

Annex 7

Principles and methods of quality assurance

Students admitted to the Doctoral School of Regional Politics and Economics of the UP are awarded a doctoral degree (PhD) either through structured training or through individual preparation as a result of independent scientific research. The teaching and research activities of the School are an integral part of the teaching activities of the Faculty of Business and Economics, and its quality control system is closely aligned with the principles and practices of the Faculty's quality management, both in terms of principles and details of regulation. In the development of the quality management system of the Doctoral School, the requirements of the Higher Education Act and the Hungarian Accreditation Commission have been taken into account to a large extent. Our main objective is to ensure the **continuous high quality of doctoral education and the high quality and national recognition of the academic degrees awarded**.

In order to achieve our quality objectives more fully, we are guided by the following principles:

1. During the training and preparation in the doctoral school, we consider national and foreign examples as benchmarks for our own work, we constantly examine these examples to create opportunities for comparison and incorporate the lessons learned into our own activities.
2. A strong emphasis is placed on ensuring that organised training sessions are fully delivered, and on exemplary cooperation between teachers and students.
3. We regularly ensure that we ask our doctoral students about the quality of their teaching, supervision and research administration, and use the lessons learned 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 causes of student drop-outs, and to improve the effectiveness.
5. So far, we have followed the principle of full publicity and external control of the qualification process, and we intend to continue to do so in the future. In order to ensure an objective and unbiased assessment of the quality of the thesis, we make use of external experts in both the examination and the defence of the thesis, always choosing from among recognised experts in the field.
6. The full application of ethical standards in all phases of the training and degree process is our guiding principle. The most serious violations of the scientific ethos are fabrication, falsification, plagiarism and personal influence. By these ethical offences we mean
 - a) **fabrication** is the communication of “results” without any basis;
 - b) **falsification** is the manipulation, alteration or deliberate concealment of data or results;
 - c) **plagiarism** is the taking over of the ideas, scientific results, words, texts of others and presenting them as one's own; the doctoral school has the right and the duty to carry out a plagiarism check, supported by IT tools, on the submitted doctoral thesis (and its draft and theses);
 - d) **personal influence** is a broad attempt to influence a person in a way which violates his or her dignity, which may be aimed at forcing a favourable decision in favour of the person influencing him or her, but which may also be aimed at making an unfavourable decision concerning a third person; this includes intimidation of persons in a dependent relationship with the researcher, unjustified restrictions on the freedom of research, and some form of discrimination.
7. As a continuation of the previous practice, we do our best to enable our doctoral students to participate in study visits abroad to gain experience, with the financial support of the doctoral

school and other funding sources. This opportunity is an important prerequisite for writing a high-quality doctoral thesis.

8. In our international programme with foreign students in the framework of the doctoral school, the pursuit of high-quality standards also aims to catch up with international standards.

9. We require that the requirements for accountability, publication and registration of students apply equally to all students and research topics. We expect and require both our teachers and students to strive for quality, professionalism and fairness at all times.

10. We ensure accessibility, retrievability and auditability of all documents related to doctoral training, degree and doctoral procedure, thus meeting the requirement of full publicity.