

The Babeş-Bolyai University

REGULATIONS
of the Doctoral School of Law (DSL)

2026

Contents

REGULATIONS	1
PREAMBLE.....	4
Legal Framework	4
General provisions	5
Types of Doctorate.....	5
Forms of Education and Funding.....	6
Structure and functioning of the doctoral school of law	6
Mission of the Doctoral School of Law	6
Structure of the Doctoral School of Law	6
Council and Director of the Doctoral School of Law	7
Teaching Activities of the Doctoral School.....	10
Doctoral supervisors. Affiliation, Rights, Obligations and Evaluation	10
Criteria and Procedure for Affiliation with the SDD.....	13
Periodic Evaluation of the Activity of Doctoral Supervisors	15
Withdrawal of the Status of Doctoral Supervisor	15
Admission to doctoral studies.....	17
Organization and Conduct of Doctoral University Studies	18
Study Contract	18
Doctoral trajectory	19
Program of advanced university	20
Individual scientific research program.....	21
The research activities.....	23
Rights and obligations of doctoral students	24
Recognition of previous doctoral or scientific research periods.....	26
Extension of doctoral studies	27
Withdrawal of the Doctoral Student from Doctoral Studies.....	29
Expulsion from Doctoral Studies.....	30
Public Defense of the Doctoral Thesis	31
General Provisions	31
Thesis Standards	31
Procedure for the Defense of the Doctoral Thesis	31
Quality assurance of doctoral programs.	38

Development and implementation of monitoring indicators	38
Periodic evaluation of doctoral supervisors	40
Ethics and professional deontology rules. Incompatibilities	41
The committee for the resolution of appeals.....	42
Transitional and final provisions	43
Addendum 1	45

Preamble

Legal Framework

Art. 1

(1) The Regulations of the Doctoral School of Law (DSL) within Babeş-Bolyai University (BBU) are based on the following legislative instruments:

- a) Law on Higher Education no. 199/2023;
- b) Government Emergency Ordinance no. 95 of 28 June 2024 amending and supplementing Law no. 198/2023 on Pre-University Education and Law no. 199/2023 on Higher Education;
- c) Order no. 3020/2024 of 8 January 2024 approving the Framework Regulations on University Doctoral Studies;
- d) Order no. 3692/2024 of 1 February 2024 regarding the list of programmes recognised at national level for the purpose of establishing the degree of similarity for final degree papers;
- e) Order no. 3693/2024 of 1 February 2024 approving the Framework Methodology for the organisation of admission to higher education in short-cycle university programmes, bachelor's, master's and doctoral studies;
- f) Government Emergency Ordinance no. 95 of 29 June 2024 amending and supplementing Law no. 198/2023 on Pre-University Education and Law no. 199/2023 on Higher Education;
- g) Order no. 3482 of 24 March 2016 approving the Regulations on the organisation and functioning of the National Council for the Attestation of Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU);
- h) Order of the Minister no. 5110 of 17 September 2018 approving the national minimum standards for awarding the doctoral degree;
- i) Order no. 3131/2018 of 30 January 2018 on the inclusion, in the curricula of all university study programmes organised within the national higher education system, of courses on ethics and academic integrity;
- j) Babeş-Bolyai University Regulations on the organisation and conduct of university doctoral studies, approved by Senate Decision no. 116 of 23.09.2024 and amended by Senate Decision no. 147 of 25.11.2024.

(2) These Regulations apply to all members of the Doctoral School of Law (DSL).

General provisions

Institutional framework. Language of doctoral studies

Art. 2

Doctoral university studies in the field of Law are organised by the Doctoral School of Law (DSL), which is a component of the Institution Organising University Doctoral Studies – Babeş-Bolyai University (BBU), hereinafter referred to in these Regulations as IOSUD-BBU. Activities related to the conduct of doctoral studies within Babeş-Bolyai University are carried out by the Doctoral Studies Institute of Babeş-Bolyai University (DSI-BBU).

Art. 3

Doctoral university studies in Law may be conducted in one of the following languages: Romanian, Hungarian, German, or another international language.

Types of Doctorate

Art. 4

The doctoral university study programmes organised by the DSL are of two types:

- a) **Scientific doctorate**, which aims at the production of original scientific knowledge of international relevance, based on scientific methods, and may be organised as full-time or part-time studies. The scientific doctorate constitutes the basis for a professional career in higher education and research. Upon completion of scientific doctoral studies, BBU awards the diploma and the title of Doctor of Science, corresponding to the acronym *Dr.* The diploma certifying the award and holding of this doctoral title expressly mentions the disciplinary or interdisciplinary field of the doctorate.
- b) **Professional doctorate**, in all fields, including dual university education, which aims at the production of original knowledge through the application of scientific methods, systematic reflection or research on topics of practical relevance, and which constitutes a basis for a professional career in higher education and research in the targeted fields. The professional doctorate may be organised as full-time or part-time studies. Upon completion of professional doctoral studies, BBU awards the diploma and the title of Doctor in a Professional Field, corresponding to the acronym *Dr.P.* The diploma certifying the award and holding of this doctoral title expressly mentions the professional field of the doctorate.

Forms of Education and Funding

Art. 5

- (1) Doctoral university study programmes may be organised in the following forms: full-time or part-time.
- (2) Doctoral university study programmes organised in the full-time form are funded through scholarships. Doctoral university study programmes organised in the part-time form are without scholarship.
- (3) Doctoral university study programmes may be organised with funding from the state budget, on a tuition-fee basis, or from other legally established sources.
- (4) A person may benefit from state-budget funding for only one doctoral university study programme.

Structure and functioning of the doctoral school of law

Mission of the Doctoral School of Law

Art. 6

- (1) The mission of the Doctoral School of Law (DSL) is to ensure the further development and extension of training certified by a master's degree, through teaching activities, seminars, assessment, scientific research, and the valorisation of research results.
- (2) The outcomes of the doctoral school are reflected in the scientific level of the publications and doctoral theses prepared by doctoral students who have attended the school.
- (3) Each academic year, a scientific communications session may be organised for doctoral students, which may also be open to other researchers from BBU or from outside the university.

Structure of the Doctoral School of Law

Art. 7

- (1) The Doctoral School of Law (DSL) is composed of:
 - a) tenured doctoral supervisors;
 - b) affiliated academic staff and affiliated researchers involved in the teaching or research activities provided for in the doctoral university study programmes of the DSL;
 - c) doctoral students.

- (2) Tenured doctoral supervisors, affiliated academic staff and affiliated researchers active within the DSL are included in the school's staffing plan, while doctoral students are listed in an annex to this plan.
- (3) A doctoral student is considered a member of the DSL if their doctoral supervisor is tenured within this doctoral school.
- (4) The doctoral school may employ auxiliary teaching staff, research staff and non-teaching staff, provided that funding for the respective positions is ensured.
- (5) Doctoral students may be employed by IOSUD-BBU as research assistants or teaching assistants, as applicable, for a fixed term, following a competitive selection process.
- (6) Doctoral students receiving a scholarship may carry out teaching activities of between 2 and 6 hours per week, in accordance with their field of competence, for a minimum of three semesters (seminars), or other documentable activities (through a monthly activity report) in support of the department and/or the doctoral school.
- (7) Doctoral students employed as research assistants may also carry out teaching activities on an hourly-paid basis, in accordance with the legislation in force.

Council and Director of the Doctoral School of Law

Art. 8

- (1) The doctoral school is managed by the Director of the Doctoral School and by the Doctoral School Council (DSC). The Director of the Doctoral School is assimilated to a department director. The Doctoral School Council is assimilated to a department council.
- (2) At the level of the doctoral school, the Director of the Doctoral School and the members of the Doctoral School Council are elected by universal, direct and secret vote of the doctoral supervisors and doctoral students of the respective doctoral school.
- (3) Persons eligible to be elected as members of the Doctoral School Council are those holding the status of doctoral supervisor within the respective doctoral school. The mandate of DSC members is five years.
- (4) The Doctoral School Council may be composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of five doctoral supervisors from the doctoral school.
- (5) Doctoral students shall have at least one representative within the Doctoral School Council. Doctoral students who are members of the DSC and who complete their doctoral

studies during the council's mandate lose their membership status on the date of the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

(6) The Doctoral School Council of Law (DSCL) is composed of:

- the Director of the DSL;
- two tenured doctoral supervisors within the DSL;
- one member from outside the DSL, selected from among scientific personalities whose activity enjoys significant international recognition and/or prominent figures of the legal profession;
- one doctoral student, as representative of the doctoral students within the DSL.

(7) The Doctoral School Council of Law (DSCL) meets at least three times per year. Council meetings are convened by the Director of the Doctoral School or by at least one third of the council members. Meetings are chaired by the Director of the Doctoral School.

Art. 9

The main responsibilities of the Doctoral School Council include:

- a) drafting the regulations of the doctoral school;
- b) deciding on the granting and withdrawal of the status of affiliated academic staff or affiliated researcher, in cases of disciplinary misconduct;
- c) endorsing, at the proposal of tenured doctoral supervisors, the enrolment of candidates selected through the doctoral admission competition;
- d) endorsing, at the proposal of tenured doctoral supervisors, the expulsion of doctoral students;
- e) reallocating the supervision of an ongoing doctorate to another doctoral supervisor where the initial supervisor has reached the age of 65 and does not wish to continue doctoral supervision, subject to the written consent of the new doctoral supervisor, at the request of the doctoral student;
- f) endorsing the staffing plan of the doctoral school;
- g) drafting the content of each doctoral university study programme (disciplines, teaching activities, number of hours allocated to lectures, seminars and applied activities, number of transferable credits allocated to disciplines, and the list of academic staff teaching within the programme), including the weighting of individual activities, group-based study activities and research activities carried out under the coordination of doctoral supervisors;
- h) approving the individual doctoral study plans of doctoral students;

- i) establishing procedures for evidencing doctoral research outcomes for the purpose of evaluating doctoral theses and endorsing them for public defence;
- j) monitoring strict compliance with the structure of doctoral study programmes;
- k) ensuring internal evaluation of doctoral university study programmes, on the basis of which the doctoral school revises, modifies and adapts their structure;
- l) mediating conflicts arising between doctoral students and doctoral supervisors;
- m) guaranteeing accurate and complete information for doctoral candidates regarding admission evaluation and selection procedures, the content of doctoral study programmes, criteria for evaluating research outcomes, and methods for valorising doctoral studies;
- n) defining and implementing rules governing collaboration between doctoral supervisors and doctoral students;
- o) establishing scientific performance standards to be met by members of doctoral committees and drafting a list of institutions outside the “Universitaria” Consortium from which official reviewers may be selected;
- p) approving doctoral committees;
- q) assisting the external evaluator in the evaluation process for provisional authorisation or accreditation/reaccreditation of the doctoral school.

Art. 10

- (1) The DSL Regulations are drafted by the Doctoral School Council following consultation with tenured doctoral supervisors. Amendments follow the same procedure.
- (2) The DSL Regulations are endorsed by universal, direct, secret and equal vote of the absolute majority of tenured doctoral supervisors of the doctoral school. Subsequently, the Regulations are endorsed by the Faculty Council to which the doctoral school is affiliated and are finally approved by the Council for University Doctoral Studies (CSUD).
- (3) Each tenured doctoral supervisor has one vote. Retired doctoral supervisors, even if members of the doctoral school, do not have voting rights.

Art. 11

- (1) Course instructors within doctoral schools must be doctoral supervisors or full professors with proven scientific activity.
- (2) Seminars and research activities are conducted by doctoral supervisors or associate professors or Grade II scientific researchers, even if they are not authorised to supervise doctorates.

(3) Academic activities of the doctoral school included in the staffing plan are endorsed by the Doctoral School Council, the Faculty Council and the Administrative Council of BBU, and are approved by the BBU Senate.

Teaching Activities of the Doctoral School

Art. 12

(1) Teaching activities of the doctoral school are carried out over a period of 12 weeks in one of the two semesters of the academic year. For disciplines not organised by the DSL, activities are organised by the partner doctoral school, which freely determines the teaching and examination semester.

(2) Teaching languages may be Romanian, Hungarian, German or another international language.

(3) Each discipline concludes with an assessment format established at the level of the doctoral school. Examination results are graded as: Very Good, Good, Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

(4) The course on Research Ethics is mandatory for all enrolled doctoral students.

Doctoral supervisors. Affiliation, Rights, Obligations and Evaluation

Art. 13

(1) Doctoral supervisors are persons who obtained the right to supervise doctoral studies prior to the entry into force of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, as well as persons who have obtained the habilitation certificate and become members of a doctoral school within an IOSUD, on the basis of an individual employment contract.

(2) The granting of the status of tenured doctoral supervisor within the SDD shall be carried out in accordance with the specific regulations set out in: the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, the Regulations of Babeş-Bolyai University, and the Babeş-Bolyai University Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral university studies.

(3) The maximum number of doctoral students who may be simultaneously supervised by a doctoral supervisor shall not exceed 12 doctoral students. Starting with the 2026–2027 academic year, a doctoral supervisor may simultaneously supervise a maximum of 8 doctoral

students, excluding any doctoral students co-supervised in joint supervision arrangements where the supervisor has a secondary role. By way of exception, up to a maximum of 12 doctoral students per doctoral supervisor may be supervised only with the approval of the University Senate, but for no more than 20% of the doctoral supervisors within a doctoral school.

(4) For the activities carried out in this capacity, doctoral supervisors shall be remunerated in accordance with the legislation in force and with the decisions of the Council of the Faculty of Law.

(5) In carrying out their activity with the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor shall be supported by a Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee. The procedure for the establishment of this committee shall be laid down in the internal regulations of IOSUD-UBB.

(6) The members of the Guidance and Academic 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 shall be from outside the higher education institution.

(7) The members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee may not be appointed as members of the public doctoral thesis defense committee (doctoral committee).

(8) For the activities carried out in this capacity, the members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee shall be remunerated in accordance with the legislation in force and with the decisions of the Council of the Faculty of Law.

Art. 14

Doctoral supervisors have the following rights:

- a) The right to participate in competitions for doctoral grants;
- b) The right to request that the doctoral school organize an admission competition for each vacant PhD student position under their supervision;
- c) The right to select a doctoral candidate for a vacant position under their supervision and to propose the enrollment of the candidate declared successful for that position following the admission competition;
- d) The right to propose the supervisory and academic integrity committee, as well as the doctoral committee;

- e) The right to evaluate the activity of the PhD student under their supervision or guidance throughout the entire doctoral program, ensuring compliance with the requirements of the doctoral study program and respecting the professional interests of the PhD student;
- f) The right to propose the courses within the advanced university studies–based training program that the PhD student must attend;
- g) The right to propose the doctoral thesis defense committee;
- h) The right to an impartial internal and external evaluation, in accordance with the specific methodology of the evaluation process;
- i) The right to be informed of the methodology according to which they are evaluated, both in internal and external evaluations;
- j) The right to be informed of the results of the internal or external evaluation of their own activity;
- k) The right to refuse the supervision of a PhD student if placed involuntarily in a conflict of interest;
- l) The right to request, based on well-founded reasons, from the Doctoral Studies Council (CSD) the termination of the supervisory relationship with a PhD student.

Art. 15

Doctoral supervisors have the following obligations:

- a) the right to participate in competitions for doctoral grants;
- b) the right to request that the doctoral school organize an admission competition for each vacant doctoral student position under his or her supervision;
- c) the right to select the doctoral candidate for a vacant position under his or her supervision and to propose the enrollment of the candidate declared successful for that position following the admission competition;
- d) the right to propose the members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and, respectively, of the doctoral committee;
- e) the right to evaluate the activity of the doctoral student under his or her supervision or guidance throughout the doctoral university studies, in compliance with the requirements of the doctoral study programme and with due regard to the professional interests of the doctoral student;
- f) the right to propose the courses within the advanced university studies training programme that the doctoral student is required to attend;
- g) the right to propose the doctoral thesis defense committee;

- h) the right to an impartial internal and external evaluation, in accordance with the specific evaluation methodology;
- i) the right to be informed of the methodology on the basis of which he or she is evaluated, both in the internal and in the external evaluation;
- j) the right to be informed of the results of the internal or external evaluation of his or her own activity;
- k) the right to refuse the supervision of a doctoral student where he or she is placed, against his or her will, in a conflict of interest;
- l) the right to request that the Doctoral School Council (CSD), on duly justified grounds, approve the termination of the supervisory relationship with a doctoral student.

Criteria and Procedure for Affiliation with the SDD

Art. 16

(1) Doctoral supervisors must meet the conditions stipulated in the Babeş-Bolyai University Regulation on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral University Studies, as amended and supplemented by Resolutions of the UBB Senate.

(2) In order to obtain the status of doctoral supervisor in the field of Law (“Legal Sciences”) and to become a member of the SDD, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- a) hold a habilitation certificate in the field of Law, granted by Ministerial Order;
- b) meet the national minimum mandatory standards required for the awarding of the academic title of Associate Professor in the field of Law, in accordance with the Order approving the national minimum mandatory standards for the awarding of the academic titles of Associate Professor and Professor in higher education, the habilitation certificate, and the doctoral diploma (pursuant to Art. 156 para. (1) letter a) of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented);
- c) meet at least the minimum standards established by the UBB Senate for the position of Associate Professor, as well as the specific requirements and procedure of the SDD, as follows:
 - (i) Scientific publications: a minimum of five scientific articles in the last five years, indexed in international databases (BDI), and/or one monograph published by a recognized prestigious publishing house in Romania or by internationally prestigious publishing houses, whose

degree of originality attests to the candidate's advanced legal knowledge and capacity to supervise doctoral research in Law;

(ii) Absence of sanctions: the absence of any sanctions for previous breaches of academic ethics or of any pending complaints under examination by the UBB Ethics Committee or other competent bodies.

(3) The procedure for organizing and conducting affiliation to the Doctoral School of Law shall be coordinated by the SDD Council and shall involve the following stages:

a) submission of the affiliation application and the candidate's file to the Secretariat of the Doctoral School;

b) examination of the file by the SDD Council in light of the criteria set out in para. (2). If the candidate does not meet the criterion concerning the absence of academic ethics violations, the file shall be rejected without proceeding to the subsequent stages;

c) endorsement of the proposal regarding the candidate's affiliation or non-affiliation to the SDD, based on minutes signed by all members of the SDD Council, stating the reasons for accepting or rejecting the application;

d) approval of the application by obtaining at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of the tenured doctoral supervisors, cast by secret ballot. Votes against must be reasoned;

e) the candidate may contest the rejection decision within 48 hours of receiving it. The appeal shall be examined by a committee of three doctoral supervisors appointed and previously announced by the Director of the Doctoral School. If this committee does not confirm the well-founded nature of the rejection, it shall admit the appeal and the procedure shall proceed to the next stage. In this case, the Appeals Committee shall draw up minutes providing a duly reasoned justification for admitting the appeal. If the committee confirms the rejection, the decision shall be final and no further appeal shall be admitted. The candidate may submit a new affiliation application no earlier than one year from the date of rejection;

f) obtaining favorable endorsements from the Faculty Council and the CSUD, as well as approval by the UBB Senate. The candidate shall become a full member of the SDD on the date of approval of the application by Senate Resolution.

(4) The response shall be communicated in writing to the applicant within no more than 30 days from the date of submission of the application and supporting documents to the SDD Secretariat.

(5) Academic staff belonging to IOSUD institutions within the "Universitaria" Consortium, as well as other academic staff from prestigious universities abroad or from other universities in

Romania, may be admitted to the SDD provided that they hold at least the academic rank of Associate Professor (or, as applicable, an academic rank entitling them to supervise doctoral studies in their home country), following the procedure described above.

Periodic Evaluation of the Activity of Doctoral Supervisors

Art.17

(1) The SDD shall periodically evaluate, at five-year intervals, the activity of tenured doctoral supervisors, on the basis of procedures established by the CSUD, grounded in self-evaluation and internal and external peer review.

(2) This internal evaluation of tenured doctoral supervisors shall take into account, in particular, the quality of the results achieved by them in research and in the supervision of doctoral students, such as:

a) the scientific research results of the doctoral supervisor and the ways in which these results are disseminated and capitalized upon;

b) the scientific research results of the doctoral students supervised by the doctoral supervisor and the ways in which these results are disseminated and capitalized upon;

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

(3) Once every five years, doctoral supervisors may be subject to an external evaluation based on procedures established by the Ministry of Education (MEC), upon the proposal of the CNATDCU. The results of this evaluation shall be made public.

(4) Based on the results of the internal or external evaluations, the SDD Council may decide to extend or withdraw a doctoral supervisor's right to supervise doctoral studies within the doctoral programme organized by the SDD.

Withdrawal of the Status of Doctoral Supervisor

Art. 18.

(1) The status of doctoral supervisor with full rights shall cease upon retirement.

Notwithstanding this, retired professors, including those holding the title of Emeritus Professor, may accept new doctoral students only for fee-paying doctoral positions, subject to compliance with all conditions set forth in this Regulation.

(2) This provision shall not affect the rights and obligations of retired doctoral supervisors in relation to doctoral students already under their supervision at the time of retirement.

Art. 19

(1) The withdrawal of the status of tenured doctoral supervisor or of an affiliated teaching/research staff member may occur in the following situations:

- a) at the written request of the doctoral supervisor, with the endorsement of the Doctoral School Council and approval by the CSUD;
- b) in cases of serious breaches of ethical and professional standards, including plagiarism or data fabrication, as determined by the UBB Ethics Committee or other competent authorities;
- c) where, following periodic evaluation, the doctoral supervisor does not meet the minimum standards established by the doctoral school through the CSUD methodology or fails to fulfill the obligations and responsibilities set out in this Regulation;
- d) where the doctoral supervisor is unable to fulfill professional obligations for a period exceeding one year due to objective reasons (illness, transfer to another institution, etc.);
- e) in cases of repeated violations of contractual obligations toward doctoral students;
- f) where two doctoral theses supervised by the doctoral supervisor have been invalidated by the CNATDCU General Council without the right to resubmission within a consecutive five-year period.

(2) In situations referred to in letters b)–f), whether brought to attention following a complaint or ex officio, the procedure for withdrawal of the doctoral supervisor status shall follow these steps:

- a) The SDD Director shall appoint an Analysis and Evaluation Committee composed of two tenured SDD members and the SDD Director.
- b) The Committee shall analyze the situation and, after hearing the doctoral supervisor, decide on the withdrawal of membership in the SDD. The Analysis and Evaluation Committee shall prepare minutes, signed by all members, justifying the decision, which shall be communicated to the concerned person by email within a maximum of five days from adoption.
- c) The concerned person may appeal the decision within five days of notification. The appeal shall be reviewed by a new committee of three tenured doctoral supervisors appointed by the SDD Director. This committee shall consider exclusively the arguments presented by the appellant and shall issue a final decision within 30 days from the notification of appointment. If the appeal is admitted, the Appeals Committee shall prepare minutes providing a duly

reasoned justification for its decision. If the appeal is rejected, the decision shall be final and no further appeal shall be permitted.

d) The final decision shall be endorsed by the SDD Council, then by the Faculty Council, and finally by the CSUD.

(3) In the event of withdrawal of doctoral supervisor status, doctoral students under their supervision shall be reassigned to other doctoral supervisors within the same field, with the agreement of both the supervisors and the doctoral students, by decision of the Doctoral School Council.

Admission to doctoral studies

Art. 20

(1) Admission to doctoral university studies shall be based on a competition organized by IOSUD-UBB and the SDD, in accordance with the national framework methodology regarding admission to higher education institutions in Romania, elaborated by the competent ministry, and with the internal regulations of Babeş-Bolyai University.

(2) Application for the SDD admission competition may be made regardless of the field in which the candidate obtained their Bachelor's and Master's degrees, provided that the total number of transferable study credits earned in the Bachelor's and Master's cycles is at least 300.

(3) Each tenured doctoral supervisor shall establish, at least two months prior to the date of the admission competition, the subjects, bibliography, and evaluation and selection criteria for the candidates for the positions they offer. The criteria, subjects, and bibliography shall be published on the SDD website.

(4) Citizenship shall not constitute a selection criterion or a ground for discrimination.

Art. 21

(1) Admission to doctoral university studies is conditional upon passing the admission examination, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions.

(2) The doctoral admission competition consists of two components:

a) a written specialty examination, based on a syllabus announced by the doctoral supervisor at least two months prior to the date of the admission competition;

b) an interview during which the candidate's scientific interests, research skills, and proposed doctoral thesis topic are assessed.

(3) The examinations shall be conducted before an admission committee composed of the doctoral supervisor who offered the doctoral student position for admission and at least two other specialists from UBB, holding at minimum the academic rank of Associate Professor or equivalent scientific researcher level II. The chairperson of the admission committee shall be the doctoral supervisor.

(4) The candidate's previous legal publications may constitute an additional criterion for evaluation during the admission process.

(5) For foreign candidates who are not familiar with the Romanian language or legal system, the examinations shall be conducted in an international language. In such cases, the examination subjects shall take into account the academic background already completed by the foreign candidate.

Art. 22

(1) Admission committees shall be proposed by the Doctoral School Councils and approved by the CSUD Director.

(2) Following the evaluation of the examination components, the admission committee shall designate the candidate who shall occupy the doctoral student position offered in the competition. The candidate declared admitted shall be enrolled in the position awarded through the UBB ISD competition.

(3) The status of doctoral student shall be acquired upon enrollment and is conditional upon:

- a) passing the admission competition;
- b) completing the steps required to confirm the position obtained through admission;
- c) completing and signing the doctoral university studies contract;
- d) completing and signing the doctoral study plan;
- e) fulfilling other annexes provided in the regulations for cases of reinstatement after interruption, modification of the doctoral student status, or other exceptional situations.

Organization and Conduct of Doctoral University Studies

Study Contract

Art. 23

(1) The doctoral program shall be conducted on the basis of a doctoral university studies contract concluded, through the Institute of Doctoral Studies, between the doctoral student, their doctoral supervisor, and Babeş-Bolyai University, setting out the rights and obligations of the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor, and, through the Doctoral School, Babeş-Bolyai University.

(2) The individual doctoral study plan shall constitute an annex to the doctoral studies contract and shall include obligations regarding the doctoral trajectory, acknowledged by signature of both the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student. The document shall be endorsed by the Doctoral School Council. These documents shall serve as supporting documents for the preparation of staffing plans.

(3) The doctoral supervisor shall be supported in their activity with the doctoral student by a Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee composed of three other teaching or research staff members holding a doctoral degree and at least the academic rank of Lecturer or Scientific Researcher Level III. At least one member of this committee shall be from outside UBB.

(4) The composition of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee shall be determined by the doctoral supervisor in consultation with the doctoral student, following admission but prior to the start of the academic year. Subsequent changes to the committee may be made only at the beginning of the academic year (except in cases of death, medical/maternity leave, or termination of employment) based on a request endorsed by the Doctoral School Council and approved by the CSUD Director.

Art. 24

Doctoral trajectory

(1) The doctoral university studies of a doctoral student shall be planned in the individual doctoral study plan for a period of four academic years (each consisting of two semesters).

(2) The doctoral program shall be conducted under the supervision of a doctoral supervisor and shall include:

a) a program of advanced university studies, carried out within the Doctoral School, consisting of didactic and scientific activities (courses and seminars);

b) an individual scientific research program, planned for the entire duration of the doctoral studies, which may be exceptionally extended under the conditions set out in the UBB Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies.

(3) The doctoral studies shall conclude with the public defense of an original work, the doctoral thesis, which is the result of the doctoral student's research activity throughout the doctoral program. The awarding of the doctoral degree in Law shall be based on the doctoral thesis and its public defense.

(4) A doctoral student shall be considered to have completed their doctoral studies if they have publicly defended their doctoral thesis and, following the defense, received at least a "Satisfactory" grade (according to this Regulation) from all members of the defense committee.

Program of advanced university

Art. 25

(1) The program of advanced university studies must be relevant to the research topic of the doctoral thesis and shall not negatively affect the doctoral student's available time for their individual scientific research program.

(2) The courses included in the doctoral student's training program shall be part of the individual doctoral study plan, determined by the doctoral supervisor in agreement with the doctoral student, with the proposal endorsed by the SDD Director. The individual study plan shall be approved by the Doctoral School Council (CSDD).

(3) Within the program of advanced university studies, the doctoral student is required, during the first year of doctoral studies, to participate in a minimum of three doctoral-level courses. These courses shall be scheduled so that all are offered within the same semester of the academic year, which lasts 12 weeks and cannot be extended. Within the SDD, all courses are offered in Semester I.

(4) Courses that a doctoral student must attend within the program of advanced university studies may be chosen from courses offered by the SDD curriculum or from another Doctoral School within UBB (in this case, no more than one course, which must be relevant to Legal Sciences).

(5) The course on Research Ethics constitutes a mandatory course for all doctoral students, regardless of the field of study or chosen doctoral supervisor.

(6) Completion of all mandatory courses in the program of advanced university studies shall be finalized with an assessment method established at the SDD level and shall result in the acquisition of 30 ECTS credits.

- (7) For each course attended at Babeş-Bolyai University within the program of advanced university studies, the doctoral student shall receive a certificate indicating the grade and the number of credits obtained, issued and signed by the course instructor(s) and countersigned by the doctoral supervisor/main doctoral supervisor.
- (8) In the case of joint doctoral programs (cotutelle) with a doctoral supervisor from outside UBB, the doctoral student shall submit to the SDD Secretariat supporting documents issued by the partner institution for the courses attended at that institution.
- (9) Changes to courses in the program of advanced university studies may be made only once per course, at the doctoral student's request. The request must be endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the SDD Director.
- (10) The doctoral student may not request a change of a course after the course activities have commenced.
- (11) If the doctoral student has not accumulated the minimum 30 mandatory credits for the compulsory courses in the program, the doctoral supervisor shall prepare a proposal for expulsion and request the CSD's endorsement for the expulsion. This request, signed by the doctoral supervisor and endorsed by the CSD, shall be forwarded to the CSUD Director for approval within 10 days from the end of the advanced training year.

Individual scientific research program

Art. 26

- (1) The individual scientific research program aims at the preparation of the doctoral thesis. Responsibility for the structure, content, conduct, and organization of this program is shared between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor.
- (2) The individual scientific research program involves the doctoral student's participation in one or more scientific projects designated by the doctoral supervisor.
- (3) To ensure a coherent scientific trajectory, the individual scientific research program shall include, at least once every 12 months, four oral presentations before the doctoral supervisor and the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee:
- a) In the first year of doctoral studies, the doctoral student shall present the scientific research project aimed at the preparation of the doctoral thesis. Receiving a grade of "Pass" for this activity shall result in the awarding of 30 ECTS credits;

b) In the second, third, and fourth years of doctoral studies, the doctoral student shall present a research report on the progress of their scientific research and its results. For each research report graded as “Pass”, 60 ECTS credits shall be awarded.

(4) The research report shall be a written work prepared by the doctoral student, aimed at recording the results of the scientific research. The written work shall be made available to the doctoral supervisor, the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, and any member of the department to which the doctoral supervisor belongs.

(5) The defense of the written work shall be conducted publicly, organized by the relevant Department. For this purpose, the Department Director shall be informed to convene a meeting for the defense of the research report on a specified date. The doctoral student shall submit the research report electronically to the Department Director, who shall distribute it to department members upon request.

(6) The actual date of each presentation mentioned in paragraph (3) shall be proposed by the doctoral supervisor and coordinated with the members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, following a request from the doctoral student.

(7) The doctoral supervisor must attend all presentations, and at least two members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee must be present at each presentation.

(8) After the public defense of the research report, the doctoral supervisor shall prepare a minutes report, recording the grade as Pass or Fail, determined in agreement with the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, along with the main comments and recommendations provided during the defense. If the research report is graded Fail, the doctoral student is required to revise it. The maximum interval between accepted research report presentations shall not exceed 12 months, ensuring that at least one research report is scheduled each academic year.

(9) If the written report submitted to the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and defended orally is deemed scientifically unsatisfactory, the committee shall grant the doctoral student 30 days to revise the work.

(10) If, upon resubmission, the doctoral student again receives a grade of Fail for the project or research report, or if the project/report is not resubmitted within the prescribed period, the doctoral supervisor shall prepare a proposal for expulsion and request the endorsement of the Doctoral School Council for expulsion. This request, signed by the doctoral supervisor and endorsed by the Doctoral School Council, shall be forwarded to the CSUD Director within 10

days from the defense of the second project/report graded Fail, or, if no resubmission occurs, no later than the beginning of the following academic year.

The research activities

Art. 27

(1) The research activities of doctoral students shall be determined according to the research topic selected and approved in the individual doctoral study plan.

(2) The doctoral supervisor may facilitate the integration of the doctoral student into research teams or groups, depending on the chosen topic and the research directions of the department/faculty, by:

- a) integrating the doctoral student into research projects conducted under their supervision or that of the department;
- b) facilitating collaborations with other research teams within UBB or other partner institutions, nationally or internationally;
- c) encouraging participation in research project competitions aimed at doctoral students;
- d) supporting doctoral students in forming thematic research groups with other doctoral students or early-career researchers.

(3) The Doctoral School (SDD) shall ensure doctoral students' access to the following research resources:

- a) UBB libraries, including access to international databases subscribed to by the university;
- b) laboratories and research infrastructure available at the faculty and university level;
- c) access to hardware resources and facilities for data collection, processing, and analysis;
- d) funds for participation in national and international scientific conferences, within the limits of the available doctoral grant;
- e) access to the research center resources within the faculty.

(4) The doctoral supervisor shall support the doctoral student in accessing additional research resources outside the university, by:

- a) facilitating research internships at other universities or institutes;
- b) providing recommendations for mobility or research grants;
- c) developing collaborations with specialists from other institutions who can offer expertise in the student's research topics.

(5) The Doctoral School encourages interdisciplinary approaches and collaborations among doctoral students from related fields, facilitating access to research resources in those respective fields.

Rights and obligations of doctoral students

Art. 28

During the course of their doctoral studies, the doctoral student, except for periods of suspension, shall have the right to:

- a) be informed about the doctoral study program in which they are enrolled;
- b) participate in the preparation of the individual doctoral study plan;
- c) benefit from the support, guidance, and supervision of the doctoral supervisor and the supervisory and academic integrity committee;
- d) request the doctoral school council, on well-founded grounds, to change their doctoral supervisor;
- e) participate in research meetings attended by their doctoral supervisor, when topics relevant to their doctoral studies are discussed;
- f) be represented in the decision-making bodies of the doctoral school, in accordance with the provisions of this regulation;
- g) benefit from the logistical resources, documentation centers, libraries, and equipment of UBB for their training and for the preparation of the doctoral thesis;
- h) participate in activities organized by other doctoral schools within UBB;
- i) work, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor, in research teams within UBB or in research and development units that have institutional agreements or partnerships with UBB;
- j) carry out their doctoral training under a joint supervision (cotutelle) agreement, based on an agreement concluded by the involved parties;
- k) apply for national or international research mobility opportunities;
- l) participate in scientific communication sessions organized by the Doctoral School (SDD) or UBB;
- m) benefit from institutional support to participate, nationally or internationally, in scientific events, workshops, and other activities organized in the doctoral field in which they have chosen their thesis topic;
- n) engage in any other professional activities, at the request of the doctoral supervisor or the doctoral school;

o) undertake teaching activities, in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Art. 29

(1) During the course of their doctoral studies, the doctoral student shall have the following obligations:

- a) to carry out the activities specified in the individual doctoral study plan, in accordance with this Regulation;
- b) to maintain regular contact with the doctoral supervisor and the members of the supervisory and academic integrity committee;
- c) to accumulate 30 credits corresponding to the compulsory courses upon completion of the advanced study program, and 60 credits at the end of each of the four years of the doctoral program;
- d) to deliver, at least once every 12 months and upon their own request, a presentation of the progress of their scientific research program before the supervisory and academic integrity committee and the doctoral supervisor. The scheduling of these presentations in the individual study plan substitutes the obligation to submit annual requests for presenting the research project and individual reports;
- e) to submit activity reports to the doctoral supervisor and the supervisory committee whenever requested;
- f) to comply with the regulations and rules of UBB and to behave in a manner appropriate to the status of a doctoral student;
- g) to respect institutional discipline, without prejudice to their academic freedom;
- h) to adhere to university ethics and professional conduct policies and to carry out their studies and research in compliance with academic integrity standards;
- i) to respond promptly to all requests addressed to them by the Doctoral School (SD) and the Institute of Doctoral Studies (ISD).

Art. 30

(1) The evaluation of doctoral students' activities within the Doctoral School of Law (SDD) is primarily focused on the results of research activities in the field of Law and in interdisciplinary areas, expressed through publications, participation in scientific events, citations, awards, etc. The evaluation explicitly monitors the professional and transversal competencies set out in Article 3 of the UBB Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies.

(2) The evaluation of doctoral students' activities is carried out periodically, based on the decision of the Doctoral School Council (CSDD), by evaluation committees approved by the CSDD.

(3) The evaluation procedures and criteria are established by the CSDD and must allow:

a) an accurate measurement of doctoral students' performance in the field of Law, reflecting differences in performance;

b) the analysis of doctoral students' progress in acquiring knowledge and skills associated with professional qualifications in the field of Law;

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

d) transparency and the provision of information regarding the criteria used to assess doctoral students;

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

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

(6) The evaluation of doctoral students' activities shall be conducted with maximum transparency, and the evaluators shall inform the doctoral students of the grades awarded.

Recognition of previous doctoral or scientific research periods

Art. 31

(1) The studies completed, at UBB or at a partner institution, by a doctoral student within a research-oriented master's program, may be partially recognized by the CSDD, upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, as part of the advanced university studies training program of the respective doctoral student. In the recognition process, consideration shall be given both to the field of that research master's program and the curriculum followed within the program, as well as to the subject of the doctoral thesis and the knowledge required for its development.

(2) Credits obtained by the doctoral student during previous periods of doctoral studies, conducted either domestically or abroad, may be recognized and equated with those of certain courses within the advanced university studies training program.

(3) Recognition shall be proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the CSDD, taking into account that:

a) the previous period of study is in the same field as the current one;

- b) the research topic remains the same as in the previous period;
- c) the courses in the current study plan coincide with those previously taken or, at minimum, cover similar subject matter.

Extension of doctoral studies

Art. 32

(1) In exceptional cases, where a tuition-funded doctoral student (with or without a scholarship) has not completed their individual scientific research program on time or has not defended their doctoral thesis, their doctoral supervisor may request, with the endorsement of the doctoral school council, an extension of 2 or 4 academic semesters for the doctoral studies program.

(2) The extension period shall be granted with the obligation to pay the tuition fees corresponding to the entire extension period, except in cases where:

- a) the doctoral student has completed the individual scientific/applied research program and has successfully defended the doctoral thesis before the guidance and integrity committee; or
- b) the doctoral student is involved in national or international projects of strategic interest to the university, as defined by the Scientific Council of UBB and endorsed by the UBB Board of Administration.

(3) For doctoral students enrolled in tuition-paying positions, the extension shall be granted under a tuition-paying regime, except in the cases specified in points (a) and (b) above.

(4) The extension may be granted only once. The extension request shall be submitted by the doctoral supervisor to the Secretariat of the Doctoral Studies Institute and shall subsequently be submitted by the Director of the CSUD for approval by the Senate of Babeş-Bolyai University.

(5) The request must be submitted at least 15 calendar days before the beginning of the academic year. The extension request is subject to the approval of the Senate of Babeş-Bolyai University by the CSUD Director.

(6) Failure to submit this request within the specified deadline shall result in the expulsion of the doctoral student, with the right to re-enroll under the conditions provided by law.

Suspension of doctoral studies

Art. 33

(1) Doctoral studies may be suspended, in accordance with the UBB Regulations on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies, upon a request, in the following situations: for

medical reasons, for the purpose of maternity leave or parental leave, or for other justifiable reasons.

(2) Any suspension of doctoral studies must commence on the first day of an academic semester and end on the last day of an academic semester, thereby ensuring that the suspension period encompasses a whole number of academic semesters.

(3) The cumulative duration of suspension periods granted to a doctoral student shall not exceed 4 academic semesters.

(4) Both suspensions and resumptions of studies shall be approved by the Director of the CSUD, upon the doctoral student's request, with the endorsement of the doctoral supervisor and the CSDD. For each suspension, as well as for the resumption of studies, an addendum shall be executed to the doctoral studies contract.

(5) During an extension of doctoral studies, requests for suspension of studies may not be submitted.

Doctoral student mobility

Art. 34

(1) Doctoral student mobility during the course of doctoral studies is governed by the UBB Regulations on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies and may be either domestic or international.

(2) The definitive mobility options available to the doctoral student are as follows:

a) from one doctoral supervisor to another, in cases that are well-justified concerning the supervisors (retirement, death, etc.) or with the consent of all parties involved in other well-justified situations;

b) from one doctoral school to another within the same IOSUD, while maintaining the research field and topic;

c) from one IOSUD to another (domestic or international).

(3) Mobility may only occur during the doctoral study period.

Change of doctoral supervisor

Art. 35

(1) The Doctoral School Council may decide to change the doctoral supervisor of a doctoral student to another supervisor within the same doctoral field.

(2) A change of doctoral supervisor may be requested in the following situations:

a) the initial doctoral supervisor has reached the age of 65 and does not wish to continue supervising doctoral students;

- b) at the request of the Director of the Doctoral Studies Department (SDD), if they have found the supervisor to be unavailable for a period exceeding one calendar year;
- c) at the reasoned request of the doctoral supervisor, if they have identified the failure of the doctoral student to fulfill legal or contractual obligations, or for other reasons affecting the relationship between the supervisor and the doctoral student;
- d) at the reasoned request of the doctoral student, if they can demonstrate the failure of the supervisor to fulfill legal or contractual obligations;
- f) at the joint reasoned request of the doctoral student and their supervisor, in which, based on well-founded reasons, a new supervisor is proposed.

(3) In the situations under paragraph (2), the new doctoral supervisor may be proposed either by the CSDD or by the doctoral student. In all cases, the consent of the new supervisor must be given in writing.

(4) The change of doctoral supervisor may only be approved with the written agreement of the new supervisor regarding the acceptance of the doctoral student and the research topic, provided at least 15 days before the start of the new academic year. Exceptions are cases of force majeure: death, resignation of the supervisor, or their transfer to another doctoral school. If the new supervisor is affiliated with another organizing doctoral institution, the approval of that institution's administration is also required, and the transfer request by the doctoral student must be submitted at least 15 days before the start of the new academic year.

(5) Following the change of a doctoral student's supervisor, the new supervisor shall, within no more than 15 days from the approval of the change, establish a new guidance committee for that doctoral student, which may include members of the previous committee if they agree to continue supervising the student.

Withdrawal of the Doctoral Student from Doctoral Studies

Art. 36

(1) The withdrawal of a doctoral student may be carried out by submitting a request to the Secretariat of the Doctoral Studies Department (SDD). The request shall be addressed to the Director of the CSUD at UBB and requires the prior approval of the doctoral supervisor and the endorsement of the CSDD.

(2) Withdrawal shall take place at the beginning of an academic year or semester, except in exceptional cases that necessitate immediate withdrawal.

Expulsion from Doctoral Studies

Art. 37

(1) Expulsion from doctoral studies shall be carried out under the conditions provided by the UBB Regulations on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies.

(2) Expulsion may be initiated based on a written request from the doctoral supervisor, approved by the CSDD, if the supervisor has determined that the doctoral student fails to fulfill the obligations arising from the doctoral studies contract, as well as directly by the CSUD of UBB upon the proposal of the Doctoral Studies Institute, in the cases provided by the UBB regulations.

(3) The expulsion request shall be reviewed by the CSUD, and in the case of a proposal to expel the doctoral student, the decision shall be issued by the Rector of UBB.

Joint Supervision

Art. 38

(1) Doctoral studies may also be organized under a joint supervision arrangement (cotutelle), in which case the doctoral student at UBB conducts their research under the simultaneous supervision of two doctoral supervisors.

(2) The selection of the second supervisor is made after the doctoral student's enrollment at UBB, with the consent of the first supervisor. The second supervisor may be a tenured doctoral supervisor at a UBB doctoral school or a supervisor from any other institution authorized to organize doctoral studies, domestically or abroad. If the second supervisor is from UBB, their doctoral field of supervision must be different from that of the first supervisor, except in cases where the first supervisor has reached the age of 65.

(3) If both supervisors are affiliated with UBB, a written cotutelle agreement shall be concluded between them, approved by the CSUD, specifying the responsibilities of each supervisor.

(4) If the second supervisor is not affiliated with UBB, a written cotutelle agreement shall be concluded between UBB and the institution where the second supervisor oversees doctoral students. This agreement shall specify the requirements for organizing and conducting the doctoral program at each of the two institutions involved, including their financial obligations, in accordance with their role in the cotutelle and applicable legislation.

(5) In the case of a doctoral program under cotutelle, one of the two supervisors shall be designated as the principal supervisor. The doctoral student remains fully under the responsibility of the principal supervisor, including for the allocation of the supervisor's teaching and research duties.

Public Defense of the Doctoral Thesis

General Provisions

Art. 39

- (1) The completion of doctoral studies is marked by the public defense of the doctoral thesis.
- (2) The doctoral thesis must be the result of the student's own scientific research activity and must contain original results in the field of scientific knowledge.
- (3) The author of the doctoral thesis is the doctoral student, who assumes responsibility for the opinions expressed and the accuracy of the information included in the thesis. The source must be cited for all materials used.

Thesis Standards

Art. 40

For the purpose of collaboration with other similar doctoral schools in the country, the Doctoral Studies Department (SDD) requires that the thesis be drafted in accordance with the formal standards set forth in the National Guide for the Preparation of Doctoral Theses, in the field of Law ("Legal Sciences"). Until the adoption of this Guide, the regulations provided in Annex 1 of the Doctoral School of Law Regulations shall apply.

Procedure for the Defense of the Doctoral Thesis

Art. 41

- (1) The procedure for the defense of the doctoral thesis follows the stages and conditions provided by the Babeş-Bolyai University Regulations on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies (Articles 33 and 34) and the UBB Methodology for the Defense of Doctoral

Theses. All necessary documents and forms are available on the UBB Doctoral Studies Institute (ISD) website (<https://doctorat.ubbcluj.ro/ro/sustinerea-publica-a-tezelor/>).

(2) The public defense may take place only after completing the following steps:

- a) verification of the similarity index of the doctoral thesis;
- b) preliminary public presentation of the doctoral thesis;
- c) making the doctoral thesis publicly available on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI;
- d) the public defense of the doctoral thesis.

(3) The doctoral student shall submit to the SDD Secretariat the documents required by the UBB Regulations on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies. The similarity check of the doctoral thesis shall be carried out at the SDD level by the SDD Secretary, using the Turnitin software.

(4) The analysis and interpretation of the similarity report are carried out prior to the preliminary presentation by both the guidance and academic integrity committee and the member designated by the CSDD, in accordance with UBB regulations. They shall prepare a document entitled “Resolution on the Similarity Report.” If, following the analysis of the similarity report, the guidance and academic integrity committee and the designated member of the Doctoral School Council identify the need for corrections to the doctoral thesis, the doctoral school shall officially notify the doctoral student and the supervisor. After the necessary corrections are made, the similarity analysis procedure is resumed.

(5) After completing the similarity analysis, the doctoral thesis is presented before the guidance and academic integrity committee established at the doctoral school. Following the preliminary public presentation, which is open to the public, the doctoral supervisor, in accordance with the committee’s recommendation and the results of the similarity analysis, decides on the official submission of the thesis and the organization of the public defense, completing the form entitled “Supervisor and Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee Approval,” resulting from the preliminary presentation.

(6) After obtaining a favorable approval following the preliminary presentation, the doctoral school secretary, together with the doctoral student and supervisor, prepares the documents for the defense file.

(7) The defense file – the transparency stage, consisting of two components, printed documents and electronic documents, shall be submitted to the Doctoral Studies Institute according to the schedule established on the dedicated platform. The ISD Secretariat shall

issue a registered receipt document confirming the official submission of the doctoral thesis for the 90-calendar-day transparency period, only if all documents required by the IOSUD-UBB Regulations are present. The ISD Secretariat shall notify the doctoral school secretariat, the supervisor, and the doctoral student by email that the thesis has been uploaded to the platform for public consultation, along with the registration number generated by the platform.

(8) The doctoral thesis and its annexes shall be available for public consultation for 90 calendar days on the UEFISCDI platform, in accordance with the applicable copyright laws.

(9) During this entire period, the SDD shall receive, register, and include in a report all observations submitted to the SDD Secretary via the UEFISCDI platform or through the UBB Registry regarding the doctoral thesis. According to the IOSUD-UBB Regulations, only observations submitted and assumed by a natural or legal person, providing identifying data, professional status, and clear and unambiguous observations in the following format, shall be considered: “In Chapter ... Page ... Paragraph ... Text ..., Figure/Table ... shows deviations from ethical and professional standards due to ...”

(10) If no observations are submitted by the end of the 90 days, the doctoral school shall prepare a report stating that no observations were received during the public consultation period. The document shall be signed by the doctoral supervisor and the director of the doctoral school and submitted to the ISD along with the other documents as part of the doctoral file. In this case, the CSUD Director may decide to validate the defense and initiate the public defense procedure without convening the CSUD.

(11) If observations are submitted during the 90-day period, they shall be recorded in a report prepared by the SDD. This report shall be included in the doctoral file. The report, along with the thesis link and the similarity report with active links, shall be presented to the CSUD for review and decision regarding the validation of initiating the public defense procedure. The CSUD shall issue a decision to be communicated to the doctoral school for implementation as follows:

- (a) CSUD Decision to Validate the Defense – initiating the public defense procedure of the doctoral thesis by establishing the doctoral committee and continuing the defense process; or
- (b) CSUD Decision to Invalidate the Defense – providing the doctoral school with recommendations for revising the thesis and correcting issues that do not comply with ethical and professional standards. In this case, the doctoral student is obliged to correct the content

of the thesis within a maximum of 3 months from the communication of the invalidation decision, and the entire public defense procedure shall be repeated.

Art. 42

(1) For the initiation of the public defense of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral thesis and its annexes shall be submitted to the ISD at least 30 calendar days before the scheduled defense date, in printed format (two bound copies), printed documents (one copy each), signed, dated, and chronologically registered at the SDD, and electronic documents as listed in the IOSUD-UBB Regulations.

(2) For the defense, a committee of specialists, called the doctoral committee, shall be established. It is proposed by the doctoral supervisor, approved by the CSDD, and validated by the Director of CSUD.

(3) The doctoral committee shall consist of at least five members as follows:

a) the Chair of the Committee, as a representative of Babeş-Bolyai University;

b) the doctoral supervisor(s);

c) at least three official referees from within the country or abroad, specialists in the field of the doctoral thesis, selected so that at least two are affiliated with institutions outside Babeş-Bolyai University. It is recommended that external members belong to universities participating in the “Universitaria” Consortium, the Cluj Universities Union, the EUTOPIA alliance, The Guild consortium, legally established consortia in the fields or specializations of UBB faculties, or prestigious universities abroad. The participation of a member not affiliated with such institutions must be justified in writing.

(4) All members of the doctoral committee must meet the following two conditions:

a) hold a doctoral degree;

b) hold at least the position of Associate Professor or Scientific Researcher Grade II, or the status of doctoral supervisor, nationally or internationally.

(5) In the case of a cotutelle doctoral program with a supervisor outside UBB, the doctoral committee shall include representatives from both institutions.

(6) If, after the validation of the doctoral committee, the Chair of the Committee or any of the official referees becomes unavailable, the Director of CSUD may approve, at the proposal of the doctoral supervisor and with the opinion of the director of the doctoral school, the replacement of that committee member.

(7) The defense of the doctoral thesis may take place in the presence of at least four members of the doctoral committee, with the physical presence of the Chair of the Committee and the

doctoral supervisor being mandatory. Other committee members may participate via online videoconference.

(8) ISD-UBB shall publish on its website the announcement for the public defense at least 20 calendar days before the proposed defense date. The announcement shall obligatorily include the location, date, and time of the defense, the supervisor, and the place where the full text of the thesis can be consulted in printed format, the public defense announcement, the thesis abstract in electronic format, the scientific memorandum, the doctoral student's CV, and the CVs of the members of the public defense committee.

(9) The public defense session shall be chaired by the Chair of the Doctoral Committee and shall proceed as follows:

- a) presentation of the doctoral thesis content by the doctoral student;
- b) presentation of the evaluation reports prepared by the doctoral supervisor and the official referees;
- c) presentation by the Chair of the Committee of written opinions submitted to the Chair prior to the public defense by specialists who have consulted the thesis or its abstract;
- d) discussion of the doctoral thesis, during which members of the doctoral committee and the public may pose questions to the doctoral student.

(10) The discussion of the doctoral thesis is mandatory and shall be recorded in the minutes of the session. It shall constitute the central part of the public defense, aimed at demonstrating the doctoral student's knowledge in the field of the topic and the original contributions of the thesis.

Art. 43

(1) After the public defense of the doctoral thesis and taking into account the evaluation reports, the doctoral committee shall deliberate on the grade to be awarded to the thesis.

(2) Although national regulations no longer require such grades, based on the discretionary authority of each doctoral school, the SDD establishes by this Regulation that, from its adoption, the following internal grades may be awarded: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory. Each member of the doctoral committee shall assign one such grade. In case of divergence, the grade receiving the majority of votes shall be considered the decision of the entire committee. The minutes of the public defense shall record both the grade determined by the committee after voting and the individual grades assigned by each committee member. The grades are awarded according to the following criteria:

(3) Excellent (equivalent to Summa cum laude) is awarded when the thesis is highly topical, addresses open and challenging research questions, demonstrates the inexistence of similar approaches or solutions in the field, presents high-level research with appropriate and varied methodology, well-argued research questions/hypotheses based on extensive international and national literature, with conclusive and eloquent results proving both the achievement of the stated objectives and their impact in the field. The thesis offers a completely new approach to a relatively known topic, with an innovative vision, and contributes through significant, consistent, and diverse results (empirical, formal, validated in various ways) to the advancement of the specific research field. The highest grade cannot be awarded to theses on general research topics typically addressed in university textbooks (e.g., “Civil Tort Liability,” “The Crime,” “Administrative Acts,” “Divorce,” “Commercial Companies,” “Corruption Crimes,” etc.) or whose structure corresponds to a standard university course format.

(4) Very Good (equivalent to Magna cum laude) is awarded when the thesis is topical, addresses open research questions in the field, demonstrates very good research with adequate methodology, well-argued research questions/hypotheses based on international and national literature, with conclusive and eloquent results proving both the achievement of the objectives and their impact in the field. The thesis provides a novel approach to a relatively known topic, with an innovative vision contributing to the advancement of the research field.

(5) Good (equivalent to Cum laude) is awarded when the thesis is topical, uses an appropriate methodology, objectives are properly aligned with the field of specialization, and presents conclusive and eloquent results that demonstrate the achievement of the objectives and answer the research questions/hypotheses.

(6) Satisfactory (equivalent to a doctoral degree without distinction) is awarded when the depth of the topic, achievement of objectives, and the relevance of the subject are not fully justified or well-founded in the thesis, though partially supported by current research in the field. The methods and research methodology are not entirely adequate, and the results partially demonstrate the achievement of the objectives, while meeting the CNATDCU criteria at the time of initiating the defense procedure.

(7) Unsatisfactory (doctoral degree not awarded) is awarded when the thesis does not meet the criteria of topicality and quality of content and results, presents serious methodological deficiencies, does not clearly demonstrate the achievement of objectives, objectives are not reflected in the declared field of the thesis, or the methods and results show deviations from

the principles of scientific research ethics. A doctoral degree shall also not be awarded if CNATDCU criteria are not fulfilled.

(8) Based on the public defense, the referees' reports, the originality declaration, and the similarity analysis, the doctoral committee evaluates and deliberates on awarding the doctoral diploma, in compliance with CNATDCU minimum standards.

(9) The decisions of the doctoral committee shall be communicated to the participants in the public defense by the Chair of the committee.

(10) If the minimum standards required for awarding the doctoral degree are not met, the committee shall specify the elements that need to be revised or completed in the thesis and shall require a new public defense.

(11) The second public defense shall be held before the same doctoral committee as the first defense. If, after the second defense, the minimum standards are still not met, the doctoral diploma shall not be awarded, and the doctoral student shall be expelled.

(12) If the doctoral student has fulfilled all requirements of the research program, as well as the minimum standards applicable to the field, the doctoral committee shall propose awarding the doctoral diploma. This proposal, together with the doctoral file, shall be submitted to CNATDCU within a maximum of 30 calendar days.

(13) Within 90 calendar days of receiving the doctoral file, CNATDCU shall issue an opinion regarding compliance with the administrative procedure conducted at the IOSUD level and the minimum criteria for awarding the doctoral diploma. The administrative procedure shall include, as a distinct step, verification of the originality declaration and analysis of the similarity reports.

(14) If CNATDCU determines that the administrative procedure at the IOSUD level did not comply with the provisions of this Regulation, the doctoral file shall be returned to IOSUD for reanalysis and completion. It may be resubmitted to CNATDCU for a new analysis only after the entire public defense procedure has been redone.

(15) Within 30 calendar days of receiving the favorable opinion, Babeş-Bolyai University shall issue the decision to award the doctoral diploma, signed by the Rector, and prepare and issue the doctoral diploma.

(16) After the issuance of the doctoral diploma, the doctoral thesis, in digital and printed formats, shall be archived in the higher education institution's library permanently. Within a maximum of 180 days, the ISD shall submit to the National Library of Romania one printed

copy and one electronic copy of the doctoral thesis and its annexes, making the thesis available for consultation by any interested person.

Quality assurance of doctoral programs.

Development and implementation of monitoring indicators

Art. 44

- (1) Doctoral programs are subject to periodic internal academic evaluation on dates established by the Doctoral School Council (CSUD).
- (2) The internal evaluation of the quality of a doctoral program is conducted by the School of Doctoral Studies (SDD). The procedures for the internal evaluation of doctoral program quality fall within the competence of the CSUD.
- (3) The Doctoral School Council (CSDD) develops and implements specific indicators for monitoring and internal evaluation of doctoral program quality, in accordance with the UBB quality assurance strategy.
- (4) The monitoring and internal evaluation indicators are based on the criteria used for the allocation of grants/tuition-funded positions to doctoral schools and doctoral supervisors, as established by the University Administration Council, and address the following dimensions:
 - a) Optimal ratio between active doctoral supervisors and doctoral students under supervision:
Number of active doctoral supervisors (under 66 years old or with extended tenure as faculty members)

Total number of doctoral students under the supervision of each supervisor

b) Scientific performance of doctoral supervisors:

Score obtained according to habilitation criteria in the relevant field (Sociology)

Fulfillment of minimum habilitation standards

c) Scientific performance of doctoral students over the last four years:

Articles published in D1 category within the scientific subfield (top 10% WOS)

Articles indexed in WoS and Scopus

EriH+ indexed articles

Other articles indexed in internationally recognized databases according to CNATDCU minimum standards

Books and book chapters indexed in WorldCat

Books and book chapters not indexed in WorldCat

d) Visibility and internationalization of doctoral studies over the last four years:

Number of successfully defended theses under cotutelle or European doctorates

Number of international conferences/conference sections/workshops organized by the doctoral school

Number of doctorates completed at the SDD by international students

Number of media disseminations of doctoral research

Number of theses written in international languages

Number of courses taught in international languages within the curriculum

Number of theses written in field-specific languages by international students

e) Participation of scholarship-holding doctoral students in teaching and administrative activities of the faculty/university:

Number of weekly seminars delivered without remuneration during the academic year

Other unpaid and documentable activities performed by doctoral students for the benefit of the university/faculty/department (organization of conferences, workshops, summer schools, grading exams, exam supervision, etc.)

f) Contribution of doctoral supervisors to supporting doctoral students:

Number of doctoral students funded through research grants

g) Success rate of tuition-funded doctoral students with scholarships:

Ratio between the total number of doctoral students enrolled in the last four years and the number who completed their studies on time

(5) Monitoring is conducted annually through the completion and analysis of data consolidated in reporting forms requested by the SDD for the allocation of tuition-funded positions.

(6) Monitoring results are analyzed by the CSDD and form the basis for decisions to improve doctoral programs.

(7) Every five years, the doctoral school conducts a comprehensive internal evaluation of its doctoral programs, followed by an action plan to address identified deficiencies and enhance program quality, in line with the periodicity of ARACIS evaluations.

Periodic evaluation of doctoral supervisors

Art. 45

(1) Tenured doctoral supervisors within the Doctoral School are subject to a periodic internal evaluation every five years, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 38 of the UBB Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies.

(2) The internal evaluation is coordinated by the director of the doctoral school and is based on the following criteria:

a) Results of the supervisor's own scientific research:

(i) relevant publications in the field of Law (articles in ISI/WoS/Clarivate-indexed journals, books or book chapters published by recognized publishers);

(ii) citations of the published works;

(iii) scientific impact of the publications (measured by recognized bibliometric indicators);

(iv) participation in prestigious national and international conferences;

(v) research projects coordinated or participated in as a team member;

(vi) awards and distinctions received.

b) Scientific results of supervised doctoral students:

(i) quality of supervised doctoral theses;

(ii) publications of doctoral students in internationally recognized indexed journals;

(iii) participation of doctoral students in national and international conferences;

(iv) awards and distinctions received by doctoral students.

c) Quality of supervisory activity:

(i) rate of doctoral study completion within the legal timeframe;

(ii) evaluation of the supervisor by doctoral students;

(iii) frequency and efficiency of supervision meetings;

(iv) support provided to doctoral students for integration into the scientific community.

d) Compliance with academic ethics and deontology norms.

e) Involvement in the development of the doctoral school and participation in institutional activities.

(3) The evaluation procedure includes:

a) a self-assessment report prepared by the doctoral supervisor;

b) peer evaluation conducted by other doctoral supervisors in the field;

c) feedback from doctoral students, collected through anonymous questionnaires;

- d) analysis of quantitative scientific performance indicators;
 - e) assessment carried out by the director of the doctoral school.
- (4) Evaluation results are analyzed by the doctoral school council and finalized through:
- a) an evaluation report highlighting strengths and aspects requiring improvement;
 - b) specific recommendations for enhancing performance;
 - c) concrete support measures, if necessary.
- (5) In case major deficiencies are identified, the doctoral school council may propose:
- a) a corrective action plan with precise deadlines for addressing deficiencies;
 - b) temporary limitation of the number of doctoral students a supervisor may guide;
 - c) suspension or withdrawal of doctoral supervisor status, in accordance with Art. 8.
- (6) Doctoral supervisors who obtain excellent results in the evaluation may be rewarded through:
- a) an increased number of admission slots allocated;
 - b) priority in the allocation of research resources;
 - c) nomination for institutional awards and distinctions.

Ethics and professional deontology rules. Incompatibilities

Art. 46

(1) The Doctoral School (SDD) takes measures to prevent and sanction breaches of scientific, professional, and academic ethics, in accordance with the UBB Code of Ethics.

(2) In the case of academic fraud, violations of university ethics, or misconduct in scientific research, including plagiarism, the doctoral student will be expelled.

(3) If the above situations involve the activity of the doctoral supervisor, the SDD will initiate the procedure for revoking their status as a doctoral supervisor.

Art. 47

(1) It is prohibited for a doctoral candidate to be the spouse, relative by marriage, or blood relative up to the third degree, inclusive, of a member of the admission committee before which they are required to take the doctoral admission exams.

(2) It is prohibited for a doctoral student to be the spouse, relative by marriage, or blood relative up to the third degree, inclusive, of a member of their academic supervision and integrity committee or of the committee for the public defense of their doctoral thesis.

(3) Persons who are spouses, relatives by marriage, or blood relatives up to the third degree, inclusive, cannot be appointed to the same doctoral admission committee, the academic supervision and integrity committee of a doctoral student, or a doctoral defense committee.

The committee for the resolution of appeals

Art. 48

1) Within the Doctoral School, there operates a Committee for the Resolution of Appeals, competent to analyze and resolve all appeals regarding the application of the regulations in force within the doctoral school, with the exception of special provisions mentioned in this Regulation.

(2) The Committee for the Resolution of Appeals is composed of 3 full members and 2 alternate members, who are tenured doctoral supervisors of the doctoral school, who are not members of the Doctoral School Council and who are not in situations of conflict of interest with respect to the persons involved in the appeal.

(3) Members of the Committee for the Resolution of Appeals are appointed by the Doctoral School Council (CSDD) for a term of 4 years.

(4) The Committee for the Resolution of Appeals has the following responsibilities:

a) to analyze and resolve appeals submitted by doctoral students or doctoral supervisors regarding decisions of the Doctoral School Council;

b) to analyze and resolve appeals regarding evaluation results within the advanced studies program;

c) to analyze and resolve appeals regarding the composition of supervisory committees or doctoral committees;

d) to analyze and resolve appeals regarding the procedures for pre-defense and public defense of doctoral theses;

e) to analyze and resolve any other appeals regarding procedural aspects of the doctoral school's activity.

(5) The procedure for resolving appeals is carried out as follows:

- a) the appeal is submitted in writing to the doctoral school secretariat within 5 working days from the communication of the contested decision;
 - b) the secretariat registers the appeal and forwards it to the Chair of the Committee for the Resolution of Appeals;
 - c) the Chair convenes the members of the committee within 3 working days;
 - d) the committee analyzes the appeal based on the submitted documents and, if necessary, hears the parties involved;
 - e) the committee adopts a decision, by open vote, with a simple majority, within a maximum of 10 working days from receipt of the appeal;
 - f) the committee's decision is communicated in writing to the appellant and is final at the level of the doctoral school.
- (6) If the appellant is not satisfied with the solution issued by the Committee for the Resolution of Appeals, they may address the Doctoral School Council (CSUD) within 5 working days from the communication of the committee's decision.
- (7) The committee prepares an annual report on the resolved appeals, which is submitted to the Doctoral School Council (CSDD) and to the director of the Doctoral School Council (CSUD).
- (8) In situations where a member of the Committee for the Resolution of Appeals is in a conflict of interest or is unable to perform their duties, they will be replaced by one of the alternate members.

Transitional and final provisions

Art. 49

At the level of the Doctoral School (SDD), doctoral students who commenced their doctoral studies prior to the entry into force of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023 shall be subject to the transitional provisions regarding the defense of doctoral theses and the continuation of doctoral studies, in accordance with the UBB Regulation on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies, Article 41, paragraphs 1–8.

Art. 50

1) In the event that a doctoral supervisor simultaneously supervises more than 8 doctoral students who commenced their doctoral studies prior to the entry into force of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, those doctoral students may continue their studies under the same supervisor until their completion.

(2) By the beginning of the 2026–2027 academic year, doctoral supervisors at Babeş-Bolyai University shall progressively comply with the new doctoral student-to-supervisor ratio.

(3) Doctoral supervisors who were supervising doctoral students at the date of entry into force of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023 and who, either had reached the age of 70 prior to the entry into force of this law, or will reach this age thereafter, are entitled to continue supervising these doctoral students until the completion of their doctoral studies.

Art. 51

This SDD regulation is supplemented by the applicable legal and regulatory provisions in force.

Addendum 1

GUIDE

for the Writing of Doctoral Theses

Art. 1. General Provisions

(1) This guide, prepared in compliance with the methodologies adopted in this field, aims to guide the doctoral student in the conception and drafting of the doctoral thesis. It contains standards, which are mandatory in nature, and recommendations, i.e. suggestions which, for justified reasons explained within the thesis, may not be followed. Both categories of provisions concern the fundamental elements of drafting doctoral theses, such as formatting methods, minimum acceptance criteria for public defense, and requirements of professional ethics.

(2) The doctoral thesis is an original scientific work prepared by the doctoral student, written in Romanian or in an internationally used language, within doctoral university studies in the field of Legal Sciences (“Law”), and constitutes a legal requirement for obtaining the doctoral title. It demonstrates the doctoral student’s capacity to conduct original scientific research at national and international level, responsibly, creatively, and autonomously, based on a scientific research plan approved and coordinated by the doctoral supervisor and validated by the guidance and academic integrity committee.

(3) The doctoral student, as the author of the doctoral thesis, fully assumes responsibility for:

- a) the accuracy of the information and opinions/ideas presented in the thesis;
- b) strict compliance with the research methodology followed in preparing the doctoral thesis and presented therein, in accordance with the individual research plan;
- c) correct indication of sources (by citation) for any information taken over, as well as for the use of results belonging to the doctoral student;
- d) compliance with the norms of ethics and academic deontology, regulated by the Code of Ethics and Academic Deontology and other national laws and regulations in force;

e) upon completion of the doctoral thesis, fulfillment of the CNATDCU criteria specific to the field of Legal Sciences and, additionally, the supplementary standards imposed by the IOSUD where the doctoral thesis is to be publicly defended.

(4) The doctoral supervisor is obliged to exercise due diligence in verifying the conformity of the doctoral thesis with the requirements specific to an original scholarly work.

(5) The doctoral thesis constitutes a public document. Protection of intellectual property rights over the doctoral thesis is ensured in accordance with the provisions of the doctoral studies contract, in compliance with the regulations provided by the specific legislation in force at the date of completion of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 2. General Rules Regarding the Writing of Doctoral Theses

(1) The general principles governing the drafting of doctoral theses are as follows:

a) expressing ideas as simply and clearly as possible in order to facilitate understanding of the presented concepts and results;

b) avoiding non-scientific formulations, repetitions, and unexplained abbreviations;

c) correct provision of bibliographic references of any type;

d) rigorous verification of grammatical correctness, spelling, and punctuation required by the language of drafting.

(2) Specific requirements for drafting doctoral theses include:

a) the title of the doctoral thesis must accurately reflect its content and be consistent with the specificity of the doctoral field;

b) the doctoral thesis must have a clear research direction, addressing a topical issue, which is presented and argued within the thesis;

c) the thesis must clearly highlight the elements of originality and the doctoral student's contributions, as well as their impact (on scientific research in the field, on the economic environment, society, etc.);

d) within the thesis, the general objective and specific objectives must be clearly and coherently presented, accompanied by a clear justification of the research methodology used and their proper positioning within the field of doctoral studies in legal sciences;

e) critical analysis of existing solutions and analytical and synthetic presentation of results at national and international level must be included;

f) all new ideas/solutions proposed in the thesis must be coherently argued in the section where they are presented;

g)the conclusions of the thesis must be consistent with its general objective.

Art. 3. Structure of the Doctoral Thesis

(1)It is recommended that the doctoral thesis comprise at least 250 pages, calculated according to the formatting standards set out in Art. 4. Doctoral schools may impose their own standards regarding length. In cases where theses are shorter than the recommended minimum, doctoral supervisors must justify, in their report, the sufficiency of this reduced length in terms of research outcomes, relevance, and depth of analysis.

(2)The formal structure of the thesis must include at least the following:

a)cover page;

b)title page;

c)table of contents;

d)list of abbreviations;

e)introduction;

f)main body;

g)conclusions;

h)bibliography;

i)index.

(3)The cover page must include: the IOSUD logo and name, the phrase “DOCTORAL THESIS” (in uppercase), the name and surname of the doctoral supervisor preceded by their academic or scientific title, the name of the partner institution and supervisor (if the doctorate was conducted in co-tutelle), the name and surname of the doctoral student, and the year of public defense.

(4)The title page repeats the information on the cover page and adds the title of the doctoral thesis, the type of doctorate (scientific or professional), and the locality where the thesis is defended.

(5)The list of abbreviations must comply with standards used in specialized literature and be arranged alphabetically.

(6)The introduction, recommended not to exceed 20 pages, must include:

a)justification of the necessity, novelty, topicality, and relevance of the research topic;

b)motivation for choosing the topic;

- c) objectives of the thesis, accompanied by justification of the research methodology;
- d) description of the thesis structure and concise presentation of chapter contents;
- e) Presentation of the current state of development of the research topic to be studied (including the identification of problems / controversial aspects / inconsistently resolved issues, which constitute the motivation for the doctoral research), a stage that should be referenced when explaining the original contributions.

(7) Content of the Thesis. The thesis should be formally divided, with parts that may be designated as titles/chapters, which in turn can be subdivided into sections, subsections, paragraphs, etc. It is recommended that each chapter conclude with a section of the author's own conclusions, highlighting primarily the original contribution of the thesis author to the development of the analyzed subject.

When drafting the doctoral thesis, it must be taken into account that the work is intended for specialists in the relevant field. Therefore, overly general descriptions, banal statements (platitudes), extensive reproduction (even if respecting copyright) of parts of other authors' works or judicial decisions without a critical approach, verbatim reproduction of normative texts, soft-law documents, other documents, and/or decisions of national or international courts without detailed analysis, should be avoided.

(8) Conclusions. The conclusions, recommended not to exceed 20 pages, must not merely repeat the partial conclusions presented in the studies/articles; they should provide a synthesis of these, reflecting the originality of the conducted research and the impact of the results on doctrine and/or jurisprudence. In this section, references to the specialized literature (citations/footnotes) are not recommended.

The chapter should include the following content elements, organized into relevant sections:

- a) Conclusions of the doctoral thesis;
- b) Personal contributions, with clear reference to the thesis chapters and/or published articles included in the thesis;
- c) Impact of the thesis results, highlighting the multi- and interdisciplinary character, as well as the limitations of the conducted research;
- d) The extent to which the scientific research objectives have been achieved;
- e) Further developments of the doctoral thesis.

(9) Bibliography / Reference List. The bibliography should include correct and complete references for all works cited in the thesis. Bibliographic references must cover the sources used by the doctoral student in the preparation of the doctoral thesis.

It is recommended that the bibliography be organized into separate lists for:

- (i) Treatises, courses, monographs;
- (ii) Studies, articles, and case law commentaries;
- (iii) Web sources;
- (iv) Judicial decisions.

Separate lists may be created for Romanian and foreign sources, though this is not mandatory. Legislation should not be included in the bibliography.

For compiling bibliographic references, the Vancouver System is recommended. Examples of citation formats are as follows:

Category (i): Author(s), Title of the work, Publisher, Place and Year of publication.

Category (ii): Author(s), Title of the article, Journal, Issue and Year, or, if applicable, Conference Volume and Year, Publisher.

Category (iii): Name of the court, section, number and date of the decision, (for international court decisions, include paragraph), source from which it was obtained.

Category (iv): Complete URL and the date of last access.

The bibliography should contain titles directly related to the doctoral research, i.e., works cited as a result of the student's direct study. The use of web sources classified as "user-generated content" (e.g., Wikipedia) is discouraged. Indirectly cited sources (with *apud*) should not be included.

A reference listed as "in press" implies that the article has been accepted for publication, with clear proof of acceptance.

The reference list should be arranged alphabetically (without numbering) for the first two categories, according to the first letter of the first author's surname, and, if necessary, chronologically for works by the same author. The bibliography must also include works authored by the doctoral student.

For judicial decisions, rulings should be grouped according to the court or type of court issuing the decision (e.g., European Court of Human Rights, Romanian Constitutional Court, High Court of Cassation and Justice, Courts of Appeal, etc.), and within each category, decisions should be sorted chronologically.

References should be indicated in the original language of the source. Translation into Romanian is only required for references written in a non-Latin alphabet or in a language not widely used internationally.

(10) Index. The index includes the essential legal terms of the doctoral thesis, arranged alphabetically, with an indication of the page (or, if applicable, the paragraph) where each term can be found.

(11) Table of Contents. The table of contents should be generated automatically in MS Word and must include the titles and subtitles of all formal divisions of the thesis (titles, chapters, sections, etc.), along with the page number on which each begins. The table of contents must cover the entire work: list of abbreviations, introduction, main content, conclusions, bibliography, index, and appendices (if applicable).

(12) Optional Elements. These may include a motto and a dedication (placed on a separate page following the title page), as well as appendices (which may contain documents, questionnaires used in the thesis preparation, charts, photographs, excerpts from judicial decisions, etc., but not full legislative texts). Optional elements are not included in the minimum page count required for a doctoral thesis, as established in paragraph (1).

Art. 4. Rules and Suggestions on Formatting

(1) Pages are numbered starting from the introduction.

(2) The thesis shall be prepared in A4 format, with 2.5 cm margins, using Times New Roman font, size 12 pt, with 1.5 line spacing. Footnotes shall use the same font, size 10 pt, with single line spacing. Margins must remain consistent throughout the entire thesis, ensuring a neat and professional appearance.

(3) The main text must be aligned both left and right, using the “Justify” formatting command.

(4) Chapters shall begin on a new, odd-numbered page. Subchapters (sections, subsections, etc.) shall continue on the same page with a spacing of two or three lines and shall be marked in bold/italic or bold, as appropriate.

(5) If the doctoral thesis is written in Romanian, the use of diacritics is mandatory.

(6) Citations in a foreign language must be translated into Romanian in a footnote.

(7) The use of bold and underlining in the main text is not recommended, nor the use of bulleted or dashed lists.

(8) References to legislative acts shall follow the standard conventions of the issuing authority.

Art. 5

Rules for Citation

The adoption of ideas, expressions, definitions, arguments, etc., belonging to an author other than the author of the thesis, must be done either as direct quotations, using quotation marks (long quotations of more than a few dozen words are not recommended), or by reproducing the content in the thesis author's own words (through paraphrasing). Judicial practice may be included either (a) as a brief case summary, of max. ½ page, or (b) as an excerpt(s) from the reasoning, containing relevant legal arguments, also limited in length to a paragraph of 100–150 words.

(1) In both cases, it is mandatory to indicate, in the form of bibliographic references in the footnotes, the correct and complete bibliographic data of the source, so that the primary source can be easily identified by anyone. If the citation refers to a specific page, indicate “p.”; if a broader section is cited, indicate the range “pp. xx–xx”, optionally with the mention: “For details, see:” or “Conversely, see:”.

(2) If the ideas of an author are cited indirectly from another work than the original source, this must be explicitly mentioned, using the preposition *apud* (“cited after”).

(3) In footnotes, the author's first name is indicated before the last name.

(4) Interventions in the text of a normative act, as well as truncated citations, must be clearly highlighted.

(5) General citation exclusively in the bibliography at the end of the thesis is not allowed, without a specific reference to the source in the footnotes within the text.

Art. 6 Abstract of the Doctoral Thesis

(1) The abstract of the doctoral thesis is a separate document, prepared in both paper and electronic formats, using the same formatting characteristics as the thesis itself, in Romanian and English.

(2) Formal structure of the abstract includes:

a) Title page;

b) Summary of the main ideas (objectives, research methodology, chapter summaries respecting the chapter structure, conclusions, and personal contributions);

c) Table of contents (matching the thesis' table of contents).

(3) The abstract must not exceed 20 pages. It is printed and bound separately from the thesis.

The abstract format can be either B5 or A5.

Art. 7 Similarity Check

(1) The doctoral thesis will be checked using a software program for detecting similarities, listed among nationally recognized programs and used by higher education institutions, institutions organizing doctoral studies, and the Romanian Academy, in order to establish the degree of similarity for final academic works. This list is approved by the applicable legal regulations.

(2) After excluding the bibliography, footnote citations, the author's own works included in the thesis, and usual similar fragments of a maximum of 8 words, the similarity percentage should not exceed 15%. This percentage thus includes citations from doctrine or case law using quotation marks, as well as verbatim reproduction of legal texts. If the similarity percentage is exceeded, the doctoral supervisor must justify the necessity of this in their report.

(3) If the software identifies block similarities (for example, a section matches one from a published work, or there is a number of consecutive lines flagged as almost identical to texts published elsewhere), even if the maximum similarity percentage is not exceeded, the thesis supervisor must explain the need to include this block in the report concerning these similarities.

4) Following this analysis, the following documents generated by the system will be downloaded and saved:

- a) Proof of thesis upload/check (Receipt_StudentName, in PDF format);
- b) Complete report (e.g., for Turnitin: CompleteReport_Turnitin_StudentName, in PDF format – downloaded from the current view module – feedback studio, with the following settings: exclude bibliography, exclude quotations, exclude similar fragments under 8 words);
- c) Summary similarity report (SummaryReport_Turnitin_StudentName, in PDF format – generated from the complete report, retaining the first 2 pages for document identification and the last pages, starting with the feedback studio results regarding similarity indices in percentages – overall values and distribution by source categories, as well as the list of identified sources with individual percentages).

Art. 8- Minimum Quality Criteria for the Public Defense of the Doctoral Thesis

(1) The doctoral thesis must meet the mandatory national minimum standards required for the awarding of the doctoral degree, in force for the field of Legal Sciences.

(2) The doctoral thesis must be the result of the doctoral student's own scientific research activity and must contain original theoretical and applied results.

- (3) The title of the thesis must be consistent with its field and content.
- (4) The topic and objectives of the thesis must be clearly defined, and the current state of research in the field must be clearly presented.
- (5) The thesis must comply with ethical norms in research and development activities.
- (6) The results presented in the thesis must be up-to-date, scientifically relevant, and have potential impact (theoretical, in doctrine, academic and research activity, and/or practical, in jurisprudence).
- (7) The methodology used in the research presented in the thesis must be appropriate (demonstrated through knowledge and use of scientific tools suitable to the studied topic).
- (8) The way information is presented in the thesis (clarity of exposition, highlighting the author's own contributions) must be adequate.
- (9) The conclusions must be clearly formulated and present solutions to the research hypotheses and questions, as well as the achievement of the objectives of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 9 - Rules of Ethics and Academic Integrity

- (1) The doctoral student has the right to use material from the publications reported in the thesis without the need to rephrase it. This situation must be properly indicated in the footnotes so that the respective material can be excluded from the similarity index calculation.
- (2) The research topic of the thesis must be in accordance with the areas of expertise of the doctoral supervisor.
- (3) Compliance with all citation rules is mandatory, ensuring that citations are correct and complete, as plagiarism—as defined in Article 169, letter (d) of Law no. 199/2023 on Higher Education—is strictly prohibited.
- (4) Artificially inflating the bibliography is prohibited, such as by inserting works that are claimed to have been used by the doctoral student but were not cited in the footnotes. Similarly, formal-only citations (without direct relevance to the research topic) of overly general works (usually multiple university courses), presenting universally accepted legal truths, are discouraged if the thesis does not critically analyze or question them. Such citations should not be used solely to enrich the bibliography.
- (5) The direct use of generative technological tools (e.g., ChatGPT) or any other type of artificial intelligence method for the actual drafting of the thesis is prohibited, except for texts generated with AI tools or techniques exclusively for the purpose of illustrating research results. In such cases, the doctoral student must clearly indicate both the tools used and the rationale and necessity for their use. Text sequences obtained through generative

technological tools must be treated identically to texts written by other authors with respect to citation (source indicated, enclosed in quotation marks, etc.). If artificial intelligence is used indirectly for thesis preparation (e.g., for more efficient bibliographic searches, translation, etc.), this must be clearly stated in the introduction by the doctoral student, providing exact details of the applications used, the results obtained, and the rationale and necessity for their use.

Art. 10 Final Provisions

In the case of joint/cotutelle doctoral programs, the provisions of this guide shall also be applied and interpreted so as to ensure their compatibility with foreign regulations applicable to the respective doctoral program, in accordance with Article 15(2) of the Framework Regulation on Doctoral Studies, approved by Order of the Ministry of Education and Research no. 3020/2024.

This Regulation and its annex were endorsed at the meeting of the Doctoral School of Law Council on [date], were approved by the Faculty of Law Council on [date], and ratified by the CSUD in the meeting held on [date]. Its provisions apply to all doctoral students who fall under the scope of the Law on Higher Education no. 199/2023, with all subsequent amendments and completions, as well as Order no. 3020/2024 of 8 January 2024.