
 COD USVT – R094	University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara	Issuing body Quality Management Department
	REGULATIONS regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral studies within the DOCTORAL SCHOOL ON VETERINARY MEDICINE	Edition 2 /Revision 1

REGULATIONS ON THE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDIES WITHIN THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL ON VETERINARY MEDICINE

	Name and surname	Function	Date	Signature
Developed	Univ.prof. PhD. CRISTINA ROMEO TEODOR	Director of the Doctoral School	20.06.2023	
Verified	Univ.prof. PhD. TULCAN CAMELIA	Interim Director of the Quality Management Department	21.06.2023	
	Univ.prof. PhD. MORARIU SORIN	Director of CSUD	21.06.2023	
Approved:	Univ.prof. PhD. IANCU TIBERIU	Coordinator of CEAC	26.07.2023	
	H Aiduc SIMONA	Legal Advisor	26.07.2023	
	Univ.prof.PhD. RADULOV ISIDORA	CMO President	26.07.2023	
Approved by the Board of Directors by Decision no. 6041 of 27.07.2023				
Approved by the University Senate by Decision no. 6045 of 27.07.2023				
RECTOR		Univ.prof.PhD.eng. POPESCU COSMIN ALIN		

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CHAPTER I. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

Art. 1. (1) This regulation establishes the general framework for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies within the Doctoral School of Veterinary Medicine, within the "King Mihai I" University of Life Sciences in Timișoara.

(2) The regulation applies to doctoral students, staff and all administrative structures involved in the process of organizing and conducting the doctorate within the Doctoral School of Veterinary Medicine.

(3) The users of the regulation are responsible for the application and compliance with the provisions of the documents in this regulation.

CHAPTER II. PURPOSE


Art. 2. The purpose of developing this regulation is to establish uniform rules regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara.

CHAPTER III. DEFINITIONS.ABBREVIATIONS

Art. 3. The following definitions will be used in this **regulation**:

A) DEFINITIONS:

- **The Organizing Institution of Doctoral University Studies** – the institution that has the right to organize doctoral university programs; it is the functional unit that manages the doctoral university study programs offered by IOSUD - USVT;
- **The Council for Doctoral University Studies** – functions as a distinct managerial, administrative and professional management structure within IOSUD – USVT;
- **The National Council for the Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates** – is an advisory body of the Ministry of Education, which carries out its activity based on the provisions of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions;
- **The Doctoral School Council** – functions as a distinct managerial, administrative and professional management structure within the Doctoral School;
- **Doctoral thesis** - the original scientific work developed by a doctoral student within the framework of doctoral university studies, a legal condition for obtaining the doctoral degree;
- **Plagiarism** - the presentation in a written work or an oral communication, including in electronic format, of texts, expressions, ideas, demonstrations,

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data, hypotheses, theories, results or scientific methods extracted from written works, including in electronic format, of other authors, without mentioning this and without referring to the original sources;

- **Doctoral university studies** - represent the third cycle of university studies, the purpose of which is to develop human resources competent in carrying out scientific research, capable of insertion on the highly qualified labor market. They consist of training, through research, for research-development and innovation and constitute a professional research experience, completed, after defending the doctoral thesis, by granting the doctoral degree;
- **Doctoral student** – the student enrolled in the doctoral university studies program;
- **Doctoral school** – an organizational and administrative structure established within IOSUD – USVT and which provides the necessary support for the development of doctoral university studies in a specific discipline or disciplinary or interdisciplinary topic.


B) ABBREVIATIONS:

- **U.S.V.T.** – “King Mihai I” University of Life Sciences of Timișoara;
- **I.O.S.U.D** – Institution organizing doctoral studies;
- **M.E.** – Ministry of Education;
- **M.E.N** – Ministry of National Education;
- **CEC** – European Qualifications Framework;
- **C.S.U.D** – Council for Doctoral University Studies;
- **CSD-MV** – Council of the Doctoral School of Veterinary Medicine;
- **SD-MV** – Doctoral School of Veterinary Medicine;
- **C.N.A.T.D.C.U.** – National Council for the Attestation of University Titles, Diplomas and Certificates;
- **CSD** – Council of the Doctoral School;
- **CNCS** – National Council for Scientific Research;
- **ARACIS** – Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education;
- **PPSUA** – Advanced University Studies Training Program.

CHAPTER IV. NORMATIVE REFERENCES

Art. 4. Primary legislation

- National Education Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions;
- Law no. 288/2004 on the organization of university studies;
- H.G. no. 681/29.06.2011 on the approval of the Code of Doctoral Studies;

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- M.E.N. Order no. 4982 /05.09.2013 on the activity of doctoral supervision;
- M.E. Order 3651/12.04.2021, on the Methodology for the evaluation of doctoral studies and the systems of criteria, standards and performance indicators used in the evaluation. National Education Law No. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and supplements;

Art. 5. Secondary legislation

- U.S.V.T. Charter;
- Regulations on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies: COD USVT – PG 001- R075;
- Decisions of the University Senate/Board of Directors.

CHAPTER V. DESCRIPTION OF THE REGULATIONS

CHAPTER V.1. I.O.S.U.D., C.S.U.D., DOCTORAL SCHOOL


Art. 6. (1) This regulation constitutes the framework that regulates the organization and implementation of doctoral university study programs at the **DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE** within **I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T.**

(2) Doctoral university study programs are organized and carried out within I.O.S.U.D.- U.S.V.T. **only through its doctoral schools.**

(3) The doctorate within I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T. represents the third cycle of university studies, is based on advanced scientific research aimed at developing knowledge through original scientific research and allows the acquisition of a level 8 qualification from the EQF/CEC and the National Qualifications Framework.

(4) The Regulations of the Doctoral School of **Veterinary Medicine** are developed by the Council of the Doctoral School of **Veterinary Medicine**, approved by the Council for Doctoral University Studies and the Senate of U.S.V.T. and establish specific mandatory criteria, procedures and standards regarding:

- a. acceptance of new members and/or withdrawal of the doctoral supervisor status;
- b. decision-making mechanism, structure and content of the training program based on advanced university studies;
- c. procedure for changing the doctoral supervisor of a particular student - doctoral candidate and the method of mediating conflicts;
- d. conditions under which a doctoral program can be interrupted;
- e. ensuring access to research resources;
- f. obligations and rights of doctoral students and doctoral supervisors;
- g. methods of preventing fraud in scientific research, including plagiarism.

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Art. 7. (1) The University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" of Timișoara is a Doctoral Organizing Institution (I.O.S.U.D.), managed by the Council for University Doctoral Studies, hereinafter referred to as **C.S.U.D.**, accredited and which consists of the doctoral schools: **Plant and Animal Resources Engineering** and **Veterinary Medicine**, hereinafter referred to as **SD-MV**.

(2) I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T. provides institutional, administrative and logistical support to subordinate doctoral schools and may grant financial support to doctoral students for internships in the country or abroad, with the agreement of the doctoral supervisor.

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

a. conclusion of institutional **agreements or partnerships**, approved by the **Council of the Doctoral School of Veterinary Medicine**, hereinafter referred to as **CSD-MV**.

b. doctoral research under **co-supervision**;

c. **exchanges** of doctoral students and teaching and research staff carried out with nationally and internationally recognized universities;

d. **participation in** national and international **consortia**, aiming to **include** doctoral research **topics** within national or international scientific projects.


Art. 8. (1) The Doctoral School of Veterinary Medicine within I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T. was established at the proposal of the Faculty Council and approved by the U.S.V.T. Senate by decision **no. 3210** on **18.05.2012** and is led by a **director of the doctoral school** and by the **doctoral school council** elected by secret vote by the absolute majority of the members of the doctoral school.

(2) The Doctoral School Council is elected by universal, direct, secret and equal vote of the doctoral supervisors and the doctoral students from the respective school and is led by the **director of the doctoral school** who, according to the law, is an ex officio member of this council. The CSD-MV, in addition to the director of the doctoral school, also includes three doctoral supervisors (from within IOSUD or outside it) and two doctoral students.

(3) The mandate of the **SD - MV** Council is 5 years.

(4) Doctoral students, members of the **CSD - MV** who complete their doctoral studies during the council's mandate lose their membership of the council on the date of the public defense of the doctoral thesis.

(5) Partial elections are organized to fill vacancies within the doctoral school council, and the mandate of the new member ceases upon the expiration of the mandate of the doctoral school council.

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Art. 9. (1) The Doctoral School Council has, as its main responsibilities, the following:

- a) develops the regulations of the doctoral school, in accordance with the regulations for the organization and conduct of doctoral studies on I.O.S.U.D. - U.S.V.T.;
- b) makes decisions regarding the granting or revoking of the membership of the doctoral school to doctoral supervisors (through the approval procedure) in accordance with the minimum standards of scientific performance in order to objectively apply these procedures;
- c) decides on the change of the doctoral supervisor;
- d) approves the enrollment or, as the case may be, the expulsion of doctoral students upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisors within the doctoral school;
- e) approves the staff list of the teaching and research staff affiliated with the doctoral school;
- f) ensures the internal evaluation of doctoral study programs and assists the external evaluator in the evaluation process for the accreditation/reaccreditation or provisional authorization of the doctoral school;
- g) implements procedures for highlighting the results of doctoral research for the purpose of evaluating doctoral theses and approving them for public defense;
- h) ensures correct and complete information to the public and especially to candidates for doctoral study programs on admission, research directions and criteria for evaluating research results, as well as the results of doctoral study programs.

Art. 10. (1) The director of the doctoral school ensures the operational management of the school and represents the doctoral school in relation to the C.S.U.D.

(2) The duties of the director of the doctoral school are, mainly, the following:

- a) chairs the meetings of the doctoral school council;
- b) coordinates the activity of elaborating the regulations of the doctoral school, analyzes the final form of the project and presents it for approval to the C.S.U.D. and the university senate;
- c) manages the activities of organizing, conducting and administering the doctoral university study programs within his/her sphere of competence, in accordance with the regulations for organizing and conducting doctoral university studies of I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T.;
- d) proposes to the council the content of the doctoral university study program and approves them based on the decision of the council;
- e) identifies the optimal procedures for highlighting the results of doctoral research for the purpose of evaluating doctoral theses and approving them for public support and manages their implementation activity, based on the approval of the council;
- f) manages the internal evaluation activities of doctoral university study programs, based on the organizational measures established by the council;

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g) presents to the council the measures taken to correctly and completely inform the public, and in particular candidates for doctoral university study programs, on admission, the content of the study programs and the criteria for evaluating research results, as well as the results of doctoral university study programs.

Art. 11. (1) In the structure of the U.S.V.T, the **SD-MV** has a rank equal to that of a department and may organize research centers or laboratories, which function as revenue and expenditure units within the higher education institution, according to the provisions of art. 131, art. 133 paragraph (4) and art. 134 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011.

(2) **The staff lists** are drawn up at the **SD-MV** level and include all teaching staff, researchers and doctoral students who are active within the doctoral school at that time. The staff lists of the doctoral school may also contain vacant or cumulative positions.

(3) The SD-MV may employ auxiliary teaching staff, research staff and non-teaching staff, under the terms of the law.

(4) Doctoral schools together with doctoral supervisors are obliged to inform the doctoral student about scientific, professional and academic ethics and to verify their compliance, including:

- a) compliance with the ethical provisions during the doctoral research;
- b) compliance with the ethical provisions in writing the doctoral thesis.

(5) SD-MV and I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T. take measures to prevent and sanction deviations from the norms of scientific, professional and academic ethics, according to the institution's code of ethics and professional deontology, as well as the legislation in force.


CHAPTER V.2. ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDIES

CHAPTER V.2.1. DOCTORAL UNIVERSITY STUDY CONTRACT

Art. 12. (1) The rights and obligations of doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, as well as I.O.S.U.D., through the doctoral schools, are established by the doctoral studies contract.

(2) The model of the doctoral studies framework contract is developed by the doctoral school is endorsed by the doctoral schools council and is approved by the CSUD.

(3) The doctoral studies contract is concluded with each doctoral student individually, following negotiation and is signed by the doctoral student, the doctoral supervisor, the director of the doctoral school, the legal advisor, the economic director and the representative of the institution that legally represents I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T.

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(4) The carrying out of teaching activities by the doctoral student must not negatively affect the time available for the development of his/her doctoral program, considering that the doctorate represents primarily a professional research experience.

Art. 13. The doctoral university study **contract** will include the following information:

- a) identification data of the doctoral student and the doctoral supervisor;
- b) data about I.O.S.U.D. and the doctoral school;
- c) chosen research topic;
- d) monthly amount of the scholarship, as applicable;
- e) amount of the tuition fee, as applicable;
- f) language in which the doctoral thesis is written and defended – Romanian, the language of a national minority or an internationally spoken language;
- g) deadline for completion of the doctoral thesis;
- h) conditions for extending the deadline for completion of the doctoral thesis;
- i) amount of teaching activities that the doctoral student undertakes to carry out and the period during which they are carried out.

Art. 14. (1) Student-doctoral student / SD-MV conflicts are mediated by the C.S.U.D.- U.S.V.T.

(2) Student-doctoral candidate/doctoral supervisor conflicts are mediated by the CSD-MV, as the case may be, and in the event of the conflict not being resolved at this level, it is mediated by the C.S.U.D.- U.S.V.T.


CHAPTER V.2.2. THE DOCTORAL SUPERVISOR AND THE GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

Art. 15. (1) The members of the SD-MV **who obtained** the right to supervise doctoral studies before the entry into force of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, as well as the persons **who acquire** this right according to the provisions of art. 166 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011 and who have an employment contract with the U.S.V.T.

(2) Within the IOSUD – U.S.V.T. the right to carry out the activity of supervising doctoral studies is granted only in the field for which this quality was conferred.

Art. 16. Doctoral supervisors are evaluated every 5 years, the evaluation results being public, through evaluation procedures established by order of the Minister of Education at the proposal of the C.N.A.T.D.C.U. and mainly target the aspects related to:

- a) the quality of the scientific results of the group led by the doctoral supervisor,
- b) the impact and relevance of the scientific activity of this group at international level,

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respectively nationally in the case of fields with Romanian specificity.

Art. 17. (1) Doctoral studies may also be organized under co-supervision, and the following situations may exist:

a) concurrent supervision of a doctoral supervisor from Romania and a doctoral supervisor from another country;

b) concurrent supervision of two doctoral supervisors from different institutions in Romania, based on a written agreement between the organizing institutions involved;

c) in the case where the doctoral supervisors are from the same IOSUD, but have different specializations/fields of study;

d) one of the doctoral supervisors has reached retirement age, according to the provisions of art.162 paragraph (1) of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions.

(2) In the case of a co-supervised doctorate, a **main doctoral supervisor** is defined within the SD-MV, and the doctoral student is **fully accounted for by the main doctoral supervisor**, including in the normalization of his teaching and research activity.

(3) A doctoral supervisor may simultaneously supervise a **maximum of 8 doctoral students** at various stages of their doctoral studies.

Art. 18. (1) Upon the motivated request of the doctoral student, the CSD-MV may decide to **change the doctoral supervisor** if it has been found that the legal or contractual obligations assumed by him have not been fulfilled or for other reasons concerning the supervision relationship between the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral student.


(2) The CSD-MV **will appoint another doctoral supervisor** in the case provided for in paragraph (1), as well as in the case where the doctoral supervisor is found to be unavailable.

(3) When appointing a new doctoral supervisor, the CSD-MV will take into account the priority of the need for the doctoral student **to be able to complete the doctoral program**.

Art. 19. (1) For the conduct of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student within the SD-MV will be supported by a **guidance committee**, which will be formed by **3 other members**, who may be part of the doctoral supervisor's research team, other persons affiliated with the SD-MV or other valuable teaching and research staff, not affiliated with the doctoral school.

(2) The composition of the guidance committee will be established by **the doctoral supervisor** following consultation with the **doctoral student**.

Art. 20. (1) The activity of doctoral supervisors is regulated and remunerated in accordance with the provisions of the law in force.

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(2) The activity of the members of the doctoral committees and the members of the guidance committees is regulated and remunerated in accordance with the provisions of the law in force and with the decisions of the institution's management structures.


Art. 21. (1) The rights and obligations of the doctoral supervisor arise from the National Education Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and supplements, from the regulations of the doctoral school, as well as from his employment contract.

(2) The doctoral supervisor has the following rights:

- a. to guide and evaluate the activity of the doctoral student within the doctoral university study program, according to professional and academic autonomy, following the requirements of the doctoral university study program and respecting the professional interests of the doctoral student;
- b. to propose the doctoral committee and the doctoral student's guidance committee;
- c. to refuse to guide a doctoral student in the conditions in which he is placed against his will in a conflict of interest;
- d. to request the doctoral school to interrupt the guidance relationship with a doctoral student;
- e. to select the doctoral candidate for a vacant position under his guidance and to propose the enrollment of the doctoral student;
- f. to request the doctoral school to organize an admission competition for each vacant doctoral student position under his guidance;
- g. to decide the study elements within the training program based on advanced university studies in which the doctoral student must participate, in compliance with the legislation in force;
- h. to be remunerated for the activity of guiding doctoral students, in accordance with the legislation in force;
- i. the right to participate in competitions for doctoral grants;
- j. the right to an impartial internal and external evaluation, in accordance with the methodology specific to the evaluation process;
- k. the right to know the methodology against which he is evaluated, both in the internal evaluation and in the external evaluation.

(3) The doctoral supervisor has the following obligations:

- a. to ensure the scientific, professional and ethical guidance of each doctoral student;
- b. to propose research topics;
- c. to take all necessary measures to provide the doctoral student with the conditions, knowledge and information that will maximize the chances of

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- completing the doctoral program;
- d. to ensure the conditions and stimulate the progress of doctoral students in the research they carry out;
 - e. to carry out the objective and rigorous monitoring and evaluation of each doctoral student;
 - f. to support the mobility of doctoral students;
 - g. to avoid the emergence of conflicts of interest in the guidance of doctoral students;
 - h. to comply with the rules of ethical and professional conduct;
 - i. to comply with quality standards;
 - j. to inform the doctoral student about scientific, professional and academic ethics and to verify their compliance;
 - k. to analyze the scientific reports/papers of the doctoral student and to allow their defense only if they consider that they have a consistent scientific content, focused on the issues of his/her doctoral thesis;
 - l. to follow and comply with the provisions of the doctoral university studies contract;
 - m. to propose to the doctoral school the expulsion of the doctoral student in case he/she does not comply with the obligations related to the doctoral program and the obligations arising from this contract;
 - n. any other obligations arising from the legislation in force, the university charter, as well as from the internal regulations of IOSUD – U.S.V.T.

Art. 22. (1) In addition to doctoral supervisors, a doctoral school may also be affiliated with other researchers or teaching staff, involved in research and/or teaching activities within the doctoral school, from the component institutions of I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T. or from other research and development institutions or units, from the country or abroad.

(2) In order to become members or affiliates of the doctoral school, doctoral supervisors must meet the following conditions:

- a) to request in writing to the CSD and the rector his/her co-optation as a member of the doctoral school;
- b) to have the right to direct doctorates in the field of **Veterinary Medicine**, according to the legislation and regulations of the C.N.A.T.D.C.U. in force;
- c) not to have been withdrawn as a member or affiliate of another doctoral school.

(3) Fulfillment of the conditions specified in paragraph (2) will result from the content of the file submitted by the candidate.

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Art. 23. The withdrawal of the membership of the MV Doctoral School, of a doctoral supervisor, is made at the proposal of an Analysis Commission proposed by CSUD, which will evaluate the entire activity, according to the legal criteria in force.

Art. 24. Both the decision to accept new members and the decision to withdraw the membership of the doctoral school are endorsed by the CSD-MV and approved by the U.S.V.T. Senate.

CHAPTER V.2.3. SELECTION, ADMISSION AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAM

Art. 25. (1) The doctoral admission competition is organized and held annually according to the Admission Regulation R030 (Regulations on the organization and conduct of admission to doctoral university studies)

(2) Registrations are made in accordance with the number of places approved by the Ministry of Education, distributed equitably across doctoral schools by C.S.U.D., depending on the proposals expressed by the doctoral schools within I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T.

(3) The doctoral admission competition is organized and held annually before the start of the academic year.

CHAPTER V.2.4. THE DOCTORAL STUDENT


Art. 26. (1) Art. 26. (1) After signing the doctoral study contract, the admitted candidate will have the status of a **doctoral student** for the entire duration of the doctoral program. Persons who have the appropriate financial resources, either from their own sources or from scholarships granted by natural or legal persons, may be admitted, upon their request, as doctoral students with a **tuition fee**.

Art. 27. (1) During the course of the doctoral study program, the doctoral student within the SD-MV has the **rights** and **obligations** arising from the legislation in force, the doctoral study contract, as well as from the U.S.V.T. regulations.

CHAPTER V.2.5. STRUCTURE AND DURATION OF UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDIES

Art. 28. (1) The doctoral university study programs within the USVT are of the **scientific doctorate** type, which aim to produce original, internationally relevant scientific knowledge, based on scientific methods.

(2) Within the SD-MV, the doctoral program includes:

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- a) a training program based on advanced university studies;
- b) an individual scientific research program.

(3) According to art. 174 par. 1 letter d of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, doctoral studies within the SD-MV total 240 transferable credits, of which the advanced training program totals 60 credits, and the research program totals 180 credits.

Art. 29. (1) In the field of **Veterinary Medicine**, the legal duration of the doctoral program is 4 (four) years.

(2) In special situations, the doctoral student may request, once only, the extension of the duration of the doctoral program by 1-2 years, upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor, with the approval of the Doctoral School Council and, respectively, with the approval of the University Senate. During the effective extension of the doctoral studies, the doctoral student is required to pay a monthly fee approved by the University Senate.

(3) The situations for which the training program may be extended are:

- a) identification, during the studies, of research directions related to the thesis topic, which were not foreseen at the time of the preparation program development and which require special in-depth study;
- b) other justified situations requiring extension, accepted by the doctoral supervisor;
- c) cases determined by force majeure.


(4) The interruption of doctoral studies is made at the request of the doctoral student, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor and is approved by the Council of the doctoral school. The cumulative interruption periods of doctoral studies cannot exceed 2 years.

(5) Doctoral studies may be interrupted for valid reasons, not attributable to the doctoral student, as follows:

- a) medical leave (motivated by accidents with serious bodily injuries certified by specialist doctors, contact with serious/chronic diseases requiring long-term treatment);
- b) maternity leave (in the case of pregnancy, childbirth, postnatal leave);
- c) force majeure situations.

(6) The extension provided for in paragraph (2), respectively the interruption and extension provided for in paragraph (4), are established by **additional documents** to the doctoral studies contract.

Art. 30. A scholarship **student expelled** from the doctoral program loses the right to continue his/her doctoral studies as a scholarship student within the **SD-MV**, but may register for a new admission competition for doctoral studies for **fee-paying places**.

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Art. 31. After **defending the doctoral thesis**, I.O.S.U.D.- U.S.V.T. issues a certificate attesting to the period in which the doctoral student followed the doctoral studies.

Art. 32. (1) The form of conducting doctoral studies at the **SD-MV** is the **full-time** form, according to art. 140 paragraph (4) of the National Education Law no. 1/2011.

(2) By way of exception to the provisions of paragraph 1, doctoral study programs may also be organized in the form of **reduced-time education**.

(3) The doctoral student must allocate a significant amount of time to the doctoral program, which requires his/her actual presence within one or more of the I.O.S.U.D.'s component institutions, **outside of the periods related to mobility**, according to art. 21 paragraph 2 of H.G. no. 681/2011.


(4) The actual presence required of the doctoral student may differ from one doctoral student to another, being **decided by the doctoral supervisor** depending on the specifics of the doctoral program and in compliance with the provisions of the regulation, the obligations regarding attendance constituting a criterion for evaluating the quality of the doctoral school, including for financing purposes.

CHAPTER V.2.6. EVALUATION OF DOCTORAL SCHOOLS AND DOCTORAL SUPERVISORS

Art. 33. (1) Each doctoral school is evaluated individually, for each field, for accreditation. The evaluation of the doctoral school is based on the performance of the doctoral school and the institutional capacity of IOSUD – U.S.V.T. The evaluation of the doctoral schools is made by ARACIS or by another quality assurance agency, from the country or abroad, based on the CNCS reports on the quality of research and the CNATDCU reports on the quality of human resources. The system of criteria and the evaluation methodology are established by order of the Minister of Education, based on the joint proposals of ARACIS, CNCS and CNATDCU. Each doctoral school is evaluated periodically, every 5 years.

(2) Based on the results of the evaluation of the doctoral school, ARACIS or the agency provided for in paragraph (1) proposes to the Ministry of Education, the granting/withdrawal of accreditation for the organization of doctoral university studies. Accreditation for the organization of doctoral studies is certified by order of the Minister of Education.

(3) Each doctoral school is subject to periodic **external evaluation**, at intervals of **5 years**, according to art. 158 para. (4) and (5) of the National Education Law no. 1/2011.

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Art. 34. (1) The liquidation of a doctoral school is possible only after all doctoral students within the respective school have completed their doctoral program or have been expelled for reasons unrelated to the liquidation.

(2) **Re-accreditation** of the doctoral school can be obtained **at least 5 years** after the loss of this quality, only after resuming the accreditation process, according to art. 158 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent additions and amendments.

Art. 35. (1) SD-MV may conduct **periodic internal evaluations**, and following the evaluations, CSD-MV may decide to extend or terminate the employment contract of a doctoral supervisor who no longer meets the minimum quality criteria established by the ME through C.N.A.T.D.C.U. for doctoral supervisors.

(2) The regaining of the quality of doctoral supervisor can be obtained after at least 5 years from the loss of this quality, at the proposal of I.O.S.U.D.- U.S.V.T. based on an internal evaluation report, whose assessments are validated by an external evaluation carried out by CNATDCU.

Art. 36. (1) In the event of **non-compliance** with quality standards or professional ethics in the organization and conduct of doctoral studies, the Ministry of Education may take the measures provided for in art. 170 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, which may be the following measures, taken alternatively or simultaneously:

- a) withdrawal of the doctoral supervisor status;
- b) withdrawal of the doctoral title;
- c) withdrawal of the accreditation of the doctoral school, which implies the withdrawal of the doctoral school's right to organize an admission competition for the selection of new doctoral students.


(2) The National Council for Ethics of Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation may be notified of non-compliance with quality standards or professional ethics, including the existence of plagiarism, according to the provisions of art. 323 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011.

CHAPTER V.2.7. FINANCING OF UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL

Art. 37. (1) The financing of doctoral studies is carried out in accordance with the provisions of art. 160 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011:

- a) **with financing** from the state budget;
- b) under a **fee regime**;
- c) from **other** legally established **sources**.

(2) The Ministry of Education, by Government Decision, allocates annually, for doctoral studies, a number of multi-annual places, equivalent to the number of multi-annual

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grants, for a minimum duration of 4 years.

(3) The financing of doctoral studies may also be carried out by private legal entities or research and development institutes, based on a contract.

(4) U.S.V.T. may organize internal research project competitions for doctoral students, financed from public or private funds.

Art.38. In the event of an extension of the doctoral program, the doctoral supervisor or the doctoral school may propose an extension of the doctoral grant.

CHAPTER V.3. CONTENT AND COMPLETION OF UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMS

CHAPTER V.3.1. COMPETENCES PROVIDED BY UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMS


Art. 39. Doctoral university study programs must ensure the development of **professional skills** (content, cognitive and research) in specialized fields, as well as **transversal skills**.

Art. 40. (1) The following are qualified as **professional competencies** specific to the field of **Veterinary Medicine**:

- a) advanced knowledge in the field;
- b) the ability to identify, formulate and solve research problems;
- c) mastery of advanced research methods and techniques;
- d) knowledge of research project management;
- e) mastery of new research procedures and solutions;
- f) skills in documenting, elaborating and capitalizing on scientific works;
- g) linguistic skills at an academic level in internationally circulated languages necessary for documenting and elaborating scientific works;
- h) understanding and ability to apply the principles and values of scientific research ethics in the respective field.

(2) The following are considered as **transversal competencies**:

- a) written and oral communication competencies in the field;
- b) advanced linguistic competencies in internationally circulated languages;
- c) use of information and communication technology;
- d) interpersonal and teamwork skills;
- e) knowledge of human, material and financial resource management;
- f) leadership skills;
- g) knowledge of career management, as well as the acquisition of techniques for job searching and job creation for others;
- h) knowledge of risk, crisis and failure management;

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- i) knowledge of the use of legislation in the field of intellectual property rights;
- j) economic, technological and social entrepreneurship skills.

CHAPTER V.3.2. TRAINING PROGRAM BASED ON ADVANCED UNIVERSITY STUDIES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

Art. 41. I.O.S.U.D.- U.S.V.T., through SD-MV, makes available to doctoral students a training program based on advanced university studies consisting of activities carried out in institutionalized study formations, through: courses, seminars, laboratories and the like.

(2) SD-MV within I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T. undertakes to ensure free and unrestricted access to the advanced training program to all doctoral students within I.O.S.U.D.- U.S.V.T.


Art. 42. In accordance with GD no. 681/2011, Art. 59 (4), credits obtained in a research master's program, or the completion of previous doctoral internships and/or scientific research internships, carried out in the country or abroad, in prestigious universities or research and development units, may be recognized as equivalent to those in a training program based on advanced university studies (PPSUA). The equivalence is proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the CSD-MV. The doctoral student may benefit from partial or total equivalence of PPSUA provided that the profile of the research master's program is compatible with the disciplinary profile of the doctoral field.

Art. 43. To ensure a coherent scientific path, the doctoral student will present, at least once every 12 months, in compliance with the individual training plan, the progress of his/her scientific research program through papers presented to the guidance committee and the doctoral supervisor, who have the role of guiding, correcting and supporting the scientific path of the doctoral student.

CHAPTER V.3.3. DOCTORAL THESIS AND COMPLETION OF UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDIES

Art. 44. (1) The diploma awarded by IOSUD U.S.V.T. after promotion and completion of the doctoral university study program is that of **Doctor** and has as its corresponding acronym the particle **Dr**.

(2) In accordance with art. 169 para. (1) and (2) of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, the diploma will certify the obtaining of the scientific doctorate as well as the possession of the title of **Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**.

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(3) SD-MV establishes and imposes the **standard format** of the doctoral thesis, including the elements of form and substance as well as all other graphic formatting elements, the doctoral student having the obligation to respect this **format**. The methodology for redacting the doctoral thesis is available to each doctoral supervisor, as well as to the relevant secretariat, the doctoral student having free access to it.

(4) **The content of the doctoral thesis** is established by the doctoral student in consultation with the doctoral supervisor and will respect the established framework structure.

(5) **The title** of the doctoral thesis **may be changed** at the free choice of the doctoral student, until its completion for public defense, with the approval of the doctoral supervisor.

(6) The doctoral thesis is an **original work**, and it is **mandatory** to mention the source for any material taken, text or iconographic from the consulted bibliography.

(7) The doctoral student is the **author of the doctoral thesis** and assumes the correctness of the data and information presented in the thesis, as well as all opinions and demonstrations expressed in the thesis.

(8) The doctoral supervisor is **jointly and severally liable** with the author of the thesis for compliance with quality standards or professional ethics, including ensuring the originality of the content, according to the provisions of art. 170 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011.

Art. 45.(1) Doctoral theses together with their annexes are public documents and are also drawn up in **digital format**. The doctoral thesis and its annexes are published on a website administered by the Ministry of Education, in compliance with the legislation in force in the field of copyright and the protection of intellectual property rights over the doctoral thesis.

(2) **The exploitation of copyright** and/or **industrial property rights** over the original product or creation produced within the doctoral university study program is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in the field.


Art. 46. (1) Doctoral studies are completed by **defending** the doctoral thesis in a **public session** before a **doctoral thesis public defense committee**, hereinafter referred to as the **Doctoral Committee**.

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

a) the doctoral student submits the thesis in electronic format and, where appropriate, in printed format to the doctoral school secretariat;

b) the doctoral school performs the similarity analysis using a program recognized by CNATDCU; the doctoral school may additionally request the use of a program developed at national level regarding the detection of similarities; the similarity reports are included in the "doctoral file";

c) the doctoral thesis is presented within the department to which the doctoral supervisor belongs, where the guidance committee is also present; after this pre-defense, which may be public, the doctoral supervisor and the advisory committee decide on the official submission of the thesis and the organization of the public defense;

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the acceptance report of the doctoral supervisor and the agreement of the advisory committee members are included in the “doctoral file”;

d) the doctoral thesis is officially submitted to the doctoral school secretariat, in printed and electronic format, together with the doctoral thesis summary and the doctoral student’s CV; the doctoral school secretariat certifies the fulfillment by the doctoral student of all obligations within the doctoral university study program;

e) the request for setting the date for the public defense of the doctoral thesis, approved by the doctoral supervisor and the president of the defense committee, is submitted to the doctoral school secretariat at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date for the defense;

f) the doctoral school shall prepare and post the announcement for the public defense at least 20 calendar days before the proposed date for the defense. This shall include the date, location and time of the defense, the doctoral supervisor or supervisors, as well as the place where the full text of the thesis can be consulted in printed format. The announcement of the public defense, the thesis summary in electronic format, the doctoral candidate's CV, the CVs of the members of the doctoral thesis public defense committee or links to them shall be posted on the IOSUD website.

(3) Following the identification of violations of good conduct in research and development, including plagiarism of results or publications of other authors, fabrication of results or replacement of results with fictitious data, within the evaluation of the thesis by the doctoral supervisor or the guidance committee, the agreement for public defense shall **not be obtained**.


(4) The doctoral committee (public defense of the doctoral thesis) is proposed by the doctoral supervisor, and approved by the CSD-MV, and is composed of **5 members** (*except for the co-supervised doctoral thesis, where the doctoral committee is composed of 6 members*):

- **the director of the doctoral school**, or another member of the CSD-MV (in the absence of the SD-MV director), as a representative of IOSUD, as president,
- **the doctoral supervisor**,
- **3 official referees, from the country or abroad**, recognized specialists in the field in which the doctoral thesis was developed, of which **at least 2 carry out** their activity outside IOSUD-USVT.

(5) The members of the committee have the **title of doctor** and have **at least the teaching position** of associate professor or **scientific researcher level II**, or have the **quality of doctoral supervisor, in the country or abroad**.

(6) The doctoral thesis defense may take place **only after its evaluation** by all members of the doctoral committee and **in the presence of at least 4 of them**, with the **mandatory participation of the president of the Defense Committee and the doctoral supervisor**.

(7) The public defense must include at least a **question session** from the members of the doctoral committee and the public, according to art. 168 paragraph (3) of the National Education Law no. 1/2011.

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(8) The status of doctoral student ceases upon the award of the doctoral title or upon the issuance of the expulsion order.

Art. 47. (1) Based on the public defense of the doctoral thesis and the reports of the official referees, the doctoral committee evaluates and deliberates on the grade to be assigned to the doctoral thesis.

(2) In order to be able to publicly defend the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student must meet certain minimum criteria regarding the publishing activity **on the topic of the thesis**, as follows:

- 1 ISI proceedings paper in extenso, as first author;
- 3 BDI papers in extenso, as first author.

(3) The grades that can be assigned are: "*Excellent*", "*Very good*", "*Good*", "*Satisfactory*" and "*Unsatisfactory*" as follows:

a. for **Excellent**:

a1. The thesis represents very good research, based on a substantial, first-rate bibliography and a very well-designed and followed research methodology. The theoretical/methodological/empirical results obtained in the specialty/topic are innovative

a2. Minimum 2 ISI WOS papers with impact factor in extenso (one as first author), 1 ISI proceedings paper in extenso as first author and 3 BDI papers in extenso as first author.

b. for **Very good**:

b1. The thesis complies with all standards, represents very good research with consistent bibliography and methodology and with significant results. The personal contribution is conclusive and relevant to the field/topic

b2. Minimum 1 ISI WOS paper with impact factor in extenso as first author, 1 ISI proceedings paper in extenso as first author and 3 BDI papers in extenso as first author.

c. for **Good**:


c1. The thesis meets the acceptance criteria, is a well-constructed research approach, with conclusive and useful results for the knowledge of the topic

c2. Minimum 1 ISI proceedings in extenso paper as first author and 3 BDI in extenso papers as first author.

d. For **Satisfactory**:

d1. The thesis meets the acceptance criteria, but is modest in approach and results

d2. minimum 1 ISI proceedings in extenso paper as first author and 3 BDI in

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extenso papers as first author.

e. For **Unsatisfactory**:

e1. The thesis does not meet the criteria of a theoretical and/or applied research paper

e2. Minimum 1 ISI proceedings in extenso paper as first author and 3 BDI in extenso papers as first author.

(2) The doctoral diploma shall bear the grade obtained by the doctoral student, namely "*Excellent*", "*Very good*", "*Good*" or "*Satisfactory*". A mention in Latin may also be written on the doctoral diploma, as follows:

- a) for the grade "Excellent" the mention "Summa cum laude" shall be written;
- b) for the grade "Very good" the mention "Magna cum laude" shall be written;
- c) for the grade "Good" the mention "Cum laude" shall be written.
- d) for the grade "Satisfactory" no mention shall be written.

Art. 48. (1) If the doctoral student has fulfilled all the requirements set out in the scientific research programme and the assessments of the doctoral thesis allow it, the doctoral committee proposes the award of the *title of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*.

(2) The proposal is submitted, in accordance with the law, to the CNATDCU for validation, which, following the evaluation of the file, proposes to the Minister of Education the award or non-award, as the case may be, of the title of *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*.

(3) In the case of the award of the qualification "*Unsatisfactory*", the doctoral committee is obliged to specify the content elements that are to be **redone or completed** in the doctoral thesis and **will request a new date for the public defence of the redone thesis**.

(4) The second public defence of the doctoral thesis takes place before **the same committee** as in the case of the first defence. If the second public defense also results in the grade "*Unsatisfactory*", **the doctoral degree is not granted, and the doctoral student is expelled**.

(5) If CNATDCU **invalidates the doctoral thesis with justification**, I.O.S.U.D. – U.S.V.T. receives from the ME a written **motivation for invalidating the thesis**, drafted based on the observations of CNATDCU.

(6) The doctoral thesis can be resubmitted to CNATDCU within **one year from the date of the first invalidation**. If the doctoral thesis is invalidated for **the second time**, **the doctoral degree will not be granted, and the doctoral student will be expelled**.