



UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



FACULTATEA DE
ISTORIE ȘI FILOSOFIE



ȘCOALA DOCTORALĂ DE
**Relații Internaționale și
Studii de Securitate**

**REGULATION OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF
RELATIONS
INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY STUDIES (SD-
RISS)
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ NAPOCA**



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CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 1 - Legal framework

The doctoral studies within the Doctoral School of International Relations and Security Studies are regulated by the Regulation of Babeș-Bolyai University on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies, amended and supplemented by HS no. 32/10.03.2025, and is based on the following documents:

- a) The Higher Education Law no. 199/2023;
- b) Emergency Ordinance no. 95 of June 28, 2024 for the amendment and completion of the Law on Pre-University Education no. 198/2023 and the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023;
- c) ORDER No. 3020/2024 of 8 January 2024 for the approval of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies;
- d) ORDER No. 3692/2024 of February 1, 2024 on the list of nationally recognized programs in order to establish the degree of similarity for the completion of studies;
- e) ORDER No. 3693/2024 of 1 February 2024 for the approval of the Framework Methodology regarding the organization of admission to higher education in short-term, bachelor's, master's and doctoral cycles;
- f) Emergency Ordinance no. 95/29 June 2024 amending and supplementing the Law on Pre-University Learning no. 198/2023 and the Law on Higher Learning no. 199/2023;
- g) Order no. 3482 of 24 March 2016 on the approval of the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the National Council for the Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates and the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the Council National Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates;
- h) ORDER No. 3018/2025 of January 13, 2025 on the approval of the necessary and mandatory national minimum standards for the conferral of the doctoral degree
- i) ORDER No. 5110/2018 of 17 September 2018 on the approval of the minimum national standards for granting the title of doctor
- j) Order no. 3131/2018 of January 30, 2018 regarding the inclusion in the curricula, for all university study programs organized in higher education institutions in the national education system, of ethics and academic integrity courses;
- k) Regulation of the Babeș-Bolyai University for the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral Studies, approved with HS 116 of 23.09.2024 with amendments and completions later;
- l) The Code of Ethics and Professional Deontology of the UBB, Annex to HS no. 28/10.03.2025 and the national legislation on university ethics.

CHAPTER II. FIELDS AND ORGANIZATION OF DOCTORAL STUDIES



Art. 2. Fields and purpose of studies

(1) The doctoral studies organized within the Doctoral School of International Relations and Security Studies (SD-RISS) represent the third cycle of university studies offered by UBB and are carried out in the following areas:

- a) **International Relations and European Studies;** b) **History;**
- c) **Sociology.**

(2) The purpose of the studies is to develop the competent human resource in carrying out original scientific research capable of insertion into the highly qualified labor market. The PhD within SD-RISS provides the training of professional and transversal skills specific to level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework (CNC).

(3) Following the completion of the studies and the defense of the thesis, UBB confers:

- a) For the scientific doctorate: diploma and title of **Doctor of Science** (PhD) in the field of International Relations and European Studies, in the field of History or in the field of Sociology;
- b) For the professional doctorate: diploma and title of **Professional Doctor** (Dr.P) in the field concerned.

Art. 3. Types of PhD

(1) Doctoral studies usually fall under the type of **scientific doctorate**, with the purpose of producing original, internationally relevant scientific knowledge based on scientific methods.

(2) Within SD-RISS, professional **doctorates can also be** organized, focused on applied research on topics of practical importance.

Art. 4. Duration and structure

(1) The duration of doctoral studies is **4 academic years**.

(2) The studies comprise two compulsory components:

- a) **The training program based on advanced university studies** is completed within the doctoral school for a cumulative duration of 12-14 weeks, being carried out entirely in one of the two academic semesters of the first year of the doctorate;
- b) **Individual scientific research program** (Years I-IV), completed with the public defense of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 5. Forms of education

(1) Doctoral degree programs are of two types:

a) scientific doctorate, which aims to produce original, internationally relevant scientific knowledge based on scientific methods. The scientific doctorate forms the basis for the professional career in higher education and research and can be organized in the form of full-time or part-time education;

b) professional doctorate, in all fields, which aims to produce original knowledge based on the application of the scientific method, systematic reflection or applied research on topics of practical importance and which constitutes a basis for the professional career in higher education and research, in the fields concerned. The professional doctorate can be organized in the form of full-time or part-time education.

(2) The obligations regarding attendance for doctoral students imply the physical presence on campus for training and research activities, according to the requirements established by the doctoral supervisor and the Council of the Doctoral School. These requirements will be adapted accordingly according to the form of education in which the doctoral student is enrolled (full-time or part-time).



Art. 6. Financing of studies

- (1) Doctoral studies within SD-RISS are organized with funding from the state budget, on a fee basis or from other legally constituted sources.
- (2) Funding from the state budget is based on multiannual doctoral grants. The grants include the amount of individual scholarships only for the doctorate organized in the full-time education form.
- (3) A person can benefit from funding from the state budget for only one doctoral degree program.
- (4) The fee-based funding is based on an annual study fee, established by the UBB Senate. Funding can also be provided by private legal entities or research institutes, based on a contract.

Art. 7. Study contract

- (1) The studies are carried out on the basis **of the Doctoral Studies Agreement** concluded between the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor and UBB (represented by the Rector and the Director of SD-RISS).
- (2) **The individual plan of doctoral studies** is an annex and an integral part of the Study Contract. It is signed by the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor and endorsed by the director of the Doctoral School.
- (3) The study contract cannot be modified during the academic year, except for situations of interruption or extension regulated by addenda.

CHAPTER III. DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SECURITY STUDIES (SD-RISS)

Art. 8. Status and subordination

- (1) The organization of doctoral programs in the fields of **International Relations and European Studies, History and Sociology** at UBB falls under the competence of the Doctoral School of International Relations and Security Studies (SD-RISS).
- (2) SD-RISS operates under the subordination of the Faculty of History and Philosophy (FIF) of UBB, having a rank equal to that of a department.
- (3) The content of the study programs offered is an integral part of the Faculty's educational offer. The School's activity is guided and coordinated by the Institute for Doctoral Studies (ISD) and CSUD of UBB,

Art. 9. Doctoral School Staff

- (1) The SD-RISS team consists of:
 - a) At least 3 university professors, full doctoral supervisors in the fields of Relations International and European Studies, History, Sociology, with an employment contract at UBB;
 - b) Affiliated academics and affiliated researchers;
 - c) Enrolled doctoral students.



- (2) SD-RISS membership is granted to doctoral supervisors who meet the minimum qualification standards in force and are recognized for their scientific merits.
- (3) The co-optation of the new members (full or affiliated) is done with the agreement of the School Council, endorsed by the CSUD and validated by the Senate, based on the document "*Criteria and procedures regarding the co-optation of new doctoral supervisors in SD-RISS*", which is an annex to this regulation.
- (4) All full members, affiliates and doctoral students are included annually in the **SD-RISS Statement of Functions**, approved by the School Council and signed by the Director, Dean and Director of CSUD.

Art. 10. Mission and research activity

- (1) The mission of SD-RISS is to train a new generation of researchers by improving the training certified for the master's degree, in the fields of International Relations and European Studies, History and Sociology.
- (2) The school promotes interdisciplinarity, critical thinking and internationalization of research. (3) SD-RISS shall provide the necessary infrastructure (access to databases, libraries, research centres), encourage mobility, external research placements and co-supervision.
- (4) The results of the research shall materialize in scientific publications, participation in national and international conferences, as well as participation in research projects.

Art. 11. Council of the Doctoral School (CSD)

- (1) The school is run by the SD-RISS Council, assimilated to the council of a department.
- (2) The Council is made up of **5 members**, respecting the following structure:
 - a) **the director** of SD-RISS;
 - b) **3 PhD supervisors** in SD-RISS;
 - c) **1 doctoral student** enrolled in SD-RISS;
- (3) The members are elected by universal, direct, secret and equal vote of the titular doctoral supervisors.
- (4) The mandate of the Council is **5 years**. The doctoral students lose their membership on the date of public defense of the thesis, the vacancies being filled by partial elections.

Art. 12. Director of the Doctoral School

- (1) The Director of SD-RISS is an ex officio member of the Council and chairs its meetings.
- (2) The director is appointed by the CSUD based on the proposal of the SD-RISS Council, following internal elections, from among the doctoral supervisors with an employment contract of indefinite duration at UBB.

Art. 13. Functioning of the Council

- (1) The Council of the Doctoral School meets at least 3 times per academic year or whenever necessary, at the summoning of the director of the doctoral school or at the request of at least one third of its members.
- (2) The Council of the Doctoral School is legally convened in the presence of at least half plus one of the total number of its members (quorum).
- (3) The current decisions of the Council of the Doctoral School are adopted by a simple majority of the members present. All members of the council, including representatives of doctoral students, have equal voting rights.

Art. 14. Attributions of the SD-RISS Council The main attributions are:

- a) Develops and modifies the School Regulations;
- b) Decides on the affiliation or revocation of doctoral supervisors;



- c) Decides on the enrollment and expulsion of doctoral students;
- d) Approves the change of the doctoral supervisor and the advisory and academic integrity committees;
- e) Develops the Curriculum and the curricular offer;
- f) Approves individual research plans and thesis committees;
- g) Ensures the internal evaluation of the school and the quality of the theses;
- h) Manage conflicts and ensure compliance with university ethics.

Art. 15. Doctoral supervisors' meeting The doctoral supervisors meet in a working meeting at least once a semester to discuss common problems. The decisions of this group are consultative for the School Council.

Art. 16. Auxiliary teaching and administrative staff (School Secretariat)

- (1) For the management of the administrative activity, SD-RISS can hire auxiliary teaching staff and administrative/non-teaching staff (e.g. secretary of the doctoral school), if the funding of the corresponding positions is ensured.
- (2) The number of positions for the auxiliary teaching staff and for the administrative staff is established by the UBB Senate, at the proposal of the Rector, depending on the budget and specificity of the doctoral school, as well as on the technical-administrative structure.
- (3) The main duties of the secretariat of the doctoral school include: keeping track of activities, the relationship with the Institute of Doctoral Studies (ISD) and CSUD, taking over documents and checking the files of candidates and doctoral students, updating the school's website and drawing up minutes.
- (4) The steps for carrying out the similarity analysis (anti-plagiarism) of the doctoral theses within SD-RISS are carried out by a person designated for this purpose by decision of the Council of the Doctoral School.

Art. 17. Funding and resources

- (1) Funding is provided from doctoral grants (state budget) and extra-budgetary sources (fees, projects, sponsorships).
- (2) The distribution of doctoral grants (for the advanced studies program, the research program, the payment of commissions, management, etc.) is carried out in accordance with the clear specifications and criteria established by the Decisions of the Board of Directors (HCA) of UBB and by the UBB Regulation for the organization of doctoral studies.
- (3) From the funding on doctoral grants, a minimum of 20% is allocated exclusively for the research activities carried out by the doctoral students, including for their national and international mobility.
- (4) Grants related to doctoral studies include the amount of individual scholarships for the doctorate organized in the full-time form of education and do not include the amount of scholarships for the part-time form of education.



Art. 18. The SD-RISS Council, together with the Chief Administrator of the Faculty, controls the use of funds. The Chief Executive Officer shall submit a financial report to the Board annually.

Art. 19. Standardization and remuneration of activity

- (1) The activities of management, respectively of guidance of doctoral students, as well as the teaching activities provided for in the doctoral study programs are regulated and remunerated in accordance with the legislation in force and the decisions of UBB.
- (2) **Advanced study program:** According to Law 199/2023, in doctoral university education, the hour of teaching activities (course) represents 2.5 conventional hours, and the hour of seminar/paper activities represents 1.5 conventional hours.
- (3) **Doctoral supervision and guidance and academic integrity committees:** The norming of the activity of doctoral supervisors, members of guidance committees and official referees in support committees is carried out according to the legal regulations and the methodology for drawing up the status of functions approved annually by the UBB Senate. The doctoral student is fully accounted for with the main doctoral supervisor.
- (4) **Employment of doctoral students:** PhD students can be employed by UBB as research assistants or university assistants, for a fixed period, following a competition.
- (5) **Teaching activity of doctoral students:** Doctoral students with scholarships will carry out teaching activity of 2 to 6 hours/week, respecting the area of competence of each one, during at least 3 semesters (seminars or laboratories) or other documentable activities for the benefit of the doctoral school.
- (6) The teaching activities carried out by doctoral students that exceed the limit provided for in para. (5) shall be remunerated on an hourly basis, in accordance with the labour legislation in force.

Art. 20. Transparency (Website) SD-RISS, with the support of the faculty, ensures the publication on its website of: the regulations, the list of supervisors, the results of doctoral students, information on admission and ethics standards. Updating the site is the task of the scientific secretary.



Art. 21. Obtaining the quality of doctoral supervisor (Habilitation)

- (1) Doctoral supervisors may be persons who have obtained the right to supervise the doctorate prior to the date of entry into force of the Law on Higher Education no. 199/2023, as well as persons who obtain the habilitation certificate (by order of the Minister of Education, at the proposal of CNATDCU) and become members of a doctoral school within UBB, based on an individual employment contract.
- (2) Persons who hold the scientific title of doctor and who meet the minimum national standards necessary and mandatory for the granting of the habilitation certificate, approved by ministerial order, specific to the field of doctoral research (International Relations and European Studies, History or Sociology) have the right to participate in the habilitation process.
- (3) In addition to the national standards, the candidate must meet the UBB specific standards regarding the quality of teaching and scientific research activity.

Art. 22. Carrying out the empowerment process

- (1) The empowerment process takes place within IOSUD-UBB, through the Doctoral School.
- (2) The Enabling Committee is made up of 3 full members and 2 alternate members, renowned specialists in the field of doctoral research targeted by the candidate, who hold the position of doctoral supervisor in the country or abroad and are not in a situation of conflict of interest.
- (3) At least 2 of the full members of the Enabling Commission and, respectively, at least one alternate member carry out their activity outside IOSUD-UBB and including outside the institution from which the candidate comes, if they are distinct.
- (4) It is recommended that external members be part of the universities participating in the "Universitaria" Consortium, the Union of Cluj Universities, the EUTOPIA alliance, the Guild consortium, legally constituted consortia on fields/specializations to which the faculties within UBB belong or from prestigious universities abroad. The participation in the Commission of a member who does not come from such institutions must state the reasons in writing.
- (5) The candidate publicly defends the habilitation thesis, which reveals the teaching and research capacities and performances.

Art. 23. Co-optation in the Doctoral School

- (1) Obtaining the habilitation certificate does not automatically imply membership of SD-RISS.
- (2) In order to be co-opted in SD-RISS, the candidate sends an application to the doctoral school, accompanied by the following documents:
 - a) proof of possession of the habilitation certificate or, as the case may be, of the quality of doctoral supervisor;
 - b) proof of fulfillment of the minimum professional conditions and standards established in the regulations of the doctoral school, approved by CSUD and published on the ISD website;
 - c) for candidates from other universities or institutes in Romania, the opinion of the administrative/scientific board and the agreement of the senate of the university in which they are tenured/employed to conduct doctorates in UBB;
 - d) The candidate's CV, in Europass format;
 - e) a list of interdisciplinary research topics, if the doctoral school assumes an interdisciplinary theme.



(3) The Council of the Doctoral School analyzes the candidate's application and decides on it by secret ballot. If it is decided to co-opt a tenured head at an institution in the country that is not a member of consortia to which UBB is a member, the decision will be accompanied by a motivation on the need for co-optation.

(4) In case of a favorable decision of the Council of the Doctoral School, the advisory opinion of the Faculty Council (CF) will also be requested.

(5) The decision to grant membership, together with the documents of the file, are sent to the Institute of Doctoral Studies (ISD), which forwards the file to the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD) for approval.

(6) The co-optation decision, accompanied by the advisory opinion of the CF, the opinion of the CSUD and the advisory opinion of the Board of Directors (BoD), shall be sent to the UBB Senate for validation.

Art. 24. Doctoral supervisor and standardization

(1) Persons who have obtained the right to conduct doctoral studies prior to the entry into force of Law on Higher Education no. 199/2023, as well as persons who have obtained the habilitation certificate and become members of the doctoral school, have the right to supervise doctorates within SD-RISS. (2) A doctoral supervisor may simultaneously supervise doctoral students only in one Institution Organizing Doctoral Studies (IOSUD), except for doctorates supervised under co-supervision.

(3) Standardization: Starting with the academic year 2026-2027, a doctoral supervisor can simultaneously supervise a maximum of 8 doctoral students.

(4) Exception (Increase of the norm): By exception to para. (3), up to a maximum of 12 doctoral students may be supervised by a doctoral supervisor, only with the approval of the UBB Senate. This exception can be granted for a maximum of 20% of the total number of doctoral supervisors within the doctoral school.

(5) Transitional provision: The provisions regarding the limitation to 8 students (paragraph 3) enter into force starting with the academic year 2026-2027.

Until this date, the transitional regime established by the UBB Senate is applied, the general maximum limit being 12 doctoral students.

(6) The following are not included in the number of doctoral students provided for in the above paragraphs (when calculating the limit of 8/12 students):

- a) doctoral students who are in interruption of activity;
- b) doctoral students who are in the period of postponement of the public defense of the doctoral thesis
(after the official submission of the thesis to the secretariat);
- c) doctoral students who have publicly defended their thesis, but have not yet been validated by ministerial order;
- d) students coordinated in co-supervision where the leader of SD-RISS has a secondary role (not the main leader).

(7) For the activity they carry out in this capacity, the doctoral supervisors are remunerated in accordance with the legislation in force and the internal rules of UBB.



Art. 25. Maintaining tenure after retirement

- (1) PhD supervisors retire upon fulfillment of the conditions provided by the legislation in force, upon reaching the age of 65.
- (2) Teaching or research staff who supervise doctorates and who retire may supervise doctorates in progress on the date of retirement until their completion.
- (3) The doctoral supervisors who continue their activity as tenured professors, by extending their activity according to the legislation and the Regulation for the extension of their activity in UBB, can receive and lead new doctoral students under the conditions in which they receive the extension of their activity as tenured professors.
- (4) In the event that a tenured doctoral supervisor does not wish to continue his activity as a doctoral supervisor after retirement, the doctoral school to which he belongs is responsible for reassigning the management of the ongoing doctorates under his coordination to other doctoral supervisors, in order to complete the doctoral theses in optimal conditions.

Art. 26. Academic Guidance and Integrity Commission

- (1) The doctoral supervisor is supported in the work with the doctoral student by a guidance and academic integrity committee. It consists of 3 members (teachers or researchers), specialists in the field of the thesis or in related fields.
- (2) The composition of the commission is proposed by the doctoral supervisor, following consultation with the doctoral student, and is approved by the Council of the Doctoral School.
- (3) The members of the guidance and academic integrity committee may be part of the research team of the doctoral supervisor, may be other persons affiliated to the doctoral school or teaching and research staff not affiliated to it. At least one member of this commission must be from outside Babeș-Bolyai University/higher education institution.
- (4) The members of the guidance and academic integrity committee cannot be nominated as members of the public defense committee of the doctoral thesis.
- (5) The role of the committee is to evaluate the research reports submitted by the student, to provide scientific support and methodological guidance during the preparation of the thesis, as well as to monitor compliance with the norms of ethics and academic integrity.

Art. 27. Change of doctoral supervisor

- (1) The Council of the Doctoral School (SD-RISS) may decide to change the doctoral supervisor of a doctoral student, by replacing him with another supervisor from the same doctoral field, in the following situations:
 - a) if the doctoral supervisor has reached the age of 65 and does not wish to continue his activity as a doctoral supervisor;
 - b) at the request of the director of the doctoral school, if he/she has ascertained **the unavailability of the doctoral supervisor for a period longer than one year;**
 - c) at the reasoned request of the doctoral supervisor or the doctoral student, if the non-fulfillment of the legal or contractual obligations assumed by any of them is found or **for any other reasons regarding the tutoring relationships between them;**
 - d) **at the joint request of the doctoral student and his doctoral supervisor,** in which, based on well-founded reasons, a new doctoral supervisor is proposed.
- (2) In the situations provided for in para. (1) letters a), b) and c), the new doctoral supervisor may be proposed either by the Council of the Doctoral School or by the doctoral student.



(3) The change of the doctoral supervisor can be approved only with the written agreement regarding the takeover of the doctoral student and the research topic, given in advance by the new doctoral supervisor, at least 15 days before the start of the new academic year. **Exceptions are cases of force majeure: death, resignation of the supervisor or his/her transfer to another doctoral school.** If the new manager works in another organizing institution, the approval of its management is also required, and the transfer request is submitted at least 15 days before the start of the new academic year.

(4) After the change of doctoral supervisor, the new supervisor establishes, within 15 days from the approval, a new doctoral student guidance committee, which may also include members of the old committee, if they accept.

Art. 28. Rights and obligations of the doctoral student

(1) The doctoral student has the right to:

- a) support, guidance and coordination from the supervisor and the steering and academic integrity committee;
- b) participation in SD-RISS seminars and working meetings;
- c) representation in the decision-making forums of the doctoral school (SD Council);
- d) recognition of seniority in work and specialty for the period of studies (if it is a scholarship holder), according to the law.

(3) The doctoral student has the following main obligations:

- a) to respect the established schedule and to present the progress reports according to the Individual Plan;
- b) to be in permanent contact with the doctoral supervisor;
- c) to respect academic ethics and avoid any form of plagiarism.

CHAPTER V. ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES

Art. 29. Eligibility

(1) Only graduates with a master's degree or its equivalent are entitled to participate in the doctoral admission competition in the fields of **International Relations and European Studies, History or Sociology.**

(2) Cumulative condition: The candidate must have accumulated at least **300 ECTS credits** (bachelor's + master's degree) at the time of registration.

Art. 30. Organization of the contest

(1) Admission to doctoral studies is done through a competition, organized annually, in one or more sessions, in accordance with the Methodology of Babeş-Bolyai University and the methodology of the Doctoral School.

(2) The places offered for competition (budgeted and fee-based) are proposed by the doctoral supervisors and approved by the Council of the Doctoral School and the CSUD.

(3) To apply, the candidate must obtain **the written agreement in principle** of a doctoral supervisor from the school that has vacancies.

Art. 31. Competition tests

The admission contest to SD-RISS consists of two tests:

- a) **Test 1 (Written):** Specialized written exam, based on a bibliography posted at least 2 months in advance;



- b) **Test 2 (Oral):** Interview in which the proposed doctoral research project is presented and the candidate's scientific concerns are analyzed.

Art. 32. Admission Average

- (1) The minimum admission average is **7.00 (seven)**.
- (2) The ranking of candidates is made in descending order of averages, within the limit of available places.
- (3) The results are validated by CSUD and made public on the school's website.

CHAPTER VI. ADVANCED UNIVERSITY TRAINING PROGRAM (PPA)

Art. 33. Structure of the first year

- (1) The first year of doctoral studies comprises both the Advanced University Studies Based Training Program (PPUA) and the beginning of the Individual Scientific Research Program.
- (2) The individual scientific research program carried out during the first year is materialized by the elaboration, presentation and support of the scientific research project.
- (3) The PPA program has a cumulative duration of maximum **12-14 weeks** of teaching activities and totals **30 ECTS credits**.
- (4) The curriculum is established by the SD-RISS Curriculum, approved annually by CSUD, and includes:
 - a) **Compulsory subjects:** "Ethics and academic integrity";
 - b) **Specialized disciplines** (optional/optional) relevant to the fields of International Relations, European Studies, History and Sociology.

Art. 34. Conduct and evaluation of the PPUA

- (1) Participation in PPUA courses and seminars is mandatory. Unjustified absence can lead to non-granting of loans.
- (2) The evaluation of the subjects in the PPUA ends with grades, according to the discipline sheet. (3) The disciplines to be followed by a doctoral student within the Training Program based on advanced university studies may be chosen from the disciplines offered by the doctoral school to which the doctoral student belongs or by another doctoral school within Babeş-Bolyai University, with the agreement of the doctoral supervisor.
- (4) By exception, in the case of doctorates in international co-supervision or academic mobility, the doctoral student can follow advanced training courses at partner universities. The credits obtained in these situations can be recognized and equated by the Council of the Doctoral School, in accordance with the institutional regulations in force.
- (5) The failure to accumulate the 30 ECTS credits related to the Advanced University Studies Training Program (PPUA), as well as the failure to pass the Scientific Research Project (evaluated with another 30 ECTS credits) by the end of the first year, entail the expulsion of the doctoral student.

CHAPTER VII. INDIVIDUAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME (PICS)



Art. 35. Structure of the research programme and oral presentations

The individual scientific research program is carried out throughout the duration of the doctorate, the main objective being the elaboration by the doctoral student of the thesis, under the supervision of the supervisor and the academic guidance and integrity committee.

(2) The doctoral student together with the doctoral supervisor decide to present, at least once every 12 months, the progress made in terms of the doctoral thesis in front of the guidance and academic integrity committee, through an oral presentation.

(3) In order to ensure a coherent scientific path, within the individual research program, the doctoral student has the obligation to support the following elements of progress:

a) The scientific research project is held in the first year. Granting the qualification "admitted" is a condition for continuing studies and leads to the accumulation of 30 ECTS;

b) 3 (three) Research reports are usually held, one in the second, third and fourth years. For each of the research reports graded with the qualification "admitted", 60 ECTS are awarded.

(4) If the defense of the doctoral thesis takes place earlier than the fourth year of studies, the submission of the three research reports remains mandatory. Their defense will be brought forward accordingly, until the start of the procedures for the pre-defense of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 36. Research project (End of Year I)

(1) The research project defines the theme of the thesis, the objectives, the methodology and the current state of knowledge in the field.

(2) The project is defended in a public meeting (physically or online) in front of the guidance and academic integrity committee.

(3) If the project is rejected, it can be redone and defended only once, within the deadline set by the commission, but no later than the beginning of the following academic year. Failure to support leads to expulsion.

Art. 37. Research reports

(1) The research reports monitor the progress of the doctoral student in writing the thesis or in conducting experiments/case studies.

(2) The interval between two consecutive reports may not exceed **12 months**.

(3) Reports are graded "Passed" or "Rejected." The report of support is submitted to the school secretariat.

(4) The support of reports can also be carried out online, through videoconferencing platforms (Zoom, Teams, etc.), according to UBB procedures, provided that the minutes are recorded or signed electronically.

Art. 38. Research and dissemination activities During the internship, the doctoral student has the obligation to carry out activities to disseminate the results, necessary to meet the minimum standards for the defense of the thesis:

a) Publication of articles in BDI/WoS indexed journals;

b) Participation in national and international conferences;

c) The participation of doctoral students is mandatory at the conferences and scientific events organized by the Doctoral School.



Art. 39. Teaching activity

- (1) PhD students can carry out paid teaching activities, within the limit of the university assistant norm, in accordance with the legislation in force and the University Charter.
- (2) The doctoral students who benefit from a **doctoral scholarship** have the obligation, according to the Study Agreement and the UBB Regulations, to carry out teaching activities (seminars, laboratories or practical works) or other documentable scientific activities for the benefit of the doctoral school/department, in the amount of **4-6 physical hours per week**.
- (3) The activities provided for in para. (2) shall be considered part of the doctoral practical training. Teaching activities that **exceed** this level or that are provided on the basis of a separate employment contract (hourly pay/university assistant for a fixed period) are remunerated according to the legislation in force.
- (4) The record of the activities carried out is kept through a monthly or half-yearly activity report, endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and the director of the department/doctoral school.

CHAPTER VIII. ELABORATION AND PUBLIC DEFENSE OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

Art. 40. Doctoral thesis

- (1) The doctoral studies are completed by the public defense of the doctoral thesis. The thesis must be an original work, the result of one's own research activity, which brings a contribution of knowledge in the fields of **International Relations and European Studies, History or Sociology**.
- (2) The doctoral thesis is written according to **the Writing Guide** (Annex 1), in compliance with the academic citation rules and copyright legislation.
- (3) The title of the thesis may be modified, with the opinion of the doctoral supervisor, until the moment of its submission for similarity analysis.

Art. 41. Similarity analysis procedure (Anti-plagiarism)

- (1) Before defending, the doctoral thesis is compulsorily subject to verification by the similarity analysis software recognized by CNATDCU (e.g. Turnitin), provided by Babeș-Bolyai University.
- (2) The doctoral student submits the thesis in digital format to the secretariat of the Doctoral School, together with an affidavit regarding its originality.
- (3) The analysis and interpretation of the results of the similarity report are carried out both by the guidance and academic integrity committee and by a member of the doctoral school appointed by the Doctoral School Council.
- (4) Based on the analysis and interpretation made according to para. (3), **the Resolution on the similarities report** is issued, in which it is explicitly mentioned whether the thesis is admitted or rejected for public support. If irregularities are found, the thesis is rejected, and the doctoral student has the obligation to redo it.

Art. 42. Minimum Standards for Thesis Defense

- (1) In order to be able to submit the thesis for public defense, the doctoral student has the obligation to meet the national minimum standards specific to the CNATDCU commission



related to his/her doctoral field, approved by order of the Minister of Education. In order to ensure the predictability of the academic path, these standards are applied according to the year of enrollment, as follows:

- a) for doctoral students enrolled in doctoral studies starting with the academic year 2025 – 2026, the standards established by the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3018/2025
- b) for doctoral students enrolled prior to the entry into force of the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3018/2025, the CNATDCU minimum standards established by Order no. 5110/2018 of September 17, 2018 apply

(2) The lists of international databases (BDI) recognized for each field are those specified in the annexes of the Order of the Minister of Education no. 3018/2025 and are detailed in Annex 2 to this Regulation.

Art. 43. Defending the thesis

- (1) After obtaining the favorable resolution of similarity, the thesis is presented before the Academic Guidance and Integrity Commission (**Pre-defense**).
- (2) The Academic Guidance and Integrity Committee evaluates the thesis and issues the agreement for the formal submission. If the committee requests changes, the student has the obligation to integrate them before the final submission.

Art. 44. Submission and Publicity of the Thesis (90 Day Rule)

- (1) After the favorable opinion of the steering committee, the student submits the final thesis and the doctoral file to the secretariat.
- (2) **Transparency:** The doctoral thesis and its annexes are uploaded to the national platform managed by UEFISCDI and remain available for public consultation for **90 calendar days** before the date set for the public defense.
- (3) During this period, any person can make observations on possible ethical deviations. If there are no notifications, the public support is organized.

Art. 45. Doctoral Committee

- (1) The commission for the public defense of the doctoral thesis, hereinafter referred to as the doctoral committee, is proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the Council of the Doctoral School and the CSUD.
- (2) The doctoral committee is made up of:
 - a) **the president of the commission**, as a representative of the Babeș-Bolyai University;
 - b) **the doctoral supervisor(s)**;
 - c) **at least three official reviewers** from the country or abroad, specialists in the field in which the doctoral thesis was elaborated, selected in such a way that at least two carry out their activity outside the Babeș-Bolyai University.
- (3) It is recommended that external members be part of the universities participating in the "Universitaria" Consortium, the Union of Cluj Universities, the EUTOPIA alliance, The Guild consortium, consortia legally constituted on fields/specializations to which the faculties within UBB belong or universities with which UBB has concluded cooperation agreements.
- (4) The members of the doctoral committee must have the title of doctor and have at least the position of associate professor or scientific researcher of the second degree or the quality of doctoral supervisor, in the country or abroad.
- (5) Persons who are in a relationship as spouses, relatives and relatives up to the third degree may not be appointed to the doctoral committee, including the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor or other members of the appointed committee



Art. 46. Public support and ratings

- (1) The defense of the doctoral thesis is public and can take place physically or hybrid (with the online participation of some members), provided that the chair of the committee and the doctoral supervisor are physically present.
- (2) Based on the public defense and the evaluation of the quality of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral committee deliberates and decides on the proposal to award the doctoral degree or the rejection of the thesis.
- (3) If the thesis is rejected, the committee shall clearly state the elements to be redone, and a new public defence may take place only once. If the thesis is rejected at the second public defense, the title of doctor is not granted, and the doctoral student is expelled.

CHAPTER IX. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ETHICS

Art. 47. Quality assurance system

- (1) SD-RISS implements procedures for internal evaluation of the quality of study programs and research activity, in accordance with UBB regulations and ARACIS standards.
- (2) The activity of the doctoral supervisors is evaluated periodically (once every 5 years), based on the scientific performance and the quality of the coordinated theses.
- (3) Doctoral students evaluate the quality of the tutoring and courses in the advanced training program every semester, anonymously.

Art. 48. Ethics and Academic Integrity

- (1) All SD-RISS members have the obligation to comply with the UBB Code of Ethics and the legislation on good conduct in research.
- (2) **Plagiarism** and fraud of results are drastically sanctioned, going as far as expulsion and withdrawal of the doctoral degree, according to the law.
- (3) **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The use of AI tools is allowed only as a support (correction, systematization), with the obligation to explicitly state in the thesis. The full generation of the thesis text by AI is prohibited and considered academic fraud.

CHAPTER X. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 49. Transitional provisions

- (1) PhD students enrolled before the entry into force of this regulation complete their studies according to the initial contracts, except for the public support procedure, which will be carried out according to the new rules (90-day term of publicity).
- (2) The minimum standards for defending the doctoral thesis are applied differentially, as follows:
 - a) for doctoral students enrolled starting with the academic year 2025-2026, the standards provided by OM no. 3018/2025;



b) for previously enrolled doctoral students, the standards in force on the date of enrollment, provided by **OM no. 5110/2018**.

Art. 50. Annexes The following annexes form an integral part of this Regulation:

- **Annex 1:** Doctoral Thesis Writing Guide (including Statement on the Use of AI);
- **Annex 2:** Procedure regarding the teaching activity of doctoral students;
- **Annex 3:** Activity Report Model;
- **Annex 4:** Research Project Model/Progress Report.
- **Annex 5:** Methodology regarding the recognition and equivalence of previously completed doctoral internships.

Art. 51. Approval This Regulation was approved by the Council of the SD-RISS Doctoral School on 16.02.2026, endorsed by the Council of the Faculty of History and Philosophy and approved by the CSUD of UBB, entering into force on the date of final approval.