



**REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ORGANISATION AND CONDUCT
OF DOCTORAL STUDIES
WITHIN THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL SCHOOL**

These regulations were adopted by Senate Resolution No. 21/30.03.2026



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REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ORGANISATION AND CONDUCT OF DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL SCHOOL

CHAPTER I. General Provisions

I.1. Institutional and Legal Framework

Art. 1. (1) These Regulations set out the operating procedures of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School within the Organising Institution for Doctoral Studies – the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (IOSUD-SNSPA), as well as the principles governing the organisation, conduct and completion of doctoral studies within it. At the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA), doctoral studies constitute the third cycle of higher education and lead to the award of a qualification at level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework.

(2) These Regulations have been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 199/2023 on higher education, as subsequently amended and supplemented, pursuant to Order of the Minister of Education No. 3020/08.01.2024, published in the Official Gazette of Romania No. 56/22.01.2024, concerning the Framework Regulation for doctoral studies, and Order No. 3693/01.02.2024, published in the Official Gazette of Romania No. 111/07.02.2024, concerning the Framework Methodology for Admission to Higher Education, of Order No. 3998 of 12.03.2024, regarding the approval of the methodology for the award of the habilitation certificate, published in the Official Gazette No. 236 of 20 March 2024, as well as in accordance with the provisions of the SNSPA Charter and the Institutional Regulations on the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies within IOSUD-SNSPA.

(3) The National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA) organises doctoral studies, through the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, in the fundamental field of social and political sciences, with the following doctoral fields: political science, administrative science, sociology, communication sciences and management.

Art. 2. The terms and expressions below, for the purposes of these regulations, have the following meanings:

- a) *doctoral studies* — the third cycle of university studies leading to a qualification at level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (*EQF*) and the National Qualifications Framework (*CNC*);
- b) *the doctoral programme* — all activities in which the doctoral student is involved, relevant to the doctoral studies, a programme comprising all activities relating to the design, organisation, delivery,



management and effective implementation of learning, practical application, research and assessment leading to a Level 8 qualification under the EQF/CEC and the CNC;

c) *field of doctoral studies* — the field as defined in the Nomenclature of Fields and University Study Programmes, established annually by Government Decision, initiated and, where appropriate, amended and/or supplemented by the Ministry of Education and Research before 31 August of each year; for SNSPA, these fields are: political science, administrative science, sociology, communication science and management;

d) *the institution organising doctoral studies (IOSUD)* — the higher education institution that has legally acquired the right to organise doctoral programmes (IOSUD-SNSPA);

e) *the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD)* — the organisational and administrative structure established within the IOSUD, responsible for the IOSUD's strategy and for drafting and implementing its own regulations on doctoral studies;

f) *Doctoral School (SD)* — the organisational and administrative structure established within IOSUD which provides the necessary support for the conduct of doctoral studies in a specific discipline or disciplinary or interdisciplinary subject area; for SNSPA, the SNSPA Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, which encompasses the five fields of doctoral studies;

g) *doctoral student* — a student enrolled in a doctoral programme;

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

i) *the doctoral study contract* — the contract governing the conduct of activities specific to the study programme, regulating the relationship between the IOSUD, the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, and setting out the rights and obligations of the signatory parties, in accordance with the legislation in force, the provisions of the University Charter and the decisions of the SNSPA Senate;

j) *academic mobility* — the right of doctoral students to have their transferable credits recognised, in accordance with the law, at other higher education institutions in the country or abroad. Mobility may be internal or international, physical, virtual or mixed, and permanent or temporary, for all forms of education;

k) *doctoral thesis* — the original scientific work produced by the doctoral student as part of their doctoral studies, a legal requirement for obtaining the title of Doctor;

l) *doctoral degree* — the academic qualification awarded by IOSUD upon completion of all legal procedures relating to the doctoral programme;

m) *doctoral school council (DSC)* — the governing body of the doctoral school;

n) *co-author of a publication* — any person named in the list of authors of a scientific publication; o) *fabrication of results or data* — the reporting of fictitious results or data, which are not the result of the actual research and development activity;

p) *falsification of results or data* — the selective reporting or rejection of unwanted data or results, the manipulation of representations or illustrations, the alteration of experimental or numerical apparatus to obtain the desired data, without reporting the alterations made, with the aim of distorting the scientific truth

;

q) *plagiarism* — presenting as one's own creation or purported personal scientific contribution in a written work, including in electronic format, texts, ideas, proofs, data, theories, results or scientific methods taken from the written works, including in electronic format, of other authors, without mentioning this and without referring to the original sources;

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



I.2. : Fundamental Principles

Art. 3. (1) The core mission of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School at IOSUD-SNSPA is to organise and develop doctoral education and in-depth scientific research in authorised/accredited doctoral fields, to national and international standards of excellence; These fields are: political science, administrative science, sociology, communication science and management.

(2) The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School coordinates all activities related to the organisation and delivery of the doctoral programme and aims to promote and achieve excellence in fundamental and applied research, with a view to training specialists in interdisciplinary fields capable of meeting the demands of the labour market, and to increasing the national and international visibility of the doctoral programmes at IOSUD-SNSPA.

(3) The fulfilment of the core mission of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School is based on: the provision of doctoral programmes in collaboration with the faculties, university departments; the development and implementation of a quality management system aimed at the continuous improvement of the quality of doctoral programmes; the attraction of funds to finance doctoral study programmes; and the development of the necessary procedures for the evaluation of doctoral programmes.

(4) The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School is responsible, through all members involved in doctoral studies (supervisors, doctoral students, teaching and research staff), for upholding ethical values and standards in scientific research, technological development and innovation.

(5) The application of research ethics standards within the specific activities of doctoral studies conducted within the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School aims to protect the interests - the rights of participants and incorporates ethical considerations at all stages of the research process, thereby seeking to ensure the integrity and honest presentation of research results, the appropriate recognition of research contributions and the management of conflicts of interest.

Art. 4. (1) SNSPA, in its capacity as an IOSUD, ensures fair access for candidates to doctoral studies. To this end, it establishes the procedures, criteria and conditions for the admission of candidates to doctoral studies, taking into account:

- a) the candidates' previous qualifications, which must be at least at Master's level or equivalent;
- b) relevant professional experience gained through the candidates' previous activities;
- c) language skills in internationally used languages.

(2) The admission criteria, including those for assessment, shall be established in detail by the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School prior to the organisation of the entrance examination. They shall be made public through as wide a range of accessible channels as possible, including via the Internet at www.doctorat.snsa.ro.

(3) It is prohibited for the method of establishing admission criteria, including those for the assessment of candidates, to promote any form of direct or indirect discrimination between candidates for doctoral studies.

Art. 5. (1) The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, through the Doctoral School Council (DSC), provides accurate and comprehensive information regarding doctoral programmes to applicants for these programmes, as well as to the academic community.

(2) The purpose of fulfilling the obligation to provide accurate information is:

- a) creating the necessary conditions to ensure fair competition among applicants for admission to doctoral programmes;
- b) promoting fair competition between doctoral programmes and, where appropriate, between doctoral schools where several have been established;



- c) facilitating the implementation of institutional and peer review procedures for the quality of doctoral programmes;
- d) combating academic fraud, including plagiarism, by implementing techniques to identify, prevent and sanction such acts.

Art. 6. (1) The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, with the logistical support of IOSUD-SNSPA, guarantees the transparency of the organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes.

(2) The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School publishes on the Internet, as well as through other means of communication, such as brochures, posters, etc., all relevant information regarding doctoral programmes.

Art. 7. The organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes are based on the application of criteria, standards and procedures aimed at:

- a. the objective and fair assessment of doctoral students' performance;
- b. the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the assurance of equitable access to doctoral studies;
- c. continuous improvement/updating of procedures for the individual supervision of doctoral students and the design and implementation of doctoral study programmes;
- d. facilitating the evaluation of doctoral programmes through the use of a common, e basis of criteria and standards;
- e. ensuring the right of SNSPA and the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School to supplement the set of criteria and standards with a view to enhancing and developing the quality of doctoral programmes and affirming their international competitiveness.

Art. 8. The procedure for delivering doctoral programmes is based on the following principles:

- a) high-quality professional training for doctoral students;
- b) equal opportunities and the principle of non-discrimination;
- c) university autonomy exercised responsibly;
- d) ensuring the quality and consistency of doctoral programmes at national and European e levels;
- e) transparency regarding administrative, financial and organisational information relating to doctoral programmes.

Art. 9. Doctoral programmes are organised with funding from the state budget, on a fee-paying basis, or from other legally established sources. Private funds may be obtained from contributions by private entities, namely donations or contracts concluded with private economic operators or foundations.

CHAPTER II. ORGANISATION AND CONDUCT OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

II.1. General regarding the organisation of doctoral studies

Art. 10. (1) Doctoral studies constitute the third cycle of university studies, the purpose of which is to develop human resources competent in conducting scientific research, capable of entering the highly skilled labour market. They consist of research-based training for research, development and innovation and constitute a professional research experience, culminating, following the defence of the doctoral thesis and the validation of the procedure, in the award of a doctoral degree.

(2) The competences acquired upon successful completion of doctoral studies are those corresponding to level 8 of the EQF/CEC and the CNC.

Art. 11. (1) Doctoral studies are organised and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Regulations for Doctoral Studies, the Regulations on the Organisation and Conduct of Doctoral Studies within IOSUD-SNSPA, and in accordance with these regulations. Doctoral studies are conducted within IOSUD – SNSPA through the multidisciplinary doctoral school organised across the five doctoral fields: political science, administrative science, sociology, communication science and



management.

(2) The SNSPA Senate may consider other proposals for the establishment of one or more doctoral schools or new doctoral fields within SNSPA, in compliance with the legal provisions in force and the provisions of these institutional regulations.

Art. 12. (1) SNSPA, in its capacity as an IOSUD, cooperates, in the field of doctoral studies, with institutions organising doctoral studies, universities, research institutes and centres in Romania and abroad, so as to promote the professional mobility of doctoral students.

(2) IOSUD-SNSPA may organise, in conjunction with other accredited higher education institutions within the European Higher Education Area, integrated doctoral programmes leading to a joint, double or multiple degree, recognised by the country of origin, in accordance with a framework methodology adopted by order of the Minister of Education and Research (based on its own regulations governing the organisation and operation of joint doctoral programmes, approved by the University Senate).

(3) Doctoral studies within the multidisciplinary doctoral school are of a scientific nature and are based on creative activities and advanced scientific research, contributing to the development of knowledge, competences and cognitive skills.

(4) The purpose of the scientific doctoral programme is to produce original scientific knowledge, relevant at national and international level, based on scientific methods. The scientific doctoral programme forms the basis for a professional career in higher education and research.

Art. 13. (1) Doctoral programmes within the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School are organised on a full-time or part-time basis.

(2) The requirements regarding full-time and part-time study for doctoral programmes are established by the SNSPA Senate, upon the proposal of the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD).

(3) Activities within doctoral degree programmes shall be conducted both in person and online. In the event that a state of emergency, a state of alert or a state of siege is declared, and until such time as the relevant authorities lift the restrictions, activities organised within higher education may be conducted exclusively online, to ensure the exercise of the fundamental right to education provided for in [Article 32](#) of the Constitution of Romania, as republished, and are recognised for the forms of education provided for in [Article 32\(1\)](#) of Law 199/2023 on higher education.

II.2. Competences focused on learning through research

Art. 14. (1) In accordance with the principles underpinning the European Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in Romania, the study programmes of the multidisciplinary doctoral school within SNSPA aim to foster the formation and development of two types of skills, focused on research-based learning:

- a. professional competences (content-related, cognitive and research-related) achievable within the programmes offered by the doctoral school;
- b. transversal or transferable skills, which can be acquired through doctoral programmes.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation, the following field-specific competences are classified as professional (content-related) competences:

- a) advanced knowledge in the field;
- b) the ability to identify, formulate and solve research problems in a creative manner;
- c) mastery of advanced research methods and techniques;
- d) the acquisition of knowledge regarding the management of research projects;
- e) assimilation of new research procedures and solutions;
- f) the development of skills in documenting and utilising scientific works;
- g) the ability to write scientific papers and other academic materials at an advanced level, in a style appropriate to the field of study and in accordance with its specific national and international standards;



- h) the ability to handle and process data at an advanced level, including through the use of specialised software, depending on the field;
 - i) the acquisition of academic-level language skills in internationally used languages necessary for research and the preparation of scientific papers;
 - j) the assimilation and application of the principles and values of professional ethics.
- (3) For the purposes of this Regulation, the following are considered to be transversal competences:
- a) advanced written and oral communication skills in the fields of science and culture;
 - b) advanced language skills in internationally used languages, including the ability to express and formulate ideas in multicultural and multilingual contexts;
 - c) advanced digital skills and competences, as part of the digital transformation at a societal level, including through the use of artificial intelligence;
 - d) interpersonal and teamwork skills;
 - e) knowledge of human, material and financial resource management;
 - f) knowledge of time and career management, as well as the acquisition of techniques for job seeking and job creation for others;
 - g) knowledge of risk, crisis and failure management;
 - h) knowledge of critical thinking, including the ability to analyse, interpret or formulate arguments in different contexts;
 - i) acquiring knowledge regarding the application of legislation in the field of intellectual property rights;
 - j) the ability to innovate and the acquisition of concepts relating to economic, technological and social entrepreneurship.
- (4) The curricula through which the competences referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Article's are achieved are expressed in ECTS credits, which serve to quantify the volume of work and individual learning and to ensure intra- and inter-institutional transferability.
- (5) The successful completion of a doctoral programme at the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA) in the fields of political science, administrative science, communication studies, sociology and management equips graduates with the ability:
- a. to understand, in a systematic and comprehensive manner, the specific issues within the fields of political and administrative sciences, sociology, communication sciences and management, as well as to the associated research methods and methodologies;
 - b. to design and implement a research project and to manage research in accordance with professional ethics;
 - c. to critically analyse, evaluate and re-evaluate, synthesise and implement strategies regarding new and complex social ideas, phenomena and processes.

CHAPTER III. FINANCING OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

Art. 15. (1) Doctoral programmes at IOSUD-SNSPA are offered on a full-time or part-time basis, with state-funded places, with a scholarship, without a scholarship, or as fee-paying places. Doctoral programmes offered on a full-time basis include a scholarship. Doctoral programmes organised on a part-time basis are without a scholarship.

(2) Funding for doctoral studies may also be provided by private legal entities or research and development institutes, on the basis of a contract with IOSUD-SNSPA.

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



(4) IOSUD-SNSPA shall establish, in a transparent manner through its own regulations, the criteria and the manner in which state-funded places and doctoral scholarships are allocated to the multidisciplinary doctoral school, as well as the minimum percentage of the doctoral grant allocated exclusively to the funding of the professional training of doctoral students. Grants for doctoral studies include the amount of individual scholarships for full-time doctoral programmes and do not include the amount of individual scholarships for part-time doctoral programmes.

(5) IOSUD-SNSPA shall allocate at least 20% of the funding for doctoral grants to research activities carried out by doctoral students, including their national and international mobility.

(6) Candidates admitted to full-time doctoral studies may receive doctoral grants with scholarships awarded by IOSUD-SNSPA on a competitive basis, in accordance with the provisions of the doctoral study contract.

(7) A person may receive state funding for only one doctoral programme.

(8) Individuals who have the necessary financial resources, whether from their own funds or from scholarships awarded by natural or legal persons, may be admitted as fee-paying doctoral students, subject to the conditions set out in the IOSUD-SNSPA's own regulations.

(9) For fee-paying doctoral students, the SNSPA Senate shall set, upon the proposal of the CSUD, a annual tuition fee, which shall be published at the same time as the announcement of each doctoral admission competition. The annual tuition fee may not be altered during the period of doctoral studies and may be indexed by no more than the rate of inflation for the same cohort of students.

(10) The fees for registration, enrolment, tuition and the defence of the doctoral thesis are approved at the start of the doctoral programme by the SNSPA Senate and are published on the Doctoral School's website.

(11) The tuition fee for the doctoral programme shall take into account the costs of tuition, the conduct of research activities and the dissemination of research results included in the grant awarded to a doctoral student funded from the state budget.

Art. 16. (1) The work of doctoral supervisors, members of the supervisory committee, members of doctoral committees, doctoral students, researchers, teaching staff, auxiliary teaching staff and non-teaching staff shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions of the law, within the limits of available funds.

(2) The doctoral school may employ auxiliary teaching staff, research staff and non-teaching staff.

CHAPTER IV. ORGANISATION AND CONDUCT OF UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDIES IN THE FIELD OF WITHIN THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL SCHOOL

IV. 1. Organisation of the MULTIDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL SCHOOL – general aspects

Art. 17. (1) IOSUD-SNSPA is the higher education institution that has been recognised as such following the external quality assessment process, in accordance with the law.

(2) The legal representative of IOSUD-SNSPA is the Rector of the National School of Political and Administrative Studies.

(3) IOSUD-SNSPA, through the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, is constantly striving to enhance the quality of the educational and research experience of its doctoral students by creating as many opportunities for personal and professional development as possible, by ensuring conditions for study and research in foreign languages, and by increasing the number of international mobility opportunities for doctoral students, so that at least 20% of doctoral students undertake a training placement abroad or another form of mobility.

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



- (5) IOSUD-SNSPA is responsible for recognising placements approved by the subordinate doctoral school and undertaken by doctoral students as part of domestic and international mobility schemes.
- (6) IOSUD-SNSPA may enter into partnerships for the delivery of doctoral programmes with other higher education institutions and/or research and development units or private legal entities.
- (7) IOSUD-SNSPA provides institutional, administrative and logistical support to the multidisciplinary doctoral school.
- (8) IOSUD-SNSPA has, within its own institutional framework, specific structures for the management and administration of doctoral programmes, including at the level of the multidisciplinary doctoral school. These structures operate in accordance with the law and these regulations.
- (9) IOSUD-SNSPA develops and implements mechanisms to increase the retention of doctoral students within the university environment, including by supporting doctoral students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, without disregarding academic criteria and merit.
- (10) IOSUD-SNSPA, in collaboration with the Centre for Career Counselling and Guidance or other existing structures within IOSUD, as appropriate, organises specific activities dedicated to doctoral students: counselling regarding participation in academic/research events; regular courses on academic writing, academic integrity and scientific communication; counselling and support in administrative matters, as well as other activities in support of doctoral students.

IV. 2. Organisation of the MULTIDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL SCHOOL – specific aspects

Art. 18. (1) The Regulations of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School set out how doctoral programmes are organised and conducted within the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School.

(2) These Regulations are drawn up and/or updated by the Council of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, in consultation with all doctoral supervisors who are members of the said school, in accordance with the institutional Regulations on the organisation and conduct of doctoral programmes at the level of IOSUD - SNSPA.

(3) The Regulations of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School are endorsed by the CȘD.

(4) The Regulations of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School shall be approved by the CSUD.

(5) The Regulations of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School establish mandatory criteria, procedures and standards covering at least the following aspects:

- a) the admission of new doctoral supervisors, as well as regulations concerning the procedure by which a doctoral supervisor may have their membership of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School revoked;
- b) the mechanisms by which decisions are taken regarding the appropriateness, structure and content of the training programme based on advanced university studies;
- c) the procedures for changing a doctoral student's supervisor and the procedures for conflict resolution;
- d) the conditions under which the doctoral programme may be suspended;
- e) measures to prevent fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism;
- f) ensuring access to research resources;
- g) attendance requirements for doctoral students, in accordance with a methodology developed by the Ministry of Education and Research.

(6) These Regulations may also apply to joint doctoral programmes, provided that this has been agreed in the partnership agreement.

(7) The affiliation relationships between the Doctoral School and other structures of the constituent institutions of IOSUD-SNSPA are established by the Institutional Regulations on the organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes.

Art. 19. Within IOSUD-SNSPA, the establishment and dissolution of doctoral schools is proposed by the CSUD and approved by the SNSPA Senate.



Art. 20. The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School ensures the development and enhancement of doctoral students' training through teaching, seminars, assessment and scientific research activities appropriate to the specific field of doctoral study in which it organises study programmes.

Art. 21. The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School within IOSUD-SNSPA has a status equivalent to that of a department; it is led by the director of the doctoral school and the Doctoral School Council (DSC) and operates under the authority of the CSUD. The director of the doctoral school is equivalent to a department head, and the doctoral school council is equivalent to a departmental council. The director of the doctoral school is an ex officio member of the Doctoral School Council. Doctoral training activities are coordinated by the DSC.

Art. 22. The director of the doctoral school is responsible for the management and operational leadership of the multidisciplinary doctoral school within IOSUD-SNSPA; he is responsible for the development and implementation of the curriculum, staffing plans, research and quality management, and supports the management of IOSUD-SNSPA in the financial management of the doctoral school, being assisted in the exercise of this function by the Doctoral School Council.

Art. 23. The selection, recruitment, periodic appraisal, training, motivation and termination of staff employment contracts are the responsibility of the director of the doctoral school, in accordance with the provisions of the SNSPA University Charter.

Art. 24. (1) Staffing tables shall be drawn up at the level of the doctoral school, endorsed by the Doctoral School Council and by the Rector of SNSPA respectively, and approved by the SNSPA Senate.

(2) The staffing table of the doctoral school shall include all doctoral supervisor posts necessary for the operation of that doctoral school and all doctoral student positions under the supervision of doctoral supervisors. The minimum number of doctoral supervisors and doctoral student positions is calculated based on the number of fields in which the doctoral school in question organises doctoral programmes.

(3) The number of posts for auxiliary teaching staff and administrative staff shall be determined by the Senate, upon the proposal of the Rector of SNSPA, depending on the budget and specific nature of the doctoral school and on its technical and administrative structure.

(4) Where the teaching load cannot be met in accordance with the law, the shortfall up to the minimum teaching load shall be made up by scientific research activities, with the agreement of the doctoral school council, upon the proposal of the director of the doctoral school and with the approval of the board of directors. The reduction in the teaching load shall be no more than half of the said load, and the research hour shall be equivalent to 0.5 conventional hours. The academic staff member retains their status as a tenured holder of the teaching post obtained through competition.

(5) Within the multidisciplinary doctoral school at IOSUD-SNSPA, research staff may also hold separate posts under fixed-term or permanent individual employment contracts.

(6) Research staff in higher education carry out specific activities, as set out in their individual job description by the doctoral school's management.

Art. 25. (1) The doctoral school may impose transparent minimum standards of scientific performance which doctoral supervisors must meet in order to become members of the multidisciplinary doctoral school within IOSUD-SNSPA.

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

Art. 26. (1) At the level of the SNSPA multidisciplinary doctoral school, the director of the doctoral school and the members of the doctoral school council shall be elected by universal, direct and secret ballot of the doctoral supervisors and doctoral students of the respective doctoral school.



(2) Persons holding the position of doctoral supervisor within the SNSPA's multidisciplinary doctoral school are eligible for election as members of the doctoral school council. The term of office for members of the doctoral school council is 5 years.

(3) To fill vacancies on the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School Council, by-elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1), and the term of office of the new member shall cease upon the expiry of the term of office of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School Council.

Art. 27. The main responsibilities of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School Council are:

- a) drafting the regulations of the Doctoral School;
- b) making decisions regarding the granting or revocation of membership of the Doctoral School to doctoral supervisors, as well as establishing minimum standards of scientific performance with a view to the objective application of these procedures;
- c) enrolling and de-registering doctoral students, upon the proposal of doctoral supervisors who are members of the Doctoral School;
- d) making decisions regarding the approval of the staffing structure of teaching and research staff affiliated with the Doctoral School, where applicable;
- e) assisting the external evaluator in the evaluation process for the accreditation/re-accreditation or provisional authorisation of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School;
- f) other specific duties.

Art. 28. (1) Doctoral students shall have at least one representative on the Doctoral School Council.

(2) Doctoral students who are members of the Doctoral School Council and who complete their doctoral studies during the council's term of office shall lose their membership of the council on the date of the public defence of their doctoral thesis.

(3) The status of a doctoral student serving as a representative on the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School Council or in other representative bodies at the level of the higher education institution may not be subject to any conditions whatsoever, except for the fulfilment of the obligations set out in Article 18(1) of the Framework Regulations on Doctoral Studies. Interference by teaching staff in the process of selecting doctoral students constitutes a disciplinary offence and shall be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of Article 175 of the Higher Education Act No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

Art. 29. The Doctoral School Council shall meet at least three times a year, at the request of the Director of the Doctoral School or of at least one third of its members.

Art. 30. (1) The multidisciplinary doctoral school within IOSUD-SNSPA provides doctoral students with a training programme based on advanced university studies, comprising activities carried out in institutionalised study groups, through lectures, seminars, laboratories and similar activities.

(2) The training programme based on advanced university studies includes a module on academic ethics and integrity, including research ethics, which must be completed by all enrolled doctoral students.

(3) The structure of the doctoral programme is determined by the doctoral supervisor, in consultation with the doctoral student, and approved by the doctoral school council.

Art. 31. The Doctoral Studies Council may recognise, in accordance with the IOSUD-SNSPA regulations and subject to the provisions of the law, the completion of prior doctoral placements and/or scientific research placements, undertaken in Romania or abroad, at higher education institutions or recognised research centres, as well as the completion of courses within research-based master's degree programmes.

Art. 32. The multidisciplinary doctoral school may establish research centres or laboratories which operate as revenue and expenditure units within the IOSUD-SNSPA.

Art. 33. The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School is obliged to provide accurate and complete information regarding doctoral programmes to applicants for these programmes, the academic community and other interested individuals or legal entities.



Art. 34. Administrative activities relating to the conduct of doctoral studies at SNSPA, and the work of the Council for Doctoral Studies and the Council of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, are carried out by the Doctoral Office at SNSPA. Members of the Doctoral Office are employees of SNSPA, on fixed-term or permanent contracts, and report to the Director of the Council for Doctoral Studies.

IV. 3. THE STATUS, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Art. 35. (1) A person admitted to a PhD programme by an IOSUD-SNSPA admissions committee and enrolled at this university shall, throughout the entire period of their participation in SNSPA's doctoral studies, hold the status of SNSPA, from enrolment until the completion of the study programme or until de-registration, excluding periods of interruption of studies, but including any extensions granted in accordance with the provisions of the study contract, based on the internal regulations of IOSUD-SNSPA and the Regulations of the Doctoral School.

(2) The status of a doctoral student at SNSPA may be proven by a doctoral student ID card or by certificates of doctoral student status, issued by the Doctoral Office at the doctoral student's request. The doctoral student ID card is validated at the start of each academic year.

(3) Doctoral student status is maintained throughout periods of internal and international mobility. In the case of international academic mobility for doctoral students who come to study at their own expense, the recognition of transferable credits is carried out by IOSUD-SNSPA, pursuant to university autonomy.

Art. 36. (1) Throughout their doctoral studies, doctoral candidates shall have the status of doctoral students, regardless of the type of doctoral programme they are following. Doctoral candidates may be appointed, in terms of their academic rights and obligations, as research assistants or university assistants on a fixed-term basis, following a competitive selection process.

(2) A doctoral student employed as a research assistant may carry out teaching activities remunerated on an hourly basis, in accordance with the legislation in force. Payment of the doctoral student's entitlements shall be made in accordance with the law, without excluding other forms of remuneration provided for by the legal provisions in force.

(3) Throughout the duration of their employment, the PhD student shall be entitled to recognition of their length of service and specialisation, as well as to free medical and dental care under the conditions provided for by Law No. 95/2006 on healthcare reform, as republished, with subsequent amendments and additions, and the framework contract, without the payment of compulsory social security contributions regulated by Law No. 227/2015 on the Fiscal Code, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(4) The period of doctoral studies shall be treated, in accordance with pension legislation, as a period of contribution for the purposes of determining the contribution period.

Art. 37. The details of the advanced university training programme and those of the scientific research programme are set out in an individual doctoral study plan, drawn up jointly by the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student.

Art. 38. During the course of their doctoral studies, doctoral students have the right:

- a) to choose their field of specialisation and research topic, within the scope of the topics/projects proposed by the doctoral supervisor;
- b) to participate in drawing up the individual doctoral study plan;
- c) to be informed of the assessment criteria, the doctoral study programme, and the results of examinations and assessments throughout the course of the doctoral studies;
- d) to receive support, guidance and coordination from the doctoral supervisor and the academic supervision and integrity committee;
- e) to participate in seminars or working meetings of the research and development staff within IOSUD-SNSPA when topics relevant to doctoral studies are under discussion;



- f) to be represented in the decision-making bodies of the doctoral school and, within the limits set out in the University Charter, in the SNSPA Senate;
- g) to have access to SNSPA's facilities, documentation centres, libraries and equipment for their studies, for the preparation of their research project, scientific reports and doctoral thesis;
- h) to participate in activities organised by SNSPA;
- i) to enrol in courses and seminars organised by other doctoral schools;
- j) to participate in scientific presentation sessions organised by the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School within SNSPA;
- k) to participate, with the consent of the doctoral supervisor, in research projects carried out at SNSPA, including by participating in the process of drafting and submitting funding applications;
- l) to work alongside teams of researchers from Romania and abroad to advance applied or fundamental research;
- m) to undertake their doctoral studies under joint supervision, on the basis of an agreement concluded and signed by the parties involved;
- n) to benefit from national or international mobility schemes;
- o) to receive institutional support to attend conferences, scientific congresses, workshops, summer and winter schools, and national and international seminars in the field of specialisation chosen for their doctoral thesis, subject to available funding;
- p) to carry out teaching activities, if requested to do so by a SNSPA unit (faculty, department, Doctoral School), in accordance with the legislation in force;
- q) to participate in any other professional activities, at the request of the doctoral supervisor or the doctoral school;
- r) to benefit from the student support services available at SNSPA, including those relating to accommodation.

Art. 39. The doctoral student has the following obligations:

- a) to carry out the activities set out in the individual doctoral study plan, in accordance with these Regulations;
- b) to submit activity reports to the doctoral supervisor and the academic supervision and integrity committee whenever requested;
- c) to give, at their own request, at least once every 12 months, a presentation on the progress of their scientific research programme before the Academic Supervision and Integrity Committee and the doctoral supervisor;
- d) to maintain constant contact with the doctoral supervisor and the academic supervision and integrity committee and to inform them of scientific discoveries or developments in their field of specialisation;
- e) to comply with the regulations and rules of SNSPA, to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a doctoral student, and to observe institutional discipline, without their academic freedom being restricted;
- f) to contribute actively to the enhancement and improvement of the framework for the delivery of the doctoral programme;
- g) to respond promptly to all requests made by the Doctoral School Council or the Council for Doctoral Studies;
- h) to report to the Doctoral Office at the end of each academic year, usually in July, to verify their academic status;
- i) to update information regarding their doctoral progress in the IOSUD-SNSPA database;
- j) to submit a printed copy of their doctoral thesis to the university library for consultation, at least 90 days prior to the date set for the public defence. The doctoral thesis remains a public



document in the university library;

- k) to comply with the university's ethical and professional conduct policies and to conduct their studies and research in accordance with the standards of academic integrity.

Art. 40. (1) Doctoral students admitted to fee-paying places undertake to pay the annual tuition fee in accordance with the conditions established by the SNSPA Senate.

(2) Upon submitting the documents to the Doctoral Office to initiate the arrangements for the public defence of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student shall provide proof of payment of the fee for the public defence of the doctoral thesis, as set by the SNSPA Senate.

(3) Following the defence of the doctoral thesis, IOSUD-SNSPA issues a certificate attesting to the period during which the doctoral student undertook their doctoral studies. The doctoral student is responsible for the originality of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 41. Any request relating to a doctoral student's status (suspension of the doctoral programme, change of doctoral supervisor, change of a module in the advanced university training programme, the title of the doctoral thesis or a scientific paper) must be made at least 15 days before the date on which, if approved, the request would take effect.

Art. 42. (1) Disputes between the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor shall be mediated by the doctoral school council, and if the dispute is not resolved at this level, it shall be mediated by the CSUD.

(2) Disputes between the doctoral student and the multidisciplinary doctoral school shall be mediated by the CSUD.

IV. 4. STATUS, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF DOCTORAL

Art. 43. (1) Doctoral supervisors are persons who obtained the right to supervise doctoral students prior to the date of entry into force of the Higher Education Act No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, as well as persons who have obtained the qualification certificate and become members of a doctoral school within an IOSUD, on the basis of an individual employment contract.

(2) The status of doctoral supervisor at SNSPA is granted by order of the relevant ministry, upon the proposal of IOSUD-SNSPA, with the approval of the National Council for the Accreditation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates for the award of the habilitation certificate, in accordance with the standards and procedures drawn up by the relevant ministry.

(3) A doctoral supervisor may supervise doctoral students only in the field for which they have obtained this right. By way of exception, upon its establishment, a new field of doctoral study may operate with doctoral supervisors from the same branch of science.

(4) A teaching and research staff member who is entitled to supervise doctoral students and who holds a permanent post at a higher education or research institution that is not an IOSUD or a component of an IOSUD may, under the terms of Law No. 199/2023, be part of the SNSPA's multidisciplinary doctoral school.

(5) A doctoral supervisor may only supervise doctoral students simultaneously at a single IOSUD, with the exception of doctoral programmes supervised jointly.

(6) The criteria for granting the status of doctoral supervisor shall, as a priority, cover the following:

- a) research results of national and international significance;
- b) participation in the national and international flow of scientific publications;
- c) membership of national and international professional associations;
- d) participation in national and international conferences;
- e) other criteria established by CNATDCU standards.

(7) In addition to the CNATDCU criteria, SNSPA may have specific criteria for granting the status of



SNSPA doctoral supervisor (). These criteria are drawn up by the CSUD, in consultation with the Commission for Evaluation and Quality Assurance (CEAC), and are subject to approval by the SNSPA Senate.

(8) The status of doctoral supervisor may be applied for in a single field of doctoral study, which the candidate specifies in the application for the status of SNSPA doctoral supervisor, based on the results of their research activity over the last 5 years.

Art. 44. (1) In the context of policies to promote academic mobility, SNSPA may appoint, on a contractual basis, foreign specialists as doctoral supervisors who hold the right to supervise doctoral students in their country of origin, in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies.

(2) From the 2026–2027 academic year, a doctoral supervisor may supervise up to 8 doctoral students simultaneously, excluding any doctoral students supervised under joint supervision in a secondary capacity. By way of exception, a maximum of 12 doctoral students per supervisor may be supervised only with the approval of the University Senate, but this shall not apply to more than 20% of the doctoral supervisors in the doctoral school.

(3) By the date specified in paragraph (2), the SNSPA Senate shall decide the maximum number of doctoral students who may be supervised simultaneously by a doctoral supervisor.

Art. 45. (1) The work of doctoral supervisors, members of the academic supervision and integrity committee, and members of doctoral committees shall be regulated on a full-time or part-time basis, on a fixed-salary basis or on an hourly-paid basis, in accordance with the legal provisions in force. These positions are listed in separate job descriptions. The job descriptions are endorsed by the Academic Council and submitted for approval to the SNSPA Senate.

(2) The workload of doctoral supervisors shall be regulated in such a way as to avoid overburdening them and to ensure that they have sufficient time to provide appropriate supervision to doctoral students.

Art. 46. (1) Upon a reasoned request from the doctoral student, the Doctoral School Council may decide to change the doctoral supervisor if it is found that the latter has failed to fulfil their legal or contractual obligations, or for other reasons relating to the supervisory relationship between the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student, as well as in the event that the doctoral supervisor is found to be unavailable. In such cases, within a maximum of 30 days, the Doctoral School Council shall appoint another doctoral supervisor within the same field.

(2) If the termination of the supervisory relationship with a doctoral student is due solely to the fault of the doctoral supervisor, the Doctoral School shall propose to the CSUD that disciplinary measures be taken against the supervisor, in accordance with the provisions of the internal regulations of the IOSUD-SNSPA and the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School.

(3) If no available doctoral supervisor can be identified within the IOSUD-SNSPA, the IOSUD-SNSPA shall take steps to facilitate the doctoral student's academic mobility within the same field, but at another IOSUD.

(4) The Doctoral School Council may approve the replacement of a doctoral student's supervisor from the SNSPA's multidisciplinary doctoral school with a supervisor from the same field of doctoral study in the following situations:

- a) if the doctoral supervisor has been found to be unavailable for a period longer than one year;
- b) at the joint request of the doctoral student and their supervisor, in which, on the basis of well-founded reasons, a new supervisor is proposed.

(5) A change of doctoral supervisor may be approved by the SNSPA Doctoral School Council only if the structure of the doctoral programme and its funding arrangements are maintained, and subject to the written consent of the new doctoral supervisor.

(6) The doctoral supervisor is supported in their work with the doctoral student by a committee for academic guidance and integrity. The committee is appointed by the doctoral coordinator, depending



on the research topic of each doctoral student and in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Regulations on doctoral studies.

- (7) Members of the Supervision and Academic Integrity Committee may be part of the doctoral supervisor's research team, other persons affiliated with the doctoral school, or teaching and research staff not affiliated with it. At least one member of this committee must be from outside the higher education institution.
- (8) Members of the academic supervision and integrity committee may not be nominated as members of the doctoral committee, with the exception of the doctoral supervisor.

Art. 47. (1) The doctoral supervisor exercises their rights and fulfils their obligations. The rights and obligations of the doctoral supervisor derive from Law No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, from the Framework Regulations for Doctoral Studies, from the IOSUD-SNSPA's own Regulations, from the Regulations of the multidisciplinary doctoral school, as well as from their employment contract. The rights of the doctoral supervisor include:

- a) the right to supervise and assess the doctoral student's work within the doctoral programme, in accordance with professional and academic autonomy, in line with the requirements of the doctoral programme and respecting the doctoral student's professional interests;
- b) the right to propose the academic supervision and integrity committee, and the doctoral committee;
- c) the right to an impartial internal and external assessment, in accordance with the specific methodology of the assessment process;
- d) the right to be informed of the methodology used to assess them, in both internal and external evaluations;
- e) the right to be informed of the results of the internal and external evaluation of their own work;
- f) the right to refuse to supervise a doctoral student where they are placed, against their will, in a conflict of interest;
- g) the right to submit a reasoned request to the Doctoral School Council to terminate the supervisory relationship with a doctoral student;
- h) the right to request that the doctoral school organise an admission competition for each vacant doctoral student position under their supervision;
- i) the right to decide on the study components within the advanced university studies programme in which the doctoral student must participate, in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Regulations for Doctoral Studies.

(2) The doctoral supervisor has the following obligations:

- a) to provide professional and ethical guidance and supervision to each doctoral student;
- b) to continuously monitor how the doctoral student carries out the activities involved in their doctoral studies;
- c) to select and propose a list of research topics tailored to market requirements and the needs of the knowledge society;
- d) to provide the necessary conditions and encourage doctoral students' progress in their research;
- e) to carry out objective and rigorous monitoring and assessment of each PhD student;
- f) to support the mobility of doctoral students;
- g) to avoid conflicts of interest when supervising doctoral students;
- h) to exercise due diligence in verifying the compliance of doctoral theses with the specific requirements of an original work.

Art. 48. (1) The status of doctoral supervisor is maintained on the basis of:

- a) internationally recognised performance in scientific research and active participation within the international research community;
- b) performance in the supervision of doctoral students, as well as the results of the doctoral students' research.



- (2) PhD supervisors shall be subject to periodic evaluation, in accordance with the provisions of Article 114 of these regulations.
- (3) Appointed doctoral supervisors shall supervise their doctoral students at SNSPA until they have completed their doctoral studies. Upon termination of the employment contract with SNSPA, the status of doctoral supervisor at SNSPA is automatically forfeited, and the doctoral students are reassigned by the Doctoral School Council to other doctoral supervisors in the field, either within SNSPA or outside SNSPA, subject to the agreement of the receiving institution's .
- (4) Withdrawal of membership of the doctoral school may take place in the following situations:
- withdrawal/loss of the right to supervise doctoral students;
 - serious breaches of the SNSPA Code of Academic Ethics.

IV.5. INSTITUTIONAL , PARTNERSHIPS AND CONSORTIUMS, JOINT DEGREES AND ECTS

Art. 49. The Council for Doctoral Studies is tasked with increasing the mobility of doctoral students and academic staff within the SNSPA Doctoral School. Depending on their needs, doctoral students and academic staff within the SNSPA's multidisciplinary Doctoral School may submit proposals for the conclusion of international cooperation agreements with various prestigious institutions relevant to research in the doctoral fields within the SNSPA. Proposals to improve mobility within the Doctoral School will be submitted to the Council for Doctoral Studies, which will take the necessary steps to conclude new cooperation agreements .

Art. 50. IOSUD-SNSPA implements, through the Council for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Studies, cooperation instruments such as:

- International partnership agreements, through which experts in the field participate within the doctoral school in delivering courses, conducting research mentoring activities, conferences and debates, etc.;
- Joint supervision of doctoral research;
- Exchanges of doctoral students and lecturers with universities in the field;
- Participation in international consortia, in which doctoral research topics form part of broader international projects.

Art. 51. SNSPA encourages the mobility of doctoral students and teaching staff within the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School with a view to updating their skills and maintaining a permanent connection to the European Research Area. Ensuring mobility within the framework of cooperation agreements concluded in doctoral study programmes, , structural human resources training programmes, as well as joint supervision of doctoral studies consists of:

- exchanges between lecturers and students;
- the organisation of consortia and networks;
- the awarding of joint qualifications and/or certificates to several UODs or IOSUDs, both domestic and international, attesting to the skills acquired;
- transnational exchanges;
- international recognition of the PhD;
- supporting the participation of doctoral students and teaching staff in conferences, workshops and other prestigious international scientific events.

Art. 52. (1) SNSPA promotes interdisciplinarity in doctoral studies. This is achieved both through collaboration within and between departments and faculties within SNSPA, and between these and those of other universities, institutes or research centres in Romania and abroad.

(2) Doctoral studies within IOSUD-SNSPA may also be organised under joint supervision, in which



case the doctoral student carries out their work under the simultaneous supervision of a doctoral supervisor from Romania and a doctoral supervisor from another country, or under the simultaneous supervision of two doctoral supervisors, one from IOSUD-SNSPA and the other from another IOSUD in Romania, based on a written agreement between the organising institutions involved; these details shall be included in the study contract or in an addendum to this contract.

(3) Where a written joint supervision agreement is concluded between IOSUD-SNSPA and a doctoral-awarding institution abroad, the course of the study programme, the doctoral thesis and the conditions for the public defence must be established in such a way as to comply with the applicable legal provisions in both countries. Otherwise, the administrative procedure carried out by IOSUD-SNSPA shall be invalidated, and the doctoral degree shall not be awarded.

(4) A joint doctoral programme may also be organised where the doctoral supervisors are from IOSUD-SNSPA.

(5) In the case of doctoral studies organised under joint supervision, the principal doctoral supervisor is the one for whose vacant doctoral student position the admission competition was organised, with the second doctoral supervisor playing a secondary role.

(6) The doctoral student is fully attributed to the principal doctoral supervisor, including in the allocation of their teaching and research workload.

(7) The curriculum of the doctoral programme comprises a minimum of 240 credits. By way of exception, for students enrolled before 1 October 2023, the doctoral programme comprises a minimum of 180 credits. Credits earned within the doctoral programme are recorded in documents such as the academic transcript to allow, where applicable, their transfer to other educational institutions or their use upon re-enrolment. The Regulations on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS/SECT) set out the rules and procedures implemented within IOSUD-SNSPA.

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

(9) The conditions and procedures for academic mobility shall be established by a methodology approved by order of the Minister of Education and Research.

IV. 6. ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES

Art. 53. (1) Admission to doctoral studies is the process of selecting candidates for vacant doctoral student positions which the doctoral supervisors within the doctoral school decide to propose for filling during the admission sessions organised by IOSUD-SNSPA, through the multidisciplinary doctoral school.

(2) Admission to doctoral studies is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations on Admission to Doctoral Studies at SNSPA.

Art. 54. The research topics for each vacant PhD student position are proposed by the PhD supervisor and approved by the Doctoral School Council.

Art. 55. Admission to doctoral studies is by means of a competitive examination organised annually by the SNSPA, usually before the start of the academic year.

Art. 56. (1) Only graduates holding a master's degree or its equivalent, from Romania or abroad, are eligible to apply for admission to doctoral studies, in accordance with Art. 66 of Law No. 199/2023, and the cumulative number of transferable credits acquired for the bachelor's and master's degree programmes must be at least 300.



(2) Citizens of Member States of the European Union, of states belonging to the European Economic Area and of the Swiss Confederation, as well as British citizens and members of their families, as beneficiaries of the Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community 2019/C 384 I/01, may apply for admission to all cycles of university studies under the same conditions laid down by law for Romanian citizens, including with regard to tuition fees.

(3) Citizens who are not members of the European Union, the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation (non-EU nationals), who are graduates of master's degree programmes or graduates holding a bachelor's degree or equivalent from long-term university studies, may also apply for admission to doctoral studies. The recognition of studies undertaken by such candidates outside Romania shall be carried out by the relevant department within the Ministry of Education and Research.

(4) IOSUD-SNSPA ensures the transparency of the admission competitions and guarantees candidates access to information regarding the selection and admission procedures for doctoral studies. Information regarding the organisation of the admission competition for doctoral studies shall be displayed at the institution's premises and published on the official IOSUD website at least 30 days prior to the competition.

Art. 57. Registration for the entrance examination for doctoral studies at IOSUD-SNSPA, in a doctoral field, is not dependent on the field in which the bachelor's or master's degree was obtained. The total cumulative duration of the bachelor's and master's degree programmes must be at least 300 transferable credits (ECTS).

Art. 58. The doctoral admission competition is valid only for the fundamental field and the doctoral field for which the candidate has applied. It is organised simultaneously for state-funded and fee-paying places, with the status of admitted candidates determined according to the option expressed at the time of application and the results of the admission competition.

Art. 59. (1) Any appeals regarding the organisation of the admission competition shall be submitted to IOSUD-SNSPA, in accordance with its own admission regulations.

(2) No appeals shall be accepted regarding the oral examinations. No appeals shall be accepted on the grounds of ignorance of the institution's own admission regulations.

Art. 60. The Doctoral School Council shall ensure that the public is properly informed about the admission conditions and criteria.

Art. 61. Transparency regarding the criteria, standards and procedures for selection and admission to doctoral studies, as well as ensuring access to this information, shall be achieved by the Doctoral School through online facilities, through communication with the Doctoral Office, doctoral supervisors and researchers, via email, the Doctoral School's website, www.doctorat.snsa.ro, etc.

Art. 62. In exceptional circumstances, the admission competition may be organised online, in accordance with the provisions of these regulations and in compliance with the Regulations on Admission to Doctoral Studies at SNSPA.

IV.7. PROVISIONS ON STUDIES WITHIN THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL SCHOOL

(Enrolment, Interruption of studies, Extension of studies, Withdrawal from studies, Expulsion from doctoral studies, Equivalence/recognition of academic status)

Art. 63. The validation of the admission competition and the enrolment of candidates declared admitted following the competition shall be effected by decision of the Rector of SNSPA, after the candidates declared admitted have paid the enrolment fee.



Art. 64. (1) The doctoral programme may be interrupted, at the request of the doctoral student, for valid reasons, under the conditions set out in these regulations and in the Framework Regulations on Doctoral Studies. The interruption shall be approved by the Council for Doctoral Studies (CSUD) of IOSUD-SNSPA, based on the opinion of the doctoral supervisor and with the agreement of the Doctoral School Council. The duration of the doctoral programme shall be extended by the cumulative periods of the approved interruptions, through addenda to the doctoral study contract.

(2) The total duration of interruptions, whether due to personal reasons (two semesters) or causes provided for by law (e.g. maternity leave, illness, etc.), may not exceed 3 years.

Art. 65. (1) In special circumstances, where the doctoral research topic requires a longer period of study or experimentation, the duration of the doctoral programme may be extended by 1–2 years, subject to the approval of the CSUD and the SNSPA Senate, upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor. The extension of the doctoral programme is established by an addendum to the study contract, subject to tuition fees, in accordance with Article 62(3) of the Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented. During the extension period, the doctoral student is not eligible for a doctoral scholarship awarded from doctoral grants.

(2) For doctoral students enrolled from the 2023–2024 academic year onwards, the extension of the doctoral programme beyond four years by one year may be approved only if the student has accumulated a minimum of 180 ECTS credits prior to the extension, in accordance with the Regulations on the Application of the European Credit Transfer System – ECTS/SECT, including the defence of the research project and the three research reports. A second year of extension may be approved only if the student has accumulated 240 ECTS credits. The doctoral student shall pay the fee for each year of extension.

(3) For doctoral students enrolled prior to the 2022–2023 academic year, inclusive, who have not opted to transition to the minimum four-year programme via an addendum to their study contract, the conditions required for the approval of a request to extend the doctoral programme by one year are: the defence of the research project; the defence of two research reports; the accumulation of a minimum of 120 ECTS. The conditions required for the approval of the application to extend the doctoral programme for a second year are: the defence of the third research report; the accumulation of a minimum of 180 ECTS.

(4) The doctoral programme may be shortened by one year for doctoral students enrolled from the 2023–2024 academic year onwards, at the doctoral student’s request, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor and the approval of the CSUD and the SNSPA Senate. The doctoral programme may be shortened by one year if the student has met all academic requirements, including the accumulation of a total of 240 ECTS credits.

Art. 66. (1) The status of doctoral student ceases upon the award of the doctoral degree or upon the issuance of a decision to expel the student.

(2) A doctoral student shall be expelled in the following circumstances:

- a) If the doctoral student fails to complete the doctoral thesis within the timeframe set out in the doctoral study contract and any addenda thereto;
- b) If the doctoral student withdraws from their studies, on the basis of a request addressed to the Director of the Doctoral School, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor and the Director of the Doctoral School Council;
- c) If the doctoral student has breached the standards of moral and professional conduct set out in the SNSPA Code of Ethics;
- d) on the basis of a written request from the doctoral supervisor or members of the supervisory committee, approved by the CSUD, where the doctoral supervisor has established that the



doctoral student is failing to fulfil the obligations arising from the doctoral study contract or to qualitative requirements set out in these Regulations;

- e) where, following a second defence of the doctoral thesis before the supervisory committee, the CSUD invalidates the initiation of the procedure for the public defence of the doctoral thesis;
- f) if, following the re-defence of the doctoral thesis before the same doctoral committee, the minimum standards are not met;
- g) if the CNATDCU invalidates the doctoral file for a second time.

(3) The expulsion of a doctoral student is effected by order of the Rector of SNSPA, usually on 30 September of the current academic year.

Art. 67. (1) Following a breach of the doctoral study contract, upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, with the opinion of the Director of the Council for Doctoral Studies and the approval of the Rector of SNSPA, doctoral students shall be expelled from the doctoral programme for reasons such as: failure to submit scientific research reports on time, repeated failure to pass the public defence examinations for scientific research reports, failure to obtain the transferable credits required for the completion of doctoral studies, etc.

(2) Doctoral students who have been expelled, including those who have withdrawn from their doctoral studies, and who have benefited from a state-funded place, may sit a new entrance examination and will be enrolled in doctoral studies only on fee-paying places.

Art. 68. (1) A doctoral student who has been expelled from doctoral studies (regardless of whether the expulsion was at the student's request or not) may apply no more than once to a doctoral entrance examination organised by SNSPA, but only for fee-paying places.

(2) The Director of the Council for Doctoral Studies may approve, with the recommendation of the doctoral supervisor, the recognition of examinations passed as part of the advanced university training programme for doctoral students who have been expelled from SNSPA's doctoral programme but have subsequently been admitted and enrolled in the same field at SNSPA.

IV. 8. THE STUDY CONTRACT

Art. 69. (1) The doctoral programme is conducted on the basis of a doctoral study contract concluded, through the Council for Doctoral Studies, between the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor and SNSPA, which sets out the specific activities of the doctoral study programme, the rights and obligations of doctoral students, doctoral supervisors and SNSPA, through the doctoral school, so as to meet the quality assurance requirements, in accordance with the legislation in force, the provisions of the university charter and the decisions of the university senate.

(2) The doctoral study contract shall be signed by the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor, the Director of the Council for Doctoral Studies, the legal adviser, the University's Financial Director and the Rector of SNSPA.

Art. 70. (1) The model contract template is drawn up by the Council for Doctoral Studies in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Regulations on doctoral studies and of these Regulations.

(2) The doctoral study contract shall include at least the following information: a) details of the IOSUD and the doctoral school; b) the identification details of the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor; c) the field of doctoral study; d) the type of doctorate; e) the mode of study; f) the form of funding; g) the monthly amount of the scholarship/tuition fee, as applicable; h) the workload for research and/or teaching activities, in accordance with the position, in the case of a full-time PhD; i) the duration of the doctoral programme; j) research topic; k) the language in which the doctoral thesis is written and defended – Romanian or an internationally recognised language; l) the minimum standards that must be met throughout the studies and during the preparation of the doctoral thesis; m) the deadline for completion of the doctoral thesis; n) the conditions for extending the deadline for completion of the doctoral thesis;



o) the conditions for interrupting the study programme; p) the extent of the teaching activities undertaken by the doctoral student and the period during which these take place; q) the conditions under which the doctoral supervisor may be changed; r) the conditions for terminating the study contract; s) information regarding the processing of personal data, in accordance with the legislation in force.

Art. 71. Study contracts shall not be amended during the academic year. The tuition fee shall remain unchanged for the entire standard duration of the study programme and may be indexed by a maximum of the inflation rate for the same cohort of students.

IV.9. DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMME

IV.9.1. General Provisions

Art. 72. (1) The multidisciplinary doctoral school organised within the SNSPA comprises academic staff, researchers and doctoral students, and facilitates and ensures the curricular flexibility of doctoral programmes. All activities of the doctoral school are guided and coordinated by the Council of the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School.

(2) The Doctoral School Council undertakes all legal steps for the accreditation of doctoral programmes by ARACIS, in accordance with the internal procedures of SNSPA.

Art. 73. (1) The purpose of the doctoral school is to ensure, with a view to training a new generation of researchers, the refinement and broadening of their training—as evidenced by the degree awarded upon completion of doctoral studies—through teaching, seminars, assessment, scientific research and the dissemination of scientific research.

(2) The results of the doctoral school are reflected in the academic standard of the publications and doctoral theses produced by doctoral students.

(3) The doctoral school organised within the SNSPA publicises its activities via the Internet, through the website www.doctorat.snsipa.ro, and through leaflets, posters, brochures, etc.

(4) In each academic year, the doctoral school organises at least one session of scientific presentations for doctoral students, which is also open to other young researchers from SNSPA or from outside the institution.

Art. 74. (1) A new doctoral programme or a new doctoral school may be established at SNSPA in accordance with the legal provisions in force.

(2) In addition to these general criteria, SNSPA may adopt specific criteria.

(3) The specific criteria and proposals for the establishment of a new doctoral programme or a new doctoral school within SNSPA are subject to the approval of the SNSPA Senate.

Art. 75. Upon the establishment of new doctoral schools/doctoral programmes within SNSPA, these regulations shall be supplemented with provisions relating thereto.

Art. 76. The curriculum of a doctoral programme must be consistent with that of leading universities in the field, whilst taking into account specific national interests and requirements; research topics must be relevant at an international level or, if they are of national interest, their methodology and approach must be conducted to international standards; the output of doctoral programmes must enter the international arena, both in terms of visibility and, above all, impact.

Art. 77. (1) Specialised subjects must incorporate the latest scientific findings in the field, as produced by doctoral supervisors at SNSPA and internationally, with a view to ensuring that doctoral students are able to produce valuable original results based on their research.

(2) Courses, seminars or practical work specific to a particular subject may be delivered jointly across several advanced university programmes, promoting interdisciplinary training as a means of stimulating scientific research. For each discipline taught within a doctoral programme, 2–4 hours of face-to-face or online teaching per week are scheduled. There are CIVICA courses, open to doctoral students via the



virtual CIVICA Catalogue, offered by partner universities within the CIVICA alliance (), which SNSPA students may undertake, with the corresponding credits being recognised upon completion of the course. Courses may be taken for credit only in the first year of the doctoral programme, with the exception of CIVICA courses, which may be taken at any time during the doctoral programme.

(3) The subject matter of a course is determined by the course lecturer. During seminars, doctoral students may present the results of their own research.

Art. 78. (1) Teaching activities within the multidisciplinary doctoral school take place over 14 weeks of the semester.

(2) The languages of instruction/research within the doctoral school may be: Romanian or an internationally recognised language, at the request of the doctoral students, subject to the provisions of the study contracts and with the coordinator's consent.

Art. 79. Any doctoral student enrolled at SNSPA or at another institution offering doctoral programmes in Romania or abroad may participate in the activities of the SNSPA doctoral school. Doctoral students from other institutions, unless covered by agreements concluded with SNSPA providing for free doctoral studies at SNSPA, shall pay the tuition fees set by the SNSPA Senate for participation in the doctoral school's activities.

Art. 80. (1) In the case of joint doctoral programmes with a doctoral supervisor from outside SNSPA, doctoral students from SNSPA may also undertake their doctoral studies at the partner institution, in accordance with the agreement concluded between SNSPA and that institution. For modules taken at the partner institution, the doctoral student must submit to the Doctoral Office supporting documents issued by that institution in order to have the ECTS credits obtained recognised.

(2) The doctoral programme is conducted under the supervision of a doctoral supervisor and comprises:

- a) a training programme based on advanced university studies, within the doctoral school;
- b) an individual scientific research programme.

(3) The manner in which the doctoral programme is conducted is determined by the doctoral supervisor, in consultation with the doctoral student, and approved by the doctoral school council.

IV.9.2. The Advanced University Training Programme

Art. 81. (1) A doctoral student's advanced university training programme consists of activities carried out within the doctoral school in formalised study groups (through lectures, seminars and practical sessions) and individual study.

(2) The doctoral programmes of the doctoral school represent, at a higher level, the continuation of the undergraduate and master's programmes at SNSPA.

Art. 82. (1) Credits obtained in a research-based Master's programme may be recognised as equivalent to those of an advanced training programme where the profile of the research-based Master's programme corresponds to the disciplinary profile of the doctoral field. Such equivalence shall be endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the Council for Doctoral Studies.

(2) Courses from SNSPA's Master's programmes may also be included in a doctoral student's specialised training module, but only for graduates holding a Bachelor's degree in a field other than that in which the doctoral student's doctoral programme is conducted, provided that the relevant Master's courses focus on advanced research.

Art. 83. (1) A doctoral student's participation in the advanced university studies programme and the selection of the course modules within that programme which the doctoral student is required to undertake shall be determined exclusively and independently by the student's doctoral supervisor. It is prohibited to restrict the doctoral supervisor's discretion in this matter.

(2) The doctoral student may independently choose to undertake courses within the programme of



advanced university studies offered by their own doctoral school or by other doctoral schools, including CIVICA courses. Restricting this right of choice is prohibited. Attendance at courses is optional, and students may opt for a flexible study path, accumulating the necessary transferable credits in accordance with the Regulations on the Application of the European Credit Transfer System – ECTS/SECT of the SNSPA, with the exception of the course on Academic Ethics and Integrity, which is compulsory.

IV.9.3. Scientific Research Programme

Art. 84. (1) The scientific research programme is carried out under the supervision of the doctoral supervisor and the Academic Supervision and Integrity Committee, and its main objective is for the doctoral candidate to produce a doctoral thesis.

(2) The doctoral school shall ensure and develop an organisational framework suitable for the participation of doctoral candidates in research teams/groups.

(3) The main objectives of doctoral students' participation in research teams/groups are:

- a. participation in scientific research projects of national and international relevance;
- b. gathering information on the progress made in the scientific research undertaken by PhD students;
- c. developing transferable skills through teamwork.

(4) SNSPA shall provide doctoral students with the research infrastructure and the logistical and financial resources necessary to carry out research activities within the doctoral programme.

Art. 85. Within the institutional scientific research programme, the doctoral student has the following obligations:

- a) to submit the doctoral research project;
- b) to produce at least three scientific research reports in the subject area of the doctoral thesis, in which they summarise the interim scientific results they have obtained and which they will incorporate into the doctoral thesis;
- c) meet the minimum requirements set by CNATDCU for the field in which they are undertaking their doctoral programme;
- d) accumulate the required number of transferable credits, in accordance with the SNSPA's Regulations on Transferable Credits (ECTS).

Art. 86. (1) The doctoral research project is defended at the colloquium organised at the end of the first year within each field of the doctoral school. The project is graded (unsatisfactory, satisfactory, good, very good, excellent) and may be defended a maximum of two times. In the event of failing (grade 'unsatisfactory') the defence of the doctoral project twice, the doctoral student shall be expelled.

(2) Doctoral students must defend their research reports within four years of enrolment, in the presence of the Supervision and Academic Integrity Committee. The defence of scientific research reports is organised in three sessions, as follows: summer (June–July), autumn (September) and winter (January–February). The reports shall consist of a presentation of the progress of the doctoral student's scientific research programme before the Academic Supervision and Integrity Committee and the doctoral supervisor, and are intended to guide, correct and support the student's academic progress. The reports may serve as drafts for chapters of the doctoral thesis. The Supervision and Academic Integrity Committee will draw up minutes regarding each scientific research report presented and will award grades in order to assess the quality of the doctoral student's scientific research. If the doctoral candidate receives an *unsatisfactory* mark, the Academic Supervision and Integrity Committee may decide to temporarily suspend the doctoral scholarship. The consequence of receiving an *unsatisfactory* mark on two consecutive occasions is expulsion from the programme. The minutes drawn up by the ,



Supervision and Academic Integrity Committee shall be submitted to the Doctoral Office.

(3) In the case of a joint PhD programme with a supervisor from outside SNSPA, the defence of research reports and their assessment shall be conducted in accordance with the agreement concluded between the two institutions. The results of the assessments shall be recorded by the PhD Office on the basis of supporting documents issued by the relevant institution.

Art. 87. The doctoral student's research programme must be designed in such a way that the student can accumulate at least 240 transferable credits over the four years of doctoral studies . By way of exception, the programme for doctoral students enrolled before 1 October 2023, who have not opted for the transition to the minimum 4-year period by means of an addendum to the study contract, must be designed in such a way that the doctoral student can earn at least 180 transferable credits during the 3 years of university studies doctoral studies for which they were enrolled.

CHAPTER 5. COMPLETION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME – DOCTORAL THESIS

Art. 88. (1) The completion of doctoral studies, regardless of the programme followed, is achieved through the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

(2) In the context of a scientific doctoral programme, the doctoral thesis must be the result of scientific research and must contain original findings in the field of scientific knowledge.

(3) The doctoral candidate is the author of the thesis and assumes responsibility for the accuracy of the data and information presented therein, as well as for the opinions and arguments expressed therein; it is mandatory to cite the source for any material taken from elsewhere.

(4) The doctoral thesis is a public document; the full name of the doctoral candidate, the supervisor and the members of the academic supervision and integrity committee, as well as the identification details of the IOSUD-SNSPA, are also public information.

(5) In the event of fraud or plagiarism, the doctoral candidate shall be liable under the provisions of criminal law and copyright law in force at the time the offence was committed.

(6) IOSUD-SNSPA, through the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, is obliged to check the doctoral thesis using a similarity detection software programme recognised by CNATDCU prior to the public defence of the doctoral thesis. The check shall be carried out in accordance with the standards set out in the National Guide on the Preparation of Doctoral Theses, drawn up by the National Commission for the Accreditation of Academic Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (*CNATDCU*). The results of the analysis shall be made available to the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral committee.

Art. 89. (1) The CSUD shall draw up criteria and indicators for the assessment of doctoral theses, in accordance with the European Qualifications Framework and the competences associated with the qualification listed in the RNCIS, in accordance with the specific nature of the fields in which doctoral studies are organised and conducted, and shall adopt regulations on the quality standards to be observed in the preparation of doctoral theses, in line with the minimum standards drawn up by the CNATDCU for the award of the doctoral degree, as well as with the guide on the drafting of doctoral theses drawn up by the CNATDCU.

(2) The minimum criteria drawn up in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be approved by the SNSPA Senate.

(3) The criteria for assessing the quality of a doctoral thesis relate to the research findings presented in the thesis, in particular those obtained during the doctoral programme. Results accepted for publication are also taken into account.

Art. 90. (1) The doctoral thesis must demonstrate advanced scientific knowledge of the subject matter, contain elements of originality in the development or resolution of the subject, as well as the methods for their scientific validation.



(2) At least some of the original results included in the thesis must have been produced between the date of enrolment in the doctoral programme and the date of the public defence of the thesis, which is demonstrated by articles published in journals included in international databases, participation in conferences or other academic events, or by outstanding professional achievements mentioned in the relevant official documents.

(3) If the standards set by CNATDCU for the field in which the doctoral candidate is undertaking their doctoral programme are not fully met, the thesis will not be accepted for public defence or for the award of the doctoral degree.

(4) The language in which the doctoral thesis is written and defended may be Romanian or an internationally recognised language. Doctoral theses written in a language other than Romanian must be accompanied by an abstract written in Romanian.

(5) The title of the doctoral thesis may be amended with the approval of the doctoral supervisor until the time of its completion for public defence.

Art. 91. The public defence may take place only after the following steps have been completed:

- a) the doctoral student submits the thesis in electronic format and, where applicable, in printed format to the doctoral school's secretariat, together with the abstract of the doctoral thesis (written in Romanian and in a language of international circulation) and a sworn statement regarding the originality of the doctoral thesis; in this regard, IOSUD-SNSPA issues a supporting document recorded in the institution's register; the document forms part of the doctoral file;
- b) The multidisciplinary doctoral school (through the academic supervision and integrity committee or through the designated person(s), in accordance with the IOSUD-SNSPA Regulations) shall, prior to the defence, carry out a similarity check using a programme recognised by CNATDCU or a programme developed at national level for the detection of similarities; similarity reports shall be included in the doctoral file; the verification period may not exceed 30 days from the date of submission of the doctoral thesis to IOSUD;
- c) if the similarity report indicates that changes need to be made to the doctoral thesis, the student and the doctoral supervisor are officially notified by the Doctoral School. Once the identified issues have been rectified, the steps under points (a) and (b) are repeated;
- d) the doctoral thesis is presented (defended) before the doctoral school's academic integrity and supervision committee; following this public defence, the doctoral supervisor, in accordance with the committee's recommendation and the results of the similarity report analysis, decides on the official submission of the thesis and the organisation of the public defence; the doctoral supervisor's acceptance report and the agreement of the members of the academic supervision and integrity committee are included in the doctoral file;
- e) The doctoral thesis must be officially submitted to the doctoral school's secretariat, in both printed and electronic formats, together with the results of the similarity check, the abstract of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral candidate's CV and the estimated date for the public defence; the doctoral school's secretariat certifies that the doctoral candidate has fulfilled all obligations under the doctoral programme and has complied with the procedures set out in points (a), (b) and (c) of this article;
- f) the application to set the date for the public defence of the doctoral thesis (drawn up by the doctoral student), endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and the chair of the defence committee, shall be submitted to the doctoral school secretariat at least 25 calendar days before the proposed date for the defence.

Art. 92. The doctoral school shall draw up and display the notice of the public defence at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date of the defence. This must include the date, venue and time of the defence, the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor(s), as well as the location where the full text of the thesis can be consulted in printed form. The notice of the public defence, the thesis abstract in electronic format,



the scientific report, the PhD student's CV, the CVs of the members of the public defence committee, or links to these documents shall be published on the IOSUD-SNSPA website.

Art. 93. The doctoral thesis and its annexes shall be available for public consultation for 90 calendar days prior to the public defence on the national platform managed by the Executive Unit for the Financing of Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (*UEFISCDI*), in accordance with the legal provisions in force regarding copyright.

Art. 94. During the period in which the thesis is publicly available on the national platform, any natural or legal person may submit comments regarding any breaches of ethical and professional standards, including in relation to the existence of plagiarism. Comments may be submitted online, to an email address provided by the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, or to the IOSUD-SNSPA registry. The observations are recorded in a report drawn up by the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, which will be forwarded to the CSUD for analysis and decision regarding the validation of the initiation of the procedure for the public defence of the doctoral thesis and will form part of the doctoral file.

Art. 95. If the CSUD's decision is to validate the thesis, the procedure for the public defence of the doctoral thesis shall be initiated by appointing the doctoral committee; if the CSUD invalidates the initiation of the procedure for the public defence of the doctoral thesis, the Multidisciplinary Doctoral School shall receive recommendations regarding the revision of the doctoral thesis and the elimination of situations that do not comply with ethical and professional standards, and the doctoral student is obliged to rectify the content of the thesis within 3 months of the decision to invalidate the defence being communicated, with the procedure for making the thesis available for public scrutiny being resumed.

Art. 96. (1) The doctoral file shall contain the following documents:

- a) a scanned copy of the doctoral student's identity document;
- b) a scanned copy of the doctoral student's birth certificate;
- c) a scanned copy of the doctoral student's marriage certificate or proof of change of name, where applicable;
- d) the doctoral student's CV;
- e) the decision on admission to the doctoral programme;
- f) The doctoral programme contract and any addenda, where applicable;
- g) Decision appointing the supervision and academic integrity committee;
- h) Application signed by the PhD student, registered with the Doctoral School, regarding the commencement of the thesis evaluation procedures by the supervision and academic integrity committee, endorsed by the PhD supervisor, with a view to the defence of the doctoral thesis;
- i) A scanned copy of the declaration signed by the doctoral student and endorsed by the doctoral supervisor regarding the assumption of responsibility for ensuring the originality of the doctoral thesis's content, compliance with quality standards and professional ethics, as well as the accuracy of the data, information, opinions and demonstrations presented. In the declaration, the doctoral student certifies: (i) that the doctoral thesis is the result of their own work and achievements, that the main sources of information are cited in the thesis and that passages taken from these sources are appropriately acknowledged; (ii) that, if this is not the case, they will bear the consequences in accordance with the legislation in force regarding false declarations;
- j) The similarity report, which shall include the resolution of the doctoral supervisor and the academic supervision and integrity committee;
- k) The doctoral supervisor's acceptance report and the agreement of the members of the academic supervision and integrity committee concluded following the pre-defence of the doctoral thesis;
- l) The report drawn up by the doctoral school to validate the initiation of the procedure for the public defence of the doctoral thesis, following the conclusion of the 90-day period of public



- consultation on the doctoral thesis;
- m) The decision of the CSUD validating the initiation of the procedure for the public defence of the doctoral thesis;
 - n) The application to set the date for the public defence of the doctoral thesis, endorsed by the doctoral supervisor and the chair of the defence committee, must be submitted to the doctoral school's secretariat at least 25 calendar days before the proposed date of the defence; The proposed date for the defence may not be earlier than the previously estimated date for the public defence;
 - o) The notice of the public defence, drawn up by the doctoral school at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date of the defence;
 - p) The decision appointing the doctoral committee;
 - q) The reports of the official examiners, who are members of the doctoral committee, signed by them, in the form of scanned copies or electronically signed documents, submitted at least 15 days before the thesis defence;
 - r) The approval report from the doctoral supervisor, submitted at least 15 days before the thesis defence;
 - s) The minutes of the public defence of the doctoral thesis and the appendix containing questions and answers, which includes the proposal to award the doctoral degree, signed by all members of the doctoral committee, in the form of a scanned copy or an electronically signed document, or, where applicable, the full audio recording of the public defence of the doctoral thesis, which must be accompanied by a certificate confirming the duration of the recording and its proper preservation (optional);
 - (h) The doctoral thesis and its appendices, in electronic format (PDF format, excluding scans) and its abstract(s);
 - t) A list of publications resulting from scientific research carried out as part of the doctoral programme, published or accepted for publication, where applicable, and scanned copies of those publications;
 - (x) The doctoral student's statement regarding their preferences concerning the publication of the doctoral thesis on the national platform;
 - u) Letter from IOSUD-SNSPA forwarding the file and doctoral thesis to CNATDCU;
 - v) Report drawn up by the Doctoral School, prior to the public defence of the thesis, and documents attesting to the progress of the study programme;
 - w) Proposal for the composition of the public defence committee for the doctoral thesis, drawn up by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the CSUD;
 - x) CVs of the members of the public defence committee;
 - y) Certificate confirming the submission of a printed copy of the doctoral thesis to the university library;
 - z) The opinion of the Academic Guidance and Integrity Committee regarding the submission of the doctoral thesis to the doctoral school's secretariat.
- (2) Personal data, with the exception of the name, will not be publicly visible.
- (3) The decision to organise the public defence of the doctoral thesis is endorsed by the CSUD and approved by the Rector of SNSPA.
- (4) The doctoral thesis shall also be produced in digital format. Following the award of the doctoral degree, the doctoral thesis, in both digital and printed formats, shall be archived in the library of the higher education institution on a permanent basis.
- (5) The doctoral thesis and its appendices, as well as copies of the documents in the doctoral file, electronically signed in PDF format and having legal validity, shall be uploaded to the national electronic platform.



Art. 97. (1) Prior to the defence, the doctoral thesis is assessed by a committee of specialists (hereinafter referred to as the Doctoral Committee), proposed by the doctoral supervisor, endorsed by the doctoral school and approved by the CSUD. The chair of the doctoral committee represents the accredited doctoral programme to which the doctoral candidate belongs.

(2) The doctoral committee consists of at least 5 members:

- a) the chair of the committee, as a representative of IOSUD-SNSPA, usually a member of the Senate or a doctoral supervisor from SNSPA in the relevant field;
- b) the doctoral supervisor(s);
- c) at least three official examiners, from Romania or abroad, who are specialists in the field in which the doctoral thesis was written, at least two of whom are based outside IOSUD-SNSPA.

(3) Members of the doctoral committee hold a PhD and hold at least the academic rank of associate professor or grade II research fellow, or are doctoral supervisors, either in Romania or abroad.

(4) In the case of a joint doctoral programme with a doctoral supervisor from outside SNSPA, the doctoral committee shall include representatives from both institutions.

(5) If, following the approval of the doctoral committee, the chair of the committee or one of the official examiners becomes unavailable, the CSUD may approve, upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, the replacement of that member of the doctoral committee.

Art. 98. The public defence of the doctoral thesis may take place in the presence of at least four members of the doctoral committee; the physical presence of the committee chair and the doctoral supervisor(s) is mandatory, whilst the other members of the committee may also participate via online video conferencing. A committee member who is unable to attend the public defence of the doctoral thesis must send the Doctoral Office, prior to the defence session, a written statement setting out the reason for their absence from the public defence of the doctoral thesis, their vote regarding the award of the doctoral degree and the proposed grade, as well as the evaluation report on the doctoral thesis.

Art. 99. (1) Official examiners are required to submit to the Doctoral Office, within a maximum of 15 days of receiving the doctoral thesis, an evaluation report on the doctoral thesis.

(2) The Doctoral Office may only commence the organisation of the public defence of the doctoral thesis once all reports from the members of the doctoral committee have been received.

Art. 100. (1) The doctoral thesis shall be defended orally at a public session before the doctoral committee.

(2) The public defence of the doctoral thesis may also be organised online, in exceptional circumstances, in accordance with the law.

(3) At least 20 days prior to the date of the doctoral thesis defence, as set by the chair of the doctoral committee, the Doctoral Office shall have the following obligations:

- a) to display the notice regarding the public defence of the doctoral thesis, specifying the date, venue and time of the defence, the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor or supervisors, as well as the location where the full text of the thesis may be consulted in printed form;
- b) to publish this announcement together with the two abstracts of the doctoral thesis (written in Romanian and, respectively, in a language of international circulation) in electronic format, the doctoral candidate's CV, the CVs of the members of the doctoral thesis defence committee, or links

to these on the SNSPA Doctoral School website; the summary of the doctoral thesis may be made publicly available following the issuance of the order appointing the doctoral committee.

Art. 101. (1) The public defence of the doctoral thesis is chaired by the chair of the doctoral committee and proceeds as follows:

- a) presentation of the thesis by the doctoral candidate;
- b) presentation of the reports by the doctoral supervisor(s) and the official examiners;
- c) presentation by the chair of the doctoral committee of the opinions submitted in writing to the



chair of the doctoral committee, prior to the public defence, by specialists who have reviewed the thesis or the thesis abstract, where applicable;

d) the academic and professional discussion of the doctoral thesis, attended by the doctoral candidate, the members of the doctoral committee and the specialists present in the room.

(2) The defence of the doctoral thesis must form the central part of the doctoral thesis defence procedure, with the aim of demonstrating scientific knowledge in the field of the topic addressed and the original elements contained in the thesis. To this end, the members of the committee will ask the doctoral candidate questions designed to highlight the aspects mentioned above.

(3) The minutes of the public defence of the doctoral thesis shall also include:

- a) the proposed grade to be awarded;
- b) the name of the doctoral committee and the specialist field within the CNATDCU to which the doctoral programme in which the candidate graduated is assigned;
- c) the date of the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

Art. 102. (1) On the basis of the public defence of the doctoral thesis, the examiners' reports, the declaration regarding the originality of the work and the analysis of the degree of similarity, the doctoral committee shall deliberate on the grade to be awarded to the doctoral thesis, with a view to awarding the doctoral degree, in accordance with the minimum standards drawn up by the CNATDCU for the award of the doctoral degree.

(2) Each member of the committee awards a grade, taking into account the CNATDCU and SNSPA criteria for the assessment of doctoral theses. The grades that may be awarded are Excellent, Very Good, Good, Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. The mark that receives an absolute majority of the votes cast by the members of the committee becomes the decision of the entire committee. The minutes of the doctoral thesis defence meeting shall record not only the mark determined by the committee following the vote, but also the mark awarded by each member of the doctoral committee.

(3) If the thesis has been awarded one of the grades Excellent, Very Good, Good or Satisfactory, the doctoral committee shall propose that the doctoral candidate be awarded a doctoral degree and shall submit the doctoral file to the CNATDCU within a maximum of 30 calendar days.

(4) If the grade 'Unsatisfactory' is awarded, the doctoral committee shall specify the elements of the doctoral thesis that need to be revised or supplemented, and the thesis shall be defended again in public before the same committee, within a timeframe set by the committee. If, following the re-defence of the doctoral thesis before the same committee, the grade 'Unsatisfactory' is again awarded, the thesis shall be deemed rejected, the doctoral degree shall not be awarded, and the doctoral student shall be expelled.

(5) The decisions of the Doctoral Committee shall be communicated to the audience at the public defence of the doctoral thesis by the Chair of the Doctoral Committee.

Art. 103. (1) Within 90 calendar days of receiving the doctoral dossier, CNATDCU shall issue a favourable opinion regarding compliance with the administrative procedure carried out at the level of IOSUD-SNSPA and compliance with the minimum criteria for the award of the doctoral degree. The administrative procedure includes, as a separate step, the verification of the declaration regarding the originality of the thesis and the analysis of reports on the degree of similarity.

(2) The doctoral file and the proposal of the doctoral degree award committee shall be uploaded by IOSUD-SNSPA onto the national electronic platform within a maximum of 30 days from the date of the public defence of the doctoral thesis. The file uploaded to the national platform shall be signed electronically by the legal representative of IOSUD-SNSPA or by a person delegated by them.

(3) Within 30 calendar days of receiving the approval notice issued by CNATDCU, IOSUD-SNSPA issues the decision to award the doctoral degree, signed by the rector, and prepares and issues the doctoral degree.

(4) Should the CNATDCU invalidate the validation process of the doctoral thesis, providing reasons, the



IOSUD-SNSPA shall receive from the CNATDCU a written statement of reasons for the invalidation, and the file may be resubmitted to CNATDCU for re-evaluation after the grounds for the invalidation have been addressed, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph (1), with a period of one year from the date of the first invalidation. If the doctoral thesis is invalidated a second time, the doctoral degree will not be awarded, and the doctoral student will be expelled.

(5) Should the CNATDCU decide that the administrative procedure conducted at the IOSUD level did not comply with the provisions of the Framework Regulation for Doctoral Studies, the doctoral file shall be returned to the IOSUD for re-examination and completion. It may be resubmitted to the CNATDCU for a new assessment only after the procedures have been resumed.

(6) Details regarding the CNATDCU's review of the administrative procedure for the award of the doctoral degree, including in relation to appeals, are published in the Order of the Minister of Education and Research approving the Methodology for the review of the administrative procedure conducted at higher education institutions regarding the award of the doctoral degree.

Art. 104. (1) If the doctoral student does not opt for the separate publication of the thesis or of certain chapters thereof, the digital version of the thesis shall be made public and shall be freely accessible on the national platform following the issuance of the decision to award the doctoral degree; the thesis shall be granted a copyright licence.

(2) If the doctoral student opts for the separate publication of the doctoral thesis or certain chapters thereof, they are granted a grace period of up to 24 months to carry out this publication, during which time the doctoral thesis, in digital format, becomes inaccessible to the public. Upon expiry of the grace period, if no notification regarding the separate publication of the thesis has been uploaded to the platform managed by UEFISCDI, the digital document shall be freely accessible on the national platform with the granting of a copyright licence.

(3) Following the publication of the thesis or of chapters thereof, the author is required to notify IOSUD-SNSPA of this fact and to provide the bibliographic details and a link to the publication, which will then be made public on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI.

(4) Within a maximum of 180 days of the decision to award the doctoral degree being issued, IOSUD – SNSPA shall submit a printed copy of the doctoral thesis and its appendices to the National Library of Romania, in accordance with Law No. 111/1995 on the Legal Deposit of Documents, as republished, a copy intended for the Intangible Collection, as well as a digital copy thereof, on electronic media, intended for consultation on request at the headquarters of the National Library of Romania by any interested person, in compliance with the legal regulations in force.

(5) The doctoral file shall be archived by IOSUD-SNSPA on a permanent basis.

Art. 105. (1) In the event of the withdrawal of the doctoral title, the doctoral degree ceases to have legal effect from the moment the decision to withdraw the title/degree is communicated. All decisions and orders issued are published on the IOSUD-SNSPA website.

(2) The doctoral thesis may be defended up to the end date of the doctoral programme as specified in the tuition contract, including any addenda thereto; failure to meet this deadline will result in the doctoral student's expulsion.

CHAPTER VI UNIVERSITY ETHICS AND PROFESSION.

Art. 106. — (1) In teaching and university research activities, compliance with the rules of university ethics and professional conduct, as regulated by the SNSPA Code of University Ethics and Professional Conduct, is mandatory.

Art. 107. (1) The Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, together with the doctoral supervisor, is obliged to inform the doctoral student regarding scientific, professional and academic ethics and to verify compliance with these, including:



- a) compliance with deontological provisions throughout the course of the doctoral research;
 - b) compliance with ethical provisions when drafting the doctoral thesis.
- (2) The doctoral school and IOSUD shall take measures to prevent and sanction breaches of the rules of scientific, professional and academic ethics, in accordance with the institution's code of ethics and professional conduct.
- (3) Any complaints regarding non-compliance with the rules of academic ethics and professional conduct shall be recorded and resolved in accordance with the SNSPA Code of Academic Ethics and Professional Conduct, drawn up on the basis of the Framework Code of Academic Ethics and Professional Conduct, approved by Government Decision.
- (4) Failure to comply with the rules of academic ethics and professional conduct, including the confirmation of proven cases of plagiarism, may result in public liability for IOSUD-SNSPA.

CHAPTER VII TRANSPARENCY AND.

Art. 108. — IOSUD-SNSPA guarantees transparency in the organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes within its own multidisciplinary doctoral school.

Art. 109. — (1) The multidisciplinary doctoral school, with the logistical support of IOSUD-SNSPA, shall ensure the publication on the internet of all necessary information regarding doctoral programmes, focusing in particular on the following categories:

- a) the doctoral school's regulations;
 - b) information on vacancies for doctoral students;
 - c) information on vacancies for doctoral supervisors;
 - d) information on the organisation and delivery of doctoral programmes;
 - e) information on the content of doctoral programmes;
 - f) information on how studies are funded;
 - g) the model framework contract for doctoral studies;
 - h) information on doctoral supervisors and the doctoral students they supervise, including at least a list of their publications and patents;
 - i) information on the results and professional performance of doctoral supervisors;
 - j) the guide on the drafting of doctoral theses, including standards for their preparation, procedures and assessment criteria;
 - k) the minimum standards drawn up by CNATDCU for the award of the doctoral degree;
 - l) abstracts of doctoral theses to be defended in public, as well as the date, time and venue of the public defences, at least 20 days prior to the defences;
 - m) the addresses where the completed doctoral theses can be accessed.
- (2) IOSUD-SNSPA shall publish on its website the annual self-evaluation report, which must include references to feedback from doctoral students regarding the quality of the educational process.

CHAPTER VIII. EVALUATION WITHIN IOSUD-

VIII. 1. Evaluation of doctoral students'

Art. 110. (1) The assessment of doctoral students' work focuses primarily on the outcomes of their research. Results such as publications, participation in conferences, as well as their quality—assessed through the integration of publications into the international research landscape, citations, awards, etc.—are taken into account. These research outcomes are quantified in ECTS credits, in accordance with the Regulations on the application of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS/SECT) at

SNSPA.

- (2) The assessment of doctoral students' work explicitly covers all the competences that the doctoral student is required to develop within the doctoral programme, in accordance with Level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework (CNC).
- (3) The continuous assessment of the doctoral student's work is carried out by the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student's academic supervision and integrity committee.
- (4) The assessment procedures and criteria will enable:
 - a) accurately measure doctoral students' performance and reflect differences in their performance;
 - b) assessing doctoral students' progress in acquiring the knowledge and skills associated with the intended professional qualification;
 - c) administrative and academic checks to ensure the fairness of procedures;
 - d) transparency and communication regarding rigorous and clear criteria for assessing doctoral students;
 - e) informing doctoral students about the assessment strategy, methods, assessment criteria and expected performance.

VIII. 2. Assessment of the doctoral supervisor's

- Art. 111.** (1) The evaluation of doctoral supervisors shall be carried out periodically, at least once every two years, in accordance with the evaluation procedures established by order of the Minister of Education and Research, upon the recommendation of the CNATDCU.
- (2) The evaluation procedures focus primarily on aspects relating to the quality of the scientific output of the group led by the doctoral supervisor, with particular emphasis on the impact and relevance of this group's scientific activity at international level, or at national level in the case of fields specific to Romania.
- (3) The results of the evaluation are made public.

VIII. 3. Internal and external evaluation and monitoring of the IOSUD () at SNSPA

Art. 112. The quality of doctoral programmes, the performance of doctoral students and that of doctoral supervisors shall be subject to a periodic internal and external evaluation process, which shall include:

- a) the terms of reference for the internal and external evaluation process;
- b) the appointment of an institutional body (committee/council) of experts to carry out the evaluation;
- c) criteria and standards for the internal/external evaluation of each programme;
- d) the periodic monitoring and review of doctoral programmes;
- e) preparing evaluation reports containing recommendations;
- f) monitoring the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted.

Art. 113. (1) The internal quality assessment of a doctoral programme shall be carried out periodically by the CEAC on the basis of the self-assessment report drawn up by the Doctoral School Council for each doctoral field.

(2) The procedures for the internal quality assessment of doctoral programmes shall be drawn up on the basis of the minimum criteria established by the Framework Regulations on Doctoral Studies and these Regulations, shall be endorsed by the Council for Doctoral Studies and approved by the SNSPA Senate.

(3) The internal quality assessment procedures for doctoral programmes will aim to:



- a) the mission and objectives of doctoral programmes;
- b) the content and curriculum of the doctoral programme;
- c) the compatibility of doctoral programmes with the qualification description registered in the RNCIS;
- d) the results of research undertaken by doctoral students and doctoral supervisors, as evidenced by publications, patents and participation in scientific events;
- e) the online presentation of PhD students' research findings;
- f) cooperation with other institutions;
- g) specific requirements of the various teaching methods and delivery formats;
- h) the availability of resources for documentation, learning and research, as well as the support facilities available to doctoral students;
- i) staff involved in the delivery of study programmes;
- j) the methods used to assess doctoral students' knowledge and test their skills, as well as to monitor their progress throughout their studies;
- k) evaluation by doctoral students, obtained through questionnaires completed confidentially and processed statistically;
- l) the degree of doctoral students' involvement in ensuring the quality of study programmes.

Art. 114. (1) The external evaluation of IOSUD-SNSPA, and of the fields of doctoral study, for the purposes of provisional authorisation or accreditation, shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Title IV — Quality Assurance in Higher Education of the Higher Education Act No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2) The external evaluation of doctoral programmes within IOSUD-SNSPA is carried out by ARACIS, based on CNCS reports on research quality and CNATDCU reports on the quality of human resources.

(3) Doctoral programmes which, within a maximum of five years of the entry into force of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies, have not undergone an external evaluation process shall enter a winding-up phase, during which no new doctoral students may be enrolled. The winding-up phase may not last longer than one academic year.

(4) The authority to wind up a doctoral programme in the circumstances set out in paragraph 3 lies with the SNSPA, which is required to inform ARACIS and the CNCS of the process and outcome of the winding-up and to proceed with the removal of the relevant qualification from the RNCIS.

Chapter IX. PROMOTING THE EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATES OF DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMMES

Art. 115. (1) By their very nature, doctoral programmes within the SNSPA aim to:

- a) the acquisition of scientific research skills and other subject-specific and cross-disciplinary skills;
- b) to provide career opportunities for graduates of doctoral programmes.

(2) The Council for Doctoral Studies must pursue a marketing policy for doctoral studies that is commensurate with global competition, offering education and professional development options that are highly diverse both geographically and thematically.

Art. 116. (1) SNSPA monitors the employment rates of graduates of doctoral programmes and develops strategies to improve their integration into the labour market.

(2) The Doctoral School, through the Doctoral Office, compiles and updates the Alumni Register with its own graduates, ensures the monitoring of their careers and professional activities, thereby contributing to their integration into society.



Art. 117. With a view to promoting the employment of graduates of doctoral programmes, the Doctoral School shall primarily aim to:

- a) aligning doctoral education to the demands of the knowledge society, under the imperative of lifelong learning;
- b) delivering doctoral education with a focus on the student and learning through research;
- c) aligning doctoral programmes with trends in contemporary research;
- d) recognising the crucial role of supervision and assessment;
- e) promoting innovative structures to meet the need for interdisciplinarity and the provision of transferable skills;
- f) increasing international, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral mobility;
- g) adequate and sustainable funding.

Chapter X. FINAL PROVISIONS

Art 118. (1) These Regulations are supplemented by the provisions of Law No. 199/2023 on higher education, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and of theon doctoral studies, adopted by Order of the Minister of Education No. 3020/08.01.2024, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, No. 56/22.01.2024, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and of Order No. 3693/01.02.2024, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, No. 111/07.02.2024, regarding the Framework Methodology for Admission to Higher Education and other applicable legal provisions, in force throughout the doctoral programmes of doctoral students.