

Doctoral School of Business Administration

at the

University of Pécs

Effective from: September 1, 2019

Principles and methods of quality assurance

Students admitted to the Doctoral School of Business Administration at the University of Pécs earn their doctoral (PhD) degree through organized training or individual preparation, as a result of independent scientific research. The teaching and research-support activities conducted at the Doctoral School are an integral part of the educational activities of the Faculty of Business and Economics, ensuring that its quality control system aligns closely with the faculty's quality management principles and practices, both in its fundamental principles and regulatory details. In developing the quality management system for the Doctoral School, the requirements of the Higher Education Act and the Hungarian Accreditation Committee were thoroughly considered. Our primary goal is to **maintain consistently high-quality doctoral training and to ensure the continued excellence and national recognition of the doctoral degrees awarded.**

To achieve the quality objectives as fully as possible, the following principles are considered guiding:

1. In the training and preparation provided by the Doctoral School, we consider advanced domestic and international practices as benchmarks for our work. By continuously examining these examples, we create opportunities for comparison and integrate the lessons learned into our activities.
2. We place great emphasis on ensuring that all sessions of organized training are conducted without omission, fostering exemplary cooperation between lecturers and students.
3. We regularly gather feedback from our doctoral students on the quality of teaching, supervision, and research-support administration. The insights gained are used to improve the quality of our work.
4. We consider it an important objective to continuously examine the effectiveness of the preparation process and the reasons for student attrition, with the aim of improving outcomes.
5. We have consistently adhered to the principle of full transparency and external oversight in the evaluation process and intend to maintain this practice in the future. To ensure the objective and impartial assessment of dissertation quality, we primarily involve external experts in both the review and defense processes, selecting them exclusively from among recognized authorities in the respective fields.
6. In every phase of the training and degree acquisition process, we adhere strictly to the enforcement of ethical norms. The most serious violations of scientific ethics are fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, and undue personal influence. These ethical breaches are defined as follows:
 - a) **fabrication:** the publication of "results" that have no factual basis;

- b) **falsification:** the manipulation, alteration, or deliberate suppression of data or results;
 - c) **plagiarism:** the adoption of others' ideas, scientific results, words, or texts and presenting them as one's own. It is the right and duty of the doctoral school to conduct plagiarism checks, supported by digital tools, for submitted doctoral dissertations, drafts, and theses;
 - d) **undue personal influence:** broad attempts to influence others in a manner that violates human dignity, aimed at forcing favorable decisions for the influencer or causing disadvantageous outcomes for third parties. This includes the intimidation of individuals in subordinate relationships with the researcher, unjustified restrictions on research freedom, and any form of discriminatory treatment.
7. Continuing our established practice, we make every effort to ensure that doctoral students engaged in research can participate in study visits abroad, supported by funding from the doctoral school or other grant sources. Such opportunities are an important prerequisite for producing high-quality doctoral dissertations.
 8. In the international programs conducted within the doctoral school with foreign students, adherence to high-quality standards also aims to align with international excellence.
 9. We require that the requirements for assessments, publications, and reports apply equally to all students and research topics. Both our faculty and students are expected and required to maintain a commitment to quality work, professional rigor, and integrity at all times.
 10. We ensure the accessibility, retrievability, and verifiability of all documents related to doctoral training, degree acquisition, and procedures, thereby meeting the requirement of full transparency.