

Babeş-Bolyai University

**Evaluation of the Doctoral
Program by BBU doctoral
students 2023-2024
- summary -**



Centrul
Qualitas

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Main results

The analysis of the individual ratings indicates a general average for all items (1-23) of 4.31, higher than the average of the ratings for the item 24 on the overall assessment of the quality of the teachers/researchers' approach to their work (4.23). The highest scores were obtained for items 8 (4.59) and 9 (4.60), which assess the positive contribution of the PhD supervisor, in terms of support and feedback, on enriching perspectives in the field of study and improving performance in the development of the scientific component of the thesis. The lowest score (3.70) at the institutional level was given to item 15, on *opportunities to work in scientific research teams or projects* (Table 1).

Doctoral students are generally satisfied with *the relationship with their coordinator* (score of 4.3 for dimension D2), compared to *the learning environment* (score of 3.99 for dimension D1) and the resources available at the university. The lowest score was obtained for item 15, related to *the opportunities to work in scientific research teams or projects* (3.68), while the highest scores (4.59) were given to items 8 and 9, which assessed *the support and feedback from the supervisor in expanding knowledge and improving scientific performance* for the writing of the PhD thesis.

By dimension, the lowest score was recorded for dimension D1 - *learning environment* for the first year PhD students (3.99) and second year and advanced PhD students (4.09). Additionally, first year doctoral students scored items on dimension D4 - *related activities* similarly low (4.05). Dimension D2 - *mentoring relationship* received the highest score both at the university level (4.49) and among second-year PhD students (4.50).

Doctoral students in *Sport Science and Physical Education* (SSEF) and *Engineering* (SI) provided high positive ratings for all items. In contrast, the Doctoral Schools in *Mathematics and Natural Sciences* (MSN) had the lowest scores, falling below the average of each of the four dimensions: D 1 - *learning environment*, D2 - *mentoring relationship*, D3 - *research project progress* and D 4 - *related activities* (Table 2).

Appreciative and unfulfilling aspects mentioned by PhD students

Starting from the 2023-2024 academic year, the doctoral program was extended to four years due to a legislative change in March 2024. Feedback from doctoral students on the program's organization was gathered through open-ended questions about what they appreciated and what

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they found unsatisfactory. A total of 388 responses were coded into 5 dimensions for positive aspects, while 141 responses were categorized into 5 dimensions for areas needing improvement.

The most appreciative aspects highlighted were the local and international experiences (30.9%), followed by the involvement of coordinators and teachers. On the other hand, the most unfulfilling aspects were related to improving communication and dialogue between students and teaching or administrative staff (46.8%), as well as enhancing the study plan and the learning and research activities (32.6%).

Table 1. Summary table with the scores obtained by each BBU Doctoral School on the most important items for PhD students

Fundamental Field of Science	Doctoral School of...	Q7 - frequency and consistency of meetings with the coordinator	Q8 - enriching perspectives from the coordinator	Q9 - improved performance by to the relationship with the coordinator	Q12 - usefulness of resources recommended by the coordinator	Q15 - work in research teams/projects	Q23 - support in seizing internationalization opportunities	Q24 - General assessment	Average of Q1-Q23 items
Sports science and physical education	Physical Education and Sport	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.78
	Mathematics and Computer Science	4.80	5.00	5.00	4.20	3.20	3.60	4.60	4.26
Mathematics and natural sciences	Physics	4.93	5.00	4.93	4.86	4.69	4.43	4.50	4.38
	Chemistry	4.67	4.33	4.67	3.60	4.20	3.40	2.75	3.39
	Theoretical and Applied Geology	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.96
	Environmental Science	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80	3.80	4.40	4.60
	Geography	4.75	4.50	4.50	4.50	2.25	3.25	3.25	3.66
	Linguistic and Literary Studies	4.45	4.50	4.50	4.80	3.19	4.10	3.95	4.11
	Hungarology Studies	4.11	4.26	4.37	4.42	3.88	4.53	4.18	4.18
	History, Civilization, Culture	4.44	4.44	4.48	4.51	2.79	4.05	3.84	3.96
	Population Studies and History of Minorities	5.00	5.00	4.86	4.71	2.40	4.20	4.86	4.37
Humanities and arts	Philosophy	4.00	4.56	4.44	4.56	3.67	4.33	4.11	4.10
	International Relations and Security Studies	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80	3.80	4.75	4.00	4.36
	Orthodox Theology "Isidor Todoran"	4.42	4.33	4.33	4.50	3.80	4.58	4.33	4.42
	Theology "Ecumene"	3.86	4.00	3.86	4.00	2.86	5.00	3.86	3.80
	Religion, Culture, Society	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.92
	Theatre and Performing Arts	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.80	2.40	3.00	3.60	3.36
Engineering sciences	Engineering (from UBB Resita University Centre)	4.88	4.92	4.88	4.88	4.59	4.86	4.88	4.85
	Chemical Engineering	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biological and biomedical sciences	Integrative Biology	4.60	5.00	5.00	5.00	3.40	4.60	4.60	4.67
Social sciences	Administration and Public Policy	4.33	4.56	4.50	4.33	3.67	3.83	4.11	4.04

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Communication, Public Relations and Advertising	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	4.79
Didactics. Tradition, Development, Innovation	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	5.00	4.83
Education, Reflection, Development	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Law	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.90	4.00	4.80	4.90	4.72
Evidence-based Assessment and Psychological Interventions	3.71	4.57	4.50	4.86	4.60	4.67	4.14	4.21
Applied Cognitive Psychology	4.30	4.80	4.80	4.50	4.50	3.70	4.38	4.05
Economics and Business Administration	4.52	4.59	4.64	4.50	3.13	4.05	4.14	4.24
Sociology	4.13	4.00	4.25	3.88	3.00	3.00	3.63	3.43
Communication, Public Relations and Advertising	4.86	4.71	4.71	4.57	4.14	4.14	4.29	4.33
European Paradigm / International Relations and European Studies	4.14	4.43	4.33	4.00	4.60	5.00	4.57	4.46
Average / item	4.50	4.59	4.60	4.57	3.70	4.26	4.23	4.31

Table 2. Summary table with the scores obtained by each BBU Doctoral School by dimensions

Fundamental Field of Science	Doctoral School of...	D1 - learning environment			D2 - guidance relationship			D3 - progress of the research project			D4 - related activities			Average / Doctoral School		
		BBU TOTAL	1st year PhD students	2nd-year & advanced PhD students	BBU TOTAL	1st year PhD students	2nd-year & advanced PhD students	BBU TOTAL	1st year PhD students	2nd-year & advanced PhD students	BBU TOTAL	1st year PhD students	2nd-year & advanced PhD students	BBU TOTAL	1st year PhD students	2nd-year & advanced PhD students
Sports science and physical education	Physical Education and Sport	5.00	5.00	-	4.88	4.75	5.00	5.00	5.00	-	4.55	4.50	-	4.78	4.75	4.79
	Mathematics and Computer Science	4.23	4.17	4.33	4.75	4.67	4.88	4.25	4.00	4.50	4.05	4.03	4.05	4.26	4.19	4.26
Mathematics and natural sciences	Physics	3.49	3.52	3.40	4.93	4.95	4.88	4.65	4.48	4.92	4.59	4.57	4.68	4.38	4.36	4.38
	Chemistry	2.73	1.00	3.17	4.32	3.00	4.81	3.36	1.67	4.00	3.49	1.60	3.98	3.39	1.67	3.39
	Theoretical and Applied Geology	4.83	-	4.83	5.00	-	5.00	5.00	-	5.00	5.00	-	5.00	4.96	-	4.96
	Environmental Science	4.63	5.00	4.54	4.80	5.00	4.75	4.50	-	4.50	4.54	4.80	4.48	4.60	4.90	4.60
	Geography	3.42	-	3.42	4.56	-	4.56	4.17	-	4.17	3.33	-	3.33	3.66	-	3.66
	Linguistic and Literary Studies	3.74	3.79	3.73	4.56	5.00	4.45	4.39	4.33	4.40	4.08	3.94	4.13	4.11	4.11	4.11
Humanities and arts	Hungarology Studies	4.02	4.67	3.98	4.29	5.00	4.25	4.25	-	4.25	4.21	4.14	4.21	4.18	4.56	4.18
	History, Civilization, Culture	3.56	3.92	3.42	4.47	4.81	4.33	4.10	4.18	4.07	3.97	4.01	3.95	3.96	4.15	3.96
	Population Studies and History of Minorities	4.28	4.44	4.14	4.89	5.00	4.81	4.69	5.00	4.50	4.06	4.05	3.98	4.37	4.47	4.37
	Philosophy	3.83	-	3.83	4.39	-	4.39	4.19	-	4.19	4.12	-	4.12	4.10	-	4.10
	International Relations and Security Studies	4.10	4.40	4.04	4.80	5.00	4.75	4.13	5.00	3.92	4.45	5.00	4.29	4.36	4.87	4.36

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Engineering sciences	Orthodox Theology “Isidor Todoran”	4.55	4.43	4.62	4.40	4.50	4.34	4.66	4.39	4.77	4.29	4.18	4.33	4.42	4.34	4.42
	Theology “Ecumene”	3.40	3.31	3.45	3.93	4.38	3.75	3.50	3.00	3.69	4.07	3.96	4.11	3.80	3.76	3.80
	Religion, Culture, Society	4.83	5.00	4.67	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	-	4.90	5.00	-	4.92	5.00	4.92
	Theatre and Performing Arts	3.45	2.20	3.71	3.65	1.00	4.31	3.67	1.00	4.33	3.08	1.00	3.60	3.36	1.26	3.36
	Engineering (from UBB Resita University Centre)	4.84	4.88	4.81	4.84	4.85	4.83	4.82	4.86	4.79	4.85	4.84	4.86	4.85	4.87	4.85
Biological and biomedical sciences	Integrative Biology	4.49	4.25	4.64	4.53	4.00	4.71	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.59	4.22	4.77	4.67	4.38	4.67
Social sciences	Administration and Public Policy	3.73	3.78	3.72	4.02	4.08	3.99	3.81	4.00	3.73	4.12	4.20	4.08	4.04	4.06	4.04
	Communication, Public Relations and Advertising	4.92	5.00	4.83	4.75	5.00	4.50	4.17	5.00	3.33	4.80	5.00	4.60	4.79	5.00	4.79
	Didactics. Tradition, Development, Innovation	4.58	-	4.58	4.75	-	4.75	5.00	-	5.00	4.85	-	4.85	4.83	-	4.83
	Education, Reflection, Development	5.00	-	5.00	5.00	-	5.00	5.00	-	5.00	5.00	-	5.00	5.00	-	5.00
	Law	4.64	4.00	4.72	4.74	4.50	4.77	4.63	5.00	4.59	4.68	5.00	4.67	4.72	4.73	4.72
Evidence-based Assessment and Psychological Interventions	4.07	4.53	3.33	3.96	4.50	3.17	3.75	4.33	2.50	4.36	4.48	4.23	4.21	4.47	4.21	

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Applied Cognitive Psychology	3.53	-	3.53	3.93	-	3.93	4.00	-	4.00	4.13	-	4.13	4.05	4.12	4.05
Economics and Business Administration	4.20	4.42	4.13	4.43	4.72	4.33	4.28	4.48	4.22	4.12	4.29	4.07	4.24	4.46	4.24
Sociology	3.29	1.92	3.63	3.65	2.38	3.98	4.04	2.33	4.53	3.07	1.55	3.39	3.43	2.10	3.43
Communication, Public Relations and Advertising	4.10	-	4.10	4.36	-	4.36	4.14	-	4.14	4.38	-	4.38	4.33	-	4.33
European Paradigm / International Relations and European Studies	4.22	4.06	4.44	4.23	4.13	4.38	4.40	5.00	4.00	4.71	4.81	4.63	4.46	4.53	4.46

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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE EVALUATION OF DIDACTIC / FORMATIVE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING DOCTORAL STUDIES

This questionnaire assesses various aspects of teaching and training activities conducted by UBB's teaching and research staff at the doctoral level during the current academic year. Please respond as constructively as possible. Your answers will be processed anonymously and will not affect your performance evaluation; they will be used to enhance the activities within UBB's doctoral programs.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements, on a scale of **1 to 5**, where **1** means **Strongly Disagree** and **5** means **Strongly Agree**? Select **Not Applicable** if the statement does not pertain to your experience this academic year.

		Strongly Disagree	Partially disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Partially agree	Strongly Agree		Not Applicable		I don't know / I don't want to answer
		1	2	3	4	5		6		7
1	The course offer was adequate in relation to my training needs for the completion of my PhD thesis.									
2	The offer of training activities (workshops, conferences, etc.) organized by/in UBB was adequate for my training needs to complete my PhD thesis.									
3	The content of the courses, seminars, practical work, and training activities I participated in, as outlined in the study plan, adequately met my specialized training needs for completing my PhD thesis.									
4	The courses and training activities I participated in, as outlined in the study plan, provided me with new and useful theoretical knowledge for developing my PhD thesis.									
5	I had access to information about opportunities to participate in additional training activities organized by or within UBB, beyond those included in the study plan.									
6	The content of the additional training activities organized by or within UBB, which I participated in outside of the study plan (courses, training activities), was adequate to my specialized training needs to complete my PhD thesis.									
7	The frequency and consistency of my meetings and discussions with my PhD supervisor were adequate for my specialized training needs to complete my PhD thesis.									

		Strongly Disagree	Partially disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Partially agree	Strongly Agree		Not Applicable		I don't know / I don't want to answer
		1	2	3	4	5		6		7
8	The support and feedback from my PhD supervisor broadened my perspectives on my research field.									
9	The support and feedback from my PhD supervisor enhanced my performance in the scientific research aspect of my PhD thesis.									
10	The feedback from the Academic Integrity and Guidance Committee members has broadened my perspectives on my PhD research field.									
11	The feedback from the Academic Integrity and Guidance Committee members enhanced my performance in the scientific research aspect of my PhD thesis.									
12	The learning resources recommended by my PhD supervisor, including bibliography and other teaching materials, were valuable for completing my tasks as a PhD student.									
13	The learning resources recommended by the Academic Integrity and Guidance Committee, including (bibliography and other didactic materials, were valuable for completing my tasks as a PhD student.									
14	I received the necessary support to access the learning resources and information essential for completing my tasks.									
15	I had the opportunity to participate in scientific research teams and projects.									
16	My involvement in scientific research teams and projects helped me develop my research skills within the field of my PhD thesis.									
17	I received guidance and support for publishing my research.									
18	In the activities I participated in, the teachers fostered interaction and the exchange of ideas among PhD students.									
19	My responsibilities as a PhD student, including participation and tasks, were clearly communicated to me.									
20	The methods and criteria for evaluating my work were clearly explained to me.									
21	The evaluation methods and criteria accurately reflect the results of my work.									

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		Strongly Disagree	Partially disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Partially agree	Strongly Agree	Not Applicable	I don't know / I don't want to answer
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22	I had access to information on international research opportunities such as scholarships, Erasmus mobilities, and summer schools.							
23	I was encouraged and supported in pursuing international research opportunities, including scholarships, Erasmus mobilities, and summer schools.							
24	In general, the quality of the activities carried out by UBB's teaching/research staff in relation to my PhD studies this academic year was...	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Not Applicable	I don't know / I don't want to answer
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

25. What aspects of the activities carried out by UBB's teaching/research staff did you like the most?

26. What aspects of the activities carried out by UBB's teaching/research staff did you dislike?

27. Type of funding: 1. State-Funded 2. Self-Funded
28. Form of studies: 1. Full time study 2. Part time study
29. I am a PhD student currently enrolled in the year: ____
30. Faculty: _____
31. Doctoral School: _____
32. Gender: 1. Female 2. Male 3. Non-binary 4. I don't want to answer.
33. Citizenship: 1. Romanian 2. Other (please specify): _____
34. Ethnicity: 1. Romanian 2. Hungarian 3. German 4. Roma 5. Other (please specify)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!