



ROMÂNIA
MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI

UNIVERSITATEA DE ȘTIINȚELE VIEȚII „REGELE MIHAI I” DIN TIMIȘOARA

CONTRACT FOR TUITION-FEE UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDIES

No. /

I. CONTRACTING PARTIES

Art. 1 This contract is concluded between

1. University of Life Sciences “King Mihai I” from Timișoara, Romania, based in Timișoara, Calea Aradului 119, România, legally represented by the Rector Prof. Cosmin Alin POPESCU, PhD, as **I.O.S.U.D.**

2. Prof. PhD,
member of the doctoral school,
as **PhD supervisor**

3. Mrs/Mr.....,
born on, place of birth, son/daughter of
..... and,
domicile address,
identity card / passport series, no., available from
....., personal identification number,
e-mail:, as **PhD student**

II. SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACT

Art. 2 (1) This contract aims to carry out activities during doctoral studies, regulating the relations between the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara, the PhD supervisor and the PhD student, specifying the rights and obligations of the signatory parties, in accordance with the legislation in force, with the Orders of the Minister of Education, as well as the provisions of the University Charter.

(2) The doctoral university study program is carried out within the Doctoral School in language and consists of two components:

a) Study program, based on advanced university studies;

b) Individual scientific research program, which consists of developing a doctoral thesis with the following **research topic**:
.....

(3) The doctoral thesis is written in Romanian or an internationally spoken language and will be defended in the language The doctoral thesis written in a language other than Romanian will be compulsory accompanied by a summary in Romanian.

(4) The publication of the doctoral thesis, according to legal requirements, is done with both the first and last name of the PhD student and of the PhD supervisor as well.

III. DURATION OF THE CONTRACT

Art. 3 (1) This contract is concluded for the entire duration of the doctoral university studies cycle of 4 (four) years, starting on and ending on

(2) For each period of interruption of the doctoral studies and each period of prolongation of these studies, period approved in accordance with the Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies at the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara, an additional act to this contract is concluded.

(3) Deadline for completion of the doctoral thesis
.....

Art. 4 After completing the doctoral study cycle, the doctoral student will receive the doctoral diploma under the terms of the law.

IV. DOCTORAL FIELD, TYPE OF DOCTORAL STUDIES, FORM OF EDUCATION AND FORM OF FINANCING

Art. 5 The **PhD student** is enrolled at (*scientific/professional*¹) doctoral studies, in the **fundamental field**

¹ a) **scientific doctorate**, which aims to produce original, internationally relevant scientific knowledge, based on scientific methods, organized only in the full-time form of education. A scientific doctorate is a prerequisite for a professional career in higher education and research;

b) **professional doctorate**, in all fields, including dual university education, which aims to produce original knowledge based on the application of the scientific method, systematic reflection or applied research on artistic creations, on high-level national and international sports performances or on topics of practical importance and which constitutes a basis for a professional career in higher education and research, in the fields concerned.

doctoral field, **form of education** (full time, part time), **form of financing** (on tuition fee).

V. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ASSUMED WITHIN THE DOCTORAL STUDIES PROGRAM AND IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE DOCTORAL THESIS

Art. 6. In order to be able to publicly defend the doctoral thesis, the PhD student must meet certain minimum criteria regarding the publicist activity on the topic of the thesis, as follows::

A) Engineering of Plant and Animal Resources:

No.	Criteria name	Minimum standards
1	In extenso scientific papers on the topic of the thesis, "article"- type, carried out during the doctoral period, as first author, presented at specialized conferences/symposia and published (online/open access or printed) in peer-reviewed scientific journals/volumes, indexed in high-level databases SCOPUS, IEEE, ELSEVIER, CABI, AGRICOLA, DOAJ, ENGINEERING VILLAGE etc. The works are explicitly referenced in the thesis and in the list of publications.	2
2	In extenso scientific papers on the topic of the thesis, "article"-type, carried out during the doctoral period, published in specialized journals indexed/quoted in Web of Science - WoS (Clarivate Analytics, printed or online/open access), as first author/corresponding author . The works are explicitly referenced in the thesis and in the list of publications.	1*
3	In extenso scientific papers, "Article"-type, published in Web of Science - WoS-listed journals (Clarivate Analytics, with IF>0, printed or online/open access).	1

Research reports (min. 3), corresponding to the topic of the doctoral thesis, presented to the academic guidance and integrity committee, are archived in a repository of the Doctoral School, together with the minutes signed by the committee members and are part of the thesis file. Their quality is the responsibility of the PhD supervisor and the academic guidance and integrity committee.

* Exceeding the number of items in criterion 2 causes a corresponding decrease in those in criterion 1, but not vice versa. Corresponding authorship is allowed if the first author is the PhD supervisor.

Articles published on the topic of a doctoral thesis cannot be used by two or more doctoral students as main authors.

b) Veterinary Medicine:

1. Publication as author or corresponding author of at least three scientific articles on the topic of the thesis (at least two in extenso articles) in journals or volumes of national or international conferences BDI-indexed, recognized in the field and proven by the

conference program, of which one of the three scientific articles can be equivalent to a national patent application registered with OSIM, on the topic of the thesis;

2. The PhD student must be the first author/corresponding author of at least two of the published scientific articles on the topic of the thesis;
3. The recognized international databases (IDBs - BDI) for articles published in journals and in the volumes of scientific events, with the exception of articles published in ISI-listed journals, are those internationally scientifically recognized: **Scopus, IEEE Xplore, Science Direct, Elsevier, Wiley, ACM, DBLP, Springerlink, Engineering Village, Cabi, Emerald, CSA, Compendex, INSPEC, Referativnai Jurnal, Thomson Reuters Master Journal List, DOAJ and Google Scholar**;
4. 1 – In extenso scientific paper, "article"-type, published in **Web of Science - WoS-listed** journals (Clarivate Analytics, with IF>0, printed or online/open access).

VI. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Art. 7 The rights and obligations of the contracting parties arise from the legislation in force, from the University Charter, as well as from the specific regulations of the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara.

Art. 8 University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara – I.O.S.U.D., has the following **rights**:

- a) to supervise and monitor the way in which the PhD student complies with the obligations arising from the quality of PhD student, provided for in the program of studies, based on advanced university studies and respectively in the individual scientific research program, as well as the way in which the PhD student complies with the obligations arising from this contract;
- b) to take all necessary measures, within the limits of the law, for the PhD student to comply with all internal regulations established by the Doctoral School;
- c) to establish annually the amount of registration, matriculation, doctoral, doctoral thesis defense fees, as well as other fees related to doctoral studies, their breakdown into installments, the method of updating them and the outstanding installments, as well as the consequences of non-payment on time (in the event of a change in the fee and/or the method of payment of the fee for the following academic years and the consequences of non-payment on time, the parties hereby undertake to conclude an addendum to the fee-based doctoral studies contract);
- d) to recover, as soon as possible, from the PhD student guilty of causing damage resulting from the degradation or destruction of property belonging to the university, its equivalent value;
- e) to use personal data, as data operator, in order to carry out the educational process, university management activities and the support activities that underlie it, in accordance with the legislation in force;

- f) not to admit the defense of exams, scientific papers and the doctoral thesis, if the PhD student has not paid his fees and has not fulfilled his contractual obligations;
- g) to approve the change of the doctoral supervisor, under the law, at the motivated request of the PhD student;
- h) to issue the expulsion decision in the event of non-compliance with contractual obligations by the PhD;
- i) to establish the admission criteria for the cycle of doctoral university studies;
- j) to approve the extension/reduction/interruption of the doctoral university study program under the terms of the law;
- k) to take measures to prevent and sanction deviations from the norms of scientific, professional and academic ethics, according to the Code of Ethics of the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara - Annex 1 to the University Charter.

Art. 9. University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara – I.O.S.U.D., has the following *obligations*:

- a) to apply the Regulation on the organization and conduct of doctoral studies;
- b) to ensure the conditions for exercising the rights of the PhD student, in accordance with the legislation in force;
- c) to hand over to the PhD student the contract for doctoral university studies and, when applicable, the additional documents for signing;
- d) to ensure adequate organizational and technical conditions for study by making available to the PhD student the infrastructure available at the institution for documentation and research;
- e) to apply the quality assurance policy to all activities carried out within the cycle of doctoral university studies;
- f) to issue, upon request, documents attesting to the applicant's status as a PhD student, according to the legislation in force;
- g) to upload the doctoral file, including the doctoral thesis, to the doctoral platform of the Ministry of Education;
- h) to issue the decision to award the doctoral degree and to issue the PhD diploma, in accordance with the legislation in force.

Art. 10 The PhD supervisor has the following *rights*:

- a) to guide and evaluate the activity of the PhD student within the doctoral university study program, according to professional and academic autonomy, following the requirements of the doctoral university study program and respecting the professional interests of the PhD student;
- b) to propose the doctoral commission and the PhD student's academic integrity and guidance committee;
- c) the right to an impartial internal and external evaluation, in accordance with the specific methodology of the evaluation process;

- d) the right to know the methodology against which he is evaluated, both in internal and external evaluation;
- e) the right to know the results of the internal and external evaluation of one's own activity;
- f) to refuse to supervise a PhD student in circumstances where he/she is placed involuntarily in a conflict of interest;
- g) to request the Doctoral School Council to terminate the supervising relationship with a PhD student;
- h) to select the PhD candidate for a vacant position under his/her supervision and to propose the enrollment of the PhD student;
- i) to request the doctoral school to organize an admission competition for each vacant PhD student position under his/her supervision;
- j) to decide the study elements within the study program based on advanced university studies in which the PhD student must participate, in compliance with the legislation in force;
- k) to be remunerated for the activity of supervising PhD students, in accordance with the legislation in force.

Art. 11 The PhD supervisor has the following *obligations*:

- a) to ensure the scientific, professional and ethical guidance of each PhD student;
- b) to propose research topics;
- c) to take all necessary measures to ensure that the doctoral student has the conditions, knowledge and information to maximize the chances of completing the doctoral program;
- d) to ensure the conditions and stimulate the progress of PhD students in the research they carry out;
- e) to carry out objective and rigorous monitoring and evaluation of each PhD student;
- f) to support the mobility of PhD students;
- g) to avoid conflicts of interest in supervising PhD students;
- h) to take all due care in verifying the conformity of doctoral theses with the specific requirements of an original creation;
- i) to respect the norms of ethical and professional conduct;
- j) to comply with quality standards;
- k) to inform the PhD student about scientific, professional and academic ethics and to verify the compliance of these;
- l) to analyze the scientific reports/papers of the PhD student and to allow their defense only if they consider that they have a consistent scientific content, focused on the issues of the doctoral thesis;
- m) to follow and comply with the provisions of the doctoral university study contract;

n) to propose to the doctoral school the expulsion of the PhD student if he/she does not comply with the obligations related to the doctoral program and the obligations arising from this contract.

Art. 12 The PhD student has the following *rights*:

- a) to benefit from the support, guidance and coordination of the PhD supervisor;
- b) to participate in seminars or working meetings of research and development staff within IOSUD when topics relevant to doctoral studies are under discussion;
- c) to be represented in the decision-making forums of the doctoral school, according to the legislation in force;
- d) to access and use the research infrastructure of IOSUD-USVT, including logistics, documentation centers, libraries (including international databases) and the equipment of the doctoral school and IOSUD-USVT for the development of research projects and the doctoral thesis;
- e) to enroll in courses and seminars organized by other doctoral schools;
- f) to work together with research teams from IOSUD - USVT or from research and development units that have concluded agreements or institutional partnerships with IOSUD - USVT;
- g) to be integrated into research project teams within IOSUD, including the participation in the process of drafting and submitting funding applications;
- h) to benefit from national or international mobilities;
- i) to benefit from institutional support to participate in scientific conferences or congresses, workshops, summer or winter schools and national and international seminars in the field of specialization in which he/she has chosen his/her doctoral thesis;
- j) to participate in scientific communication sessions organized by the doctoral school and/or by IOSUD - USVT;
- k) to be informed about the curriculum of doctoral studies within the doctoral school;
- l) to benefit from the student support services available at IOSUD – USVT, including those for accommodation and canteen;
- m) to request, for valid reasons, the interruption of doctoral activities, or the extension of the duration of the doctoral program, according to the legislation in force and this contract;
- n) to carry out the doctoral studies under co-tutelle, based on an agreement concluded and signed by the parties involved, according to the law;
- o) to request the doctoral school to change the PhD supervisor if he/she does not comply with his/her legal or contractual obligations or for other reasons regarding the supervising relationship between the PhD supervisor and the PhD student, as well as if the PhD supervisor is found to be unavailable;

p) to carry out teaching activities up to a maximum of 6 conventional hours assigned by IOSUD - USVT;

q) to request the doctoral school to change the title of the doctoral thesis, with the approval of the PhD supervisor, under the terms of the legislation in force;

r) to register for a new admission competition for doctoral studies, **only for places with tuition-fee**, in the case of the PhD students who have been expelled from doctoral studies financed from the budget;

s) to receive the title and diploma of PhD in the doctoral field in which he was enrolled as a PhD student, under the terms of the law;

t) other rights provided for by the Regulation on the organization of doctoral studies at the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara.

Art. 13 The PhD student has the following *obligations*:

a) to comply with the regulations of the legislation in force and those specific to IOSUD - USVT, in carrying out university and extra-university activities;

b) to comply with the rules of academic discipline and ethics, in accordance with the own regulations of IOSUD - USVT;

c) to use carefully the material goods existing in the educational spaces, laboratories, dormitories, canteens, libraries, etc. and to keep them in good condition. The value of the damages resulting from the degradation or destruction of these goods will be recovered from the person who produced them, according to the legal procedures in force;

d) to respect and carry out all hours/activities related to the study program based on advanced university studies and the individual program of scientific research or artistic creation;

e) to respect the schedule established together with the PhD supervisor and to fulfill the obligations to defend his/her papers and present his/her research results;

f) to present, at his/her request, at least once every 12 months, a presentation of the progress of his/her scientific research program in front of the academic guidance and integrity committee and the PhD supervisor;

g) to respect institutional discipline, without having the academic freedom restricted;

h) to respect university ethics and deontology policies and to carry out the studies and research in compliance with academic integrity norms;

i) to use protective equipment during the execution of practical work that takes place in a toxic or dangerous environment, according to labor protection regulations;

j) to be in permanent contact with the PhD supervisor;

k) to comply with the quality standards and the organization and functioning regulations of the institution;

l) to permanently update the contact details in the PhD student file;

m) to respect professional secrecy regarding the scientific research carried out;
 n) to meet the performance criteria established to be respected during the studies and in the process of developing the doctoral thesis;
 o) to remedy the content of the thesis within 3 months from the communication of the decision to invalidate the defense;
 p) to write the summary of the doctoral thesis also in Romanian, if the thesis was written in an internationally spoken language;
 q) to sign, when applicable, in accordance with the legislation in force and with the decisions of the management structures (Doctoral School Council, CSUD, Administrative Council, University Senate, etc.), the additional documents to this doctoral university study contract;
 r) to pay the tuition fees and the doctoral thesis defense fees within the deadlines established in this contract;
 s) other obligations arising from the Regulation on the organization of doctoral studies at the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara and from the legislation in force;
 t) to benefit, under the law, from health insurance without payment of contribution and a 90% reduced fare for domestic rail transport on all train categories, 2nd class (except for PhD students with one or both deceased parents, as well as students coming from placement centers or who have been placed with extended, substitute family or with a maternal assistant according to the provisions of art. 64 paragraph (1) of Law no. 272/2004 on the protection and promotion of children's rights, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions, who benefit from free travel), throughout the calendar year, as long as they maintain their status as a PhD student confirmed by the validity visa applied to the PhD student ID card for reduction/free travel, regardless of distance or travel routes according to the legal provisions in force, and they agree to the processing of personal data that demonstrates their status as a registered PhD student;
 ț) to create their institutional email at the address provided by the IOSUD Secretariat and to communicate exclusively through it.

Art. 14 In litigious situations, interpersonal conflicts, indecent behavior regarding relationships with other PhD students or relationships between PhD students and PhD supervisors, both the PhD student and the PhD supervisor may address the director of the doctoral school to resolve these issues.

VII. EXTENSION, INTERRUPTION AND REDUCTION OF UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDIES

Art. 15 (1) In special situations, the PhD student may request, once only, the extension of the duration of the doctoral program by 1-2 years, upon the proposal of

the PhD supervisor, with the approval of the Doctoral School Council and, respectively, with the approval of the University Senate, within the limit of available funds.

(2) The situations for which the study program may be extended are:

- a) identification, during studies, of research directions related to the thesis topic, which were not foreseen at the time of developing the study program and which require special in-depth study;
- b) other justified situations requiring extension, accepted by the PhD supervisor;
- c) cases determined by force majeure.

(3) During the effective extension of doctoral studies, the PhD student is required to pay a monthly fee approved by the University Senate.

Art. 16. (1) The interruption of doctoral studies is made at the request of the PhD student with the approval of the PhD supervisor and is approved by the Doctoral School Council. Cumulative periods of interruption of doctoral studies cannot usually exceed 2 years, except in situations specifically approved by the Doctoral School Council.

(2) Doctoral studies may be interrupted for valid reasons not attributable to the PhD student, as follows:

- medical leave (motivated by accidents with serious bodily injuries certified by specialist doctors, contracting serious/chronic diseases that require long-term treatment);
- maternity leave (prenatal leave, postnatal leave);
- leave for raising and caring for a child up to 2 years old;
- other exceptional situations nominally approved by the DSC.

(3) The duration of doctoral studies is extended, in case of interruption, corresponding to the cumulative periods of approved interruptions.

(4) From the moment of resuming doctoral studies, the PhD student will pay in full or in part the tuition fee approved by the University Senate for the respective academic year.

Art. 17 In special situations, the duration of the doctoral study program may be reduced by one year, at the request of the PhD student, with the approval of the PhD supervisor, respectively the approval of the Doctoral School Council and with the approval of the University Senate.

VIII. WITHDRAWAL FROM UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL STUDIES

Art. 18 (1) If the fee-paying PhD student withdraws from studies, he/she is required to submit a **withdrawal request before the start of the semester**. If the

application is submitted after the start of the semester, the tuition fee is not refunded, and if the tuition fee has not been paid, its payment is mandatory.

(2) The model of the withdrawal request from studies can be obtained from the Doctoral Office.

IX. TUITION FEE

Art. 18 (1) The tuition fee per academic year is _____ lei and is paid in **3 (three) installments**, no later than the following deadlines:

- a) Installment I - representing 50% of the tuition fee, will be paid by the last day of October;**
- b) Installment II - representing 25% of the tuition fee, will be paid by the last day of March;**
- c) Installment III - representing 25% of the tuition fee, will be paid by the last day of May.**

(2) Failure to pay the tuition fee within the established deadlines will result in expulsion, with the obligation to pay the outstanding doctoral fee.

(3) Under the law and in accordance with the provisions of art. 8 letter c) of this contract, U.S.V. "Regele Mihai I" from Timișoara may annually amend the provisions of this article in full.

X. FORCE MAJEURE

Art. 20 (1) Force majeure is understood as an unforeseeable, insurmountable and impossible to eliminate event, independent of the will of the parties, occurring during the course of the contract, which prevents the full or partial execution of the contract and which exempts the party invoking it from liability.

(2) The party invoking force majeure is obliged to notify the other parties of the force majeure event within 5 (five) days from the date of its occurrence and to prove the existence of the force majeure situation within 15 (fifteen) days based on certificates issued by the competent authorities.

XI. TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT

Art. 21 The doctoral university study contract terminates:

- a) on the expiry date of the period provided for in art. 3 of this contract;
- b) at the time of the PhD student's expulsion for failure to fulfill contractual obligations;
- c) at the time of the doctoral student's expulsion for failure to fulfill contractual obligations;

- d) on the date of the public defense of the doctoral thesis in compliance with the provisions of art. 3 of this contract.

XII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 22 (1) The processing of personal data in connection with the subject of this contract is carried out in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 679/2016 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

(2) The PhD student is required to sign the information note regarding the processing of personal data, a document made available by IOSUD-USVT.

Art. 23. (1) Communications between the parties in connection with the execution of this contract will be made only in writing.

(2) The expulsion decision is communicated to the PhD student by e-mail by the IOSUD-USVT Office.

(3) This contract is duly supplemented with other contractual clauses, provided as appropriate by additional act, in accordance with the provisions of the Order of the Ministry of Education no. 3.020/2024 for the approval of the Framework Regulation on doctoral studies, the Law on Higher Education no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and supplements, the legislation in force and the specifics of the University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara.

(4) The study program based on advanced university studies and the individual scientific research program constitute annexes to this contract and are an integral part of it.

Art. 24 Conflicts related to the conclusion, execution, modification, suspension or termination of this contract will be resolved, as the case may be, amicably. In the event that the settlement of the differences cannot be agreed amicably, their resolution will be carried out by the competent courts in the territorial area where IOSUD-USVT is headquartered.

Art. 25 This contract is concluded today _____, in 4 (four) original copies, one for each contracting party and one for the doctoral school.

RECTOR,
Prof. Cosmin Alin Popescu, PhD

PhD SUPERVISOR,
Prof., PhD

PhD STUDENT,
.....

DIRECTOR OF DOCTORAL SCHOOL,
Prof., PhD

LEGAL OFFICE,
Legal advisor Simona Haiduc

ECONOMIC DIRECTOR,
Ec. Elena Marton