



Annex to Administration Council Decision no. 247/13.01.2025

UBB Scientific Council procedure for the equivalence and assessment of academic contributions, endorsing Decision no. 104/26.07.2024 on the approval of the Regulation on developing the UBB teaching and research staff establishment plans for full-time education and the corresponding Individual Academic Career Plan

In view of Art. 15 of Senate Decision 104/26.07.2024 (<https://senat.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/HS-nr.-104-referitoare-la-aprobarea-Regulamentului-privind-intocmirea-Statelor-de-functii-si-Planul-individual-de-cariera-academica.pdf>) according to which the staff establishment plans and individual career plans of UBB teaching staff and researchers must include “Scientific activities/ artistic creation/ sports achievements (which are required in order to make a minimum of three academic contributions in three years - scientific publications/artistic creation/sports achievements -, as per the subject area)” and “in the framework of faculties (through the Faculty Council) and the Scientific Council of UBB (for the Academic Units (AU) attached to the Rector’s Office) quality indicators for scientific contributions may be set to account for the number of three contributions (e.g. a publication in a top 3 impact factor journal in the field),” as well as the standard evaluation procedures of the Scientific Council of Babeș-Bolyai University (https://cercetare.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/evaluare_generic_UBB_martie2024.pdf), but also the CoARA criteria (<https://coara.eu/>), this document sets out the following proposals:

1. Academic assessments must be quality-based, ruling out strictly numerical criteria. However, for minimal aspects such as those cited above in the Senate Decision 104/26.07.2024, as well as in specific tie-breaking situations, quantitative aspects might be warranted.
2. The construed meaning of the term ‘academic contribution’ for teaching and research staff in faculties shall conform to Senate Decision 104/26.07.2024 which leaves it to the Faculty Councils, likewise the classification in a specific scientific field. In these situations, the present document may have a consultative function.
3. For researchers from academic units reporting directly to the Rector’s Office, according to Senate Decision 104/26.07.2024, the provisions of the present document apply to meeting the “quality indicators for scientific contributions may be set to account for the number of three contributions (e.g. a publication in a top 3 impact factor journal in the field)” requirement.
4. According to the UBB Scientific Council (CS-UBB), academic contributions (including those mentioned in SD 104/26.07.2024) should be construed flexibly with regard to the particulars of the subject area and academic culture specifics.



5. Scholarly contributions are, as a general rule, considered for evaluation only when they have already been “published”. The term “published” may have different interpretations depending on the nature of the contribution, but it refers to the fact that the actual contribution is verifiable by a third source other than the person being assessed and the person conducting the assessment. This may include, for example, articles/chapters published online in an unproofed/uncopyedited version that have not yet been assigned a volume or page but which already have some other form of unique identification, such as DOI.
6. In very special situations, academic contributions such as manuscripts accepted for publication but not yet publicly available, exhibitions in progress, preprint manuscripts, or similar depending on the specific field, may also be considered for evaluation. In these particular cases, an assurance of completion of the publication process is a factor to be considered. Particularly where the latter is not readily verifiable, qualitative assessment is essential. This assessment should be carried out by professionals with relevant expertise in the field.
7. For the purpose of predictability, the CS-UBB shall consider the present academic contributions according to the CNATDCU criteria for the field of activity of the assessed person. Where applicable, defining the relative hierarchies (top 10%, Q1, Q2, etc.) follows the criterion referred to in the CNATDCU criteria for the respective field (AIS, or IF, or others).
8. The academic contributions listed in the 1-9 entries of Addendum 1 of the CS-UBB Criteria and Principles for the evaluation of research activity (https://cercetare.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/evaluare_generic_UBB_martie2024.pdf) shall be equated with the exception of those referred to in the Scientific Council recommendation *** contained in the document outlining the CS-UBB Criteria and Principles for the evaluation of research activity, according to the following scheme:
 - a. Ranks 1, 2 (Nature, Science series) - equated to 10 academic contributions
 - b. Ranks 3, 4, 5 (Nature Index journals and top 10%) - equated to 4 academic contributions
 - c. Ranks 6 (Q1) - equated to 3 academic contributions
 - d. Ranks 7 (Q2) - equated to 2 academic contributions
 - e. Ranks 8, 9 - one academic contribution
 - f. Other academic contributions (patents, books) - equated according to the guidelines above and subject to the limitations/definitions in the CS-UBB Criteria and Principles (e.g., one international patent equated with 3 Q1 publications, one book in 100 WorldCat libraries equated with one Q1 publication, etc.).



- g. CS-UBB reiterates the recommendation *** concerning contributions to ethically suspect/predatory publishers/events/journals as listed in the CS-UBB Criteria and Principles document (https://cercetare.ubbcluj.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/evaluare_generic_UBB_martie2024.pdf).
9. The Scientific Council of the AU that are under the Rector's Office or, as applicable, another body that may consider that additional interpretations are warranted, may consult the CS-UBB for endorsements for equivalences beyond those explained above. These endorsements are issued no later than 7 working days.