Regulations governing the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

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1. Principles, areas of application, terminology

Art. 1. This Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu , hereinafter referred to as ULBS, was developed in accordance with the following normative acts and regulations:

a. Higher Education Law No. 199 of 2023, published in the Official Gazette No. 614 of July 5, 2023, and entered into force on September 3, 2023, with subsequent amendments and additions;
b. Framework Regulation on Doctoral Studies approved by Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3020 of January 8, 2024, published in the Official Gazette No. 56 of January 22, 2024, with subsequent amendments and additions;
c. Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3998 of March 12, 2024, approving the Methodology for granting the habilitation certificate, published in the Official Gazette No. 236 of March 20, 2024;
d. Romanian Government Decision No. 305 of April 4, 2024, approving the Framework Code of Academic Ethics and Conduct, published in the Official Gazette No. 327 of April 9, 2024;
e. Order No. 5110/2018 approving the minimum national standards for awarding doctoral degrees;
f. Ministry of Education Order No. 5140/2019 approving academic mobility for students;
g. Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3692 of February 1, 2024, regarding the list of nationally recognized programs for establishing the degree of similarity for final papers, published in the Official Gazette No. 112 of February 8, 2024;
h. Charter of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, including the Code of Ethics and Academic Conduct.

Art. 2. Terminology and definitions (in accordance with the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies):

a). *Doctoral studies* (hereinafter referred to as doctorate) represent the third cycle of university studies offered at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, whose purpose is to develop human resources competent in scientific research, capable of entering the highly skilled labor market. They consist of training, through research, for research and development and innovation and constitute a professional research experience, completed, after defending the doctoral thesis, by awarding the title of doctor. octoral studies allow students to obtain a level 8 qualification in the

European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (CNCIS).

b). *Doctoral program*, hereinafter referred to as the doctoral program – all activities in which the doctoral student is involved, relevant from the point of view of doctoral studies, a program that includes all activities of planning, organizing, teaching, managing, and effectively carrying out learning, practical application, research, and evaluation that lead to a university qualification at level 8 of the EQF/CEC and the CNC;

c). *Field of doctoral studies* – the field as defined in the Nomenclature of fields and university study programs, established annually by Government decision, initiated and, where appropriate, amended and/or supplemented by the Ministry of Education before August 31 of each year;

d). *The Institute for the Organization of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu*, hereinafter referred to as IOSUD-ULBS – an organizational and administrative structure established within Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, responsible for organizing doctoral, habilitation, and postdoctoral university programs;

e). *The Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD)* – an organizational and administrative structure established within IOSUD-ULBS, responsible for IOSUD strategy, the development and application of its own regulations regarding doctoral studies;

f). *Doctoral School* – an organizational and administrative structure established within IOSUD that provides the necessary support for conducting doctoral studies in a specific field, discipline, or disciplinary or interdisciplinary topic;

g). *Doctoral student* (hereinafter referred to as doctoral candidate) – a student enrolled in a doctoral program;

h). *Doctoral supervisor* – a person who obtained the right to supervise doctoral studies prior to the date of entry into force of Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as amended and supplemented, as well as persons who obtain the habilitation certificate and become members of a doctoral school within IOSUD-ULBS, on the basis of an individual employment contract;

i). *Doctoral studies contract* – the contract whose purpose is to carry out the activities specific to the study program, regulating the relations between IOSUD-ULBS, 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 ULBS Charter, and the decisions of the university senate;

j). *Academic mobility* – the right of doctoral students to have their transferable credits recognised, under the conditions provided by law, at other higher education institutions in the country or abroad. Mobility may be internal or international, physical, virtual or mixed, permanent or temporary, for all forms of education;

k). *Doctoral thesis* – original scientific paper written by the doctoral student as part of their doctoral studies, a legal requirement for obtaining a doctoral degree;

l). *Doctoral diploma* – the academic document issued by IOSUD after completion of all legal procedures related to the doctoral program;

m). *Doctoral School Council (CȘD)* – management structure of the doctoral school;

n). *Co-author of a publication* – any person named in the list of authors of a scientific publication;

o). *Fabrication of results or data* – reporting fictitious results or data that are not the actual result of research and development activities;

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

q). *Plagiarism* – presenting as one's own scientific creation or contribution in a written work, including in electronic format, 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.

2. The Institute for the Organization of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu (IOSUD-ULBS)

Art. 3. (1) Doctoral studies are organized by the Institute for the Organization of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies ( ) of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (IOSUD-ULBS), only within the fields and programs of doctoral studies offered by the doctoral schools, provisionally authorized or accredited, of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Doctoral schools are subordinate to IOSUD-ULBS.

Art. 4. (1) IOSUD-ULBS operates within the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu based on the provisions of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies, this Regulation, and the ULBS Charter.

(2) At the level of IOSUD-ULBS, doctoral training is coordinated by CSUD.

(3) CSUD operates based on the provisions of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies approved by Order of the Ministry of Education no. 3020/2024, these Regulations, and the ULBS Charter.

Art.5. (1) CSUD is headed by a director who is an ex officio member of CSUD. The position of CSUD director is equivalent to that of vice-rector. The term of office of the CSUD director is 5 years.

(2) The director of the CSUD is appointed following a public competition organized by the rector of ULBS. The methodology for conducting the public competition must comply with the provisions of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, of the of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies approved by Order of the Ministry of Education no. 3020/2024, of this Regulation, of the ULBS Charter, and is approved by the ULBS Senate.

(3) The CSUD within IOSUD-ULBS is composed of 11 members. The term of office of CSUD members is 5 years. CSUD membership is lost when a person loses their status as a doctoral supervisor or doctoral student. The CSUD has the following members:

(a) doctoral supervisors within IOSUD-ULBS;

(b) doctoral supervisors from Romania or abroad;

(c) representatives of doctoral students from doctoral schools within IOSUD-ULBS, in a proportion of 25% (3 doctoral students).

(4) The CSUD may also include scientific figures or figures from relevant industrial and socio-economic sectors among its members.

(5) The methodology for appointing CSUD members must comply with the provisions of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies approved by Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3020/2024, of this Regulation, of the ULBS Charter, and is approved by the ULBS Senate.

(6) CSUD members who are university teachers or researchers must have the right to supervise doctoral students, in Romania or abroad, and meet the minimum and mandatory standards for the award of the habilitation certificate in force at the time of their appointment as CSUD members.

(7) CSUD members are elected by universal, direct, secret, and equal vote of the doctoral supervisors and doctoral students within the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS.

(8) The CSUD meets monthly or whenever necessary, at the request of the CSUD director or at least one-third of its members. Meetings may take place in the meeting room or online using electronic means.

(9) CSUD meetings are chaired by its director or another CSUD member appointed by the CSUD director.

(10) The attendance of members at CSUD meetings is mandatory, whether they are held in the meeting room or using electronic means. Meetings are statutory if at least two-thirds of the CSUD members are present.

(11) The exclusion of a CSUD member shall apply for absence from CSUD activities as follows: a CSUD member shall lose their membership after 3 consecutive unjustified absences or 6 consecutive justified absences. The reason for the absence shall be provided in writing and submitted to the CSUD.

(12) Other persons whose participation is necessary, depending on the nature of the issues on the meeting agenda, may attend CSUD meetings as non-voting guests.

(13) The CSUD shall adopt decisions by open or electronic vote, as appropriate, by a simple majority of the members present (n/2+1 if n is an even number or (n+1)/2 if n is an odd number, n being the number of those present with voting rights).

(14) Each member of the CSUD is obliged to maintain the confidentiality of information that has come into their possession through their membership. This obligation extends for one year after the end of the CSUD member's term of office ( ). The obligation of confidentiality also applies to persons who have been invited to participate, without voting rights, in CSUD meetings.

Art. 6. (1). The main responsibilities of the CSUD are as follows:

a) establishing the strategy of IOSUD-ULBS;

b) drafting the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu Regulations for the organization and implementation of doctoral programs and submitting them for approval to the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu Senate;

c) to draft other proposals for regulations or measures concerning doctoral studies at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, in accordance with the objectives of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and the legislative framework, in order to consolidate and increase the competitiveness of doctoral studies;

d) formulates proposals for the establishment of new doctoral schools at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu;

e) approves decisions to establish/close doctoral schools within IOSUD;

f) selects doctoral supervisors who are part of a newly established doctoral school;

g) approves the regulations of doctoral schools;

h) develops criteria for the organization and operation of doctoral study programs at doctoral schools, including those concerning admission to these programs, curricula, evaluation of doctoral students, and criteria for selecting official referees for doctoral committees;

i) develops requirements for the drafting of doctoral theses;

j) develops ethical and professional standards applicable during doctoral studies;

k) develops regulations and methodologies regarding the organization of the process of obtaining the habilitation certificate and affiliation to one of the component doctoral schools;

l) develops methodologies and/or procedures for the organisation of joint doctoral studies;

m) establishes the criteria for the completion, evaluation, and utilization of the results of doctoral programs, including doctoral theses;

n) develops procedures for the periodic evaluation of the supervision of doctoral students submitted by doctoral supervisors;

o) approves the doctoral study programs of doctoral schools and submits them to the Senate of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu for approval;

p) puts forward proposals, including in the form of supporting regulatory initiatives, to support the employment of doctoral program graduates in the labor market;

q) develops methodologies for tracking the professional progress of doctoral program graduates over time;

r) puts forward its own proposals and endorses the proposals of doctoral schools aimed at establishing agreements and partnerships/consortia for the implementation of doctoral programs and joint doctoral degrees;

s) initiates, submits, and monitors the documentation necessary to obtain national and international funding for doctoral and research programs;

t) prepares proposals for the allocation of resources for the financing of doctoral programs and submits them for approval to the Senate of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu;

u) justifies the amount of tuition fees and other administrative fees, which it submits for review and approval to the Senate of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu;

v) prepares the draft budget of revenues and expenditures, which it submits for review and approval to the Senate of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu;

w) prepares an annual report on the status of doctoral studies, under the coordination of the CSUD director, which it submits for review and approval to the Senate of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu;

x) carries out activities to promote the image of doctoral studies at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu nationally and internationally;

y) analyzes and resolves complaints submitted to IOSUD.

(2) IOSUD-ULBS is responsible for communicating and complying with these regulations on the organization and conduct of doctoral programs, developed on the basis of Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, the Framework Regulations on doctoral studies approved by Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3020/2024, in compliance with the provisions of Article 12 of Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as amended and supplemented.

(3) IOSUD-ULBS will constantly strive to improve the quality of the educational and research experience of its doctoral students by creating as many opportunities for personal and professional development as possible, by ensuring conditions for study and research in foreign languages, and by increasing the number of international mobility opportunities for doctoral students, so that at least 20% of doctoral students undertake a training internship abroad or another form of mobility.

(4) The involvement of IOSUD-ULBS in developing partnerships with prestigious higher education institutions abroad, as well as the number of international mobility opportunities for doctoral students and doctoral supervisors, constitute criteria for the periodic evaluation of IOSUD.

(5) IOSUD-ULBS is responsible for recognizing internships approved by subordinate doctoral schools and completed by doctoral students as part of internal and international mobility programs.

(6) ULBS may enter into partnerships for the implementation of doctoral study programs with other higher education institutions and/or research and development units or private legal entities.

(7) IOSUD-ULBS provides institutional, administrative, and logistical support to subordinate doctoral schools.

(8) ULBS has, within its own institutional framework, specific structures for the management and administration of doctoral programs, including at the level of doctoral schools. These structures operate in accordance with the law and these regulations.

(9) IOSUD-ULBS develops and implements mechanisms to increase the retention of doctoral students in the university environment, including by supporting doctoral students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, without eliminating academic criteria and merits.

(10) IOSUD-ULBS, in collaboration with the Center for Career Counseling and Guidance or other existing structures at ULBS, organizes specific activities dedicated to doctoral students: counseling on participation in academic/research events; periodic courses on academic writing, academic integrity, scientific communication; counseling and support in the administrative area, as well as other activities in support of doctoral students.

Art. 7. The director of CSUD–ULBS has the following duties:

a) submits for approval to CSUD or approves:

1) regulations, methodologies, and procedures regarding the organization and functioning of Doctoral Schools;

2) various requests from doctoral students and doctoral supervisors;

3) study contracts between doctoral students and IOSUD-ULBS;

4) the budget and budget execution at the level of IOSUD-ULBS;

5) requests for withdrawal, interruption, or extension from doctoral students and proposals for expulsion;

6) proposals regarding the composition of the committees for the defense of doctoral theses and habilitation theses;

7) decisions on the enrollment of doctoral students;

8) annual activity reports of doctoral schools;

9) staffing tables for doctoral schools and/or IOSUD;

10) the annual report of the CSUD.

b) represents CSUD in relation to any entity in the country and abroad;

c) coordinates the preparation of the CSUD's annual activity report and presents it to the ULBS Senate.

Art. 8. The debates, participants' points of view, and CSUD decisions are recorded in the CSUD Minutes Register, which is serialized and numbered. The decisions adopted by the CSUD must be in accordance with legal provisions. These decisions are made public and forwarded to the ULBS Senate for approval.

Art. 9. Administrative activities related to the conduct of doctoral studies at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu are carried out by the IOSUD-ULBS secretariat through the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service. The members of the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service within IOSUD-ULBS are employees, on a fixed-term or indefinite basis, of the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and report to the director of CSUD.

3. Doctoral schools

Art. 10. - (1) IOSUD-ULBS organizes doctoral studies within doctoral schools, consisting of:

a) tenured doctoral supervisors;

b) university teaching staff and researchers from the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu or, as affiliates, from other institutions involved in the teaching/research activities provided for in the doctoral study programs of the doctoral school,

c) doctoral students.

(2) The doctoral student is part of the doctoral school to which his/her doctoral supervisor, respectively his/her main doctoral supervisor, belongs.

(3) Full-time doctoral supervisors, affiliated university teaching staff, affiliated researchers, and doctoral students working within the doctoral school are included in the doctoral school's staffing table.

(4) The activities of supervising and guiding doctoral students, as well as the teaching activities provided for in the doctoral study programs of the doctoral school, are regulated and remunerated (after their performance) in accordance with the regulations governing teaching activities.

Art. 11. Doctoral Student Support Unit ( ) - (1) Within IOSUD-ULBS, in accordance with ULBS Senate Decision No. 699 of February 24, 2022, and regulated by OME 6067/October 10, 2022,

there are six doctoral schools, namely: Doctoral School of Engineering Sciences and Mathematics; Doctoral School of Social Sciences; Doctoral School of Philology and History; Doctoral School of Theater and Performing Arts; Doctoral School of Theology; Doctoral School of Medicine.

(2) The establishment and dissolution of doctoral schools is proposed by the CSUD and approved by the Senate of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu.

(3) Each doctoral school within IOSU-ULBS ensures the improvement and expansion of doctoral students' training through teaching, seminars, evaluation, scientific research, technological development, design, and artistic creation activities, appropriate to the specific nature of the doctoral fields in which study programs are organized.

(4) Each doctoral school within IOSUD-ULBS has the same rank as a department. Each doctoral school is headed by a doctoral school director and a doctoral school council. The doctoral school director is equivalent to a department director. The doctoral school council is equivalent to a department council. The doctoral school director is an ex officio member of the doctoral school council.

(5) The director of the doctoral school is responsible for the management and operational leadership of the doctoral school. He or she is responsible for the development and implementation of curricula, job descriptions, research and quality management, and supports the CSUD and the management of IOSUD-ULBS in the financial management of the doctoral school. In exercising this function, he or she is assisted by the doctoral school council. The term of office of the director of the doctoral school is 5 years.

(6) Job descriptions are drawn up at the level of departments or doctoral schools, in consultation with their members, and are approved by the faculty council or, where appropriate, by the doctoral school council, respectively by the rector of ULBS, and approved by the ULBS senate.

(7) The staffing table of the doctoral school includes all the doctoral supervisor positions necessary for the functioning of that doctoral school and all the doctoral student positions coordinated by the doctoral supervisors. The minimum number of doctoral supervisors and doctoral student positions is calculated based on the number of fields in which the doctoral school organizes doctoral programs.

(8) The number of positions for auxiliary teaching staff and administrative staff shall be determined by the ULBS Senate, at the proposal of the ULBS Rector, depending on the budget and specific characteristics of the doctoral school and depending on the technical and administrative structure.

(9) In the event that the teaching load cannot be established in accordance with the law, the differences up to the minimum teaching load shall be supplemented 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 in the teaching load shall be no more than 1/2 of the respective load, and the research hour shall be equivalent to 0.5 conventional hours. The teacher shall retain the status of tenured teacher in the teaching position obtained through competition.

(10) Doctoral schools may also employ research staff on fixed-term or permanent individual employment contracts in separate positions.

(11) Research staff in higher education carry out specific activities, as established in the individual job description by the management of the doctoral school.

(12) The doctoral school is organized and operates with doctoral supervisors who have acquired this right in accordance with the law. A doctoral school may only be established if it has at least three doctoral supervisors for whom it organizes doctoral studies.

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

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

(15) At the doctoral school level, the director of the doctoral school and the members of the doctoral school council are elected by universal, direct, and secret ballot of the doctoral supervisors and doctoral students of the respective doctoral school.

(16) Persons who are doctoral supervisors in the respective doctoral school are eligible to be elected as members of the doctoral school council. The term of office of the members of the CSD is 5 years.

(17) Doctoral students shall have at least one representative on the doctoral school council.

(18) Doctoral schools provide doctoral students with a training program based on advanced university studies consisting of activities carried out in institutionalized study groups, through courses, seminars, laboratories, and the like.

(19) The training program based on advanced university studies includes a course on academic ethics and integrity, including scientific research ethics, which is mandatory for all enrolled doctoral students.

(20) The doctoral school may recognize, in accordance with the IOSUD-ULBS regulations and 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 recognised research centres, as well as the completion of courses within research-based master's degree programmes.

(21) Doctoral schools may organize research centers or laboratories that operate as revenue and expenditure units within IOSUD-ULBS.

(22) The manner in which the doctoral study program is conducted is established by the doctoral supervisor, in consultation with the doctoral student, and approved by the doctoral school council.

(23) Doctoral study programs are organized and conducted within IOSUD-ULBS only through doctoral schools. IOSUD-ULBS and doctoral schools are responsible for the content of all doctoral study programs.

(24) The entire activity of the doctoral schools is guided and coordinated by IOSUD-ULBS, through CSUD, which will impose criteria for organization and scientific performance as part of the regulations of the doctoral schools.

(25) The proposal to establish a new field of doctoral studies in one of the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS shall be discussed by the doctoral school council. The doctoral school council shall make a recommendation, which shall be discussed by CSUD, approved by the Board of Directors, and approved by the ULBS Senate.

Art. 12. – (1) A doctoral school may be established if at least the following criteria are met:

a) has at least 3 doctoral supervisors who meet the current qualification standards and are nationally and internationally recognized for their scientific/artistic merits and are willing to work within the doctoral school, of whom at least two are tenured professors at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu or at least half of the total number of doctoral supervisors, if there are more than three;

b) has the scientific information resources and equipment necessary to carry out scientific research in the field under the best conditions;

c) has ensured financial sustainability from budgetary or extra-budgetary resources;

d) has links with the scientific, economic, cultural, and social environment that contribute to the achievement of the doctoral school's objectives and that can provide additional funding or equipment.

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

(3) In addition to doctoral supervisors, other researchers or teaching staff involved in research and/or teaching activities within the doctoral school of ULBS partner institutions or other institutions in the country or abroad may also be affiliated with a doctoral school.

Art. 13. - (1) The doctoral school council is composed of:

a) tenured doctoral supervisors at that doctoral school;

b) doctoral students of the doctoral school; doctoral students shall have at least one representative on the doctoral school council.

(2) The proportion of tenured doctoral supervisors from that doctoral school within the doctoral school council is established by the CSUD. The minimum number of members of a doctoral school council is 4: the director of the doctoral school, two tenured doctoral supervisors, one doctoral student-y from the doctoral school (at least 25% of the total number of members). If the number of members is higher, doctoral students shall represent at least 25% of the total number of members.

(3) University teachers or researchers who will be members of the doctoral school council must have the right to supervise doctoral students, in the country or abroad, and meet the minimum and mandatory standards for the award of the habilitation certificate, approved by order of the Minister of National Education, which are in force on the date of their election as members of the doctoral school council.

(4) The term of office of the doctoral school council is 5 years. Doctoral students who are members of the doctoral school council and complete their doctoral studies during the council's term of office lose their membership of the council on the date of the public defense of their doctoral thesis.

(5) Vacancies on the doctoral school council shall be filled in accordance with the legal provisions and these Regulations, and the term of office of the new member shall expire at the end of the term of office of the doctoral school council.

(6) The doctoral school council shall meet at least three times a year. Meetings of the doctoral school council shall be convened at the request of the director of the doctoral school or at least one-third of the members of the council. They shall be chaired by the director of the doctoral school.

Art. 14. The director of the doctoral school and/or the doctoral school council shall have the following main responsibilities:

a) drafting the doctoral school regulations;

b) deciding on the granting or revocation of doctoral school membership to doctoral supervisors, as well as establishing minimum standards of scientific performance, taking into account the provisions of the doctoral school regulations;

c) decide, at the proposal of the tenured doctoral supervisors, on the enrollment of candidates selected through the admission competition in doctoral studies;

d) if necessary, decides, at the proposal of tenured doctoral supervisors, on the expulsion of doctoral students;

e) reassigns the supervision of an ongoing doctoral program to another doctoral supervisor in the event that the doctoral supervisor has reached the age of 65 and does not wish to continue supervising doctoral programs;

f) develops the content of each doctoral program (the subjects that constitute the teaching activity in the doctoral program, the number of hours allocated to the course, seminar, and practical work within a subject, the number of transferable credits allocated to the subjects and the list of teaching staff teaching within the program), including the proportion of individual activities, study group activities, and research activities carried out under the coordination of doctoral supervisors;

g) approves the individual doctoral study programs of doctoral students;

h) implements procedures for highlighting doctoral research results for the purpose of evaluating doctoral theses and approving them for public defense;

i) implements and monitors strict compliance with the structure of doctoral study programs;

j) ensures the internal evaluation of doctoral study programs, on the basis of which the doctoral school will review, modify, and adapt the structure of doctoral study programs;

k) guarantees that candidates for doctoral studies are provided with accurate and complete information on the assessment and selection process for the admission competition, on the content of

doctoral study programs and the criteria for assessing research results, as well as on the ways in which doctoral studies can be capitalized on;

l) defines and implements the rules governing the working relationship between doctoral supervisors and doctoral students;

m) establishes the scientific performance standards that must be met by the members of the doctoral committees;

n) approves the guidance committees, in compliance with the ARACIS standards in force;

o) assists the external evaluator in the evaluation process for the provisional authorization or accreditation/reaccreditation of doctoral study fields and/or doctoral schools.

Art. 15 - (1) A doctoral school may include one or more doctoral study fields. If the doctoral school covers several doctoral fields, it shall have a coordinator/manager for each field or group of doctoral fields, as appropriate.

(2) The coordinators/managers of fields are appointed by the Rector of ULBS, at the proposal of the CSUD, in consultation with the directors of doctoral schools, and with the approval of the ULBS Senate.

(3) The coordinator/manager of the field is consulted on the development of the curriculum for the advanced university training program and the job description for the field or fields they coordinate.

(4) The director of the doctoral school or the coordinator/person responsible for the field generally chairs the admissions committee for the field they coordinate.

(5) The director of the doctoral school, together with the coordinator/person responsible for the field, is responsible for collecting data for the annual verification of compliance with the minimum standards required and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate by doctoral supervisors in the field.

(6) The director of the doctoral school, together with the coordinator/person responsible for the field, coordinates the preparation of the file for the accreditation or periodic evaluation of the field of doctoral studies.

Art. 16 - (1) The regulations of each doctoral school are drawn up by the director of the school and approved by the doctoral school council in consultation with all tenured doctoral supervisors in the school, in compliance with the regulations in force and these Regulations.

(2) The regulations of the doctoral school shall be approved by the CSUD.

(3) The doctoral school regulations shall be supplemented, whenever necessary, with new legal provisions concerning aspects of the doctoral school's activity.

(4) The doctoral school regulations shall establish, for each of the fields and doctoral study programs offered by it, mandatory criteria, procedures, and standards covering at least the following aspects:

a). The acceptance/affiliation of new doctoral supervisors, as well as regulations regarding the manner in which a doctoral supervisor may be removed from membership of the doctoral school;

b). the selection and admission of doctoral students, the prior performance of doctoral candidates, and study requirements;

c). doctoral students' attendance obligations, in accordance with the methodology developed by the ME;

d). activities for the training program based on advanced university studies for doctoral students;

e). research activities of doctoral students according to their research topic;

f). assigning students to research teams/groups and ensuring access to research resources;

g). guidance for doctoral students regarding the relationship between doctoral students and doctoral supervisors, procedures for changing doctoral supervisors, and, in general, the formal criteria involved in guiding doctoral students;

h). methods of preventing and sanctioning fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism;

i). evaluating doctoral students, especially with regard to how they capitalize on their doctoral research through publications, participation in scientific conferences, etc.;

j). periodic evaluation of doctoral supervisors, with a focus on scientific results, such as: meeting the minimum habilitation standards in force, their own research performance, the scientific performance of the doctoral students they supervise, etc.;

k). developing and implementing indicators for monitoring and internal evaluation of doctoral programs;

l). organizing and operating bodies competent to resolve disputes concerning the application of the provisions of the Framework Regulation and this Regulation.

4. Doctoral study programs

Art. 17. - (1) Doctoral study programs are organized in doctoral schools and are of two types:

) scientific doctorate, which aims to produce original scientific knowledge that is internationally relevant, based on scientific methods, and can be organized in the form of full-time or part-time education[1] . It can also be completed on a fee-paying basis. A scientific doctorate is a prerequisite for a professional career in higher education and research;

b) professional doctorate, in all fields, including dual university education, which aims to produce original knowledge based on the application of the scientific method, systematic reflection, or applied research on artistic creations, on high-level national and international sporting achievements or on topics of practical importance, and which forms the basis for a professional career in higher education and research, in the relevant fields [2] . The professional doctorate may be organized as full-time or part-time education.

(2) Dual higher education is organized for the third cycle through a professional doctorate according to a methodology approved by order of the Minister of Education.

(3) The dual doctoral cycle is a form of education in which the responsibilities for learning, teaching, applied activities, research, and evaluation are shared between ULBS and economic operators.

(4) ULBS organizes and conducts learning, teaching, and assessment activities, while economic operators organize work-based learning activities and participate in assessment. Applied and research activities may be conducted both at IOSUD and at economic operators.

(5) ULBS concludes a partnership agreement with economic operators, establishing the terms of cooperation, the rights and obligations of the parties, and the costs assumed by the partners.

(6) The doctoral student concludes an individual study and practical training/research contract with ULBS and the economic operator, establishing the rights and obligations of the parties.

(7) The competences acquired as a result of completing doctoral studies are those corresponding to level 8 of the EQF/CEC and CNC.

(8) Doctoral study programs ensure the development of professional skills (content, cognitive, and research) in specialized fields, as well as transversal skills.

(9) For the purposes of this regulation, the following field-specific competences are classified as professional competences:

[1] Amended by ULBS Senate Decision No. 5260/31.10.2024, Art. 4, in accordance with Art. VI of Government Emergency Ordinance No. 112 of September 25, 2024.
[2] Amended by ULBS Senate Decision No. 4357/16.09.2024, art. 12, in accordance with art. IV, para. 4 of Emergency Ordinance 95 of June 28, 2024.

a) advanced knowledge in the field;

b) the ability to identify, formulate, and solve research problems in a creative manner;

c) mastery of advanced research methods and techniques;

d) knowledge of research project management;

e) mastery of new research processes and solutions;

f) skills in documenting and capitalizing on scientific work;

g) the ability to write 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 requirements at national and international level;

h) the ability to process and handle data at an advanced level, including through the use of dedicated software, depending on the field;

i) academic-level language skills in internationally used languages necessary for documenting and writing scientific papers;

j) understanding and ability to apply the principles and values of scientific research ethics in the respective field.

(10) For the purposes of this regulation, the following are considered transversal skills:

a) written and oral communication skills in the field of science and culture;

b) advanced language skills in internationally used languages, including the expression and formulation of 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) interpersonal and teamwork skills;

e) knowledge of human, material, and financial resource management;

f) knowledge of career management, as well as job search techniques 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 of the use of intellectual property rights legislation;

j) the ability to innovate and learn about economic, technological, and social entrepreneurship.

Art. 18. - (1) Scientific doctoral study programs may be organized in the following forms of education: full-time and part-time.

(2) Full-time doctoral programs are scholarship-based. Part-time doctoral programs are non-scholarship-based.

(3) For doctoral programs, the obligations regarding full-time and part-time education are established by the ULBS Senate, at the proposal of the CSUD.

(4) Candidates for professional doctoral studies may choose one of the forms of education when registering for the admission competition, in accordance with the obligations set out in paragraph (4).

Art. 19. - (1) The doctoral program is coordinated by a doctoral supervisor and includes:

a) a training program based on advanced university studies, within the doctoral school;

b) an individual program of scientific research or applied research/artistic creation, as appropriate, for the fields in which professional doctorates are organized.

(2) The number of transferable credits for the doctoral program is determined by IOSUD-ULBS according to the scientific or artistic field, in accordance with the law.

(3) The doctoral study programs of the doctoral schools are continuations, at a higher level, of the bachelor's and master's programs at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu. It is forbidden to include in the curriculum of a doctoral program subjects or knowledge modules/course chapters from existing bachelor's or master's programs at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu.

(4) Specialized subjects must include the latest scientific results obtained in the field by doctoral supervisors at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and worldwide, in order to ensure that doctoral students obtain valuable original results based on their studies.

(5) Courses, seminars, or applied work specific to a particular discipline may be carried out jointly for several doctoral programs, promoting interdisciplinary training as a means of stimulating scientific research.

(6) The thematic content of a discipline is determined by the course coordinator. During seminars, doctoral students may present the results of their own research/artistic creations.

(7) Activities within training programs based on advanced university studies are supported by doctoral supervisors, in accordance with the provisions of the Methodology for the periodic internal evaluation of the activity of doctoral supervisors.

Art. 20. (1) Activities within training programs based on advanced university studies are carried out over a minimum of 14 weeks of one of the two semesters of the first year of schooling (either semester I, semester II, or both), according to the doctoral university study programs.

(2) The languages of instruction in doctoral schools may be Romanian or another international language. Emphasis shall be placed on teaching as many subjects as possible in international languages.

(3) All activities included in the individual doctoral study program, both those included in the training program based on advanced university studies and those related to the individual scientific research or applied research/artistic creation program, shall be assessed, at the time of evaluation, by the course coordinator or by the supervisory committee with one of the following grades: *Very Good, Good*, *Satisfactory*, or *Unsatisfactory*. The promotion of each activity (obtaining a minimum grade of "Satisfactory") leads to the accumulation of a number of ECTS credits, without which the doctoral student cannot be promoted. If an activity included in the individual doctoral study program is not passed, it can be retaken at a later date, but no later than 6 months, within the legal periods for doctoral studies. If the doctoral student fails again, he or she is expelled from doctoral studies.

Art. 21. (1) The training program based on advanced university studies is a tool for enriching the doctoral student's knowledge and serves to enable them to carry out their individual scientific research or applied research/artistic creation program in good conditions and to acquire advanced skills specific to the doctoral program.

(2) The training program based on advanced university studies must be relevant to the research topic of the doctoral thesis and must not negatively affect the doctoral student's available time for the individual scientific research/artistic creation program.

(3) As part of the training program based on advanced university studies, the doctoral student participates in the first year of doctoral studies in activities within 4-8 doctoral study disciplines.

(4) The disciplines that a doctoral student must follow within the training program based on advanced university studies may be chosen from among the disciplines offered by the doctoral school to which the doctoral student belongs or by another doctoral school. In the case of a joint doctoral program with a doctoral supervisor from outside the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, subjects offered by the doctoral schools of the partner institution may be chosen in accordance with the agreement concluded between the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and the partner institution.

Art. 22. - (1) For each subject attended at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu as part of the advanced university studies training program, the doctoral student receives a certificate of participation with the proposed grade, issued by the course instructor and countersigned by the doctoral supervisor/main doctoral supervisor. All certificates of attendance shall be submitted by the doctoral student to the IOSUD-ULBS secretariat in order to prove that the obligations of the advanced university studies training program have been fulfilled. Failure to fulfill the obligations of the advanced university studies training program shall result in the expulsion of the doctoral student.

(2) In the case of doctorates in co-supervision with a doctoral supervisor from outside the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, the doctoral student must submit to the IOSUD-ULBS secretariat supporting documents issued by the partner institution for the subjects attended by the doctoral student at that institution.

Art. 23. - (1) In order to ensure the necessary knowledge base for doctoral studies, doctoral schools may organize, within their framework, master's degree programs in research, exclusively in the form of full-time education and focused primarily on the development of scientific research skills.

(2) The studies completed by a doctoral student within a master's degree program in research may be recognized by the doctoral school council, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, as equivalent to the advanced university studies program of that doctoral student, taking into account, on the one hand, the field of that master's degree program and the curriculum followed within the program and, on the other hand, the subject of the doctoral thesis and the knowledge necessary for its preparation.

Art. 24. (1) Completing and passing the courses in the training program based on advanced university studies leads to the award of 30 transferable credits established at the doctoral school level.

(2) In the case of doctoral programs in the field of Medicine, the training program based on advanced university studies totals 60 transferable credits;

(3) Credits obtained by doctoral students during previous periods of doctoral studies, carried out in Romania or abroad, may be recognized as equivalent to those of subjects in the training program based on advanced university studies. The equivalence is proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the doctoral school council.

Art. 25. - (1) The main objective of the individual scientific research or applied research/artistic creation program is for the doctoral student to write a doctoral thesis and disseminate the results of their

research. The doctoral supervisor is responsible for the structure, content, implementation, and organization of this program.

(2) The individual scientific research or applied research/artistic creation program requires the doctoral student to participate in one or more scientific projects established by the doctoral supervisor.

(3) Through its doctoral schools, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu will provide doctoral students with the research infrastructure and logistical and financial resources necessary to carry out scientific research or applied research/artistic creation within the individual scientific research or applied research/artistic creation program.

Art. 26. - (1) In order to ensure a coherent scientific or applied research/artistic creation path for the doctoral student, the following shall be planned within the individual scientific research or applied research/artistic creation program at least 4 oral presentations in front of the doctoral supervisor and the academic guidance and integrity committee, each based on a written report by the doctoral student (of which at least one is the scientific research or applied research/artistic creation project):

a) in the first year of doctoral studies (or in the second year, first semester for the field of doctoral studies in Medicine), the doctoral student develops and presents the scientific research or applied research/artistic creation project in order to complete the doctoral thesis. Acceptance of the project, i.e., obtaining a minimum grade of "Satisfactory," means approval of the doctoral thesis topic.

b) in the second, third, and fourth years of doctoral studies, doctoral students shall prepare and submit at least one scientific research or applied research/artistic creation report to inform the guidance and academic integrity committee of their progress in doctoral research

(2) The actual date of each presentation referred to in paragraph (1) shall be set by the doctoral supervisor, following receipt of a written request from the doctoral student. The interval between two consecutive presentations shall be no more than 12 months. The doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student may not be absent from any presentation, and at least three members of the academic guidance and integrity committee must be present at each presentation. In exceptional circumstances, the presentation may take place online.

(3) After each presentation, minutes shall be drawn up recording the main observations and recommendations made by the doctoral supervisor and the members of the academic guidance and integrity committee, as well as the grade awarded, namely: *Very good*, *Good*, *Satisfactory*,

Unsatisfactory. A copy of the minutes, signed by the doctoral supervisor and the members of the guidance committee who were present, shall then be submitted to the IOSUD-ULBS secretariat.

Art. 27. Any doctoral student enrolled at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu or at another institution organizing doctoral studies in the country or abroad may participate in the activities of the doctoral schools of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu. Doctoral students coming from other institutions outside of agreements concluded with the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu that provide for free doctoral studies at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu shall pay, for participation in the activities of the doctoral schools, the tuition fees established by the Senate of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu.

Art. 28. Doctoral schools are required to provide the university community and any interested individuals or legal entities with information on their fields and doctoral study programs.

Art. 29. - (1) University teaching or research staff in doctoral schools are required to inform doctoral students about scientific, professional, and academic ethics and to verify compliance with these, including compliance with ethical provisions, throughout their doctoral studies.

(2) Doctoral schools shall take measures to prevent and sanction deviations from scientific, professional, and academic ethics standards, in accordance with Higher Education Law No. 199 of 2023, published in the Official Gazette No. 614 of July 5, 2023, and entered into force on September 3, 2023, Romanian Government Decision No. 305 of April 4, 2024, approving theFramework Code of Academic Ethics and Professional Conduct, published in the Official Gazette No. 327 of April 9, 2024, the ULBS Charter, the Code of Academic Ethics and Professional Conduct of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, and other regulations in force.

(3) In the event of academic fraud, violations of university ethics, or deviations from good conduct in scientific research, including plagiarism, the doctoral student and/or his/her doctoral supervisor shall be liable under the law. The doctoral student is responsible for the originality of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 30. - (1) IOSUD-ULBS, through its doctoral schools, may grant financial support to doctoral students for research internships/participation in conferences in Romania or abroad, with the agreement of the doctoral supervisor.

(2) The mobility of doctoral students may be facilitated by doctoral schools through:

a) concluding institutional agreements or partnerships, approved by the doctoral school council;

b) joint doctoral research;

c) exchanges of doctoral students and teaching and research staff with internationally recognized universities;

d) participation in international consortia/alliances, with the aim of including doctoral research topics in international scientific projects;

e) choosing the European doctoral route.

5. Doctoral studies contract

Art. 31. (1) The purpose of the study contract is to carry out the activities specific to the doctoral study program, regulating the relations between ULBS, 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 ULBS Charter, and the decisions of the ULBS Senate.

(2) The model framework contract for doctoral studies is drawn up by the CSUD, in accordance with these regulations, and is made available to all doctoral schools.

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

(4) The doctoral studies contract shall contain at least the following information:

a) information about ULBS, IOSUD-ULBS, and the doctoral school;

b) identification data of the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor;

c) the field of doctoral studies;

d) the type of doctoral degree;

e) the form of education;

f) form of funding;

g) the monthly amount of the scholarship/annual tuition fee, as applicable;

h) the norm for research and/or teaching activities, according to the classification, in the case of full-time doctoral studies;

i) duration of the doctoral program attended;

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 a summary written in Romanian;

m) the minimum standards that must be met during the studies and in the process of writing the doctoral thesis;

n) the deadline for completing the doctoral thesis;

o) the conditions for extending the deadline for completing the doctoral thesis;

p) the conditions for interrupting the study program;

q) the amount of teaching activities that the doctoral student carries out and the period in which they are carried out;

r) the conditions under which the doctoral supervisor may be changed;

s) the conditions for terminating the study contract;

t) information on the processing of personal data, in accordance with the legislation in force.

(5) Study contracts shall not be modified during the academic year. The tuition fee shall remain unchanged throughout the normal duration of the study cycle and may be indexed at a maximum rate of inflation for the same cohort of doctoral students.

(6) For each period of interruption and for the period of extension granted under these Regulations, an addendum to the doctoral study contract shall be concluded.

Art. 32. — (1) Conflicts between the doctoral student and the doctoral school shall be mediated by the CSUD.

(2) Conflicts between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor shall be mediated by the doctoral school council, and if the conflict is not resolved at this level, it shall be mediated by the CSUD.

6. Doctoral supervisor and guidance committee , and academic integrity

Art. 33. - (1) Doctoral supervisors are persons who obtained the right to supervise doctoral studies prior to the date of entry into force of Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as well as persons who obtain the habilitation certificate and become members of a doctoral school within IOSUD-ULBS, on the basis of an individual employment contract.

(2) A doctoral supervisor may supervise doctoral students only in the field for which they obtained this right when they were granted the status of doctoral supervisor or obtained the habilitation certificate.

(3) As an exception, upon establishment, a new field of doctoral studies may operate with doctoral supervisors from the same branch of science.

(4) A teaching and research staff member who has the right to supervise doctoral students and who is a tenured member of a higher education or research institution that is not an IOSUD may be part of a doctoral school at another IOSUD.

(5) A doctoral supervisor at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu who supervises doctoral students at this university is not entitled to simultaneously supervise doctoral students at other IOSUDs, with the exception of doctoral students supervised in co-supervision.

(6) A doctoral supervisor may supervise 8 doctoral students simultaneously, not including any doctoral students supervised in co-supervision, with a secondary role. As an exception, up to 12 doctoral students per supervisor may be supervised on a co-supervision basis, with the approval of the university senate, but not for more than 20% of the doctoral supervisors in a doctoral school.

(7) For the work they do in this capacity, doctoral supervisors are remunerated in accordance with the legislation in force.

(8) At the justified request of the doctoral student, the doctoral school council may decide to change the doctoral supervisor if it has been found that the latter has failed to fulfill his or her legal or contractual obligations, for other reasons relating to the supervisory relationship between the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, as well as in the event that the doctoral supervisor is found to be unavailable. In such cases, within a maximum of 30 days, the doctoral school council shall appoint another doctoral supervisor within the same field.

(9) If the termination of the coordination relationship with a doctoral student is due to the sole fault of the doctoral supervisor, the doctoral school shall propose to the CSUD that measures be taken to sanction the supervisor, in accordance with the legal provisions in force, the ULBS Charter, and these regulations.

(10) When appointing a new doctoral supervisor, the doctoral school council shall give priority to 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 the enrollment. If no available doctoral supervisor

can be identified within IOSUD-ULBS, IOSUD shall take steps to facilitate the academic mobility of the doctoral student within the same field but at another IOSUD.

(11) The doctoral supervisor is supported in their work with the doctoral student by an academic guidance and integrity committee. At the IOSUD-ULBS level, the academic guidance and integrity committee is made up of four members, teaching and research staff specialized in the field of the doctoral thesis and who are familiar with the rules of academic ethics and integrity. The members of the academic guidance and integrity committee must not be in a situation of incompatibility with the other members of the committee, the doctoral supervisor, or the doctoral student, as provided for in Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, the Framework Regulation, the Framework Code, the ULBS Charter, and the ULBS Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

(12) Members of the academic guidance and integrity committee may be part of the doctoral supervisor's research team, may be other persons affiliated with the doctoral school, or may be teaching and research staff not affiliated with it. At least one member of this committee is from outside IOSUD-ULBS. The activity of doctoral supervisors, members of the academic guidance and integrity committee, and members of doctoral committees is regulated in accordance with the regulations on the standardization of teaching activity.

(13) Members of the academic guidance and integrity committee cannot be nominated as members of the public defense committee for the doctoral thesis.

(14) The rights and obligations of the doctoral supervisor derive from Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as amended and supplemented, from the Framework Regulations, from these regulations, from the doctoral school regulations, from the ULBS Charter, and from their employment contract.

(15) The rights of the doctoral supervisor include:

a) the right to guide and evaluate the doctoral student's activity within the doctoral study program, in accordance with professional and academic autonomy, pursuing the requirements of the doctoral study program and respecting 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 used to evaluate them, both in internal and external evaluation;

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

f) the right to refuse to supervise a doctoral student if they are placed in a conflict of interest against their will;

g) the right to request, with justification, that the doctoral school council terminate the supervision 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 their supervision;

i) the right to decide on 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.

(16) The doctoral supervisor has the following obligations:

a) to provide scientific, professional, and ethical guidance to each doctoral student;

b) to propose research topics;

c) to ensure the conditions and stimulate the progress of doctoral students in their research;

d) to monitor and evaluate each doctoral student objectively and rigorously;

e) support the mobility of doctoral students;

f) avoid conflicts of interest in the supervision of doctoral students;

g) make every effort to verify the conformity of doctoral theses with the specific requirements of an original creation.

(17) Doctoral studies may also be organized in co-supervision, in which case the doctoral student carries out his/her activity 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 IOSUDs in Romania, based on a written agreement between the organizing institutions involved, as specified in the study contract.

(18) If the written cotutelle agreement is concluded between an IOSUD in Romania and a doctoral organizing institution abroad, the course of the study program, the doctoral thesis, and the conditions for public defense must be established in such a way as to comply with the legal provisions

applicable in both countries. Otherwise, the administrative procedure carried out by the IOSUD will be invalidated and the doctoral degree will not be awarded.

(19) A joint doctoral program may also be organized if the doctoral supervisors are from the same IOSUD.

(20) In the case of doctoral studies organized in co-supervision, the main doctoral supervisor is the one whose vacant doctoral student position was the subject of the admission competition, with the second doctoral supervisor playing a secondary role.

(21) The doctoral student is fully accounted for by the main doctoral supervisor, including in terms of his or her teaching and research activity.

Art. 34. - (1) A doctoral supervisor is tenured in a doctoral school of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu if they meet the following conditions:

a) they were a doctoral supervisor at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu at the time of the entry into force of Higher Education Law No. 199/2023 or acquired the status of doctoral supervisor in accordance with Art. 69, paragraph (1) of Higher Education Law No. 199/2023;

b) has an individual employment contract with Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu;

c) by decision of the ULBS Senate, at the proposal of the CSUD, has been granted the right to supervise doctoral students in a field of doctoral studies offered by one of the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS for which he/she has the right to supervise doctoral students.

(2) A doctoral supervisor may be a tenured member of only one doctoral school of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, but may also carry out activities in other doctoral schools as an affiliated university teacher or affiliated researcher.

(3) Doctoral supervisors who have reached the retirement age of 65 and meet the habilitation standards in force at the time of retirement and wish to continue their doctoral supervision activities may submit an annual application to the CSUD. The application is reviewed in relation to the situation in the doctoral school in the field in which they supervise doctoral students and is approved/rejected by the CSUD.

(4) In the event that a tenured doctoral supervisor is unable to supervise doctoral students for an extended period of time or does not wish to continue supervising doctoral students after reaching the age of 65, the CSUD and the doctoral school to which they belong are responsible for reassigning the

supervision of doctoral programs currently under the coordination of this doctoral supervisor to other doctoral supervisors, in order to ensure the optimal completion of the doctoral theses.

Art. 35. - (1) An internal evaluation of doctoral supervisors is carried out in the doctoral schools within IOSUD-ULBS. The internal evaluation is carried out in accordance with the Methodology for the periodic internal evaluation of the activity of doctoral supervisors (Annex 1 to these Regulations).

(2) The status of doctoral supervisor within IOSUD-ULBS shall cease by operation of law and/or be suspended in the following situations:

a) in the case of doctoral supervisors who have reached the age of 65 and no longer have doctoral students under their supervision;

b) in the case of doctoral supervisors who have reached the age of 70, who have obtained approval to continue their doctoral supervision activities after the age of 65, and who no longer have doctoral students under their supervision;

c) in the case of supervisors who, regardless of age, have not supervised any doctoral students for 6 consecutive years;

d) in the case of a doctoral supervisor who has been sanctioned by the competent authorities for violating the rules of academic ethics and deontology, the ULBS Charter, the Code of Academic Ethics and Deontology, or the Internal Regulations.

e) in the situations provided for in the Methodology for the periodic internal evaluation of the activity of doctoral supervisors (Annex 1 to these Regulations).

7. Doctoral students

Art. 36. - (1) A person admitted to a doctoral program has the status of doctoral student for the entire period of their presence in the program, from enrollment until completion of the program or until expulsion, except during periods of interruption of studies, but including any extensions granted in accordance with the provisions of the study contract, based on these Regulations.

(2) Doctoral student status is maintained even during periods of internal and international mobility. In the case of international academic mobility of doctoral students who come to study at their own expense, the recognition of transferable credits is carried out by IOSUD-ULBS, based on university autonomy.

(3) The recognition of transferable credits, in the case of national and international academic mobility, may be carried out by IOSUD-ULBS only for persons who prove their status as doctoral students with study documents or schooling documents issued by the higher education institution they attended.

(4) The conditions and manner in which academic mobility is carried out shall be established by a methodology approved by order of the Minister of Education.

(5) Doctoral students may be employed by ULBS as research assistants or university assistants, as appropriate, for a fixed period, following a competition.

(6) Doctoral students employed as research assistants may carry out paid teaching activities on an hourly basis, in accordance with the legislation in force.

(7) Resident doctors have the right to enroll in a doctoral program during their residency. Those who obtain teaching positions as university assistants in health-related higher education institutions through competition, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (5), shall continue their residency training and shall be remunerated for both activities. (8) During the doctoral program, doctoral students shall have the following rights:

(8) During the doctoral program, doctoral students have 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-ULBS when topics relevant to doctoral studies are discussed;

c) to be represented in the decision-making bodies of the doctoral school, in accordance with the provisions of these regulations;

d) access and use the research infrastructure of IOSUD-ULBS, including logistics, documentation centers, libraries (including international databases), and the equipment of the doctoral school and IOSUD-ULBS for the development of research projects and doctoral theses;

e) to enroll in courses and seminars organized by other doctoral schools;

f) work together with teams of researchers from ULBS or from research and development units that have concluded institutional agreements or partnerships with ULBS, with interdisciplinary initiatives being encouraged and supported;

g) be integrated into research project teams within ULBS, including by participating in the process of drafting and submitting funding applications;

h) benefit from national or international mobility;

i) 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 they have chosen their doctoral thesis;

j) participate in scientific communication sessions organized by the doctoral school and/or IOSUD-ULBS;

k) be informed about the curriculum of doctoral studies within the doctoral school;

l) benefit from student support services available at higher education institutions, including accommodation and canteen services.

(9) Doctoral students have the following obligations:

a) to comply with the schedule established together with the doctoral supervisor and to fulfill their obligations to defend their work and present their research results;

b) to defend, at their request, at least once every 12 months, a presentation of the progress of their scientific research program before the academic guidance and integrity committee and the doctoral supervisor;

c) to be in constant contact with the doctoral supervisor and the members of the academic guidance and integrity committee;

d) to respect institutional discipline, without their academic freedom being restricted;

e) comply with university ethics and deontology policies and conduct their studies and research in accordance with the rules of academic integrity.

f) carry out the activities provided for in the individual doctoral study program plan, in accordance with these Regulations;

g) participate in the activities included in the training program based on advanced university studies provided by the doctoral school;

h) submit activity reports to the doctoral supervisor and the guidance committee whenever requested;

i) submit a monthly activity report signed by the supervisor and the doctoral student to the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service within ULBS;

j) comply with the regulations and rules of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, behave in a manner befitting a doctoral student;

k) actively contribute to the improvement and enhancement of the framework for the doctoral program;

l) respond promptly to all requests addressed to them by IOSUD-ULBS;

m) comply with all quality standards regarding doctoral studies and behave in a manner consistent with university ethics and professional conduct.

(10) Throughout the duration of their activity, doctoral students shall benefit from recognition of their seniority in work and specialty, as well as free medical and dental care under the conditions provided by Law No. 95/2006 on health reform, republished, with subsequent amendments and additions, and the framework contract, without paying the mandatory social contributions regulated by Law No. 227/2015 on the Fiscal Code, with subsequent amendments and additions.

(11) The period of doctoral studies is assimilated, in accordance with pension legislation, for the purpose of determining the contribution period.

(12) After the doctoral thesis has been defended, IOSUD-ULBS issues a certificate attesting to the period during which the doctoral student pursued doctoral studies.

(13) Conflicts between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor shall be mediated by the doctoral school council, and if the conflict is not resolved at this level, it shall be mediated by the CSUD.

(14) Conflicts between the doctoral student and the doctoral school shall be mediated by the CSUD.

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

Art. 37. - (1) ULBS shall conclude a doctoral studies contract with the doctoral student and, optionally, additional documents. The doctoral studies contract does not constitute an individual employment contract.

(2) For teaching and/or research activities performed by the doctoral student, ULBS shall conclude a fixed-term individual employment contract in accordance with the legislation in force, falling under the Labor Code, with respect for the rights and obligations of the employee and with the payment of the contributions due.

Art. 38. - (1) The details of the training program based on advanced university studies and those of the individual scientific research or applied research/artistic creation program are recorded in the individual doctoral study program, drawn up by the doctoral supervisor together with the doctoral student.

(2) The individual doctoral study program shall be approved by the council of the doctoral school where the doctoral supervisor is a member and shall form an integral part of the doctoral study contract.

Art. 39. - Any request related to the doctoral student's situation (interruption of the doctoral program, extension of the doctoral program, change of doctoral supervisor, external mobility grants, European doctoral route, etc.) shall be submitted to the IOSUD-ULBS secretariat at least **45 days** before the date on which, if approved, the request would take effect.

8. Admission to doctoral studies

Art. 40. - (1) Admission to doctoral studies is the process of selecting candidates for vacant doctoral student positions that doctoral supervisors within the doctoral school decide to propose for filling during the admission sessions organized by IOSUD-ULBS, through the doctoral schools.

(2) The research topics for each vacant doctoral student position are proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the doctoral school council/CSUD.

(3) The form of funding for each doctoral student position proposed for filling is approved by the CSUD before they are put up for competition, depending on the research topic proposed by the doctoral supervisor, in accordance with the ULBS strategy for funding priority areas and areas of interest, and the number of doctoral supervisors eligible to enroll new doctoral students for each field of doctoral studies.

(4) The selection of candidates for vacant doctoral student positions is carried out 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 the regulations and specific criteria for admission to doctoral studies within ULBS.

(5) The CSUD and doctoral schools shall draw up, at least 6 months before the admission competition, the regulations and specific criteria for admission to doctoral studies at ULBS.

(6) Doctoral schools shall ensure the transparency of admission competitions and guarantee candidates' access to information on doctoral selection and admission procedures.

(7) Information regarding the organization of the admission competition for doctoral studies shall be displayed at the institution's headquarters and published on the official website of IOSUD-ULBS at least 30 days prior to its organization.

(8) Only graduates with a master's degree or equivalent according to the law are eligible to participate in the admission competition for doctoral studies, and the cumulative number of transferable credits acquired for the bachelor's and master's degree cycles must be at least 300.

(9) After completing the admission procedure, the doctoral school shall display the ranking of admitted/rejected candidates, mentioning the beneficiaries of doctoral grants and the form of education.

(10) The doctoral school shall handle any appeals filed in accordance with the provisions of the IOSUD-ULBS regulations and shall display the results of this procedure.

(11) All candidates declared admitted following an admission competition are included in the CSUD decision on admission to studies, drawn up according to the types of funding, corresponding to the respective session of admission competitions organized in the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS.

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

Art. 41. (1) Admission to doctoral studies is based on a competition organized by the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu in accordance with the framework methodology for organizing admission to higher education institutions in Romania, adopted by order of the Minister of Education and with the regulations of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu. Admission to doctoral studies is conditional upon passing the admission competition, in accordance with the legal provisions in force. A candidate may apply within the same admission competition to a single doctoral supervisor, on a single research topic, within the same field of doctoral studies.

(2) In accordance with Article 70 of OME No. 3693/2024 of February 1, 2024, approving the Framework Methodology for organizing admission to higher education in short-term, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral university study cycles, graduates of master's degree programs, as well as graduates with a bachelor's degree or equivalent (bachelor's degree of graduates of 5- or 6-year study programs, full-time education - long-term education), issued, as a rule, by the year of graduation of the first bachelor's degree class organized in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 288/2004 on the organization of university studies, as amended and supplemented.

(3) Enrollment in the admission competition for doctoral studies within IOSUD-ULBS, in a doctoral field, is not conditioned by the field in which the bachelor's or master's degree was obtained. The total cumulative duration of the bachelor's and master's degree programs must be at least 300 transferable credits (ECTS). An exception to this paragraph is the field of doctoral studies in Theology, for which synodal decisions must also be respected.

(4) In order to enroll in the doctoral admission competition, IOSUD-ULBS recognizes the credits (ECTS) or credit points allocated for bachelor's and master's degrees obtained abroad, provided that the 300 transferable credits (ECTS) are accumulated.

(5) When registering for the admission competition, the candidate for doctoral studies chooses a doctoral supervisor from among those doctoral supervisors at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu who offer doctoral student positions for that admission competition, and competes for a place related to a research topic proposed by the doctoral supervisor. If successful, that doctoral supervisor will coordinate the doctoral studies of the respective candidate within the doctoral school where the doctoral supervisor is a tenured member.

(6) The director of the CSUD, together with the IOSUD-ULBS secretariat, specifies the documents required for enrollment in the doctoral admission competition and annually develops specific criteria for admission to doctoral studies.

(7) In consultation with doctoral schools, tenured doctoral supervisors shall establish the criteria for evaluating candidates and selecting candidates for the research places/topics they offer in the admission competition.

(8) It is prohibited, under penalty of law, to promote any form of direct or indirect discrimination between candidates for doctoral studies through the criteria for evaluating and selecting candidates.

(9) Citizens of European Union member states, European Economic Area states, or the Swiss Confederation have access to doctoral studies under the same conditions as those provided for Romanian citizens by law, including with regard to fees (admission exam fee, tuition fee, doctoral thesis defense fee).

(10) The doctoral program may be conducted in Romanian, in a language of national minorities, or in an international language, in accordance with the doctoral study contract concluded between IOSUD-ULBS, the doctoral supervisor, and the doctoral student.

Art. 42. - (1) The admission competition for doctoral studies at ULBS is organized only for the fields of doctoral studies that are accredited or provisionally authorized, in accordance with the regulations in force, the provisions of the framework methodology for admission to university studies, adopted by order of the Minister of Education, the provisions of the regulations and the specific criteria for admission to doctoral studies at ULBS, in a uniform manner and includes:

a) a language proficiency exam in one of the international languages (English, French, German), assessed with a "Pass/Fail" grade.

b) a specialized exam consisting of an interview between the admissions committee and the candidate for doctoral studies based on the doctoral research project developed on a research topic proposed by the doctoral supervisor in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations and Admission Criteria and Special Conditions of IOSUD-ULBS for doctoral studies; the research project will be evaluated based on the criteria specified in the Regulations and specific criteria for admission to doctoral studies at ULBS.

c) for the field of Theology, in the case of candidates for an Orthodox theology supervisor, knowledge of Orthodox Dogmatic Theology will also be tested during the examination, in accordance with the admission program. To register for the doctoral admission competition in the field of Theology, the minimum average is 8.51 and is calculated as follows: 70% of the bachelor's degree average [(1+2+3+4+bachelor's degree average) : 5] + 30% of the master's degree average [(1+2+dissertation average) : 3].

d) The minimum average that a candidate must obtain in order to be admitted to doctoral studies is 7.00. The average is calculated to two decimal places, without rounding.

(2) a) The specialized exam will be conducted through competition in doctoral study fields, with the committee being represented by doctoral supervisors in the respective field.

b) In order for the exam to take place, a simple majority of the committee members must be present, but no fewer than three members. If this condition cannot be met, the CSUD, with the approval of the ULBS Board of Directors, may propose other members, even if they are not doctoral supervisors.

c) The date of the specialized exam is the one set in the admission calendar. If, for valid reasons, the admission committee cannot meet on this date, the chair of the committee will communicate to the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service the date agreed upon by all members of the committee.

d) The committee chairs shall communicate the place and time of the specialized exam to the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service.

(3) After evaluating the samples (based on the established evaluation criteria), the admissions committee nominates, based on the established selection criteria, the candidate who will fill the doctoral student position advertised in the competition. This candidate may be enrolled in the respective position only after obtaining the favorable opinion of the CSUD.

Art. 43. (1) Doctoral schools and IOSUD-ULBS, through the CSUD, shall ensure the transparency of the procedures for evaluating and selecting candidates for admission to doctoral studies for the positions offered by tenured doctoral supervisors and shall guarantee access to this information, including through publication on the internet and other means of information (brochures, posters, etc.).

(2) CSUD, the directors of doctoral schools, and the chairpersons of admission committees are responsible for the proper conduct of the admission competition, in compliance with quality standards, academic ethics, and the legislation in force.

(3) Any appeals regarding the admission competition, made exclusively by the candidate for doctoral studies, shall be submitted to the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service within the deadline set in the admission competition calendar. Appeals may only concern procedural irregularities. Appeals concerning oral tests and those based on ignorance of the Regulations and Admission Criteria and the special conditions of IOSUD-ULBS for doctoral studies shall not be admitted. To resolve appeals, the CSUD proposes an appeals committee. The appeals committee resolves the appeals, draws up a report, and sends the candidate the responses to the appeals individually to the email address provided by the appellant. The response of the appeals committee is final and irrevocable.

9. Duration of doctoral studies

Art. 44. – (1) The doctoral program is coordinated by a doctoral supervisor and includes:

a) a training program based on advanced university studies, within the doctoral school;

b) an individual scientific research or applied research/artistic creation program, as applicable, for the fields in which professional doctorates are organized.

(2) The number of transferable credits for doctoral studies is determined by each higher education institution according to the scientific or artistic field, in accordance with the law. Within IOSUD-ULBS, the number of transferable credits for doctoral studies is 240.

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

(4) Doctoral studies may be interrupted for valid reasons, including: (a) medical reasons; (b) pregnancy, childbirth, childcare leave; (c) the doctoral student's unavailability for a limited period of time for reasons other than medical ones; (d) exceptional cases that cannot be foreseen or anticipated. The normal duration of the doctoral program is extended by the cumulative periods of interruption approved by IOSUD-ULBS. The cumulative period of interruption may not exceed two years.

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

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

(7) The duration of the extension/interruption of the doctoral study program shall be financed by the doctoral student from his/her own income, by paying tuition and/or administrative fees. The doctoral student shall also bear the fee for the public defense of the doctoral thesis if, due to the approval of extensions and/or interruptions, the normal duration of the doctoral program of 4 years, as provided for in the study contract, is exceeded.

(8) Requests for extension/interruption/reduction of the doctoral program signed by the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor shall be submitted to the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service. These are subject to the approval of the CSUD and the ULBS Senate.

(9) The request for interruption of the doctoral program, specifying the period of interruption, shall be accompanied by evidence showing the valid reasons for the interruption.

(10) During the interruption period, the doctoral student cannot benefit from a doctoral scholarship awarded from a study grant financed from the state budget.

(11) After defending the doctoral thesis, IOSUD-ULBS issues a certificate attesting to the period during which the doctoral student attended doctoral studies, regardless of whether they were completed or not.

10. Funding for doctoral studies

Art. 45. - (1) Doctoral studies are organized with funding from the state budget, on a fee-paying basis, or from other legally constituted sources.

(2) Doctoral studies may also be funded by private legal entities or research and development institutes, based on a contract with ULBS.

(3) Private legal entities may propose to doctoral supervisors at IOSUD-ULBS research topics relevant to their area of interest and for which they are willing to provide additional funding. At the proposal of the doctoral supervisors, ULBS may conclude contracts with the respective private legal entities establishing the rights and obligations of the parties.

(4) By a Government decision initiated by the Ministry of Education, a number of places equal to the number of grants shall be allocated annually for doctoral studies. The methodology for calculating the funding of higher education institutions shall take into account the costs, by field and type of doctoral program, for the advanced studies program and for the individual scientific research or applied research/artistic creation program, as appropriate.

(5) The allocation of places and grants to IOSUD shall be approved by order of the Minister of Education.

(6) Grants for doctoral studies include the amount of individual scholarships for full-time study and do not include the amount of individual scholarships for part-time study.

(7) The ULBS Board of Directors, at the proposal of the Rector and in consultation with the CSUD, shall determine in a transparent manner, based on the ULBS strategy for financing priority areas and areas of interest, the number of doctoral supervisors eligible to enroll new doctoral students-doctoral students for each field of doctoral studies, how the budgeted places and doctoral scholarships are distributed to doctoral schools, as well as the minimum percentage of the doctoral grant allocated exclusively to the funding of the professional training of doctoral students.

(8) IOSUD-ULBS will allocate a minimum of 20% of doctoral grant funding to research activities carried out by doctoral students, including their national and international mobility.

(9) Payment of doctoral student fees shall be made in accordance with the law, without excluding other forms of remuneration provided for by the legal provisions in force.

(10) A person may receive funding from the budget for a single doctoral program.

(11) Persons who have the appropriate financial resources, either from their own sources or from scholarships awarded by natural or legal persons, may be admitted as doctoral students on a fee-paying basis, under the conditions provided for in the IOSUD-ULBS regulations.

(12) Doctoral grants funded from the state budget that remain vacant as a result of the withdrawal or expulsion of a doctoral student may be filled by other doctoral students from the same year of study and from the same field of doctoral studies or from another field, if it is not possible from the same field, based on an evaluation of the results obtained by doctoral students in the doctoral training program, supported primarily by their publications.

Art. 46. - (1) Persons who possess the necessary qualifications and have the appropriate financial resources (either from their own sources or from scholarships awarded by natural or legal persons) may be admitted, at their request and following the passing of the admission competition for doctoral studies, as fee-paying doctoral students, in accordance with the regulations in force.

(2) For fee-paying doctoral students, the ULBS Senate shall set the tuition fee for each class, at the proposal of the CSUD.

(3) During their doctoral studies, fee-paying doctoral students are required to pay, under the conditions established by the ULBS Senate, the tuition fee for each academic year, in the amount and installments specified in the study contracts.

(4) Fee-paying doctoral students who interrupt their doctoral studies at the end of the first semester of an academic year (or resume, after an interruption, their doctoral studies at the beginning of the second semester of an academic year) shall pay tuition fees only for the first semester (or second semester) of that academic year.

11. Completion of the doctoral program

Art. 47. Doctoral studies are completed by defending the doctoral thesis in a public session before the doctoral thesis defense committee, hereinafter referred to as the doctoral committee.

Art. 48. - (1) The CSUD and doctoral schools establish the standard format of the doctoral thesis, which may include elements of structure and graphic formatting, and the doctoral student is required to comply with that standard format. With a view to institutional standardization and collaboration with other similar doctoral schools in the country, each doctoral school shall develop a guide for writing doctoral theses according to the field of doctoral studies, specifying elements such as: the formal structure of the thesis, the minimum number of pages, references to bibliographic references, formal requirements for technical editing, etc. The author and title of the doctoral thesis, as well as the supervisor(s) of the doctoral thesis, shall be specified on the cover of the thesis.

(2) IOSUD-ULBS sets out the ethical and professional standards applicable during doctoral studies, including those relating to the preparation and writing of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 49. - (1) The doctoral thesis shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements established by the CSUD and doctoral schools in accordance with the provisions of these regulations and in compliance with the regulations in force.

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

(3) The doctoral thesis is a public document, and the name and surname of the doctoral thesis holder, the doctoral supervisor, and the members of the academic guidance and integrity committee, as well as the identification data of ULBS, are also public information.

(4) The doctoral student is the author of the doctoral thesis and assumes responsibility for the accuracy of the data and information presented in the thesis, as well as for the opinions and demonstrations expressed therein.

(5) The content of the doctoral thesis is determined by the doctoral student in consultation with the doctoral supervisor and shall comply with the framework structure and limitations imposed by the CSUD and doctoral schools.

(6) The title of the doctoral thesis may be changed with the approval of the doctoral supervisor until its completion for public defense.

(7) IOSUD-ULBS, through the doctoral schools, with the help of the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service, is required to verify the doctoral thesis using a computer program designed to detect similarities before the public defense of the doctoral thesis. The verification is carried out based on the standards contained in the National Guide for the Writing of Doctoral Theses, developed by the

National Commission for the Accreditation of Academic Titles, Diplomas, and Certificates (CNATDCU). The results of the analysis shall be made available to the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor, the academic guidance and integrity committee, and the doctoral committee.

Art. 50. (1) The public defense may take place only after the following steps have been completed:

a) the doctoral student submits the doctoral thesis in electronic format to the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service, together with the abstract of the doctoral thesis and a sworn statement regarding the originality of the doctoral thesis;

b) The Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service scans the doctoral thesis using a similarity identification program recognized by CNATDCU; the doctoral school may also use another similarity identification program, with the similarity reports being included in the doctoral file;

c) the analysis and interpretation of the similarity report results are carried out by both the academic guidance and integrity committee and the director of the doctoral school. The similarity report must be verified by the academic guidance and integrity committee before the defense and by the director of the doctoral school before the official submission of the doctoral thesis;

d) if the similarity report indicates that changes need to be made to the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor are officially notified by the doctoral school. After the identified issues have been remedied, the steps in points a), b), and c) are repeated.

e) the doctoral thesis is presented to the academic guidance and integrity committee, established at the doctoral school level, for each doctoral student;

f) After this preliminary defense, which is public, the doctoral supervisor, in accordance with the committee's recommendation and the results of the similarity report analysis, 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 Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service, in printed and electronic format, accompanied by the result of the similarity report analysis carried out by the director of the doctoral school, together with the summary of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student's CV, and the estimated date for the public defense; The Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Department certifies that the doctoral student has fulfilled all the obligations of the doctoral program. A printed copy of the doctoral thesis is also

submitted to the ULBS Library; the doctoral student becomes a graduate, and after completing all subsequent stages, is awarded the title of doctor by issuing the doctoral diploma[3] ;

h) the doctoral thesis and its annexes shall be available for public consultation for 90 calendar days prior to the public defense on the national 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 when the thesis is public on the national platform, any natural or legal person may make comments on the existence of deviations from ethical and deontological standards, including from the perspective of the existence of plagiarism. Comments may be submitted online, at the email address dep.doctorate@ulbsibiu.ro or at the ULBS registry. The comments shall be recorded in a report prepared by the director of the doctoral school, which shall be forwarded to the CSUD for analysis and decision with a view to validating the initiation of the public defense procedure for the doctoral thesis and shall form part of the doctoral file;

j) if the CSUD's decision is to validate, the procedure for the public defense of the doctoral thesis is initiated by establishing the doctoral committee;

k) if the CSUD invalidates the initiation of the public defense procedure for the doctoral thesis, the doctoral school receives recommendations on how to revise the doctoral thesis and eliminate situations that do not comply with ethical and deontological standards, and the doctoral student is required to remedy the content of the thesis within 3 months of the communication of the decision to invalidate the defense, with the resumption of the procedure for making the thesis transparent.

l) the graduate who, after the public defense of the doctoral thesis and receiving approval for transparency posting for 90 calendar days, reaches, during the course of the procedures provided for in letters h), j) and/or k), reaches the maximum duration provided for in the addenda to the study contract, they cannot be denied the right to defend their doctoral thesis[4] .

(2) The composition of the doctoral committee is proposed by the doctoral supervisor, approved by the director of the doctoral school, and approved by the CSUD. The doctoral committee consists of at least 5 members: the chair, as representative of IOSUD-ULBS, the doctoral supervisor, and at least 3

[3] Letter g) supplemented by ULBS Senate Decision No. xxxx/October 30, 2025, Art. x in accordance with Art. I, para. 1 of OMEC No. 4653 of July 23, 2025.
[4] letter l) was added by ULBS Senate Decision no. xxxx/30.10.2025, art. x in accordance with Art. I, para. 2 of OMEC no. 4653 of July 23, 2025.

referees from Romania or abroad, who are specialists in the field in which the doctoral thesis was written, and at least 2 of whom work outside IOSUD-ULBS. The members of the doctoral committee hold a doctoral degree and have at least the teaching position of associate professor or scientific researcher of the second degree, or have the status of doctoral supervisor, in the country or abroad. No member of the academic guidance and integrity committee may be a member of the doctoral committee. In the case of a joint doctoral program with a doctoral supervisor from outside the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, the doctoral committee shall include representatives of both institutions, including the doctoral supervisor from the institution with which the joint doctoral program is being carried out.

(3) The request to set the date for the public defense of the doctoral thesis is made by the doctoral student, approved by the doctoral supervisor and the chair of the doctoral committee. The request is registered with the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service 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. If, after validation by the doctoral committee, the chair of the committee or one of the official referees becomes unavailable, the director of the CSUD may approve, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor/main doctoral supervisor and with the approval of the director of the doctoral school, the replacement of that member of the doctoral committee.

(4) The doctoral thesis shall also be written in digital format. In the field of arts, the doctoral thesis may be accompanied by a digital recording of the original artistic creation. After the doctoral diploma has been issued, the doctoral thesis, in digital and printed format, shall be archived at the ULBS library for an indefinite period.

(5) The doctoral school, through the Doctoral, Postdoctoral, and Habilitation Studies Service, shall prepare and display the announcement for the public defense at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date of the defense. This shall include the location, date, and time of the defense, the doctoral supervisor(s), and 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 report, the doctoral student's CV, the CVs of the members of the public defense committee for the doctoral thesis, or links to these are posted on the IOSUD-ULBS website.

(6) The doctoral thesis is defended in a public session before the doctoral committee, after evaluation by all reviewers and submission of their reports at least 15 days before the thesis defense. The defense of the doctoral thesis may take place in the presence of at least 4 members of the doctoral

committee, with the mandatory physical participation of the doctoral student, the chair of the committee, and the doctoral supervisor, while the other members of the committee may participate via online videoconference. The public defense must include a question and answer session with the members of the doctoral committee and the audience.

(7) Based on the public defense of the doctoral thesis, the reviewers' reports, the statement on the originality of the work, and the analysis of 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 awarding of the doctoral degree.

(8) If the minimum standards required for the award of the doctoral degree are not met, the doctoral committee shall specify the elements to be redrafted or completed in the doctoral thesis and shall request a new public defense of the thesis. The second public defense of the thesis shall take place before the same doctoral committee as in the case of the first defense. If the minimum standards are not met at the second public defense, the doctoral degree will not be awarded, and the doctoral student will be expelled. In cases of force majeure, the doctoral thesis may be defended before another doctoral committee, which may be different from the one at the first defense.

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

(10) The structure of the doctoral file and 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.

(11) Within 90 calendar days of receiving the doctoral file, the CNATDCU shall issue a favorable opinion on compliance with the administrative procedure carried out at the IOSUD level and compliance with the minimum criteria for awarding the doctoral degree. The administrative procedure includes, as a separate step, verification of the statement of originality of the thesis and analysis of the similarity reports.

(12) Within 30 calendar days of receiving the favorable opinion, IOSUD-ULBS shall issue the decision to award the doctoral degree, signed by the rector of ULBS, and shall prepare and issue the doctoral degree.

(13) If CNATDCU decides that the administrative procedure carried out at IOSUD-ULBS did not comply with the legal provisions in force, the doctoral file will be sent back to IOSUD-ULBS for re-examination and completion. It may be resubmitted to CNATDCU for a new review only after the procedures provided for in paragraphs (1) - (6) have been repeated.

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

(15) If the doctoral student opts for separate publication of the doctoral thesis or chapters thereof, he/she shall be granted a grace period of up to 24 months to carry out such publication, during which time the doctoral thesis, in digital format, shall become inaccessible to the public. After the grace period expires, if no notification regarding the separate publication of the thesis has been uploaded to the platform managed by UEFISCDI, the document in digital format automatically becomes freely accessible, with the assignment of a copyright protection license.

(16) After the publication of the thesis or chapters thereof, the author is required to notify IOSUD-ULBS of this fact and to send the bibliographic reference and a link to the publication, which will then be made public on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI.

(17) After the decision to award the doctoral degree has been issued, within a maximum of 180 days, IOSUD-ULBS is required to send a printed copy of the doctoral thesis and its annexes to the National Library of Romania, in accordance with Law No. 111/1995 on the Legal Deposit of Documents, republished, a copy intended for the Intangible Fund, as well as a digital copy of their , on electronic media, 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.

(18) IOSUD-ULBS shall develop and adopt regulations on the quality standards to be observed in the preparation of the doctoral thesis. These standards shall be correlated with the minimum standards developed by CNATDCU for the award of the doctoral degree, as well as with the guide on the drafting of doctoral theses developed by CNATDCU.

Art. 51. - (1) The public defense of the doctoral thesis is chaired by the chair of the doctoral committee and is conducted as follows:

a) a brief presentation of the doctoral student's progress by the chair of the committee based on the doctoral student's file;

b) presentation of the content of the doctoral thesis by the doctoral student, lasting between 20 and 30 minutes;

c) presentation of the evaluation reports prepared by the doctoral supervisor(s) and official referees, lasting 30-40 minutes;

d) discussion of the doctoral thesis, during which the members of the doctoral committee and the audience ask questions to the doctoral student, between 20 and 30 minutes.

e) presentation by the chair of the doctoral committee of the opinions sent in writing to the chair of the doctoral committee, prior to the public defense, by specialists who have consulted the thesis or the thesis abstract, if applicable;

(2) The defense of the doctoral thesis before the defense committee is mandatory and aims to highlight the doctoral student's knowledge in the field of the topic addressed and the elements of originality contained in the thesis; this is recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

(3) Based on the public defense of the doctoral thesis, the reviewers' reports, the statement on the originality of the work, and the analysis of 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 awarding of the doctoral degree.

(4) Each member of the doctoral committee shall award a grade. The grades *Excellent*, *Very Good*, *Good*, *Satisfactory*, or *Unsatisfactory* may be awarded. The grade that receives an absolute majority of the votes cast by the members of the committee shall become the decision of the entire committee. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with the recommendations of the CNATDCU for each field of specialization. The grade "Excellent" may only be awarded when the doctoral thesis is exceptional, and the criteria established by the CNATDCU are very clearly defined for the awarding of this grade. The minutes of the doctoral thesis defense meeting shall record not only the grade established by the committee following the vote, but also the grade awarded by each member of the doctoral committee.

(5) If the doctoral student has fulfilled all the requirements set out in the individual scientific research/artistic creation program and the doctoral thesis has received one of the grades *Excellent*, *Very*

Good, *Good*, or *Satisfactory*, the doctoral committee proposes that the doctoral student be awarded the title of doctor. IOSUD-ULBS submits this proposal to CNATDCU for validation.

(6) In the event of an "Unsatisfactory" grade, the doctoral committee shall specify the elements of the doctoral thesis that must be redrafted or supplemented, and the thesis shall be resubmitted only after the procedures provided for in Art. 50, paras. (1)-(6) of these regulations have been repeated. In order to organize this public re-defense of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student shall pay the fee for defending the doctoral thesis established by the ULBS Senate for the academic year in which the re-defense takes place. If, following the resubmission, the committee still awards an "Unsatisfactory" grade, the doctoral title will not be awarded and the doctoral student will be expelled.

(7) The decisions of the doctoral committee shall be communicated to the audience at the public doctoral thesis defense meeting by the chair of the doctoral committee.

(8) If a member of the doctoral committee identifies, during the evaluation of the doctoral thesis, both prior to and during the public defense, serious deviations from good conduct in scientific research and university activity, including plagiarism of other authors' results or publications, fabrication of results or replacement of results with fictitious data, the member of the doctoral committee is obliged to take the following measures:

a) notify all members of the doctoral committee of the misconduct and propose the award of an "Unsatisfactory" grade;

b) notify the ULBS academic ethics and deontology committee of the breaches of academic ethics and deontology rules.

Art. 52. - (1) The activities of the chair and official referees within the doctoral committees are remunerated; the methods of remuneration and reimbursement of transport and accommodation expenses are approved by the ULBS Senate for each academic year, in accordance with the provisions of the law and depending on the IOSUD-ULBS budget.

(2) It is forbidden for doctoral students to offer gifts or other similar undue benefits to members of the doctoral committee, as well as to request that doctoral students contribute to the reimbursement of expenses related to the travel of members of the doctoral committee.

Art. 53. - (1) The CSUD, together with the doctoral schools, shall develop criteria for the evaluation of doctoral theses, in accordance with the European Qualifications Framework and the competences associated with the qualification registered in the RNCIS, as well as with the requirements

of the CNATDCU, according to the specific nature of the fields in which doctoral studies are organized and conducted.

(2) The criteria developed under the conditions of paragraph (1) shall be approved by the Senate of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu.

(3) The criteria for evaluating the quality of a doctoral thesis refer to the results of scientific research or applied research/artistic creation presented in the thesis and obtained within the doctoral study program. Results accepted for publication and applications for which there is a request for patent registration are also taken into account.

12. Quality assurance of doctoral programs

Art. 54. - (1) Doctoral programs are periodically subject to internal evaluation processes on dates set by the CSUD in consultation with the doctoral schools.

(2) The internal evaluation of the quality of a doctoral program is carried out by the doctoral school.

(3) The internal quality assessment report for a doctoral program shall be prepared by the director of the doctoral school and approved by the CSUD. The report shall cover:

a) the mission and objectives of the doctoral program;

b) the content and curriculum of the doctoral program;

c) the compatibility of the doctoral program with the description of the qualification registered in the RNCIS;

d) the results of the research undertaken by doctoral students and their doctoral supervisors, as evidenced by publications, patents, and participation in scientific events;

e) the presentation on the internet of the results of the research activity of doctoral students;

f) cooperation relations with other institutions;

g) specific requirements of the different teaching methods and forms of delivery;

h) the existence of documentation, learning, and research resources, as well as the logistics available to doctoral students;

i) staff involved in the implementation of the doctoral program;

j) methods of assessing the knowledge and testing the skills of doctoral students, as well as monitoring their progress during their training;

k) the degree of involvement of doctoral students in ensuring the quality of the doctoral program;

l) the existence of a code of ethics with clear provisions on the definition and punishment of various forms of academic and professional fraud, including plagiarism;

m) the results of the annual evaluation of doctoral supervisors;

n) fulfillment of the specific requirements of the external evaluation indicators for doctoral programs.

(4) The internal quality assessment procedures for a doctoral program shall be based on several sources of information, including:

a) measuring the degree of satisfaction of doctoral students, obtained through anonymous questionnaires, subject to confidentiality of the information provided and processed statistically;

b) confidential peer review of the research activity of tenured doctoral supervisors. This shall be carried out on the basis of information provided by reviewers from the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu and reviewers from other institutions engaged in research activities.

Art. 55. - (1) Each field of doctoral studies and/or each doctoral school is subject to an external evaluation every 5 years.

(2) The external evaluation of doctoral schools and/or fields of doctoral studies is carried out by ARACIS or by another quality assurance agency, either domestic or foreign. It is carried out on the basis of a system of criteria and a methodology established by order of the Minister of National Education.

(3) A field of doctoral studies which, after a period of 5 years from the last accreditation, has not undergone an external evaluation process and has not been reaccredited, shall lose its accreditation.

(4) A doctoral school may no longer enroll new doctoral students in a field of doctoral studies for which it has lost its accreditation. Doctoral students in that field of doctoral studies, who are currently enrolled in the doctoral program, shall continue their studies in accordance with their doctoral studies contract until completion.

Art. 56. - (1) The evaluation of doctoral students' activity is predominantly oriented towards the results of their research activity. Results such as publications, participation in conferences, patents, and their quality, estimated by the integration of publications into the international flow, citations, awards, etc., are taken into account.

(2) The evaluation of doctoral students' activity explicitly targets all the competences that doctoral students must develop within the doctoral program, in accordance with Level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications Framework.

(3) The evaluation of doctoral students' activity is carried out periodically, based on the decision of the doctoral school council, by evaluation committees approved by the doctoral school council.

(4) The evaluation procedures and criteria are established by the doctoral school council and must allow for:

a) the accurate measurement of doctoral students' performance, including differences in performance between them;

b) analysis of doctoral students' progress in acquiring the knowledge and skills associated with the professional qualification sought;

c) administrative and academic verification to ensure the fairness of the procedures;

d) transparency and information regarding the criteria for assessing doctoral students;

e) informing doctoral students about the assessment strategy, methods, assessment criteria, and expected performance.

(5) Compliance with scientific, professional, and academic ethics is an explicit criterion for the continuous and final evaluation of the doctoral student's activity.

(6) The evaluation of doctoral students' activity shall be carried out with maximum transparency, with the evaluators informing the doctoral students of the grades awarded.

Art. 57. - (1) Doctoral schools shall self-evaluate their activity periodically, at 5-year intervals, based on procedures developed by the CSUD.

(2) The periodic self-evaluation of doctoral schools shall take into account, in particular, the quality of the results obtained in research:

a) the scientific research results of the doctoral supervisor (publications, patents, and other ways of capitalizing on their own research activity);

b) the scientific research results of doctoral students supervised by this doctoral supervisor (publications, patents, and other means of capitalizing on the research activity of doctoral students);

c) other indicators of the doctoral supervisor's scientific activity (participation in research projects, participation in national and international conferences, membership in professional organizations);

d) other indicators of the scientific activity of doctoral students supervised by this doctoral supervisor (participation in research projects, participation in national and international conferences, membership in professional organizations).

Art. 58. - (1) The following positions at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu are incompatible and cannot be held simultaneously by spouses, relatives, and relatives up to and including the third degree:

a) the position of president of the senate of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu with that of director of the CSUD or director of a doctoral school;

b) the position of rector with that of director of CSUD or director of a doctoral school;

c) the position of vice-rector with that of director of a doctoral school;

d) the position of director of CSUD with that of director of a doctoral school.

(2) It is forbidden for a candidate for doctoral studies to be related by marriage, affinity, or kinship up to and including the third degree to members of the admissions committee before which they must take the tests in the doctoral admissions competition.

(3) It is forbidden for a doctoral student to be related by marriage, affinity, or kinship up to and including the third degree to their doctoral supervisor, to members of their academic guidance and integrity committee, or to members of the doctoral committee appointed to publicly defend their doctoral thesis.

(4) Persons who are spouses, relatives, or relatives up to and including the third degree may not be appointed to the same doctoral admission committee, doctoral student guidance and academic integrity committee, or doctoral committee.

Art. 59. - (1) Doctoral student status may be lost in the following situations:

a) at the written request of the doctoral student, endorsed by their doctoral supervisor and approved by the council of the doctoral school to which they belong;

b) based on a written request from the doctoral supervisor, approved by the council of the doctoral school where the doctoral supervisor is employed, if the doctoral supervisor has found that the doctoral student is not fulfilling their obligations under the doctoral study contract;

c) if the doctoral student fails to complete or publicly defend their doctoral thesis within the period established in accordance with the doctoral studies contract and any additional documents thereto, exceeding this period automatically leading to their expulsion;

d) if a member of the doctoral committee identifies, during the evaluation of the doctoral thesis, both prior to and during the public defense, serious deviations from good conduct in scientific research and university activity, including plagiarism of the results or publications of other authors, fabrication of results, or replacement of results with fictitious data;

e) if, following the re-defense of the doctoral thesis, the committee still awards the grade "Unsatisfactory," the doctoral student is expelled;

f) if, in the activities provided for in the individual doctoral study plan, the student receives the grade "Unsatisfactory" twice for the same activity;

(2) The expulsion of a doctoral student is made by a decision approved by the CSUD and approved by the ULBS Senate.

Art. 60. - (1) The CSUD may decide to change the doctoral supervisor of a doctoral student by replacing them with another doctoral supervisor from the same doctoral field in the following situations:

a) if the doctoral supervisor has reached the age of 65 and does not wish to continue his/her doctoral supervision activity;

b) at the request of the director of the doctoral school, if he/she has found that the doctoral supervisor is unavailable for a period longer than one year or if the doctoral supervisor loses his/her status as a member of the doctoral school;

c) at the reasoned request of the doctoral supervisor (or the doctoral student), if the latter has found that the doctoral student (or the doctoral supervisor) has failed to fulfill their legal or contractual obligations, or for other reasons relating to the supervisory relationship between the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student;

d) at the joint request of the doctoral student and his/her doctoral supervisor, in which, based on well-founded reasons, a new doctoral supervisor is proposed.

(2) In situations a), b), and c) of paragraph (1), the new doctoral supervisor may be proposed either by the director of the doctoral school or by the doctoral student. (3) The change of doctoral supervisor may be approved only with the prior written consent of the new doctoral supervisor.

(3) The change of doctoral supervisor may only be approved with the prior written consent of the new doctoral supervisor.

(4) After the change of a doctoral student's doctoral supervisor, the new doctoral supervisor shall establish, within a maximum of 30 days from the date of approval of the change of doctoral supervisor,

a new academic guidance and integrity committee for that doctoral student, which may include members of the former academic guidance and integrity committee, if they agree to continue guiding the doctoral student.

Art. 61. In order to ensure quality, IOSUD-ULBS shall implement all provisions in force regarding university ethics and deontology, respectively academic freedom. Thus, software/programs recognized by CNATDCU for determining the degree of similarity for scientific works (research reports, papers, articles, doctoral theses) are made available to the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor, and the academic guidance and integrity committee.

Art. 62. In the event of a violation of academic ethics and deontology rules, the case shall be referred to the academic ethics and deontology committee of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu for analysis and resolution, including the expulsion of the doctoral student.

Art. 63. In the event that, following the final decisions of the CNATDCU to withdraw the doctoral title following reports of plagiarism, IOSUD-ULBS shall proceed to:

a) suspending the right to supervise new doctoral students for a period of 3 years in the case of doctoral supervisors who have supervised a doctoral thesis with a final decision to withdraw the doctoral degree for plagiarism;

b) excluding from the IOSUD-ULBS doctoral school the doctoral supervisor who has supervised at least two doctoral theses with a final decision to withdraw the doctoral title for plagiarism.

Art. 64. In order to prevent academic fraud and ensure academic ethics and deontology in doctoral studies, ULBS will implement all necessary measures and carry out all aspects arising from the legal regulations in force. The doctoral student- , the doctoral supervisor, the academic guidance and integrity committee, the doctoral school council, and the CSUD shall ensure that all measures have been taken to prevent academic fraud.

Art. 65. The external evaluation of IOSUD-ULBS, respectively of the fields of doctoral studies, for the purpose of provisional authorization or accreditation, shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Title IV - Quality Assurance in Higher Education of the Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as amended and supplemented.

13. Transparency

Art. 66. IOSUD-ULBS guarantees the transparency of the organization and conduct of doctoral programs at all its doctoral schools.

Art. 67. - (1) Doctoral schools, with the logistical support of IOSUD-ULBS, shall ensure the publication on the internet of all necessary information regarding doctoral study programs, focusing in particular on 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 programs;

f) information on how studies are financed;

g) the model framework contract for doctoral studies;

h) information on doctoral supervisors and the doctoral students they supervise, including at least a list of their publications and patents;

i) information on the results and professional performance of doctoral supervisors;

j) guidelines on the drafting of doctoral theses, namely standards for their preparation, procedures, and evaluation criteria;

k) the minimum standards developed by CNATDCU for awarding doctoral degrees;

l) summaries of doctoral theses to be publicly defended, as well as the date, time, and location of the public defenses, at least 20 days prior to their defense;

m) the addresses where the completed doctoral theses can be accessed.

(2) IOSUD-ULBS shall publish on its website the annual self-assessment report, which shall necessarily contain references to the feedback from doctoral students regarding the quality of the educational process.

14. University ethics and professional conduct

Art. 68. In teaching and university research activities, it is mandatory to comply with the rules of university ethics and deontology, regulated by the ULBS Code of University Ethics and Deontology,

by the Higher Education Law no. 199 of 2023, published in the Official Gazette No. 614 of July 5, 2023, and entered into force on September 3, 2023, with subsequent amendments and additions, and by Romanian Government Decision No. 305 of April 4, 2024, approving theFramework Code of Academic Ethics and Professional Conduct, published in the Official Gazette No. 327 of April 9, 2024, with subsequent amendments and additions;.

Art. 69. Any complaints regarding non-compliance with the rules of academic ethics and deontology shall be recorded and resolved in accordance with the ULBS Code of Academic Ethics and Deontology.

Art. 70. Failure to comply with the rules of academic ethics and conduct, including the certification of proven cases of plagiarism, may result in public liability for IOSUD-ULBS.

15. Affiliation with doctoral schools within IOSUD-ULBS

Art. 71. - (1) A teacher/researcher who has obtained the habilitation certificate in Romania may apply for the position of tenured doctoral supervisor in one of the doctoral schools within IOSUD-ULBS if they cumulatively meet the following minimum conditions:

a) ME/CNATDCU standards for habilitation valid at the time of registration of the application for affiliation;

b) The ULBS standards set out in Annex 2 to these regulations;

c) They have not submitted affiliation files to any doctoral school, from any IOSUD, which have been previously rejected, at any stage, earlier than 1 year from the date of the rejection decision, regardless of the field of doctoral studies[5] .

(2) Candidates who have obtained their habilitation certificate in Romania and wish to be affiliated as a tenured doctoral supervisor in one of the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS shall submit to the Registry of the "Lucian Blaga" University the affiliation file, which shall include at least the following documents:

a) the standard application form for affiliation as a doctoral supervisor in the doctoral school, drawn up in accordance with Annex 3;

[5] Letter c) was added by ULBS Senate Decision No. xxxx/30.10.2025, Art. x.

b) the verification form for the minimum CNATDCU standards in force on the date of submission of the application;

c) the ULBS standards compliance form for affiliation, provided in Annex 2;

d) a portfolio of scientific papers, considered relevant by the candidate, developed in the field of the targeted doctorate (maximum 10);

e) curriculum vitae and list of works, signed by the candidate;

f) a statement on the candidate's own responsibility regarding the originality of the scientific papers in the list of papers and the fulfillment of the minimum standards established by CNATDCU in force;

g) a copy of the order granting the habilitation certificate;

h) personal identification documents, in simple copy: identity card, proof of name change if the name on the diploma no longer matches that on the identity card;

i) the candidate's sworn statement that the affiliation file has not been previously rejected, at any stage, by any institution organizing doctoral studies.

(3) A teacher/researcher who has obtained the habilitation certificate in universities outside Romania may apply for the position of tenured doctoral supervisor in one of the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS after obtaining recognition of the status of doctoral supervisor or habilitation, in accordance with the legal regulations in force at the time of the request for recognition.

(4) For the purpose of affiliation as a tenured doctoral supervisor in one of the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS, candidates who have obtained recognition of their status as doctoral supervisors or habilitation within IOSUD-ULBS shall submit to the Registry of the "Lucian Blaga" University an affiliation file that shall include at least the following documents:

a) the standard application form for affiliation as a doctoral supervisor in the doctoral school, drawn up in accordance with Annex 3;

b) the decision of the ULBS rector recognizing the status of doctoral supervisor or habilitation;

c) a portfolio of scientific papers, considered relevant by the candidate, developed in the relevant doctoral field (maximum 10);

d) curriculum vitae and list of works, signed by the candidate;

e) personal identification documents, in simple copy: identity card, proof of name change if the name on the diploma no longer matches that on the identity card.

(5) The affiliation file for obtaining the status of tenured doctoral supervisor in one of the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS is analyzed by the doctoral school, depending on the existing situation in the doctoral school in the field of doctoral studies for which the applicant has applied (fulfillment of the minimum CNATDCU standards, fulfillment of the ULBS standards regarding affiliation to a doctoral school, scientific activity, occupancy rate, age group structure, development prospects, consistency with the ULBS strategic development plan, etc.). The doctoral school, through its director, appoints three doctoral supervisors affiliated with IOSUD-ULBS to evaluate the affiliation file. They shall make a recommendation, which shall be reviewed by the CSUD. The CSUD shall propose the approval or rejection of the affiliation file for the position of tenured doctoral supervisor in the doctoral school. The ULBS Senate shall validate or invalidate the proposal.

(6) Doctoral supervisors admitted as tenured members in one of the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS are required to carry out ongoing scientific activity, which ensures that they consistently meet the minimum national standards required and mandatory for obtaining the habilitation certificate in force.

Art. 72. - (1) The "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu promotes interdisciplinarity in doctoral studies. This is achieved both through collaboration within/between its doctoral schools and between them and those of other universities or research institutes in the country and abroad.

(2) In the context of policies to ensure academic mobility, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu may hire, on a contractual basis, specialists from abroad who have the legal right to supervise doctoral students.

16. Transitional and final provisions

Art. 73. Doctoral studies at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu are organized in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

Art. 74. For doctoral students enrolled in doctoral studies under Law 1/2021 and its subsequent acts, the rules in force at the time of enrollment shall apply, with the exception of the provisions relating to the public defense of doctoral theses, which shall be implemented starting with the 2024-2025 academic year, in accordance with the new regulations imposed by the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies approved by Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3020 of January 8, 2024, published in the Official Gazette No. 56 of January 22, 2024.

Art. 75. Until the end of the 2023-2024 academic year, i.e. September 30, 2024, doctoral theses shall be defended in accordance with Order No. 5.229 of August 17, 2020, approving the methodologies for awarding the habilitation certificate, awarding the title of doctor, as well as for resolving complaints regarding non-compliance with quality or professional ethics standards, including regarding the existence of plagiarism in a doctoral thesis, and with the Operational Procedure for the evaluation and defense of doctoral theses PO-ULBS-CSUD-101 approved at the ULBS Senate meeting on September 30, 2022.

Art. 76. Starting with the 2024-2025 academic year, respectively October 1, 2024, the completion of the doctoral program will be done in accordance with Chapter 11, Articles 47-53 of these regulations and in compliance with the regulations imposed by the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies approved by Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3020 of January 8, 2024, published in the Official Gazette No. 56 of January 22, 2024, with subsequent amendments and additions.

Art. 77. - (1) These Regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu shall enter into force on the date of their adoption by the Senate of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu.

(2) Annexes 1, 2, and 3 form an integral part of these Regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu.

(3) On the date of entry into force of these regulations, the Regulations on the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, approved at the meeting of the Senate of Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu on 30 September 2022, shall be repealed.

17. Annexes

Annex 1: Methodology for the periodic internal evaluation of the activity of doctoral supervisors

This Methodology establishes the procedure for conducting the internal evaluation of the activity of doctoral supervisors at the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, in accordance with:

- Higher Education Law No. 199 of 2023, published in the Official Gazette No. 614 of July 5, 2023, and entered into force on September 3, 2023, with subsequent amendments and additions;
- The Framework Regulation on Doctoral Studies approved by Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3020 of January 8, 2024, published in the Official Gazette No. 56 of January 22, 2024;
- Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3998 of March 12, 2024, approving the Methodology for granting the habilitation certificate, published in the Official Gazette No. 236 of March 20, 2024;
- Romanian Government Decision No. 305 of April 4, 2024, approving the Framework Code of Academic Ethics and Conduct, published in the Official Gazette No. 327 of April 9, 2024;
- Charter of the "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, including the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- Regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, approved at the ULBS Senate meeting on June 27, 2024.

Art. 1. (1) Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (ULBS) organizes doctoral studies within the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS.

(2) Doctoral study programs are organized and conducted within IOSUD-ULBS through doctoral schools.

(3) Doctoral schools are organized and operate within IOSUD-ULBS with doctoral supervisors who have acquired this status in accordance with the law and have been affiliated with one of the doctoral schools in accordance with internal regulations and standards.

(4) The external evaluation of the activity of doctoral supervisors, for the purpose of accreditation/reaccreditation or authorization of doctoral study fields, is carried out in accordance with the legislation in force.

(5) The internal evaluation of the activity of doctoral supervisors is carried out annually and as often as necessary, based on this Methodology.

Art. 2. (1) The evaluation of the activity of doctoral supervisors within the doctoral schools of IOSUD-ULBS refers to their professional results and performance, as well as their national and international recognition.

(2) Doctoral supervisors are required to complete and submit annually or whenever necessary to the director of the doctoral school to which they belong, in printed and electronic format, the verification form regarding the fulfillment of the minimum standards for the award of the habilitation certificate, specific to the field in which they obtained the right to supervise doctoral students, according to the evaluation process schedule established by the CSUD.

(3) The minimum standards to which the activity is reported are those in force at the time of the internal evaluation process, in accordance with legal regulations.

(4) The checklist for meeting the standards for granting the habilitation certificate must contain complete data for identifying/verifying the declared contributions (e.g., active/functional web links, WOS access numbers, book ISBNs).

(5) In the form regarding the fulfillment of the standards for granting the habilitation certificate sent to the director of the doctoral school, each doctoral supervisor must specify, unequivocally and on their own responsibility, whether or not they meet each indicator related to their field, or, if not, which indicators they do not meet.

(6) Failure to submit the self-assessment form or submitting it without complete data for identifying/verifying the declared contributions is equivalent to NON-COMPLIANCE with these standards, with all the consequences that this entails (in accordance with the methodologies, regulations, and instructions in force).

Art. 3. (1) The files on the fulfillment of the minimum accreditation standards are analyzed by evaluation committees appointed by the CSUD for doctoral study fields or groups of fields, as appropriate.

(2) Evaluation committees may request additional information in order to verify the contributions declared.

(3) Based on the files regarding the fulfillment of the habilitation standards, the evaluation committees shall draw up summary reports on the activity of the doctoral supervisors and shall establish the list of doctoral supervisors who fall into the category " " "Habilitation standards fulfilled ," respectively "Habilitation standards not fulfilled." The list is validated by the CSUD, approved by the ULBS Board of Directors (CA-ULBS), and approved by the ULBS Senate.

(4) The CSUD and the directors of doctoral schools communicate the final results of the internal evaluation to each doctoral supervisor and determine whether the results of the evaluation are made public or not and the form in which they are made public, as appropriate.

Art. 4. (1) Doctoral supervisors who fall into the category of those with "Unmet habilitation standards":

a) may not participate in the doctoral admission sessions organized within IOSUD-ULBS in the admission committees, nor may they supervise new doctoral students until the next evaluation process in which they are classified as "Qualification standards met."

b) cannot teach courses or lead practical activities included in the curriculum of the advanced university studies training program of any doctoral school within IOSUD-ULBS.

c) lose their membership in the doctoral school to which they belong if, cumulatively within three years, they do not fall into the category of those with "Qualification standards met" and if they do not have doctoral students in training during the extension period, the interruption period, or the grace period;

(2) Doctoral supervisors who lose their membership in the doctoral school, in the situation specified in Art. 4 para. (1) letter c) of the Methodology, may regain this status by following the internal procedures and regulations in force at the time of the request.

Annex 2: Minimum standards required for affiliation as a doctoral supervisor at one of the doctoral schools within IOSUD ULBS, for candidates who have obtained the habilitation certificate in Romania

Cumulative compliance with the following criteria will be verified:

a) Possession of the habilitation certificate or the status of doctoral supervisor;
b) The ME/CNATDCU standards required to obtain the habilitation certificate, in force at the time of submission of the affiliation file, for applicants who have obtained the habilitation certificate in an institution in Romania;
c) ULBS standards set out in the table below;
d) The necessity and opportunity of affiliation;
e) Relevance of publications in relation to the field in which affiliation is requested.

Doctoral school	Fields of doctoral studies	ULBS standards
Engineering sciences and mathematics	Engineering and Management Industrial Engineering Mechanical Engineering Computers and Information Technology	a. Minimum *Hirsch* index: ≥ 4 (*Web of Science* – WoS) or ≥ 6 (*Scopus*); b. Personal indicator value *"Citing articles without self* citations" in WoS ≥20; c. At least two research grants won as follows: through national competitions organized under the auspices of the relevant ministry, as project director, or through international competitions financed from public funds, as project director/partner manager. At least one of these projects must have been contracted in the last 5 years. The position of director for one of the projects may be equivalent to the position of member in the

		research teams of at least two research projects (xceeding €5,000 per project carried out by higher education institutions or research institutes). d. For potential applicants from outside Romania, the categories of projects contracted through competition specific to each applicant's country of residence will be identified.
	Mathematics	Identical to the minimum national standards in force for obtaining the habilitation certificate at the time of application for affiliation to the doctoral school.
Theology	Theology	a. At least 2 papers classified as "article" in journals listed/indexed in Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Arts and Humanities Citation Index, or Emerging Sources Citation Index). Articles may be equivalent to scientific papers published by prestigious international publishers, as follows: • 1 author volume = 3 WOS articles; • 1 coordinated volume = 2 WOS articles; • 1 chapter in a volume = 1 WOS article. b. at least one project as coordinator/contracted manager in the last 5 years obtained through PN competition, respectively H2020, or member in the coordination teams of at least two such projects.

		The position of director or member of research teams can be equated with WOS articles (or equivalent works published by prestigious international publishers), as follows: • director/project manager = 2 WOS articles (or equivalent works published by prestigious international publishers, as specified in point a.); • project team member = 1 WOS article (or equivalent works published by prestigious international publishers, as specified in point a.).
Social Sciences	Management Finance Economics Cybernetics and Statistics	a. at least 2 papers classified as "article" in journals listed in Web of Science Clarivate (Social Sciences Citation Index), in the categories Core Economics (Economics, Business, Business&Finance, Management), with an AIS greater than 0.15 according to the latest Journal Citation Report or the most recent official UEFISCDI lists at the time of submission of the habilitation file. b. at least one research project as director/coordinator/contracted manager obtained through CNCSIS, PN, H2020 competition. The position of director may be equivalent to membership in the research teams of at least two research projects (worth more than €50,000 per

		project carried out by higher education institutions or research institutes). c. For potential applicants from outside Romania, the categories of projects contracted through competition specific to each applicant's country of residence will be identified.
	Right	a. At least 2 papers classified as "article" in journals listed/indexed in Web of Science (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Arts and Humanities Citation Index, or Emerging Sources Citation Index) or in SCOPUS. Articles may be equivalent to papers published by prestigious international publishers, as follows: -1 author volume = 3 ISI/SCOPUS articles -1 coordinated volume = 2 ISI/SCOPUS articles -1 chapter in a volume = 1 ISI/SCOPUS article b. At least one research project won in national or international competitions coordinated as director/manager or member of research teams for at least two such projects. The position of director or member of research teams can be equated with ISI/SCOPUS articles (or equivalent works published by prestigious international publishers), as follows: - project director/manager = 2 ISI/SCOPUS articles (or equivalent works published by prestigious international publishers, as specified in point a.);

		- project team member = 1 ISI/SCOPUS article (or equivalent works published by prestigious international publishers, as specified in point a.). For potential applicants from outside Romania, the categories of projects contracted through competition specific to each applicant's country of residence will be identified.
	Sociology	Identical to the minimum national standards in force for obtaining the habilitation certificate at the time of application for affiliation to the doctoral school.
Philology and History	Philology	a. At least 2 articles classified as "document type" as "article" or "review" in journals listed in Web of Science (www.webofknowledge.com): Science Citation Index Expanded and/or Social Sciences Citation Index placed in Q1 or Q2 according to the impact factor (IF) or absolute influence score (AIS) or Arts & Humanities Citation Index – with at least 5 years of age in the Web of Science Core Collection; b. At least 1 research project won in national or international competitions coordinated as director/manager or member in research teams of at least 2 such projects. The position of project director or member of research teams can be equated with Web of Science articles of the type mentioned in point (a), as follows: - project director/manager = 2 articles; - member of the project team = 1 article.

		For potential applicants from outside Romania, the categories of projects contracted through competition specific to each applicant's country of residence will be identified.
	History	a. At least 2 articles classified as "article" or "review" in Web of Science (www.webofknowledge.com) rated journals: Science Citation Index Expanded and/or Social Sciences Citation Index placed in Q1 or Q2 according to the impact factor (IF) or absolute influence score (AIS) or Arts & Humanities Citation Index – with at least 5 years of age in the Web of Science Core Collection; b. At least 1 research project won in national or international competitions coordinated as director/manager or member in research teams of at least 2 such projects. The position of project director or member of research teams can be equated with Web of Science articles of the type mentioned in point (a), as follows: - project director/manager = 2 articles; - member of the project team = 1 article. For potential applicants from outside Romania, the categories of projects contracted through competition specific to each applicant's country of residence will be identified.
Medicine	Medicine	a. At least 2 papers classified as "article" in Web of Science Clarivate (Science Citation Index Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index)

		journals, of which at least one in the Q1 (red, according to UEFISCDI) or Q 2 (yellow, according to UEFISCDI) area at the time of submitting the affiliation application. b. at least one research project as director/coordinator/contracted manager obtained through CNCSIS, PN, H2020* competition. The position of director may be equivalent to membership in the research teams of at least two research projects (worth over €5,000 per project carried out by higher education institutions or research institutes). *For potential applicants from outside Romania, the categories of projects contracted through competition specific to each applicant's country of residence will be identified.
Theater and performing arts	Theater and performing arts	a. Evidence of experience in coordinating scientific work; b. Detailed presentation of the scientific research and/or artistic creation direction that the applicant intends to pursue together with doctoral students; c. Evidence of the candidate's ability to work in research teams and lead research projects in internationally used languages.

Annex 3

Approved
Rector,

Approved
Director of CSUD,

APPLICATION

For affiliation to the Doctoral School ..... of IOSUD-ULBS as a tenured doctoral supervisor

Dear Rector,

I, the undersigned, …… (first and last name), tenured at ……, holding the position of ……., hereby request affiliation with the Doctoral School ..... of IOSUD-ULBS, in the field of doctoral studies ……...

I declare on my own responsibility that the information presented in this application and in the affiliation file is true.

I enclose the following:

- the standard application form for affiliation as a doctoral supervisor in the doctoral school, drawn up in accordance with Annex 4;
- the checklist of minimum CNATDCU standards in force at the time of application;
- the form for meeting the ULBS standards for affiliation, provided in Annex 2;
- a portfolio of scientific papers, considered relevant by the candidate, developed in the relevant doctoral field;
- curriculum vitae and list of works, signed by the candidate;
- a statement on the candidate's own responsibility regarding the originality of the scientific papers in the list of papers and the fulfillment of the minimum standards established by CNATDCU in force;
- a copy of the order granting the habilitation certificate;
- personal identification documents, in simple copy: identity card, proof of name change if the name on the diploma no longer matches that on the identity card;
- the candidate's sworn statement that the affiliation file has not been previously rejected at any stage by any institution organizing doctoral studies.

[Date] [Signature]