree of similarity for the completion of studies
- f) Regulation of the Vasile Goldiș West University of Arad for the organization and conduct of Doctoral University Studies (IOSUD);
- g) MEN Order No. 4982 of September 5, 2013, on doctoral supervision;
- h) MEC Order No. 4621/2020 of June 23, 2020, for the approval of the Regulation for the organization and functioning of the National Council for the Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates
- i) MEC Order No. 5229/2020 of August 17, 2020, for the approval of the methodologies regarding the granting of the habilitation certificate, the granting of the doctoral degree, as well as the resolution of complaints regarding the non-compliance with quality or professional ethics standards, including the existence of plagiarism, within a doctoral thesis
- j) MEN Order no. No. 5140/2019 of September 11, 2019, for the approval of the Methodology on academic mobility of students
- k) University Charter

**Art. 2.** In this Regulation, the following terms and expressions have the following meanings:

a) **doctoral studies** - the third cycle of university studies that allows the acquisition of a level 8 qualification from the European Qualifications Framework (*EQF/CEC*) and from the National Qualifications Framework (*CNC*);

b) **doctoral study program** – all the activities in which the doctoral student is involved, relevant from the point of view of the doctoral studies, a program that includes all the activities of design, organization, teaching, leadership and effective realization of learning, practical application, research and evaluation that lead to a level 8 university qualification from the EQF/CEC and from the CNC;

c) **field of doctoral studies** – the field that is found as such in the Nomenclature of fields and programs of university studies, established annually by Government decision, initiated and, as the case may be, amended and/or completed by the Ministry of Education before August 31 of each year;

d) **Institution organizing doctoral studies of the Vasile Goldiș Western University of Arad (IOSUD-UVVG)** - the higher education institution of UVVG that has legally acquired the right to organize doctoral university programs through the Order of the Ministry of Education no. 4811/17.08.2005;

e) **Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD)** – the organizational and administrative structure established within IOSUD-UVVG, responsible for the IOSUD strategy, the elaboration and application of its own regulations on doctoral studies;

f) **Multidisciplinary Doctoral School (SDM)** – the organizational and administrative structure established within IOSUD-UVVG that provides the necessary support for the development of doctoral studies in a certain discipline or disciplinary or interdisciplinary theme within the fields of accredited doctoral studies;

g) **doctoral student** - the student enrolled in the doctoral study program;

h) **doctoral supervisor** – the person who obtained the right to supervise the doctorate prior to the date of entry into force of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, as well as the persons who obtain the habilitation certificate and become members of the doctoral school within an IOSUD-UVVG, based on an individual labor agreement ;

i) **doctoral study contract** – the contract that has as its object the development of the activities specific to the study program, regulating the relations between IOSUD-UVVG, the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, specifying the rights and duties of the signatory parties, in accordance with the legislation in force, the provisions of the University Charter and the decisions of the university senate;

j) **academic mobility** – the right of doctoral students to have their transferable credit units acquired, under the law, at other higher education institutions in the country or abroad. Mobility can be internal or international, physical, virtual or mixed, respectively permanent or temporary, for all forms of education;

k) **doctoral thesis** - the original scientific work elaborated by the doctoral student during the doctoral studies, legal condition for obtaining the doctoral title;

l) **doctoral degree** - the study document issued by IOSUD-UVVG after fulfilling all the legal procedures related to the doctoral study program;

m) **council of the doctoral school (CSD)** - management structure of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School;

n) **co-author of a publication** – any person nominated in the list of authors of a scientific publication;

o) **preparation of results or data** - reporting of fictitious results or data, which are not the real result of a research and development activity;

p) **falsification of results or data** – selective reporting or rejection of undesirable data or results, manipulation of representations or illustrations, alteration of the experimental or numerical apparatus in order to obtain the desired data, without reporting the alterations made, in order to distort the scientific truth;

q) **plagiarism** – the presentation as a supposedly personal scientific creation or contribution in a written work, including in electronic format, of texts, ideas, demonstrations, data, theories, results or scientific methods taken from written works, including in electronic format, of other authors, without mentioning this and without referring to the original sources;

r) **self-plagiarism** - republishing substantial parts of one's own previous publications, including translations, without properly indicating or citing the original.

## **CHAPTER II. Structure of the multidisciplinary doctoral school**

### **Art. 3. Doctoral School in IOSUD - UVVG**

(1) The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, hereinafter referred to as SDM, is part of IOSUD – UVVG, as a distinct doctoral school and organizes doctoral degree programs in accredited doctoral fields: Biology, Medicine and Pharmacy.

(2) The doctoral school ensures the improvement and extension of the training of doctoral students through teaching, seminar, evaluation, scientific research, technological development, design, appropriate to the specificity of the doctoral fields in which study programs are organized.

**Art 4.** (1) In the IOSUD-UVVG structure, the doctoral school has a rank equal to that of a department.

(2) The doctoral school shall be headed by the director of the doctoral school and by the council of the doctoral school.

(3) The director of the doctoral school is assimilated to the head of the department position.

(4) The Council of the Doctoral School shall be assimilated to the Council of the Department.

**Art 5.** In SDM, the doctoral study programs in Biology, Medicine and Pharmacy are organized within *the scientific doctorate*, which has as purpose the production of original, internationally relevant scientific knowledge, based on scientific methods, organized only in the form of full-time education

and is carried out against a fee-based basis, according to the provisions of art. 9 para. (11) Order no. 3020/2024. The scientific doctorate is a requirement for a professional career in higher education and research.

**Art 6.** With the exception to Article 4., within the SDM, a *professional doctorate* for dual university education may also be organized in the form of full-time education or, as the case may be, part-time education, according to the dispositions of the IOSUD-UVVG regulation.

**Art 7.** The doctoral studies organized by SDM are carried out in Romanian or an international language, agreed by the doctoral supervisor with the doctoral student at the conclusion of the registration documents of the doctoral student in the first year of doctoral studies.

**Art 8. (1) The director of the doctoral school** is a member of the Council of the doctoral school.

(2) The director of the doctoral school has the following attributions:

- a. carries out the management and operative leadership of the doctoral school.
- b. develops and implements the curricula
- c. elaborates the staff establishment
- d. carries out research and quality management
- e. supports the IOSUD-UVVG management in the financial management of the doctoral school in collaboration with the council of the doctoral school.
- f. carries out the selection, hiring, periodic evaluation, training, motivation and termination of the contractual employment relations of the staff, according to the provisions of the University Charter.

#### **Art 9. Council of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School**

(1) The collective governing body of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School is the Council of the Doctoral School, assimilated to the Council of the Department.

(2) At the level of the doctoral school, the director of the doctoral school and the members of the council of the doctoral school shall be elected by universal, direct and secret vote of the doctoral supervisors and doctoral students at the respective doctoral school.

(3) The persons who have the quality of doctoral supervisor in the respective doctoral school have the right to be elected as members of the council of the doctoral school.

(4) The office term of the CSD members shall be 5 years.

(5) Doctoral students shall have at least one representative on the board of the doctoral school.

(6) **The SDM Council has the following attributions:**

a. *Drawing up the SDM Regulation:*

- elaborates the Regulation, in accordance with the regulations of the Code of Doctoral Studies;
- organizes the endorsement of the Regulation by universal, direct and equal vote of the absolute majority of the doctoral supervisors, members of the respective school;
- submits the Regulation to the approval of the CSUD;
- proposes to amend the regulation, if necessary, in order to ensure an increase in the quality of the work carried out within the SDM and submits the proposed amendments to the approval of the CSUD.

b. *Organization of admission to doctoral studies:*

- develops, based on the proposals received from the doctoral supervisors, the admission methodology, and submits it for approval to the CSUD;
- approves and submits to the approval of the CSUD the commissions for the doctoral admission competition;
- organizes an admission competition for each vacant doctoral student position at the request of the doctoral supervisors;
- endorses the enrollment or expulsion of doctoral students.

c. *Organization and conduct of doctoral study programs:*

- organizes and coordinates the training program based on advanced university studies;
  - monitors the individual scientific research program coordinated by the doctoral supervisors;
  - approves the doctoral students individual plans of doctoral studies;
  - organizes research master's degree programs;
  - prepares and approves the Staff establishment for the teaching and research staff affiliated to the doctoral school, based on a fixed-term or indefinite labor agreement (teachers, researchers, doctoral students), and submits it to the approval of the CSUD.
- d. Organization of the public defense of the doctoral thesis:*
- approves the composition of the public defense committee of the thesis proposed by the doctoral supervisor and submits it for validation to the CSUD director.
  - carrying out the procedures for supporting the public defense;
- e. Implementation of scientific performance standards:*
- establishes minimum standards of scientific performance in order to ensure quality in the activity of the Doctoral School;
  - implements procedures for highlighting the results of doctoral research in order to evaluate doctoral theses and endorse them for public defense;
- f. Granting/withdrawal of the quality of full doctoral supervisor:*
- proposes the granting/withdrawal of the quality of tenured doctoral supervisor, respectively the quality of affiliated university professor or affiliated researcher, considering the provisions of the Doctoral School Regulation, in accordance with the legislation in force regarding habilitation.
- g. Ensuring the quality of doctoral study programs, through internal and external evaluation process:*
- develops the methodology specific to the internal evaluation process, focused mainly on the quality of the scientific results of the group led by the doctoral supervisor, with preponderance the impact and relevance of the scientific activity of this group at international level;
  - annually conducts the internal evaluation of the doctoral study programs, based on which the doctoral school will review, modify and adapt the structure of the doctoral study programs;
  - prepares self-assessment reports for re-accreditation or, in the case of a new doctoral school, for obtaining the provisional operating authorization/accreditation;
  - assists the external assessor in the evaluation process for accreditation/re-accreditation or provisional authorization of the doctoral school.
- h) Doctoral student and doctoral supervisor relationship:*
- investigates, analyzes the change of the doctoral supervisor, at the reasoned request of the doctoral student, if the non-fulfillment of the legal or contractual obligations assumed by the latter has been found, or for other reasons related to the supervisory relationship and designates another doctoral supervisor in this case or if the unavailability of the doctoral supervisor is found;
  - mediates disputes between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor; in case of non-resolution of the dispute at this level, it is mediated by the CSUD;
- i) Obtaining funds for the financing of doctoral studies:*
- promotes the application to doctoral grants or research and development projects financed from public or private sources;
  - drafts and carries out projects to attract external funding.
- j) Development of scientific partnership relations:*
- initiates and promotes scientific partnerships with higher education and research institutions in the country and abroad;
  - supports the doctoral students' mobility within the partnership relations (doctoral research in joint supervision, exchanges of doctoral students).

*k) Observance of the principles of ethics:*

- aims to comply with the norms of scientific, professional and university ethics, according to the UVVG code of ethics and professional deontology, the Code of Doctoral University Studies and the operational procedures adopted by the UVVG.

**Art 10. Secretariat of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School**

(1) The secretariat of the Doctoral School shall include at least one secretary who has at least an average knowledge of English, knowledge of administration and use of the computer.

(2) The secretary's duties are as follows:

- a. ensures the nominal record of doctoral students
- b. ensures the record of the academic situation for each doctoral student
- c. ensures the receipt, registration, distribution and dispatch of correspondence
- d. provides the secretariat of the Council of the Doctoral School
- e. ensures the management and preservation of all documents regarding the students' records, their school situations, the Council's activity and other specific documents.
- f. updates the information on the website of the Doctoral School and ensures the publication of the abstracts of doctoral theses;
- g. is liable for the existence of all documents in the students' files;
- h. keeps track of the doctoral supervisors and the number of doctoral students enrolled in each of them, their path in the training program, reports, etc.
- i. performs any other duties entrusted by the Director.

**Art 11. Website of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School**

(1) The Secretariat of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, with the logistical support of UVVG, ensures the publication and updating of all necessary information regarding doctoral studies, as follows:

- Regulations of the Doctoral School;
- information on places for doctoral students;
- information on the doctoral supervisors and the students they coordinate;
- information on the organization and conduct of doctoral programs;
- information on the content of doctoral degree programs;
- information on the way of financing/fees;
- the template of the framework contract for doctoral studies and other standardized forms;
- information on doctoral theses, respectively the standards for their elaboration, procedures and evaluation criteria;
- information on the doctoral supervisors' professional results and performance;
- abstracts of doctoral theses to be publicly defended, as well as the date, time and location of the public defense, at least 25 calendar days before their defense;
- the addresses at which the completed doctoral theses can be accessed, published on a website managed by the Ministry;
- useful forms for students;
- other useful data that ensures transparency of information in the SDM

**CHAPTER III. Organization of doctoral studies in the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School**

**Art. 12.** (1) **Admission to doctoral studies** is the process of selection of candidates for the vacant positions of doctoral student that the doctoral supervisors of the doctoral school decide to propose for occupation during the admission sessions organized by IOSUD-UVVG, through the doctoral schools.

(2) The research topics related to each vacant position of doctoral student are proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the council of the doctoral school.

(3) The selection of the candidate for a vacant position of doctoral student shall be made by the doctoral school in compliance with:

a) the provisions of the framework methodology for admission to university studies, adopted by order of the Minister of Education;

b) the provisions of IOSUD-UVVG own regulations and the methodology of admission to IOSUD-UVVG, ensuring the correct information of the interested persons about the requirements and criteria of admission and multi-criteria selection, posted at least 6 months before the admission competition;

c) posting the admission results;

d) the methods of solving the appeals.

**Art 13.** (1) The Doctoral School shall ensure the transparency of the admission competitions and shall guarantee the candidates' access to information on the procedures for selection and admission to the doctorate

(2) The information regarding the organization of the admission competition for doctoral studies shall be posted at the institution's headquarters and shall be published on the SDM website at least 30 days before its organization.

**Art 14.** (1) Registration for the admission competition for doctoral university studies in SDM shall be made based on the Regulation on the organization and conduct of admission to the bachelor's, master's and doctoral university studies for the current academic year, approved by the University Senate and its own Methodology for admission to doctoral studies.

(2) Candidates must meet the following minimum requirements:

a) Only graduates with a master's degree or its equivalent according to the law have the right to participate in the competition for admission to doctoral studies, and the cumulative number of transferable study credit units acquired, for the bachelor's and master's degrees, must be at least 300.

b) minimum average of 8.00 in the bachelor's degree exam and a minimum average of 8.00 at the dissertation exam (Master's Diploma);

c) to submit a sworn statement that they have not had disciplinary offences during the years of knowledge that have been sanctioned by the university's Ethics Commission

d) to submit the receipt for the payment of the doctoral admission fee, established by the Board of Directors of UVVG for the respective academic year

**Art 15.** (1) The admission competition is organized by the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, according to criteria established in the Regulations of the Doctoral School and the Methodology for admission to doctoral studies

(2) The commission for the doctoral admission competition is made up of:

a. a president (the doctoral supervisor)

b. 2 members who can be part of the research team of the doctoral supervisor. They can be teaching staff affiliated with the doctoral school or teaching and research staff not affiliated with it.

Secretary - common to all admission commissions, having only attributions related to document management.

**Art 16.** (1) The admission competition shall consist of:

a. oral presentation (interview), with a maximum duration of 30 minutes, of a research topic from the topics displayed on the website for admission to the doctoral supervisor and/or presentation of a possible study project according to the field of interest;

b. the review of the file, through which the competition committee will evaluate the results obtained by the candidate and will establish his/her potential to carry out doctoral research activity.

The oral test (interview) mainly aims at the following:

- The candidate's level of knowledge of the research topic based on the consultation of the specialized bibliography, the issues of the respective field, the candidate's concerns and preliminary results (if applicable) and the research proposals in the chosen topic;

- The ability to analyze, synthesize and conceive, to undertake creative, structuring and interpretation activities of results; formulation and argumentation of personal opinions.

The review of the file concerns the following aspects:

- Graduation average of the bachelor's/master's program and the content of the study program relevant to the doctoral topic;

- The research activity carried out by the candidate, the research topics addressed to be reflected in the results of the research, respectively articles as author or co-author in indexed Web of Science, Pubmed/Medline, other international, nationally recognized databases prior to admission to the doctorate;

- Papers communicated (oral/poster) at international and national specialized conferences and published in abstract in journals with ISSN or ISBN prior to admission to the doctorate;

- Research projects in which he/she participated;

- Volunteering in research, reflected in contracts, certificates or letters of recommendation.

(2) The admission competition shall be held in Romanian or in an international language.

**Art 17.** (1) The evaluation of the candidates shall be carried out by the admission commission, as follows:

Each member of the commission shall award two grades (whole numbers between 1 and 10):

- A grade evaluating the quality of the presentation given and the way in which he/she answered the questions;

- A grade evaluating the candidate's previous activity, as evidenced by the documents submitted to the file;

(2) The admission average shall be calculated as the arithmetic average, with two decimal places without rounding, of all the marks awarded by the members of the admission commission.

(3) The minimum average for admission to doctoral studies is 8.00.

(4) The classification of candidates shall be made in descending order of the admission average; the available places being assigned to the candidates in this order.

(5) For the tie-breaking of candidates with equal admission averages, the following shall be considered:

a. publications prior to admission to the doctorate,

b. graduation average of the master's program

c. research projects in which he/she participated.

(6) The results of the competition shall be recorded for each candidate in a report.

**Art 18.** (1) The doctoral school shall ensure the transparency of the admission competition and guarantee the candidates' access to information on the selection and admission procedures for the doctorate.

(2) After the completion of the admission procedure, the doctoral school shall display the hierarchy of admitted/rejected candidates, respectively of the form of education.

(3) The Doctoral School shall manage any appeals registered and display the results of this procedure.

(4) All candidates declared admitted following the organization of an admission competition are included in the CSUD decision on admission to studies related to the respective session of admission competitions organized in the doctoral schools of IOSUD.

(5) After enrollment, all doctoral students are registered in the Single Matriculation Register (RMU).

**Art. 19.** (1) The object of **the study contract** is to carry out the activities specific to the doctoral study program, regulating the relations between IOSUD-UVVG, the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, specifying the rights and obligations of the signatory parties, in accordance with the legislation in force, the provisions of the university charter and the decisions of the university senate.

(2) The template of the framework contract for doctoral studies shall be developed by the CSUD, according to the IOSUD own regulations, and shall be made available to all doctoral schools.

(3) The doctoral study contract shall be concluded with each doctoral student and shall be signed by the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor and the legal representative of IOSUD.

(4) The doctoral study contract shall include at least the following information:

- a) data about IOSUD and the doctoral school;
- b) the identification data of the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor;
- c) the field of doctoral studies;
- d) the type of doctorate;
- e) the form of education;
- f) the form of financing;
- g) the monthly amount of the study fee/scholarship, as the case may be;
- h) the norm of research and/or teaching activities, according to the ranking, in the case of full-time doctorate;
- i) the duration of the undertaken doctoral study program;
- j) research topic;
- k) the language in which the study program is organized;
- l) the language in which the doctoral thesis is written and defended - Romanian, the language of a national minority or an international language. Doctoral theses written in a language other than Romanian must be accompanied by an abstract written in Romanian;
- m) the minimum standards to be observed during the studies and in the process of elaboration of the doctoral thesis;
- n) the deadline for completing the doctoral thesis;
- o) the terms for extending the deadline for completing the doctoral thesis;
- p) the requirements for interrupting the study program;
- q) the number of teaching activities that the doctoral student carries out and the period in which they are carried out;
- r) the terms under which the doctoral supervisor can be changed;
- s) the terms for termination of the study contract;
- t) information regarding the processing of personal data, according to the legislation in force.

**Art. 20.** The study contracts do not change during the academic year. The tuition fee will be maintained throughout the normal duration of the study cycle, being able to be indexed with the maximum inflation rate, for the same class of students.

**Art. 21.** (1) The Doctoral School provides doctoral students with a **training program based on advanced university studies** consisting of activities carried out in IOSUD-UVVG within the curriculum, through courses, seminars, laboratories and other types of activities.

(2) The training program based on advanced university studies includes a discipline of ethics and academic integrity, including ethics of scientific research, mandatory to be completed by all enrolled doctoral students.

(3) The doctoral school may recognize, under the conditions of the law, the completion of previous doctoral internships and/or scientific research internships, carried out in the country or abroad, in higher education institutions or in recognized research centers, as well as the completion of courses within the research master's degree programs.

**Art. 22.** The manner of conducting the doctoral study program is established by the doctoral supervisor, with the consultation of the doctoral student, and endorsed by the doctoral school council.

**Art. 23.** (1) The doctoral study program shall be carried out under the coordination of a doctoral supervisor and shall include:

- a) a training program based on advanced university studies, within the doctoral school;
- b) an individual program of scientific research or applied research, as the case may be, for the fields in which a professional doctorate is organized.

(2) The doctoral degree programs in the SDM are credited with 240 ECTS credit units, broken down in the curriculum, drawn up by the SDM for each scientific field of doctoral studies, approved by the CSUD and validated by the university senate.

(3) The duration of the doctoral study program is 4 years. In special situations, the duration of the doctoral study program may be extended by 1 - 2 years, with the approval of the university senate, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, or reduced by one year, at the request of the doctoral student, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor and with the approval of the university senate.

(4) The doctoral studies may be interrupted for good reasons, and the duration of these studies shall be extended by the cumulative periods of the approved interruptions, but not more than 2 years, for the following solid reasons:

- a. case of illness or accident/death of the doctoral supervisor;
- b. prenatal and postnatal leave of the doctoral student;
- c. case of illness or accident of the doctoral student, confirmed by documents attesting hospitalization or medical exemption;

(5) The extension provided for in para. (3), respectively the interruption provided for in para. (4) shall be established by addenda to the doctoral university study contract.

(6) In the fields of study regulated at European level, the duration of doctoral studies shall comply with the regulations applicable to them.

#### **Art. 24. Training program based on advanced university studies**

(1) The training program based on advanced university studies shall be carried out in the SDM on the basis of an educational plan for each field of doctoral studies, endorsed by the CSUD and approved by the Senate. Completing this program must ensure the obtaining of 60 ECTS credit units for the Field of Medicine (2 semesters), 30 ECTS credit units for the Field of Biology (1 semester). Within the curriculum, mandatory subjects are studied, which provide all doctoral students with a unitary vision in approaching scientific research in the field of doctoral and respectively, scientific communication skills, capitalization of scientific results, ethics of scientific research and notions of biostatistics. Mandatory subjects are planned according to a posted timetable. The evaluation is made by the course holder with the grades "Very good", "Good", "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory".

(2) Courses may be taught by doctoral supervisors or academics who have at least the title of associate professor or scientific researcher grade II, and seminar activities and applicative/research papers may be taught by senior lecturers/ scientific researchers grade III.

(3) The 1<sup>st</sup> semester of the first year (Biology), respectively the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester (Medicine and Pharmacy), is completed by the *elaboration of the Scientific Research Project*, which has the role of defining the doctoral topic, the general framework of the studies and their conduct, the objectives of the study, the targeted research methodology, the schedule of the planned activities, etc. The doctoral topic is established by the doctoral supervisor together with the doctoral student, being correlated with the field of expertise of the doctoral supervisor, with the themes and strategy of UVVG.

(4) The evaluation of the research project, including the doctoral theme, shall be made by an evaluation committee consisting of the doctoral supervisor and the academic guidance and integrity committee.

(5) The results of the evaluation shall be expressed by one of the ratings 'Very good', 'Good', 'Satisfactory' or 'Unsatisfactory'. Admission to the research program is conditional on obtaining one of the qualifications "Very Good", "Good", "Satisfactory".

(6) If, following the evaluation, the grade is "Unsatisfactory", the doctoral student will propose a new research project in which the observations and suggestions of the members of the evaluation

committee consisting of at least the doctoral supervisor and the steering committee are included. The defense of the new research project is done in a special session.

(7) For doctoral students who are beneficiaries of scholarships-grants co-financed from European programs or from other sources, other forms of interdisciplinary and specialized training may be organized by the Doctoral School, based on a specific program.

(8) The Council of the Doctoral School may modify the structure of the advanced university training program, with the approval of the CSUD and the Senate endorsement.

(9) Doctoral students have the right to obtain information on the results of the exams and to appeal in writing the grade received, within 5 days of the examination. The Doctoral School has an obligation to analyze the appeals and propose solutions within 5 days.

(10) During the advanced training program, the secretariat of the Doctoral School centralizes the attendance sheets of the doctoral students that the teacher submits after each module taught.

(11) Graduates of research master's degree programs may have equivalated the mandatory subjects included in the Advanced Training Program. In this regard, Master's graduates will submit a request to the Council of the Doctoral School, which will analyze the equivalence of the disciplines and grant the right of equivalence. The application will also be accompanied by the descriptions of the subjects studied within the Master's programs proposed for equivalence.

### **Art 25. Individual Scientific Research Program**

(1) The individual scientific research program is organized for each doctoral student by the doctoral supervisor together with the doctoral student and is credited with 210 ECTS credit units (Biology, 7 semesters) and 180 ECTS credit units (Medicine and Pharmacy, 6 semesters) respectively. The responsibility for the fulfillment of the scientific research program belongs first of all to the doctoral student and secondly to the doctoral supervisor, both signatories of the doctoral study contract.

(2) The scientific research program begins after the admission of the scientific research project, which thus becomes a program for the realization of the doctoral thesis.

(3) The activity schedule of the full-time doctoral student within the SDM is 40 hours/week, detailed in agreement with the doctoral supervisor or 15 cumulative hours/week in the department/laboratory/research unit to which the doctoral supervisor belongs in the case of part-time doctoral students. Depending on the specifics of the topic addressed, the doctoral supervisor can develop a flexible program for the doctoral student, which should include activities in other laboratories/centers/institutes of UVVG or outside it, study in libraries, training internships in other research institutes in the country or abroad, trips for field investigations, trips to scientific events in the country or abroad, etc.

(4) For *the Biology Doctoral Program*, the research activity of the doctoral student is evaluated as follows:

- a). Scientific training module I – scientific report (semester II, 10 ECTS credit units);
- b). Scientific training module II – scientific report (semester II, 10 ECTS credit units);
- c). Communication (semester II, 10 ECTS credit units);
- d). Research report 1-6 (semester III-semester VIII, 30 ECTS credit units/report).
- e). In years II-IV, the following equivalences can be made:
  - 1 ISI article (review/original article) with impact factor can be equivalent to 1 research report;
  - 1 ISI article (review/original article) AIS Q1/Q2 can be equivalent to 2 research reports; The equivalence of research reports is made only with the approval of the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee.

(5) For *the Doctoral Program Medicine and Pharmacy*, the research activity of the doctoral student is evaluated as follows: Research report 1-6 (semester III-sem. VIII, 30 ECTS credit units/report). In years III-IV, the following equivalences can be made:

- 1 ISI article (review/original article) with impact factor can be equivalent to 1 research report;
- 1 ISI article (review/original article) AIS Q1/Q2 can be equivalent to 2 research reports;

The equivalence of research reports is made only with the approval of the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee.

(6) The deadlines for defending the research reports shall be provided for in the individual scientific research plan.

(7) The presentations of the reports shall be evaluated by a rating: "very good", "good", "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory", by a committee consisting of the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee. The observations and suggestions of the members of the evaluation and academic integrity committee are noted in the minutes, and the doctoral student must take them into account for the completion of the thesis.

(8) In case of rejection of a report (which has obtained the ranking "unsatisfactory"), the doctoral student will defend it again before the same committee.

(9) The effective date of each oral presentation (presentation of the report) is established by the doctoral supervisor, following the receipt of a written request from the doctoral student. The interval between two consecutive exposures may not be longer than 12 months. The doctoral supervisor cannot be absent from any presentation, and at least 2 members of the advisory and academic integrity committee must be present at each presentation.

(10) The report on the progress of doctoral research shall be submitted to the CSD, together with the minutes signed by the doctoral supervisor and the members of the guidance committee who were present, within 3 working days from the date of the report presentation. The minutes are included in the doctoral student's file.

(11) The scientific research program and implicitly the doctoral studies shall end with the elaboration and public defense of the doctoral thesis.

(12) SDM periodically organizes specialized conferences held by UVVG collaborators with international visibility in the field of the Doctoral School, to which all doctoral students are invited, regardless of the stage of the training program, in order to provide them with access to up-to-date specialized information at national and international levels. These optional trainings will be explicitly mentioned in the individual training plan of the doctoral student.

## **CHAPTER IV. Completion of the study program**

**Art 26.** The doctoral studies are completed by defending the doctoral thesis in a public meeting before the public defense committee of the doctoral thesis, hereinafter referred to as *the doctoral committee*.

**Art 27.** (1) IOSUD-UVVG and SDM establish, through the regulation for the completion of the doctoral study program, the standard format of the doctoral thesis, which includes elements of structure and graphic formatting, the doctoral student having the obligation to comply with the respective standard format.

(2) The IOSUD-UVVG and SDM Regulation provides for the standards of ethics and deontology applicable during the doctoral studies, including regarding the elaboration and writing of the doctoral thesis.

(3) The doctoral thesis is prepared according to the requirements established by IOSUD through its own regulations and in accordance with the regulations provided in this regulation.

**Art 28.** (1) The doctoral thesis is an original work, and it is mandatory to mention the source for any material taken.

(2) The doctoral thesis is a public document, the name and surname of the holder of the doctoral thesis, of the doctoral supervisor and of the members of the guidance and academic integrity committee, as well as the identification data of IOSUD-UVVG and SDM being also public information.

(3) The doctoral student is the author of the doctoral thesis and undertakes the correctness of the data and information presented in the thesis, as well as of the opinions and demonstrations expressed in it.

(4) The content of the doctoral thesis is established by the doctoral student in consultation with the doctoral supervisor and will comply with the framework structure and the limitations imposed by the IOSUD-UVVG regulation.

(5) The title of the doctoral thesis may be modified with the opinion of the doctoral supervisor until its completion for public defense.

(6) IOSUD-UVVG, through the doctoral school, has the obligation to verify the doctoral thesis by means of a computer program for the detection of similarities before the public defense of the doctoral thesis. The verification is carried out on the basis of the standards contained in the National Guide on the Writing of Doctoral Theses, developed by the National Commission for the Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (*CNATDCU*). The results of the analysis will be made available to the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral committee.

**Art 29.** (1) Public defense may take place only after the following stages have been completed:

a) the doctoral student shall submit the doctoral thesis in electronic format to the secretariat of the doctoral school, together with the abstract of the doctoral thesis, the list of publications and the sworn statement regarding the originality of the doctoral thesis;

b) the doctoral school carries out similarity analysis using a nationally recognized software, chosen from the list approved by order of the Minister of Education and Research; the doctoral school may additionally use another software for identifying similarities, the similarity reports being included in the doctoral file;

c) before the ante-defense, the preparation of the similarity report is carried out by the Scientometrics Office and the analysis and interpretation of the result of the similarity report are carried out both by the Academic Guidance and Integrity Committee, and by the person/persons designated by the doctoral school, according to the IOSUD regulation. The verification is carried out on the basis of the standards contained in the National Guide on the Writing of Doctoral Theses, developed by *CNATDCU*;

d) in the situation where the similarity report indicates the need to make changes at the level of the doctoral thesis, the student and the doctoral supervisor are officially notified by the doctoral school. After rectifying the notified elements, the stages from letters a) and b) are resumed;

e) the doctoral thesis is presented in the Academic Guidance and Integrity Committee, established at the level of the doctoral school, according to the regulation for the completion of the doctoral study program;

f) after this ante-defense, which is public, the doctoral supervisor, in accordance with the recommendation of the commission and the results of the analysis of the similarity report, decides on the official submission of the thesis and the organization of the public defense;

g) the acceptance report of the doctoral supervisor and the agreement of the committee members are included in the "doctoral file"; the doctoral thesis is officially submitted to the secretariat of the doctoral school, in printed and electronic format, accompanied by the result of the analysis of the similarity report made by the Scientometrics Office, together with the abstract of the doctoral thesis, the CV of the doctoral student and the estimated date for public defense; the Secretariat of the Doctoral School certifies the fulfillment by the doctoral student of all the obligations within the doctoral study program;

h) the doctoral thesis and its annexes will be available for public consultation for 90 calendar days, before the public defense, on the national electronic platform managed by the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (*UEFISCDI*), in accordance with the legal provisions in force in the field of copyright;

i) during the period in which the thesis is public on the national electronic platform, any natural or legal person may make observations on the existence of deviations from the standards of ethics and deontology, including from the perspective of the existence of plagiarism. Comments can be submitted online, at an e-mail address provided by the doctoral school, or at the IOSUD registry. The observations are recorded in a report prepared by the doctoral school, which will be sent to the CSUD for analysis and decision in order to validate the initiation of the procedure for the public defense of the doctoral thesis and will be part of the doctoral file;

j) if the CSUD decision is validatory, the procedure for the public defense of the doctoral thesis is initiated by establishing the doctoral committee and integrating the report on the degree of similarity obtained after the public consultation period of the thesis;

k) if the CSUD invalidates the initiation of the procedure for the public defense of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral school receives recommendations regarding the revision of the doctoral thesis and the elimination of situations that do not comply with the standards of ethics and deontology, and the doctoral student has the obligation to remedy the content of the thesis within 3 months from the communication of the decision to invalidate the defense, with the resumption of the procedure for making the work transparent.

1) if, during the stages prior to the defense of the doctoral thesis, minor material errors (writing, spelling, etc.) are found in the content of the thesis, the doctoral student has the possibility to correct them without the need for ante-defense in the guidance and academic integrity committee and public consultation by making the thesis transparent. Before the public defense, after the opinion of the doctoral supervisor, the institution organizing doctoral studies has the obligation to verify the final version of the doctoral thesis by means of computer software for detecting similarities.

(2) The composition of the doctoral committee is proposed by the doctoral supervisor, endorsed by the doctoral school and approved by the CSUD. The doctoral committee is made up of at least 5 members: the president, as a representative of IOSUD-UVVG, the doctoral supervisor and at least 3 referees from the country or abroad, specialists in the field in which the doctoral thesis was elaborated and of which at least 2 carry out their activity outside IOSUD-UVVG. The members of the doctoral committee have a doctoral degree and have at least the teaching function of associate professor or scientific researcher of the second degree or have the quality of doctoral supervisor, in the country or abroad.

(3) The request for setting the date of public defense of the doctoral thesis is formulated by the doctoral student, endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and by the president of the defense committee. The application must be registered at the secretariat of the doctoral school at least 25 calendar days before the proposed date for the defendant. The proposed date for the defense cannot be earlier than the previously estimated date for the public defense.

(4) The doctoral thesis shall also be written in digital format. After the issuance of the doctoral degree, the doctoral thesis, in digital and printed format, is archived at the library of the higher education institution, with a permanent term.

(5) The doctoral school shall draw up and display the announcement for the public defense at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date for the defense. The announcement must include the location, date and time of the defense, the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor(s), as well as the place where the full text of the thesis can be consulted in printed format. The announcement of the public defense, the abstract of the thesis in electronic format, the scientific dissertation, the CV of the doctoral student, the CVs of the members of the public defense committee of the doctoral thesis or links to them are displayed on the IOSUD-UVVG website.

(6) The doctoral committee, endorsed by the doctoral school and approved by the CSUD, must comply with the provisions of art. 14 para. (13) and Art. 22 para. (2) of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies, approved by the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3.020/2024, with subsequent additions.

(7) The doctoral thesis shall be defended in a public meeting before the doctoral committee, after evaluation by all the reviewers and the submission of their reports at least 15 days before the defense of the thesis. The defense of the doctoral thesis can take place in the presence of at least 4 of the members of the doctoral committee, with the mandatory physical participation of the president of the commission and the doctoral supervisor, the other members of the commission being able to participate in an online videoconference system. The public defense must include a question-and-answer session from the members of the doctoral committee and the public.

(8) Based on the public defense of the doctoral thesis, the reports of the reviewers, the declaration on the originality of the work and the analysis on the degree of similarity, the doctoral committee evaluates and deliberates on the awarding of the doctoral degree, in compliance with the minimum standards developed by CNATDCU for the granting of the doctoral diploma.

(9) In case of failure to meet the minimum standards necessary for the granting of the doctoral degree, the doctoral committee shall specify the elements to be redone or completed in the doctoral

thesis and shall request a new public defense of the thesis. The second public defense of the thesis takes place in front of the same doctoral committee as in the case of the first defense. If the minimum standards are not met even at the second public defense, the doctoral degree will not be awarded, and the doctoral student will be expelled.

(10) If the doctoral student has fulfilled all the requirements stipulated in the scientific research program, as well as the minimum standards related to the field, the doctoral committee shall propose to award the doctoral degree, a proposal which shall be submitted together with the doctoral file, within a maximum of 30 calendar days, to the CNATDCU.

(11) The structure of the doctoral file and the access to it shall be regulated by a procedure developed by the CNATDCU and approved by order of the Minister of Education, in compliance with the legislation in force.

(12) Within 90 calendar days from the receipt of the doctoral file, CNATDCU shall issue an opinion regarding the observance of the administrative procedure carried out at the level of IOSUD and the observance of the minimum criteria for awarding the doctoral degree. The administrative procedure includes as a distinct step the verification of the declaration on the originality of the work and the analysis of the reports on the degree of similarity.

(13) Within 30 calendar days from the receipt of the opinion, IOSUD-UVVG shall issue the decision to award the doctoral degree, signed by the Rector, shall draw up and issue the doctoral diploma.

(14) If the CNATDCU decides that the administrative procedure carried out at the level of IOSUD did not comply with the provisions of the Framework Regulation on Doctoral University Studies, approved by the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3.020/2024, with subsequent additions, the doctoral file will be sent back to IOSUD to be reviewed and completed. It may be resubmitted to the CNATDCU for a new analysis, only after the resumption of the procedures provided for in para. (1) - (5).

(15) If the doctoral student does not opt for the separate publication of the thesis or some chapters thereof, the digital form of the thesis shall remain public and shall be freely accessible on the national electronic platform managed by UEFISCDI, including after the decision to award the doctoral degree. The thesis will be awarded a copyright protection license.

(16) If the doctoral student chooses to publish the doctoral thesis or some chapters thereof, he/she receives a grace period of maximum 24 months for this publication, during which time the doctoral thesis, in digital format, becomes unavailable for the public. After the expiry of the grace period, if no notification regarding the separate publication of the thesis has been uploaded to the national electronic platform managed by UEFISCDI, the document in digital format automatically becomes freely accessible, with the attribution of a copyright protection license.

(17) After the publication of the thesis or some chapters thereof, the author has the obligation to notify IOSUD of this fact and to send the bibliographic indication and a link to the publication, which will then be made public on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI.

(18) After issuing the decision to award the doctoral degree, within a maximum of 180 days, IOSUD has the obligation to transmit to the National Library of Romania a printed copy of the doctoral thesis and its annexes, according to Law no. 111/1995 regarding the Legal Deposit of Documents, republished, copy intended for the Intangible Fund, as well as a digital copy thereof, on electronic support, intended for consultation upon request, at the headquarters of the National Library of Romania, by any interested person, in compliance with the legal regulations in force.

(19) IOSUD-UVVG will develop and adopt regulations on the quality standards to be observed in the elaboration of the doctoral thesis. These standards will be correlated with the minimum standards developed by CNATDCU for awarding the doctoral degree, as well as with the guide on the writing of doctoral theses developed by CNATDCU.

### **Art. 30. Doctoral file**

(1) In order to publicly defend the doctoral thesis, IOSUD has the obligation to constitute the doctoral file, in printed format and in electronic format (PDF).

- (2) The electronic doctoral file shall be uploaded by IOSUD to the national electronic platform, within a maximum of 30 calendar days from the date of public defense of the doctoral thesis.
- (3) IOSUD shall be responsible for the correctness of the data and documents uploaded and, through the qualified electronic signature, shall assume responsibility for the conformity with the original of the documents included in the electronic file.
- (4) When uploading the electronic file, IOSUD shall constitute the profile of the doctoral student, including indicating the doctoral field targeted for obtaining the doctoral degree
- (5) The doctoral file uploaded to the national electronic platform contains the following documents:
- a) scanned copy of the doctoral student's identity document;
  - b) scanned copy of the birth certificate of the doctoral student;
  - c) scanned copy of the marriage certificate and other documents attesting to the change of name, if applicable;
  - d) the CV of the doctoral student;
  - e) the decision of admission to the doctoral degree program;
  - f) the doctoral study contract, concluded in accordance with the provisions of art. 17 para. (3) and (4) of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies, approved by the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3.020/2024, with subsequent additions, and the addenda amending the clauses in the study contract;
  - g) the decision to appoint the Academic Integrity and Guidance Committee, constituted according to the provisions of art. 14 para. (12) and (13) of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies, approved by the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3.020/2024, with subsequent additions, for doctoral students enrolled starting with the academic year 2024 - 2025;
  - h) application signed by the doctoral student, registered at the doctoral school, regarding the start of the thesis evaluation procedures by the guidance and academic integrity committee, endorsed by the doctoral supervisor, in order to pre-defend;
  - i) scanned copy of the sworn statement signed by the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor regarding the assumption of responsibility for ensuring the originality of the content of the doctoral thesis, as well as the observance of the quality and professional ethics standards;
  - j) the reports on the degree of similarity, which will include both the resolution of the doctoral supervisor, the guidance and academic integrity committee, and the person/persons designated by the doctoral school;
  - k) the acceptance report of the doctoral supervisor and the agreement of the members of the guidance and academic integrity committee concluded following the ante-defense of the doctoral thesis;
  - l) the report prepared by the doctoral school in order to validate the initiation of the procedure for the public defense of the doctoral thesis, after the end of the 90-day period of public consultation of the doctoral thesis, accompanied by documents attesting the course of the study program;
  - m) the CSUD decision validating the initiation of the procedure for the public defense of the doctoral thesis;
  - n) the request for setting the date of public defense of the doctoral thesis, formulated by the doctoral student, endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and by the president of the defense committee, registered at the secretariat of the doctoral school at least 25 calendar days before the proposed date for the defense. The proposed date for the defense cannot be earlier than the previously estimated date for the public defense;
  - o) the announcement for public defense, drawn up at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date for it. The announcement must include information about the location, date and time of the defense, the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor(s), as well as about the place where the full text of the thesis can be consulted in printed format;
  - p) the decision to appoint the doctoral committee, constituted according to the provisions of art. 22 para. (2) of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies, approved by the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3.020/2024, with subsequent additions;

- q) the reports of the official reviewers, members of the doctoral committee, signed by them, in the form of scanned copies or electronically signed documents, submitted at least 15 days before the defense of the thesis;
- r) the doctoral supervisor's report, submitted at least 15 days before the thesis; s) the minutes of the public defense of the doctoral thesis and the annex with questions and answers, which contains the proposal for awarding the doctoral degree, signed by all the members of the doctoral committee, in the form of a scanned copy or an electronically signed document;
- t) the doctoral thesis and its annexes, in electronic format (PDF format, excluding scan);
- u) the list of publications resulting from the scientific research in the doctoral study program, published or accepted for publication, if applicable, and scanned copies of those publications;
- v) the doctoral student's statement regarding his/her options regarding the publication of the doctoral thesis on the national electronic platform, in accordance with the provisions of art. 71 para. (13) and (14) of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- w) the IOSUD address through which the file and the doctoral thesis are sent to CNATDCU.

### **Art 31. Organization of doctoral studies in joint supervision**

(1) Doctoral studies may also be organized under joint supervision, in which case the doctoral student carries out his/her activity under the simultaneous guidance of a doctoral supervisor from Romania and a doctoral supervisor from another country or under the simultaneous guidance of two doctoral supervisors from IOSUD-UVVG and another IOSUD from Romania, based on a written agreement between the organizing institutions involved, aspects that will be found in the study contract.

(2) If the written joint supervision agreement is concluded between an IOSUD-UVVG and a doctoral organizing institution abroad, the course of the study program, the doctoral thesis developed and the terms for public defense must be established in such a way as to comply with the legal provisions applicable at the level of both states. Otherwise, the administrative procedure carried out by IOSUD-UVVG will be invalidated, and the title of doctor will not be granted.

(3) The joint supervised doctorate may also be organized if the doctoral supervisors are from the same IOSUD.

(4) In the case of doctoral studies organized under joint supervision, the main doctoral supervisor is the one on whose vacant position of doctoral student the admission competition was organized, the second doctoral supervisor having a secondary role.

(5) The doctoral student shall be fully accounted for by the main doctoral supervisor, including in the regulation of his teaching and research activity.

### **Art 32. Competences provided by doctoral studies**

(1) The competences acquired after passing the doctoral studies are those related to the level 8 qualification of the EQF/CEC and the CNC.

(2) The doctoral study programs ensure the formation of professional skills (content, cognitive and research) in specialized fields, as well as transversal skills.

(3) For the purposes of this Regulation, the following competences specific to the field shall be qualified as professional competences:

- a) advanced knowledge in the field;
- b) ability to identify, formulate and solve research problems in a creative manner;
- c) mastery of advanced research methods and techniques;
- d) knowledge regarding the management of research projects;
- e) mastery of new research procedures and solutions;
- f) skills of documentation and capitalization of scientific works;
- g) ability to draft scientific papers and other academic materials at an advanced level, in a style appropriate to the field of study and in compliance with its specific rigors at national and international levels;

- h) ability to process and review data at an advanced level, including through the use of dedicated software, depending on the field;
- i) linguistic skills at academic level in international languages necessary for the documentation and elaboration of scientific papers;
- j) understanding and ability to apply the principles and values of the ethics of scientific research in the respective field.

(4) For the purposes of this Regulation, the following shall be considered as transversal competences:

- a) written and oral communication skills in the field of science and culture;
- b) advanced linguistic skills in international languages, including expressing and formulating ideas in multicultural and multilingual contexts;
- c) advanced digital skills and competences, part of the digital transformation at social level, including through the use of artificial intelligence;
- d) interrelating and teamwork skills;
- e) knowledge of human, material and financial resources management;
- f) knowledge of career management, as well as the acquisition of techniques regarding job search and job creation for others;
- g) knowledge of risk, crisis and failure management;
- h) knowledge of critical thinking, including the ability to analyze, interpret or formulate reasoning in different contexts;
- i) knowledge regarding the use of legislation in the field of intellectual property rights;
- j) the ability to innovate and the acquisition of concepts regarding economic, technological and social entrepreneurship.

## **CHAPTER V. The doctoral supervisor and the academic guidance and integrity committee**

**Art. 33.** (1) Doctoral supervisors are the persons who have obtained the right to supervise a doctoral degree prior to the date of entry into force of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, as well as the persons who have obtained the habilitation certificate and become members of the doctoral school within IOSUD-UVVG, based on an individual labor agreement .

(2) A doctoral supervisor may supervise doctoral students only in the field for which he or she has obtained this right. By exception, upon establishment, a new field of doctoral studies may operate with doctoral supervisors from the same field of science.

(3) A teaching and research staff member who has the right to supervise doctorates and who is a tenured professor at a higher education or research institution that is not IOSUD may be part of the doctoral school of IOSUD-UVVG.

(4) A doctoral supervisor may only simultaneously supervise doctoral students in one IOSUD, except for doctorates supervised under joint supervision.

(5) Starting with the academic year 2026 - 2027, a doctoral supervisor may simultaneously supervise 8 doctoral students, not including any doctoral students coordinated in joint supervision , with a secondary role. By exception, up to a maximum of 12 doctoral students/doctoral supervisors can be supervised only with the approval of the university senate, but not for more than 20% of the doctoral supervisors in a doctoral school.

(6) Until the date provided for in para. (5) the University Senate decides the maximum number of doctoral students who can be supervised simultaneously by a doctoral supervisor.

(7) For the activity they carry out in this capacity, the doctoral supervisors shall be remunerated in accordance with the legislation in force.

(8) At the reasoned request of the doctoral student, the council of the doctoral school may decide to change the doctoral supervisor, if the non-fulfillment of the legal or contractual obligations undertaken by the latter has been ascertained, for other reasons regarding the guidance relationship between the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, as well as if the unavailability of the doctoral supervisor is found. In these cases, within 30 days, the board of the doctoral school appoints another doctoral supervisor, within the same field.

(9) If the termination of the coordination relations of a doctoral student occurs due to the sole fault of the doctoral supervisor, the doctoral school proposes to the CSUD to take measures to sanction him.

(10) When appointing a new doctoral supervisor, the doctoral school council shall consider as a priority the need for the doctoral student to be able to complete the doctoral program in the field of university studies specified in the study contract, according to enrollment. If it is not possible to identify an available doctoral supervisor within IOSUD-UVVG, IOSUD will take steps to facilitate the academic mobility of the doctoral student, within the same field, but at another IOSUD.

(11) The acceptance of new doctoral supervisors is made with the approval of the CSUD and the Senate, following the analysis of the opportunity to develop scientific directions in IOSUD-UVVG. The candidate obtained the right to conduct the doctorate prior to the date of entry into force of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions, as well as the persons who obtain the certificate of habilitation in the accredited scientific field from the SDM and subsequently become members of the doctoral school within an IOSUD-UVVG, based on an individual labor agreement ;

(12) (a) The withdrawal of the quality of doctoral supervisor may be made at his/her request and at the proposal of the CSD and the approval of the CSUD, as a result of the following situations: a. results below the minimum standards of his/her activity in the doctoral school, ascertained by internal or external evaluation procedures b. at the written request of the doctoral supervisor by which he/she renounces this quality for justified reasons (retirement, age, illness, etc.) c. identification of situations of incompatibility provided by the law c. plagiarism or committing other serious offenses sanctioned by the legislation in force.

(b) The withdrawal of the quality of doctoral supervisor entails the withdrawal of the membership of the Doctoral School by the UVVG Senate.

(c) SDM is responsible for reassigning the management of ongoing doctorates under the coordination of the doctoral supervisor who has been withdrawn from the position of titular so that the doctoral theses are completed in optimal conditions.

**Art 34.** (1) The doctoral supervisor shall be supported in the activity with the doctoral student by a committee of guidance and academic integrity.

(2) The members of the guidance and academic integrity committee may be part of the research team of the doctoral supervisor, may be other persons affiliated with the doctoral school or teaching and research staff not affiliated with it and there are three in number. At least one member of this commission is from outside IOSUD-UVVG

(3) The members of the Academic Guidance and Integrity Commission who come from IOSUD-UVVG have the scientific title of doctor and at least the position of university lecturer or scientific researcher of the third degree. For those who come from outside IOSUD-UVVG, the requirement is the scientific title of doctor and/or specialist physician for the medical field.

(4) The composition of the Academic Integrity and Guidance Committee shall be established by the doctoral supervisor following consultation with the doctoral student and shall be mentioned in the Individual Doctoral Study Plan.

(5) The nominal composition of the Academic Guidance and Integrity Commission may be changed during the doctoral studies, only for sound reasons.

(6) The members of the guidance and academic integrity commission may not be nominated as members of the commission for the public defense of the doctoral thesis.

**Art 35.** (1) The rights and duties of the doctoral supervisor derive from Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, from the IOSUD-UVVG own regulations, from the regulations of the doctoral school, as well as from his/ her labor agreement.

(2) The rights of the doctoral supervisor include:

a) the right to guide and evaluate the activity of the doctoral student within the doctoral study program, according to the professional and academic autonomy, following the requirements of the doctoral study program and observing the professional interests of the doctoral student;

b) the right to propose the academic guidance and integrity committee, respectively the doctoral committee;

c) the right to an impartial internal and external evaluation, in accordance with the specific methodology of the evaluation process;

d) the right to know the methodology in relation to which he/she is evaluated, both in the internal evaluation and in the external evaluation;

e) the right to know the results of the internal and external evaluation of their own activity;

f) the right to refuse the guidance of a doctoral student in the conditions in which he/ she is put unwillingly in a conflict of interest;

g) the right to request the doctoral school council upon justification to terminate the tutoring relationship with a doctoral student;

h) the right to request the doctoral school to organize an admission competition for each vacant doctoral student position under his/her supervision;

i) the right to decide the study elements within the training program based on advanced university studies in which the doctoral student must participate, in compliance with the provisions of this regulation.

**Art 36.** The doctoral supervisor has the following duties:

a) to ensure the scientific, professional and deontological guidance of each doctoral student;

b) to propose the research topics;

c) to ensure the conditions and to stimulate the progress of doctoral students in the research they carry out;

d) to carry out the objective and rigorous monitoring and evaluation of each doctoral student;

e) to support the mobility of doctoral students;

f) to avoid the occurrence of conflicts of interest in the guidance of doctoral students;

g) to take all due diligence regarding the verification of the conformity of doctoral theses in relation to the specific requirements of an original creation.

## **CHAPTER VI. Doctoral students**

**Art 37.** (1) The person admitted to a doctoral study program shall be a doctoral student for the entire period of his/her presence in the respective program, from enrollment to the completion of the study program or until expulsion, except during periods of interruption of studies, but including any extensions granted according to the provisions of the study contract.

(2) The quality of doctoral student shall be maintained even during the period of internal and international mobility. In the case of international academic mobility of doctoral students who come to study on their own exchange rate, the recognition of transferable credit units is carried out by IOSUD-UVVG, based on university autonomy.

(3) The recognition of transferable credit units, in the case of national and international academic mobility, may be carried out by IOSUD-UVVG only for the person who proves the quality of doctoral student with study documents or schooling documents issued by the higher education institution he/she attended.

**Art. 38.** (1) Doctoral students may be employed by IOSUD-UVVG as research assistants or university assistants, as the case may be, for a fixed period, following a competition.

(2) The doctoral student employed as a research assistant may carry out paid teaching activities on an hourly basis, in accordance with the legislation in force.

(3) Resident physicians have the right to enroll during their residency in the doctoral degree program. Those who occupy teaching positions as university assistants in higher education institutions in the field of health continue their residency training and are paid for both activities.

**Art.39.** The doctoral student has the following rights:

- a) to benefit from the support, guidance and coordination of the doctoral supervisor;
- b) to participate in seminars or working meetings of the research and development staff within IOSUD-UVVG when topics relevant to doctoral studies are discussed;
- c) to be represented in the decision-making fora of the doctoral school, according to the provisions of this regulation;
- d) to access and use the research infrastructure of IOSUD-UVVG, including logistic, documentation centers, libraries (including international databases) and equipment of the doctoral school and IOSUD-UVVG for the elaboration of research projects and doctoral thesis;
- e) to enroll in courses and seminars organized by other doctoral schools;
- f) to work together with teams of researchers within IOSUD-UVVG or from research and development units that have concluded institutional agreements or partnerships with IOSUD-UVVG, encouraging and supporting interdisciplinary initiatives;
- g) to be integrated into the research project teams within IOSUD-UVVG, including by participating in the process of drafting and submitting funding applications;
- h) to benefit from national or international mobility;
- i) to benefit from institutional support to participate in scientific conferences or congresses, workshops, summer or winter schools and national and international seminars in the field in which he/she has chosen his/her doctoral thesis;
- j) to participate in the scientific communication sessions organized by the doctoral school and/or by IOSUD-UVVG;
- k) to be informed about the curriculum of doctoral studies within the doctoral school;
- l) to benefit from the support services for students, existing at the level of higher education institutions, including those for accommodation and canteen.

**Art. 40.** The doctoral student has the following duties:

- a) to observe the schedule established together with the doctoral supervisor and to fulfill the obligations of defending the papers and presenting the results of the research;
- b) to submit, at his request, at least once every 12 months, a presentation of the progress of his scientific research program before the Academic Guidance and Integrity Committee and the doctoral supervisor;
- c) to be in permanent contact with the doctoral supervisor;
- d) to observe the institutional discipline, without restricting their academic freedom;
- e) to comply with the university ethics and deontology policies and to carry out their studies and research in compliance with the norms of academic integrity.

**Art 41.** (1) Throughout the duration of the activity, the doctoral student benefits from the recognition of seniority in work and specialty, as well as from free medical and dental assistance under the conditions provided by Law no. 95/2006 on health reform, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions, and by the framework contract, without the payment of the mandatory social contributions regulated by Law no. 227/2015 on the Fiscal Code, with subsequent amendments and completions.

(2) The period of doctoral studies shall be assimilated, according to the legislation in the field of pensions, for the purpose of establishing the contribution period.

(3) After defending the doctoral thesis, IOSUD-UVVG shall issue a certificate attesting the period in which the doctoral student has attended the doctoral studies.

**Art 42.** The doctoral student is liable for the originality of the doctoral thesis.

**Art 43.** (1) Doctoral students may be expelled by the Senate Decision, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, with the approval of the Doctoral School, in the following situations:

- a. for non-fulfillment of professional obligations longer than 12 months;
- b. for serious breaches of the code of professional ethics, including plagiarism;
- c. for damages to the UVVG infrastructure, especially to the research equipment;
- d. for non-payment of the doctoral fee if this obligation is stipulated in the doctoral university study contract signed by the doctoral student;
- e. for non-compliance with the clauses of the doctoral study contract.

## **CHAPTER VII. Standardization of activities within the doctoral program**

**Art. 44.** (1) The staff establishment shall be drawn up at the level of the doctoral school, by consulting their members, and shall be endorsed by the council of the doctoral school, respectively by the rector of UVVG and shall be approved by the Board of Directors and the University Senate

(2) The staff establishment of the doctoral school includes all the positions of doctoral supervisor and associate teaching staff members.

(3) In the event that the teaching norm cannot be composed according to the law, the differences up to the minimum teaching norm shall be completed with scientific research activities, with the agreement of the doctoral school council, at the proposal of the director of the doctoral school and with the approval of the Board of Directors. The reduction of the teaching norm is no more than 1/2 of the respective norm, and the research hour is equivalent to 0.5 conventional hours. The teacher maintains his/her quality of tenure in the teaching position obtained through the competition.

(4) Research staff with an individual labor agreement for a fixed or indefinite term may also function in the doctoral school.

(5) The research staff in higher education shall carry out specific activities, established in the individual job description by the management of the doctoral school.

(6) The doctoral school shall be organized and function with doctoral supervisors who have acquired this right, according to the law.

(7) The doctoral school may impose minimum transparent standards of scientific performance that doctoral supervisors must meet in order to become members of the respective doctoral school.

(8) In addition to the doctoral supervisors, the doctoral school may also be affiliated with other researchers or teaching staff, involved in research and/or teaching activities within the doctoral school, within the partner institutions of IOSUD-UVVG or within other institutions or research and development units, in the country or abroad.

### **Art 45. Standardization of the activity of doctoral supervisors and academics or affiliated researchers**

(1) The tenured doctoral supervisor of the SDM is regulated according to the didactic/scientific degree, the minimum amount of conventional hours of the norm being 7 hours (professor/ scientific researcher I), 8 hours (associate professor/ scientific researcher II) and 10 hours (senior lecturer/ scientific researcher III).

(2) The doctoral supervision is regulated by 0.5 conventional hours (average weekly norm) for each doctoral student who authors the thesis in Romanian and by 0.75 hours (0.5 x 1.5) for each doctoral student who drafts the thesis in an international language, for the entire duration of the doctoral internship.

(3) The courses and laboratory/seminar works provided for in the advanced university study program are regulated with 2.5 conventional hours of physical class time in Romanian and 3.75 conventional

hours (2.5 x 1.5) class hour in an international language, respectively 1.5 conventional hours a physical hour of laboratory/seminar work in Romanian and 2.25 conventional hours of work/seminar in an international language.

#### **Art 46. Standardization of the activity of the guidance committee**

(1) The members of the guidance committees are regulated with 0.2 conventional hours (average weekly time)/supervised doctoral student, for the II-IV years of the doctoral program (Medicine), respectively the first year, second semester- fourth year (Biology), for each doctoral student supervised during the internship period and shall be remunerated accordingly, as stipulated by law. During the legally approved interruption periods, but also outside the internship of the doctoral program, the activity of the advisory committee is not regulated.

#### **Art. 47. Standardization of the doctoral students' activity**

(1) The teaching activity of doctoral students admitted to the full-time form may be regulated in the staff establishments, similar to the way of standardization of university assistants with up to 6 conventional hours per week. The hours exceeding this number are recorded in the staff establishment of the faculty department.

(2) Doctoral students admitted to the full-time and scholarship form have the obligation to carry out teaching and/or research activities indicated by the doctoral supervisor in the amount of up to 6 conventional hours per week on account of the scholarship granted by UVVG. Additional teaching activities that exceed 6 conventional hours will be duly remunerated on an hourly basis.

### **CHAPTER VIII. Financing**

**Art.48. Types of financing.** In SDM - IOSUD UVVG, the financing of doctoral studies is mainly carried out under a fee or other legally constituted fees. The financing of doctoral studies can also be carried out by private or public legal entities, based on a contract. The model of the implementation contract is drawn up by the doctoral school and is endorsed by the CSD and CSUD and approved by the Board of Directors.

**Art 49.** In IOSUD – UVVG, the financing of doctoral studies can also be achieved by awarding scholarships granted by UVVG to doctoral students enrolled on a full-time basis or by other individuals/ legal entities in the country or abroad.

### **CHAPTER IX. Conflict mediation**

#### **Art 50. Commission for Conflict Mediation**

(1) The Commission for Conflict Mediation is normally made up of the members of the Council of the Doctoral School. To the extent that the Council of the Doctoral School deems necessary, it may invite external members to be part of the mediation committee.

(2) In the event that a member of the Council of the Doctoral School is involved in a dispute, he/she may not be part of the mediation commission of the respective conflict.

(3) The mediation of conflicts shall be done through dialogue, usually by inviting the parties before the Council of the Doctoral School.

(4) The disagreements between the doctoral student and the SDM shall be mediated by the CSUD.

### **CHAPTER X – UNIVERSITY ETHICS AND DEONTOLOGY**

**Art 51.** (1) In the teaching and university research activities, it is mandatory to comply with the norms of university ethics and deontology, regulated by the Code of Ethics and University Deontology of IOSUD-UVVG.

(2) Any complaints regarding non-compliance with the norms of university ethics and deontology shall be registered and resolved in accordance with the Code of Ethics and University Deontology, elaborated on the basis of the framework code of ethics and university deontology, approved by Government decision.

(3) Failure to comply with the rules of ethics and deontology of the university, including the attestation of cases of proven plagiarism, may entail the public liability of IOSUD.

## **CHAPTER XI – TRANSPARENCY**

**Art. 52.** (1) The Doctoral School shall ensure the publication on the Internet of all the necessary information regarding the doctoral study programs, especially targeting the following categories:

- a) the regulations of the doctoral school;
- b) information on vacancies for doctoral students;
- c) information on vacancies for doctoral supervisors;
- d) information on the organization and conduct of doctoral programs;
- e) information on the content of doctoral study programs;
- f) information on how to finance the studies;
- g) the template of the framework contract for doctoral studies;
- h) information on the doctoral supervisors and doctoral students they coordinate, which includes at least the list of their publications and patents;
- i) information on the results and professional performances of doctoral supervisors;
- j) the guide on the drafting of doctoral theses, respectively standards for their elaboration, procedures and evaluation criteria;
- k) the minimum standards developed by the CNATDCU for the granting of the doctoral degree;
- l) the abstracts of the doctoral theses to be defended publicly, as well as the date, time and location related to the public defenses, at least 20 days before their defense;
- m) the addresses where the completed doctoral theses can be accessed.

## **CHAPTER XII. Internal and external evaluation and monitoring**

### **Art. 53. Internal evaluation**

(1) The internal evaluation of the quality of the doctoral degree program shall take place periodically (annually) and shall be carried out by the SDM Council, based on the procedures and criteria developed by the CSUD.

(2) The procedures for the internal evaluation of the quality of a doctoral degree program shall be developed by the CSUD. They will follow:

- A. Institutional capacity A.1. Institutional, administrative, managerial structures and financial resources A.2. Research infrastructure A.3. Quality of human resources
- B. Educational effectiveness B.1. The number, quality and diversity of candidates who took part in the admission competition B.2. Content of doctoral study programs B.3. Results of doctoral studies and procedures for their evaluation
- C. Quality Management C.1. The existence and periodic implementation of the internal quality assurance system C.2. Transparency of information and accessibility to learning resources C.3. Degree of internationalization

(3) The internal evaluation of each doctoral school shall be carried out by its director, who shall prepare and submit for approval to the CSUD the Internal Evaluation Report (annually) in September of each academic year. The internal evaluation report of each doctoral school will also include the periodic evaluation of the fields of doctoral studies within the doctoral school. The report will be part of the IOSUD Annual Report, which is submitted for approval to the University Senate in September of each year by the Director of CSUD.

**Art. 54. External evaluation.** The external evaluation of IOSUD, respectively of the fields of doctoral university studies in order to authorize provisional operation or accreditation is carried out in accordance with the provisions of Title IV - Quality Assurance in Higher Education of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

### **CHAPTER XIII. Final provisions**

**Art. 55.** The SDM Regulation shall be supplemented, whenever necessary, by new legal regulations concerning aspects of the SDM activity.

**These Regulations were endorsed accordingly in the Board of Directors meeting on September 29, 2025, and approved at the Senate meeting on September 29, 2025**

**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,  
Prof. Neli Kinga OLAH, PhD**



**Endorsed by the COMMISSION FOR CODES,  
REGULATIONS AND LEGAL ISSUES,  
President  
Assoc. Prof. Anca MOROSTES, PhD**