

National University of Science and Technology
POLITEHNICA Bucharest
Council of the Doctoral School of Aerospace Engineering

REGULATIONS
of the Doctoral School of Aerospace Engineering

Bucharest 2025

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CHAPTER I. Regulatory Framework

Article 1. The present Regulations of the Doctoral School of Aerospace Engineering are based on the following normative documents:

- a) Law No. 199/2023 on Higher Education, with subsequent amendments and supplements;
- b) Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3020/2024 approving the Framework Regulation on Doctoral University Studies;
- c) Order of the Ministry of Education No. 3998/2024 of March 12, 2024, approving the Methodology for the Awarding of the Habilitation Certificate;
- d) The Charter of the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest;
- e) The Regulation on Doctoral University Studies within the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, 2024.

CHAPTER II. Organization of Doctoral University Studies in the Field of Aerospace Engineering

The Doctoral School of Aerospace Engineering (SD-IA)

Art. 2

- (1) The Doctoral School of Aerospace Engineering (SD-IA) is an administrative structure composed of academic staff, researchers, and doctoral candidates, within which scientific research activities are carried out for the preparation of doctoral theses and for the organization of advanced postdoctoral research activities in the field of Aerospace Engineering.
- (2) SD-IA operates within the Doctoral Studies Organizing Institution of the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest (IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest) and includes at least three doctoral supervisors in the field of Aerospace Engineering.
- (3) The fundamental field of studies within SD-IA is *Engineering Sciences*, specifically the field of *Aerospace Engineering*.
- (4) SD-IA ensures the development and extension of doctoral candidates' training through teaching, seminars, assessment, scientific research, technological development, design, and creative activities, as appropriate to the specific nature of Aerospace Engineering.
- (5) Within the organizational structure of IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest, SD-IA has a status equivalent to that of a department. SD-IA is led by the Director of SD-IA and by the Council of the Doctoral School of Aerospace Engineering (CSD-IA). The Director of SD-IA holds a position equivalent to that of a department director, and CSD-IA has a status equivalent to that of a department council. The Director of SD-IA is an ex officio member of CSD-IA.
- (6) The Director of SD-IA ensures the managerial and operational leadership of the Doctoral School. The Director is responsible for the development and implementation of curricula, staffing plans, research management, and quality management, and supports the leadership of IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest in the financial management of SD-IA. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Director is assisted by CSD-IA.
- (7) The selection, employment, periodic evaluation, professional development, motivation, and termination of contractual employment relations of the staff fall under the responsibility of the Director of SD-IA, in accordance with the provisions of the University Charter of POLITEHNICA Bucharest.
- (8) The staffing plan is drawn up at the level of SD-IA in consultation with its members and is endorsed by CSD-IA and by the Rector of POLITEHNICA Bucharest, and subsequently approved

by the University Senate of POLITEHNICA Bucharest.

(9) The staffing plan of SD-IA includes all doctoral supervisor positions necessary for its operation, as well as all doctoral candidate positions under the supervision of the doctoral supervisors.

(10) SD-IA may also include research staff employed in distinct positions under fixed-term or indefinite individual employment contracts.

(11) SD-IA may include doctoral supervisors from other universities or research institutions in Romania or abroad; as a rule, such supervisors shall represent no more than one third of the total number of doctoral supervisors within SD-IA.

(12) In addition to doctoral supervisors, SD-IA may affiliate other researchers or academic staff involved in research and/or teaching activities within the School, from partner institutions of IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest or from other national or international institutions or research and development units.

(13) The Council of the Doctoral School of Aerospace Engineering (CSD-IA) is structured in accordance with the Regulation on the Organization of Elections for the Leadership of Doctoral Schools and of the Council for Doctoral University Studies within the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, the Director of SD-IA being an ex officio member of CSD-IA.

(14) The election of CSD-IA members and of the Director of SD-IA shall be carried out in accordance with Order of the Minister of Education No. 6227/2023 approving the Framework Methodology regarding the process for establishing and electing management structures and positions at the level of higher education institutions, as well as with the provisions of the Regulation on the Organization of Elections for the Leadership of Doctoral Schools and of the Council for Doctoral University Studies and the Regulation on the Election of Student Representatives within the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest.

(15) The members of CSD-IA are elected by universal, direct, and secret vote of the doctoral supervisors and, respectively, of the doctoral candidates within SD-IA.

(16) Persons holding the status of doctoral supervisor within SD-IA are eligible to be elected as members of CSD-IA. External personalities may be elected as members of CSD-IA from among distinguished scholars whose scientific activity enjoys significant international recognition and/or from among prominent representatives of relevant industrial and socio-economic sectors. The mandate of CSD-IA members is five years.

(17) Doctoral candidates shall have at least one representative within the Council of the Doctoral School.

(18) Doctoral candidate members of CSD-IA who complete their doctoral studies during the council's mandate shall lose their membership on the date of the public defense of their doctoral thesis.

(19) Partial elections may be organized to fill vacant positions within CSD-IA, and the mandate of the newly elected member shall expire upon the completion of the term of CSD-IA.

(20) CSD-IA shall meet at least three times per year, at the request of the Director of SD-IA or of at least one third of its members.

(21) SD-IA provides doctoral candidates with a training program based on advanced university studies, consisting of activities carried out in institutionalized study formats, including courses, seminars, laboratories, and similar activities.

(22) The advanced university studies training program includes a compulsory course on ethics and academic integrity, including research ethics, which must be completed by all enrolled doctoral candidates.

(23) In accordance with the IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest regulations and applicable law, SD-IA may recognize the completion of previous doctoral stages and/or scientific research

internships conducted in Romania or abroad at accredited higher education institutions or recognized research centers, as well as courses completed within research-oriented master's degree programs.

(24) The manner of conducting the doctoral university study program is established by the doctoral supervisor, in consultation with the doctoral candidate, and is subject to the endorsement of CSD-IA.

The Council of the Doctoral School of Aerospace Engineering (CSD-IA)

Art. 3

(1) The main responsibilities of CSD-IA are as follows:

- a) Drafts the Regulations of SD-IA, following consultation with relevant stakeholders, and submits them for approval to the Council for Doctoral University Studies (CSUD);
- b) Endorses the training programs based on advanced university studies;
- c) Endorses the scientific research programs of doctoral candidates;
- d) Upon the proposal of doctoral supervisors within SD-IA, proposes the expulsion of doctoral candidates under the conditions provided by the present Regulations;
- e) Upon the proposal of doctoral supervisors, endorses the public doctoral thesis defense committees and submits them for approval to CSUD;
- f) Examines and endorses requests submitted by doctoral candidates for interruption, extension, or resumption of doctoral activity, subject to the written consent of the doctoral supervisor and in accordance with the present Regulations;
- g) Decides on the change of doctoral supervisor, at the duly justified request of the doctoral candidate and with the consent of the new doctoral supervisor; such change shall be formalized through an addendum to the Doctoral University Study Contract of the doctoral candidate;
- h) Adopts decisions regarding the granting or withdrawal of membership status within SD-IA to doctoral supervisors in the field of Aerospace Engineering and establishes minimum standards for the implementation of this procedure;
- i) Approves the guidance and academic integrity committees of doctoral candidates;
- j) Assists external evaluators in the accreditation or reaccreditation process of SD-IA;
- k) Establishes collaborations and partnerships of SD-IA;
- l) Regulates access to the SD-IA premises and to its research resources, as well as to those of the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering.

(2) The main responsibilities of the Director of the Doctoral School are as follows:

- a) Ensures collaboration between the Doctoral School and the departments or faculties within POLITEHNICA Bucharest;
- b) Is responsible for ensuring legality in the organization and conduct of all activities within the Doctoral School;
- c) Ensures the representation of the Doctoral School in relation to the leadership of IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest;
- d) Draws up the staffing plan at the level of SD-IA, following consultation with its members;
- e) Organizes and oversees the conduct of activities within the doctoral training programs;
- f) Organizes and monitors the admission process for doctoral university studies.

Art. 4

(1) The Regulations of SD-IA establish the manner in which doctoral university study programs

are organized and conducted within the Doctoral School.

(2) The Regulations of SD-IA are drafted, amended, and updated by CSD-IA following consultation with relevant stakeholders.

(3) The Regulations of SD-IA are endorsed by universal, direct, secret, and equal vote of the absolute majority of the doctoral supervisors within SD-IA.

Art. 5

With the logistical support of IOSUD, SD-IA ensures the publication on the internet of all necessary information regarding doctoral university study programs, with particular reference to the following categories:

- a) The Regulations of the Doctoral School;
- b) Information regarding vacant positions for doctoral candidates;
- c) Information regarding vacant positions for doctoral supervisors;
- d) Information regarding the organization and conduct of doctoral programs;
- e) Information regarding the content of doctoral university study programs;
- f) Information regarding the financing of doctoral studies;
- g) The model framework contract for doctoral studies;
- h) Information regarding doctoral supervisors and the doctoral candidates under their supervision, including at least their list of publications and patents;
- i) Information regarding the results and professional performance of doctoral supervisors;
- j) The guidelines for drafting doctoral theses, including preparation standards, procedures, and evaluation criteria;
- k) The minimum standards established by CNATDCU for the awarding of the doctoral degree;
- l) Abstracts of doctoral theses scheduled for public defense, as well as the date, time, and location of the public defense, published at least 20 days prior to the defense;
- m) The addresses where completed doctoral theses may be accessed.

Art. 6

(1) SD-IA, together with the doctoral supervisor, informs the doctoral candidate regarding the norms of scientific, professional, and academic ethics and ensures compliance with them by:

- a) Reviewing the application of deontological provisions throughout the preparation of the doctoral thesis;
- b) Reviewing the application of deontological provisions in the drafting of the doctoral thesis.

(2) SD-IA ensures the implementation of measures for the prevention and sanctioning of deviations from scientific, professional, and academic ethical standards, in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, by:

- a) Assessing the originality of the research results obtained for the preparation of the doctoral thesis;
- b) Ensuring the intellectual protection of research results generated within SD-IA;
- c) Contributing to the creation of conditions for the valorization and dissemination of research results obtained by doctoral candidates under the supervision of doctoral supervisors.

(3) In the event of proven academic fraud, violations of university ethics, or breaches of good conduct in scientific research, including plagiarism, the doctoral candidate and/or the doctoral supervisor shall be held liable in accordance with the applicable legal provisions.

Status of the Doctoral Candidate

Art. 7

(1) A person admitted to a doctoral university study program acquires the status of doctoral candidate for the entire duration of their enrollment in that program, from matriculation until completion of the study program or expulsion, excluding periods of interruption of studies but including any extensions granted in accordance with the provisions of the doctoral study contract.

(2) The status of doctoral candidate is maintained during both national and international academic mobility periods. In the case of international academic mobility of self-funded incoming doctoral candidates, the recognition of transferable credits shall be carried out by IOSUD, pursuant to the principle of university autonomy.

(3) The recognition of transferable credits in the context of national and international academic mobility may be granted by IOSUD only to individuals who prove their doctoral candidate status through study documents or enrollment certificates issued by the higher education institution they attended.

(4) The conditions and procedures governing academic mobility shall be established through a methodology approved by order of the Minister of Education.

(5) Doctoral candidates may be employed by IOSUD, following a competitive selection process, as research assistants or university teaching assistants, as applicable, for a fixed term.

(6) A doctoral candidate employed as a research assistant may carry out remunerated teaching activities on an hourly payment basis, in accordance with the applicable legislation.

(7) Throughout the doctoral university study program, the doctoral candidate has the following rights:

- a) To benefit from the support, guidance, and supervision of the doctoral supervisor;
- b) To participate in seminars or working meetings of research and development staff within IOSUD when topics relevant to their doctoral studies are discussed;
- c) To be represented in the decision-making bodies of the Doctoral School, in accordance with the present Regulations;
- d) To access and use the research infrastructure of IOSUD, including logistics, documentation centers, libraries (including international databases), and the equipment of the Doctoral School and IOSUD for the preparation of research projects and the doctoral thesis;
- e) To enroll in courses and seminars organized by other doctoral schools;
- f) To collaborate with research teams within IOSUD or within research and development units that have concluded institutional agreements or partnerships with IOSUD, interdisciplinary initiatives being encouraged and supported;
- g) To be integrated into research project teams within IOSUD, including participation in the drafting and submission of funding applications;
- h) To benefit from national and international mobility opportunities;
- i) To receive institutional support in order to participate in scientific conferences or congresses, workshops, summer or winter schools, and national and international seminars in the field of their doctoral thesis;
- j) To participate in scientific communication sessions organized by the Doctoral School and/or IOSUD;
- k) To be informed about the curriculum of the doctoral university study program within the Doctoral School;
- l) To benefit from student support services available at the level of higher education institutions, including accommodation and dining services.

(8) The doctoral candidate has the following obligations:

- a) To comply with the schedule established together with the doctoral supervisor and to fulfill obligations related to the defense of research reports and the presentation of research results;
 - b) To present, at least once every 12 months and at their request, a progress report on their scientific research program before the guidance and academic integrity committee and the doctoral supervisor;
 - c) To maintain continuous communication with the doctoral supervisor;
 - d) To comply with institutional discipline, without prejudice to academic freedom;
 - e) To observe university ethical and deontological policies and to conduct studies and research in accordance with academic integrity standards;
 - f) To carry out teaching activities (seminars, laboratories, projects) in accordance with the doctoral study contract;
 - g) For scholarship holders, to undergo an annual evaluation conducted by the Doctoral School according to criteria established by the IOSUD Methodology for the Re-evaluation of Doctoral Scholarships; failure to meet these criteria may result in the loss of the scholarship in the following academic year, with its reassignment to the next-ranked candidate from the admission competition.
- (9) Throughout the duration of doctoral studies, the doctoral candidate benefits from recognition of seniority in employment and in the field of specialization, as well as from free medical and dental assistance under the conditions provided by Law No. 95/2006 on Healthcare Reform, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions, and by the framework contract, without payment of mandatory social contributions regulated by Law No. 227/2015 on the Fiscal Code, with subsequent amendments and completions.
- (10) The duration of doctoral university studies is assimilated, in accordance with pension legislation, for the purpose of establishing the contribution period.
- (11) After the public defense of the doctoral thesis, IOSUD shall issue a certificate attesting the period during which the individual pursued doctoral university studies.
- (12) Conflicts between the doctoral candidate and the doctoral supervisor shall be mediated by the Council of the Doctoral School; if unresolved at this level, the conflict shall be mediated by CSUD.
- (13) Conflicts between the doctoral candidate and the Doctoral School shall be mediated by CSUD.
- (14) The doctoral candidate bears responsibility for the originality of the doctoral thesis.
- (15) A doctoral candidate may be expelled under the following circumstances:
- a) Failure to complete the doctoral thesis within the term established by the Doctoral University Study Contract and any addenda thereto;
 - b) Failure to meet the minimum standards required for the awarding of the doctoral degree at two successive public thesis defenses;
 - c) Rejection of a research report on two occasions (having received the grade “Unsatisfactory”);
 - d) Failure to sign the Doctoral University Study Contract;
 - e) Failure to pay tuition fees within the established deadlines, in the case of fee-paying doctoral candidates;
 - f) Upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor for expulsion as a sanction for professional fraud or serious breaches of university discipline, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of POLITEHNICA Bucharest;
 - g) Voluntary withdrawal from studies;
 - h) Failure to submit a request for resumption of studies following interruption;

- i) Failure to present scientific reports within the established deadlines;
 - j) Upon the request of the doctoral supervisor, with the endorsement of CSD-IA and approval of CSUD, for failure to fulfill obligations arising from the present Regulations and from the Doctoral University Study Contract.
- (16) The expulsion procedure is initiated upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor or the Director of SD-IA, endorsed by CSD-IA, and submitted to CSUD for approval.
- (17) The expulsion decision shall be communicated to the doctoral candidate or their legal representative by the secretariat of SD-IA.
- (18) A doctoral candidate expelled under the provisions of the University Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct may no longer apply for admission within IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest.
- (19) On the date of the expulsion decision, the Doctoral University Study Contract ceases to be valid.

Status of Doctoral Supervisors

Art. 8

- (1) Doctoral supervisors are persons who obtained the right to supervise doctoral studies prior to the entry into force of Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, as well as persons who have obtained the habilitation certificate and become members of a doctoral school within an IOSUD on the basis of an individual employment contract.
- (2) A doctoral supervisor may supervise doctoral candidates only in the field for which this right has been granted. By exception, upon the establishment of a new doctoral study field, it may temporarily operate with doctoral supervisors from the same branch of science.
- (3) A doctoral supervisor may supervise doctoral candidates simultaneously within only one IOSUD, except in the case of jointly supervised (cotutelle) doctorates.
- (4) For the activities carried out in this capacity, doctoral supervisors are remunerated in accordance with the applicable legislation.
- (5) Upon the duly justified request of a doctoral candidate, the Council of the Doctoral School may decide to replace the doctoral supervisor if the latter has failed to fulfill legal or contractual obligations, for other reasons affecting the supervisory relationship between the doctoral supervisor and the doctoral candidate, or in cases of the supervisor's unavailability. In such cases, within a maximum of 30 days, the Council of the Doctoral School shall designate another doctoral supervisor in the same field.
- (6) If the termination of the supervisory relationship with a doctoral candidate occurs solely due to the fault of the doctoral supervisor, the Doctoral School shall propose to CSUD the adoption of appropriate disciplinary measures.
- (7) When appointing a new doctoral supervisor, the Council of the Doctoral School shall give priority to ensuring that the doctoral candidate is able to complete the doctoral program in the field of study specified in the study contract, in accordance with their enrollment. If no available doctoral supervisor can be identified within IOSUD, IOSUD shall undertake the necessary steps to facilitate the academic mobility of the doctoral candidate within the same field, but at another IOSUD.
- (8) In supervising the doctoral candidate, the doctoral supervisor is assisted by a Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee composed of three members, proposed by the doctoral supervisor and endorsed by the Council of the Doctoral School.
- (9) Members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee may be part of the doctoral supervisor's research team, other persons affiliated with the Doctoral School, or academic and research staff not affiliated with it. At least one member of the committee must be from outside

POLITEHNICA Bucharest.

(10) The composition of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee may be modified during the doctoral studies in the event of a change of supervisor or at the supervisor's proposal. Any modification shall be notified to and approved by CSD-IA.

(11) Members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee may not be appointed as members of the public doctoral thesis defense committee.

(12) The rights and obligations of doctoral supervisors derive from Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, from the internal regulations of IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest, from the Regulations of the Doctoral School, and from their employment contract.

(13) The rights of doctoral supervisors include:

- a) The right to supervise and evaluate the activity of the doctoral candidate within the doctoral university study program, in accordance with professional and university autonomy, while observing program requirements and respecting the doctoral candidate's professional interests;
- b) The right to propose the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and the doctoral thesis defense committee;
- c) The right to an impartial internal and external evaluation, in accordance with the specific evaluation methodology;
- d) The right to be informed of the methodology according to which they are evaluated, both internally and externally;
- e) The right to be informed of the results of internal and external evaluations of their own activity;
- f) The right to refuse the supervision of a doctoral candidate when placed, against their will, in a conflict-of-interest situation;
- g) The right to request, with justification, that the Council of the Doctoral School terminate the supervisory relationship with a doctoral candidate;
- h) The right to request that the Doctoral School organize an admission competition for each vacant doctoral candidate position under their supervision;
- i) The right to decide on the study components within the advanced university studies training program in which the doctoral candidate must participate, in compliance with the present Regulations.

(14) The doctoral supervisor has the following obligations:

- a) To ensure the scientific, professional, and ethical supervision of each doctoral candidate;
- b) To propose research topics;
- c) To provide appropriate conditions and stimulate the progress of doctoral candidates in their research;
- d) To carry out objective and rigorous monitoring and evaluation of each doctoral candidate;
- e) To support the mobility of doctoral candidates;
- f) To avoid conflicts of interest in supervising doctoral candidates;
- g) To exercise due diligence in verifying the compliance of doctoral theses with the requirements of originality.

Art. 9

(1) Doctoral university studies may also be organized in joint supervision (cotutelle), whereby the doctoral candidate carries out their activity under the simultaneous supervision of one doctoral supervisor from Romania and one from another country, or under the supervision of two doctoral

supervisors from different IOSUDs in Romania, on the basis of a written agreement between the organizing institutions, the relevant provisions being included in the study contract.

(2) If the written cotutelle agreement is concluded between POLITEHNICA Bucharest and a foreign doctoral organizing institution, the structure of the study program, the doctoral thesis, and the conditions for public defense must comply with the legal provisions applicable in both states. Otherwise, the administrative procedure carried out by IOSUD shall be invalidated and the doctoral degree shall not be awarded.

(3) Cotutelle doctorates may also be organized when both supervisors belong to the same IOSUD.

(4) In cotutelle doctoral studies, the principal supervisor is the one whose vacant doctoral candidate position was opened for admission; the second supervisor has a secondary role.

(5) The doctoral candidate is fully accounted for under the principal supervisor, including in the calculation of teaching and research workload.

Art. 10

(1) The status of doctoral supervisor in the field of Aerospace Engineering is acquired in accordance with legal provisions. In order to supervise doctoral candidates at POLITEHNICA Bucharest, academic and research staff who have obtained this right must have a contractual relationship with IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest and must be members of SD-IA.

(2) A doctoral supervisor affiliated with SD-IA may not be affiliated with other doctoral schools but may supervise doctoral candidates in cotutelle within other doctoral schools of IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest or within other universities or research institutions.

(3) The affiliation of new doctoral supervisors to SD-IA is carried out on the basis of a decision of CSUD, in accordance with the Regulation on Habilitation and the Granting of Doctoral Supervisor Status within IOSUD of the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest.

(4) The conditions for affiliation to SD-IA include compliance with the national minimum mandatory standards for doctoral supervision and the additional standards established by IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest.

(5) Disaffiliation from SD-IA may be carried out upon the proposal of CSD-IA and with the approval of CSUD in the following situations:

- a) Upon the written request of the doctoral supervisor;
- b) Inability to continue doctoral supervision activities (e.g., medical reasons);
- c) Proven serious misconduct, including academic fraud, plagiarism, violation of university ethics, or breaches of good scientific conduct;
- d) Unsatisfactory results in doctoral supervision activity identified through internal or external evaluations;
- e) Inactivity within SD-IA, defined as the absence of supervision of any doctoral candidate during the previous three years, either as principal supervisor or as a member of a Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee.

Change of Doctoral Supervisor

Art. 11

(1) CSD-IA decides on the change of doctoral supervisor in the following situations:

- a) The doctoral supervisor retires and does not wish to continue supervision activities;
- b) Upon the justified request of the doctoral supervisor, due to the impossibility of continuing supervision;

- c) Upon the duly justified request of the doctoral candidate, if the supervisor has failed to fulfill legal or contractual obligations, for other reasons affecting the supervisory relationship, or in cases of the supervisor's unavailability. In such cases, within a maximum of 30 days, the Council of the Doctoral School shall designate another supervisor in the same field;
 - d) Upon the joint request of the doctoral candidate and the doctoral supervisor.
- (2) The new doctoral supervisor may be proposed either by CSD-IA or by the doctoral candidate.
- (3) In appointing a new doctoral supervisor, the Council of the Doctoral School shall prioritize ensuring that the doctoral candidate can complete the doctoral program in the field specified in the study contract. If no available supervisor can be identified within IOSUD, IOSUD shall undertake the necessary steps to facilitate the doctoral candidate's academic mobility within the same field at another IOSUD.
- (4) The change of doctoral supervisor is approved by the Director of CSUD, only with the written consent of the new doctoral supervisor and the doctoral candidate.

CHAPTER III. Conduct of Doctoral University Studies

Selection and Admission to the Doctoral University Study Program

Art. 12

- (1) CSUD shall annually develop admission methodologies at least six months prior to the admission date. These methodologies are approved by the Senate of POLITEHNICA Bucharest.
- (2) Admission to doctoral university studies represents the selection process of candidates for vacant doctoral candidate positions proposed by doctoral supervisors within the Doctoral School for occupancy during admission sessions organized by IOSUD through the doctoral schools.
- (3) The research topics corresponding to each vacant doctoral candidate position are proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the Council of the Doctoral School.
- (4) The selection of candidates for a vacant doctoral candidate position is carried out by the Doctoral School in compliance with:
- a) The provisions of the framework methodology for admission to university studies adopted by order of the Minister of Education;
 - b) The provisions of the Methodology for Admission to Doctoral University Studies, approved by the University Senate upon the proposal of CSUD.
- (5) Information regarding the organization of the doctoral admission competition shall be displayed at the headquarters of the doctoral schools and published on the website of POLITEHNICA Bucharest at least 30 days prior to its organization.
- (6) Only graduates holding a Master's degree or its legally recognized equivalent may participate in the admission competition for doctoral university studies, provided that the cumulative number of transferable study credits obtained at Bachelor's and Master's levels is at least 300.
- (7) Upon completion of the admission procedure, the Doctoral School shall publish the ranking of admitted and rejected candidates, specifying the beneficiaries of doctoral grants and the form of study.
- (8) The Doctoral School shall manage any appeals submitted, in accordance with the IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest Admission Methodology, and shall publish the results of the appeal procedure.
- (9) All candidates declared admitted following the admission competition shall be included in the CSUD decision on admission to studies, structured according to the type of funding and corresponding to the respective admission session organized within IOSUD doctoral schools.
- (10) After enrollment, all doctoral candidates shall be registered in the National Student Registry (RMU).

The Doctoral University Study Contract

Art. 13

(1) The study contract governs the conduct of activities specific to the doctoral university study program and regulates the relationships between IOSUD—the Doctoral School, the doctoral supervisor, and the doctoral candidate, specifying the rights and obligations of the signatory parties, in accordance with applicable legislation, the University Charter, and decisions of the University Senate.

(2) The model framework contract for doctoral university studies shall be drafted by CSUD at the beginning of each academic year and made available to all doctoral schools.

(3) The doctoral university study contract shall be concluded individually with each doctoral candidate and signed by the doctoral candidate, the doctoral supervisor, and the legal representative of IOSUD.

(4) The doctoral university study contract shall include at least the following information:

- a) Data concerning IOSUD and the Doctoral School;
- b) Identification data of the doctoral candidate and the doctoral supervisor;
- c) The doctoral study field;
- d) The type of doctorate;
- e) The form of education;
- f) The form of funding;
- g) The monthly amount of the scholarship or tuition fee, as applicable;
- h) The workload of research and/or teaching activities, as applicable, for full-time doctoral studies;
- i) The duration of the doctoral study program;
- j) The research topic;
- k) The language in which the study program is organized;
- l) The language in which the doctoral thesis is written and publicly defended—Romanian, a national minority language, or an international language of circulation. Doctoral theses written in a language other than Romanian must obligatorily include a summary in Romanian;
- m) The minimum mandatory standards to be complied with during doctoral studies and in the preparation of the doctoral thesis;
- n) The deadline for completion of the doctoral thesis;
- o) Conditions for extension of the completion deadline;
- p) Conditions for interruption of studies;
- q) The extent and period of teaching activities carried out by the doctoral candidate;
- r) Conditions under which the doctoral supervisor may be changed;
- s) Conditions for termination of the study contract;
- t) Information regarding the processing of personal data in accordance with applicable legislation.

(5) Study contracts shall not be modified during the academic year. The tuition fee shall remain unchanged throughout the normal duration of the study cycle and may be indexed only up to the inflation rate for the same cohort of students.

Forms of Doctoral University Studies

Art. 14

- (1) Doctoral university studies may be conducted in full-time or part-time form.
- (2) The obligations specific to full-time and part-time doctoral studies shall be established by the University Senate upon the proposal of CSUD.
- (3) Candidates for professional doctoral studies may choose, at the time of admission registration, one of the forms of education in accordance with the obligations provided under paragraph (2).

The Aerospace Engineering Doctoral Study Program

Art. 15

- (1) The doctoral university study program is conducted under the supervision of a doctoral supervisor and comprises:
 - a) A Training Program Based on Advanced University Studies (PPA), organized within the Doctoral School, with a duration of five months, to be completed no later than the end of February of the calendar year following enrollment;
 - b) An Individual Scientific Research Program (PCS).
- (2) The total number of transferable study credits allocated to the doctoral cycle is 240.
- (3) The duration of the doctoral university study program is four years. In exceptional circumstances, the duration may be extended by one or two years, subject to Senate approval upon the proposal of the doctoral supervisor and within available funding limits, or reduced by one year at the request of the doctoral candidate, with the supervisor's endorsement and Senate approval.
- (4) Extension into the sixth year of doctoral studies (second extension year) may be granted only on a tuition-fee basis, subject to payment of the annual tuition fee approved by the University Senate.
- (5) Doctoral studies may be interrupted for the following reasons: job relocation (documented by employer certification), serious medical conditions (supported by medical documents), or parental leave (up to two years, supported by the child's birth certificate). The duration of studies shall be extended by the cumulative duration of approved interruptions.
- (6) Extensions and interruptions shall be formalized through addenda to the doctoral study contract.

Art. 16

- (1) The PPA includes:
 - a) Two specialized disciplines established by mutual agreement between the doctoral supervisor, the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, and the doctoral candidate, depending on the thesis topic and considering the candidate's academic background, so as to provide additional specialized knowledge necessary for successful completion of doctoral studies;
 - b) Three disciplines established by CSUD relating to research ethics, scientific research methodology, and project management.
- (2) Successful completion of the PPA ("PASSED") grants 30 ECTS credits.
- (3) Credits obtained in a research Master's program or through previous doctoral or research stages conducted nationally or internationally at prestigious universities or research institutions may be recognized as equivalent to those obtained within the PPA. Equivalence is proposed by the doctoral supervisor and approved by the Council of the Doctoral School.

(4) The PPA shall be completed within the first five months after enrollment and evaluated with an overall result of PASSED/FAILED. Each discipline is assessed as PASS/FAIL. If even one discipline is assessed as FAIL, the overall PPA result shall be FAILED; the doctoral candidate may retake the failed discipline(s) before the completion of doctoral studies.

(5) A FAILED result in the PPA does not prevent the doctoral candidate from continuing within the Individual Scientific Research Program (PCS).

Art. 17

The PCS and PCA are conducted on the basis of an individual scientific research plan developed by the doctoral candidate under the supervision of the doctoral supervisor and approved by the Council of the Doctoral School.

Art. 18

(1) The doctoral candidate's research activity is evaluated through seven research reports presented before the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, as follows:

- a) One report during the first year (R1), six months after completion of the PPA, in the form of a research project including: thesis title, general structure, state of the art, objectives, proposed research methodology, activity schedule, etc.;
- b) Five reports presented as follows: Report 2 – December, Year II; Report 3 – June, Year II; Report 4 – December, Year III; Report 5 – June, Year III; Report 6 – December, Year IV;
- c) The doctoral thesis submitted for analysis to the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee in order to obtain approval for public defense – Report 7 (final report).

(2) Report presentations may be public.

(3) Doctoral School regulations may establish minimum mandatory scientific activity standards for each report stage.

Art. 19

(1) Deadlines for research reports are established in the individual research plan. The deadlines for the first three reports may be extended by up to six months upon the doctoral candidate's request, with the supervisor's endorsement and the approval of the Director of the Doctoral School. Failure to present reports within the established deadlines results in a proposal for expulsion.

(2) Reports are evaluated using the following grades: "Very Good," "Good," "Satisfactory," or "Unsatisfactory." A written record shall be drafted and included in the doctoral candidate's file.

(3) If a report receives the grade "Unsatisfactory," the doctoral candidate may revise and resubmit it within 30 days following rejection. A second rejection leads to a proposal for expulsion.

Art. 20

Prior to the thesis presentation before the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, the PPA must be completed with an overall result of PASSED, and the PCS must not include any report graded "Unsatisfactory."

Art. 21

Completion of the PCS under the present Regulations ensures the acquisition of 210 ECTS credits (30 credits for each research report).

CHAPTER IV. Completion of the Study Program

Art. 22

(1) Completion of doctoral university studies is achieved through the preparation and public defense of the doctoral thesis before the doctoral thesis defense committee. The doctoral thesis shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements established by the Regulation on the Organization and Conduct of Doctoral University Studies within POLITEHNICA Bucharest and by

the present Regulation.

(2) The title of the doctoral thesis may be modified, with the consent of the doctoral supervisor and the approval of the Council of the Doctoral School, until the thesis is finalized for public defense.

(3) The doctoral thesis shall be written in Romanian, English, or another internationally recognized language.

(4) The doctoral thesis may be prepared either in “standard” format or in “article-based” format.

(5) The “standard” format shall include the following main chapters: a) Critical review of the literature; b) Original contributions; c) General conclusions; d) Bibliography.

(6) The “article-based” format shall include the following main chapters: a) Presentation of the doctoral research topic, methods, and concepts used; b) Full-length article(s) published as scientific results of the doctoral thesis; c) General conclusions; d) Personal contributions; e) Bibliography. In this format, the doctoral candidate must be the first author of the full-length articles included in the thesis.

(7) A thesis prepared in article-based format must include at least three articles published in Web of Science-indexed journals; at least two of these must be published in Q1 or Q2 journal categories.

Art. 23

(1) The doctoral thesis must be an original work, and it is mandatory to cite the source of any material used.

(2) The doctoral thesis is a public document. The full name of the thesis author, the doctoral supervisor, the members of the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee, and the identification data of IOSUD are also public information.

(3) The doctoral candidate is the author of the doctoral thesis and assumes responsibility for the accuracy of the data and information presented, as well as for the opinions and arguments expressed therein.

(4) The content of the doctoral thesis is established by the doctoral candidate in consultation with the doctoral supervisor and must comply with the framework structure and limitations imposed by IOSUD–POLITEHNICA Bucharest regulations.

(5) Prior to public defense, IOSUD, through the Doctoral School, is obliged to verify the doctoral thesis using recognized plagiarism detection software. The verification shall be conducted in accordance with the standards set out in the National Guide for the Preparation of Doctoral Theses developed by CNATDCU. The results of the similarity analysis shall be made available to the doctoral candidate, the doctoral supervisor, and the doctoral committee.

Art. 24

(1) The public defense may take place only after completion of the following stages:

a) The doctoral candidate submits the thesis in electronic format to the Doctoral School secretariat, together with the thesis abstract and a declaration of originality;

b) The Doctoral School conducts a similarity analysis using software recognized by CNATDCU;

c) The analysis and interpretation of the similarity report are carried out both by the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee and by the person designated by the Doctoral School. The report must be reviewed by the Committee prior to the pre-defense and by the designated person before official submission;

d) If the similarity report indicates the need for revisions, the doctoral candidate and supervisor are officially notified. After corrections are made, steps (a) and (b) are repeated;

e) The thesis is presented before the Guidance and Academic Integrity Committee at the Doctoral School level (pre-defense);

f) Following the public pre-defense, the doctoral supervisor, in accordance with the Committee’s

recommendation and the similarity report results, decides on the official submission and organization of the public defense;

- g) The supervisor's acceptance report and the Committee's approval are included in the doctoral file; the thesis is officially submitted in printed and electronic format, accompanied by the similarity analysis report, abstract, candidate's CV, and the estimated defense date. The Doctoral School certifies fulfillment of all program requirements;
- h) The thesis and its annexes shall be publicly available for consultation for 90 calendar days prior to the public defense on the national platform managed by UEFISCDI, in compliance with copyright legislation;
- i) During this public period, any individual or legal entity may submit observations regarding potential breaches of ethical standards, including plagiarism. Observations are recorded in a report drafted by the Doctoral School and submitted to CSUD for analysis and decision;
- j) If CSUD validates the procedure, the public defense process is initiated by establishing the doctoral committee;
- k) If CSUD invalidates the initiation of the public defense procedure, recommendations for revision are issued, and the doctoral candidate must remedy the thesis within three months, after which transparency procedures are resumed.

(2) The doctoral committee is proposed by the doctoral supervisor, endorsed by the Doctoral School, and approved by CSUD. It shall consist of at least five members: a chair (representing IOSUD), the doctoral supervisor, and at least three external reviewers (from Romania or abroad), specialists in the field of the thesis, of whom at least two must be affiliated outside the respective IOSUD. Members must hold a doctoral degree and at least the academic rank of Associate Professor or Researcher Grade II, or have the status of doctoral supervisor.

(3) The request to schedule the public defense is submitted by the doctoral candidate, endorsed by the supervisor and the committee chair, and registered at least 25 calendar days before the proposed date. The proposed date may not precede the previously estimated defense date.

(4) The doctoral thesis shall also be submitted in digital format. In the arts field, it may be accompanied by a digital recording of the original artistic creation. After the doctoral diploma is issued, the thesis is archived permanently in printed and digital format at the POLITEHNICA Bucharest Library.

(5) The Doctoral School shall publish the public defense announcement at least 20 calendar days in advance, including the date, time, location, supervisor(s), and access details. The announcement, thesis abstract, scientific summary, candidate's CV, and committee members' CVs (or links thereto) shall be published on the IOSUD website.

(6) The thesis is defended in public session before the doctoral committee after all reviewers have submitted their evaluation reports at least 15 days prior. At least four committee members must be present, including mandatory physical presence of the chair and supervisor; other members may participate via videoconference. The defense must include a question-and-answer session with both the committee and the public.

(7) The defense session is chaired by the committee chair and includes:

- a) Presentation of the thesis by the doctoral candidate;
- b) Reading of evaluation reports by the supervisor(s) and official reviewers;
- c) Public debate and questions.

(8) The debate is mandatory, recorded in the minutes, and constitutes the central component of the defense, highlighting the candidate's expertise and the originality of the thesis.

(9) Based on the defense, reviewers' reports, originality declaration, and similarity analysis, the committee deliberates on awarding the doctoral diploma in compliance with CNATDCU minimum standards.

(10) If minimum standards are not met, the committee specifies required revisions and requests a

second public defense before the same committee. Failure to meet standards at the second defense results in denial of the doctoral diploma and expulsion.

(11) If all requirements and standards are fulfilled, the committee proposes awarding the doctoral diploma and forwards the doctoral file to CNATDCU within 30 calendar days.

(12) The committee's decisions are publicly announced at the defense session by the committee chair.

(13) The structure and access conditions of the doctoral file shall be regulated by a CNATDCU procedure approved by ministerial order.

(14) Within 90 calendar days of receiving the file, CNATDCU issues a compliance opinion regarding procedural and standards compliance, including verification of originality and similarity reports.

(15) Within 30 calendar days of receiving the compliance opinion, IOSUD issues the doctoral diploma awarding decision, signed by the Rector, and prepares and issues the diploma.

(16) If CNATDCU finds procedural non-compliance, the file is returned to IOSUD for reanalysis and completion, after which procedures must be resumed from the relevant stages.

(17) If the doctoral candidate does not opt for separate publication, the digital thesis remains publicly accessible on the national UEFISCDI platform under copyright protection.

(18) If the candidate opts for separate publication, a grace period of up to 24 months is granted during which the digital thesis remains inaccessible. After expiration, if no publication notification is uploaded, the thesis becomes publicly accessible.

(19) After publication, the author must notify IOSUD and provide bibliographic details and a publication link, which shall be made public on the UEFISCDI platform.

(20) Within 180 calendar days after awarding the doctoral diploma, IOSUD must submit a printed copy and annexes of the thesis to the National Library of Romania (for the intangible collection) and a digital copy for on-site consultation, in accordance with Legal Deposit Law No. 111/1995 and applicable legislation.

CHAPTER V. Ethics and University Deontology

Art. 25

(1) Compliance with the norms of university ethics and deontology, as regulated by the Code of Ethics and University Deontology of POLITEHNICA Bucharest, is mandatory in all teaching and research activities.

(2) Any complaints concerning violations of university ethics and deontology shall be registered and resolved in accordance with the Code of Ethics and University Deontology of POLITEHNICA Bucharest, elaborated pursuant to the framework code of university ethics and deontology approved by Government Decision.

(3) Failure to comply with the rules of university ethics and deontology, including confirmed cases of proven plagiarism, may entail public liability of IOSUD.

CHAPTER VI. Quality Assurance of Doctoral University Study Programs

Art. 26

(1) Doctoral university study programs are subject to periodic internal evaluation processes at intervals established by CSUD.

(2) The internal quality evaluation of the doctoral university study program in Aerospace Engineering shall be carried out by SD-IA.

(3) The procedures for internal quality evaluation of a doctoral university study program shall be elaborated by CSUD and shall address the following aspects:

- a) The mission and objectives of the doctoral program;
 - b) The content and curriculum of the doctoral program;
 - c) Research outcomes achieved by doctoral candidates and their supervisors, materialized through publications, patents, and participation in scientific events;
 - d) Online dissemination of doctoral candidates' research results;
 - e) Cooperation relationships with other institutions;
 - f) Specific requirements related to teaching modalities and forms of delivery;
 - g) Availability of documentation, learning and research resources, and logistical support for doctoral candidates;
 - h) The personnel involved in the implementation of the doctoral program;
 - i) Methods of knowledge assessment and skills evaluation of doctoral candidates, as well as monitoring of academic progress;
 - j) The degree of doctoral candidates' involvement in quality assurance processes;
 - k) The existence of a code of ethics containing clear provisions regarding the definition and sanctioning of academic and professional misconduct, including plagiarism;
 - l) Compliance with specific external evaluation indicators applicable to doctoral programs.
- (4) Internal quality evaluation procedures shall rely on multiple sources of information, including feedback from doctoral candidates obtained through anonymous questionnaires, subject to confidentiality and statistical processing.

Art. 27

- (1) SD-IA is subject to periodic external evaluation.
- (2) The external evaluation of IOSUD and of doctoral study fields for the purposes of provisional authorization or accreditation shall be conducted in accordance with Title IV – Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Higher Education Law No. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

Art. 28

- (1) The evaluation of doctoral candidates' activity shall focus predominantly on research outcomes, including publications, conference participation, patents, and their quality, as reflected by international integration, citations, awards, and similar indicators.
- (2) The evaluation shall explicitly address all competencies that doctoral candidates must develop within the doctoral program, in accordance with Level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework and the National Qualifications Framework.
- (3) The evaluation of doctoral candidates' activity shall be conducted periodically, based on a decision of the Council of the Doctoral School, by evaluation committees approved by the Council.
- (4) Evaluation procedures and criteria, established by the Council of the Doctoral School, shall ensure:
 - a) Accurate measurement of doctoral candidates' performance, including differentiation among levels of achievement;
 - b) Assessment of progress in acquiring knowledge and professional skills associated with the targeted qualification;
 - c) Administrative and academic verification to ensure procedural correctness;
 - d) Transparency and information regarding evaluation criteria;
 - e) Informing doctoral candidates about evaluation strategies, methods, criteria, and expected performance levels.

(5) Compliance with scientific, professional, and university ethics constitutes an explicit criterion for both continuous and final evaluation of doctoral candidates.

(6) Evaluation of doctoral candidates' activity shall ensure maximum transparency, and evaluators shall communicate the awarded grades to the doctoral candidates.

Art. 29

(1) SD-IA shall periodically evaluate, at five-year intervals, the activity of tenured doctoral supervisors, based on procedures elaborated by CSUD, grounded in self-evaluation and internal and external assessment.

(2) This internal evaluation shall primarily consider the quality of research and supervisory outcomes, including:

- a) The doctoral supervisor's scientific research results (publications, patents, and other forms of research valorization);
- b) The scientific research results of the supervised doctoral candidates (publications, patents, and other forms of research dissemination);
- c) Other indicators of the doctoral supervisor's scientific activity (participation in research projects, national and international conferences, international visibility, membership in professional organizations);
- d) Other indicators of the scientific activity of supervised doctoral candidates (participation in research projects, national and international conferences, membership in professional organizations).

(3) Every five years, doctoral supervisors shall undergo external evaluation based on procedures established, upon the proposal of CNATDCU, by order of the Minister of Education. The results of this evaluation shall be public.

(4) Following internal or external evaluations, SD-IA may propose the extension or withdrawal of a doctoral supervisor's right to supervise doctoral candidates within the SD-IA doctoral program, in accordance with the present Regulation.

CHAPTER VII. Final Provisions

Art. 30. Doctoral university studies within SD-IA shall be reorganized in accordance with the provisions of the present Regulation.

Art. 31. Amendments to the present Regulation shall be made by SD-IA upon the proposal of interested parties.

Art. 32. The present Regulation shall enter into force on the date of its adoption, 07 July 2025.