

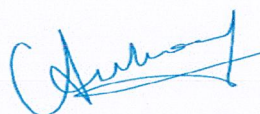
REPORT
EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT
FOR STUDY PROGRAM: DOCTORATE IN PHARMACEUTICAL
SCIENCES
Private University "Albanian University"

External Evaluation Experts:

PhD. Entela Celiku



Prof. Dr. Arben Merkoci



February/2020

EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT
FOR STUDY PROGRAM: PhD in "PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES"

Data on the study program		
1	Applicant HEI:	Private University "Albanian University"
2	Faculty offering the study program:	Faculty of Medical Sciences Department of Pharmacy
3	Order/Decision of licencing/reorganizing:	Order of Minister of Education and Science No. 68, dated 12.02.2013.
4	Order/Decision of the first accreditation:	Decision of the Accreditation Council No. 214, dated 16.12.2016
5	Title of the study program:	"PhD" in "Pharmaceutical Sciences"
6	Cycle of studies:	Third Cycle
7	Length of the study program:	At least 3 academic years
8	Credits in total (ECTS):	60 ECTS organized theoretical studies, of which at least 15 theoretical ECTS which will be covered by foreign lecturers with the academic qualification required for undergraduate studies
9	Form of study (full time/part time/in distance):	Full time
10	Language:	Albanian
11	Study program offered by HEI:	Private University "Albanian University"
12	Study program offered in collaboration with other HEIs:	NO
13	Joint degree	NO
14	Double degree:	NO
15	Level on the National Qualification Reference:	Level 8
16	Students Number:	2 students

INTRODUCTION

The EGG has reviewed the documents provided by the Higher Education Institution, Albanian University, concerning the organization of the doctoral studies program in ‘Pharmaceutical Science’. September 2019, this program was subjected to evaluation by the external experts PhD. Entela Celiku and Prof. Dr. Arben Merkoci.

The current EGG beside reviewing all the documents, also had a site-visit (by Dr. Celiku accompanied by ASCAL) and discussions with the responsible authorities of this Doctoral program such as the Rector of AU, the former Council of the Professors, the Internal Evaluation Committee, the Head of the Pharmacy Department and also with the only remaining two Doctoral candidates who are also full time Lecturers at AU. Prior to the site visit, the experts reviewed the SER and submitted a short preliminary statement including open questions and potential needs for additional information. AQAS forwarded these preliminary statements to AU and the panel members in order to increase transparency in the process and the upcoming discussions during the site visit.

The Doctorate Studies program in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Dr.-PS) is a third cycle study program at Albanian University (AU), regulated by the Albanian Law No. 974 of 21/05/2007 and amended by Law No. 10307 of 22/07/2010, in Tirana. The program was activated based on the decision of the AU Senate on Decree No. 68, 12/02/2013 by the Ministry of Education Sport and Youth of the Republic of Albania.

The Dr-PS program is integrated with the general aims of the AU, whose mission is the training and qualification of professionals in pharmaceutical sciences. The Dr.-PS is opened for professionals with a background in medicinal chemistry, pharmacy and general medicine to perform research in the field of pharmaceutical sciences which will lead to future scientists for the Albanian Institutions and Biotech companies, as a potential for the Albanian economic growth.

MEMBERS OF EXTERNAL EVALUATION GROUP (EEG)

1. PhD. Entela Celiku
2. Prof. Dr. Arben Merkoci

Technical Coordinator of ASCAL for this process is Mrs. Xhiliola Bixheku.

On 24.01.2020, the Draft-Report was sent to HEI, via AMS System and with the official letter of ASCAL No. 41 Prot., dated 24.01.2020.

On 03.02.2020, HEI submitted the comments on the Draft-Report. The External Evaluation Group is informed about these comments and still considers that there are not sufficient data/arguments to change the Evaluation Report.




**ACCREDITATION COUNCIL REASONS, IN NEGATIVE DECISION ON FIRST
ACCREDITATION OF STUDY PROGRAM**

PhD. study program in "Pharmaceutical Science ", **does not meet** legal criteria and "State Quality Standards" for accreditation of third cycle study programs, with the following arguments:

- a. Full-time academic staff covering theoretical disciplines is insufficient and does not cover the required 60%. The internal staff engaged for the most part is not specialized in the field of the program. Some members of the academic staff involved in this program prove insufficient level of international scientific publications.
- b. In some cases, there is a discrepancy of the field of expertise of leaders with the topics of doctorates under leadership.
- c. None of the doctoral topics are experimental or based on pharmaceutical research activity as required for doctoral programs of this kind, without developing in-depth knowledge and research skills of students in this program.
- d. Engaging full-time students in activities outside the Institution makes it difficult for them to attend full-time (as stated).
- e. Low productivity and scarce scientific publications by the students of this program.
- f. The role and function of individual collaborators or collaborating institutions is not well defined and no concrete commitment or product is identified in the realization of the study program.
- g. Lack of research laboratories in the premises of this Institution.
- h. The research laboratories and the Institution's own library do not sufficiently support the practical activities of doctoral students.
- i. The doctoral program is not sufficiently funded with research activities and lacks dedicated grants for this purpose, forcing these activities to be carried out by students outside the Institution. The inadequacy of funding for this program is also reflected in the lack of student support for their training and mobility at home and abroad.

The actual EEG conclusions are in accordance with the previous EEG that took place in 2016. In general, the Department of Pharmacy has made no progress in addressing all the issues and recommendations (except the diploma printed format) raised in the last external review.



MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAM

1. Mission and objectives of doctoral study program

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: aims and objectives of the study program and scientific research, strategies in the short, medium and long terms, the number of students over the years, study programs of third cycle, HEI place (in the national and international contest).

The program aims to merge the implementation of student’s knowledge in Pharmaceutical Sciences with the development of research capacity toward the principles of drug therapy, drug discovery, drug resistance and pharmacovigilance.

Based on the “Mission and objectives of the doctoral study program” the External Evaluation Group (EEG) concurs that it complies with the University needs but as presented it offers mainly theoretical courses and no infrastructure to design and perform experimental work.

As specified in the IER, one of the main goals of the long-term strategy is turning University into a specialized center for expertise in medical sciences, for an important contribution at national level with an impact in the region and wider. The EEG could verify through evidences that little effort is done in accomplishing this goal.

AU has established collaboration through signed agreements with foreign institutions in Italy such as the University of Pisa, University of L’Aquila and the University of Palermo. To date, no exchange mobility of Doctorate candidates took place.

The Dr-PS has enrolled six PhD candidates for the first cycle initiated in 2013, while in 2018 four of these candidates decided to resign the program with a letter of resignation. Their decision was made after the negative accreditation report that took place in December, 2016.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards ¹
Standard I.1 - General framework	
<p>Criterion 1 The study program of third cycle (doctorate) is a new program or a reorganized program;</p> <p>Criterion 2 If it is reorganized, the extent to which it affected the previous program.</p> <p>Criterion 3 The total number of students studying how doctor eight and number of those who attend this study program each year is in line with</p>	<p>The doctorate program is a new study program, initiated in 2013. It is not a reorganized program.</p> <p>Six students have been enrolled in the first years whereas 4 of them have resigned this</p>

¹ IEG must writing for the fulfillment of each standard (based on criterions). At the end of their, need to write his opinions (summary), for fulfill the standards

the policies of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) where the program is conducted as well as state policy for higher education and scientific research regarding recognition and validation of diploma and number of students studying for doctorate to one scientific mentor.

Criterion 4 Doctorate study program is supported by national or international research groups accredited for research in relevant field or fields of studies;

Criterion 7 Internal evaluation report of study program of the third cycle is reviewed by the Council of Professors.

program after the negative evaluation from the EEG in 2016. Therefore, has not been a second enrollment of students in the following years 2014-2018. The number of the PhD candidates assigned to each scientific mentor is also complying with the State principles for HEI and the recommendations for proper ratios Scientific mentor/student in order to respect full guidance during the classes, training and research activities. Nevertheless, only 50% of teaching staff was engaged full time, while the Law requires at least 60% of the academic staff must be full time engaged. AU, after the recommendations of the previous EEG, changed this ratio fulfilling the requirement of a minimum of 60% FAS.

The doctorate study program is not supported by any national or international grants and barely has support (mainly teaching courses) from national and international groups accredited for research in relevant fields of studies. Since the starting of Dr-PS there is no evidence supporting the research activities of the Doctoral projects from international collaboration.

The Internal Evaluation Group established by the AU Rector Decree involves the Dr-PS Coordinator, as well as representatives of Professors and students. The Internal Self Evaluation Report (SER) is reviewed by the Council of Professors (CoP) before approval. The University indicates furthermore that it has in place a regular system to obtain feedback from faculty members, students and other university staff.

Conclusions of EEG:

Based on the evidence provided during the visit and the interviews with different groups, the panel of



experts was able to confirm that within the University the responsibilities are well defined. The faculty, as well as the program coordinator have a defined scope of responsibilities both content and administrative-wise. The responsibilities for the administration and the quality assurance of the doctoral program are also defined. The panel of experts is therefore convinced that processes and procedures are in place and it was clearly observed that the different groups of interest, especially students, are very well aware of the responsible persons/instances for different aspects of the program.

Based on the requirements of the Law the fulltime teaching staff involved in the program must be 60% and that is fulfilled. This EEG recommends the recruitment of new faculty/staff that can enhance strengths and contribute to stronger team science in the support of the development of the Dr-PS program.

2. Academic Organisation chart of the Doctoral School

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: the place of the Doctoral School in the organization chart of the HEI (University / Faculty / Department), data for the academic staff responsible for the doctorate, the number of Full-time Academic Staff (FAS), Part-time Academic Staff (PAS), Administrative employes (AE), teaching coordination with other units.

The governing bodies of Doctoral Studies are the Council of Professors, the Scientific Director, the Department, the Doctorate Coordinator. They collegially check all the academic and administrative activity of third cycle studies and take decisions about important problems. These governing bodies are subordinate to academic staff, support staff, commissions that are raised as needed.

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- Structure of Doctoral School Organization [Evidence 1.1, Chapter IV, Article 15]
- Number of academic staff involved in PhD study program: FAS, PAS, AE, title/degree,

Measurable indicators:

- Organizational structure (chart)
- Bodies selected/nominatet at all levels
- Hierarchical units, decision- making
- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution
- Academic Structures of doctoral school
- Database of HEI, updating and the responsibility for retaining and sharing information;
- Number of accademic staff (verify the data, according to Table 1 and 2)



Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 1 Unit that organizes doctorate study program has accredited two first cycles of studies in the field, in which it offers the doctorate study program;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Unit that organizes the doctorate study program has adequate administrative premises to realize its good functioning;</p> <p>Criterion 3 In order to carry out the doctorate study program, the unit that proposes its opening engages the necessary personnel, ranging from teaching secretary that follows the third cycle progress;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Responsible bodies for its supervision are established in doctorate study program regulation;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Board of Professors, which is responsible for organizing and supervising doctorate study program has a sufficient number of members that cover all its issues. Minimum number of professors in PC should be 7 (seven). Board of Professors may be also raised to the level of higher education institution, when its main units do not meet the required number of full-time professors;</p> <p>Criterion 6 Board of Professors of the main unit that organizes and manages the doctorate study program meets periodically throughout the year;</p>	<p>The unit involved in doctorate studies has been accredited by the Minister of Education, Sport and Youth, Law No. 90 dated 20/10/2017, but AU is on the process of the institutional accreditation while the Master's programs have already accredited.</p> <p>The main structure of the Doctorate School at AU ensures good functioning of the new Dr-PS program. The administrative staff is dedicated to the program, documenting all files (hardcopy and electronic database) and updating the latest records. Administrative infrastructure is sufficiently equipped, nevertheless the online system should be implemented in the near future, where the candidates can have all the information about the courses, syllabuses, internship and job opportunities.</p> <p>The organizational chart includes responsible bodies for supervision (Department, Scientific and Administrative Coordinators, Council of Professors). The faculty staff involved in the program are qualified full professors and researchers from AU, the standard of a minimum of seven academics in a department is fulfilled.</p> <p>Currently, the Board of Professors includes seven members. The Council meets at least once per year and additional meeting occur if needed.</p>
Conclusions of EEG:	
<p>The Faculty has sufficient human resources, including faculty members, support and administrative staff, and preceptors to effectively deliver and evaluate the graduate program. Student services personnel within the Faculty are qualified and trained appropriately to provide information about and referral to necessary services.</p>	

3. Quality of Academic and administrative (support) staff

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: dates for qualifications of academic staff, FAS/PAS/AE rate, Academic Staff/student rate; work load for FAS, PAS and AE; staff recruitment criteria; Contracts, data base for human resource; etc.

Prof. Assoc. A. D., the scientific coordinator of the Dr-PS program, is an experienced researcher ensuring proper coordination for the program. All contracts for academic staff are clearly defined, under the regulations of each partner's institution and joint agreement, there is track for all the contracts from the Human Resources directorate.

The number of fulltime faculty members after the recommendations of the previous EEG has risen. AU should enable them to engage in activities outside their teaching duties, especially for the purposes of professional development, curriculum development, student mentoring/counselling, administrative work, training, and placement of students, interaction with industrial and professional practitioners.

The faculty must have sound educational qualifications, and must be actively updating knowledge in their respective areas of interest. In terms of teaching, the faculty possess experience, are able to communicate effectively, and are enthusiastic about the program improvement. The Department is not active in research and faculty members involved in the Dr-PS do not have any research paper published in Journals indexed in Scopus since 2015, some of them since 2010. AU should recruit new faculty/staff that would enhance strengths and contribute to stronger team science in the support of the development of the Dr-PS program.

Measurable indicators:

Academic staff consists of full-time or part-time professors as well as invited academic staff including professors and lecturers. Their rights and duties are defined in the employment contract and the general AU regulation. Academic staff offers the quality of teaching according to the requirements and standards of the University. Academic staff can also engage in other work of administrative nature, in order to help the needs of the University.

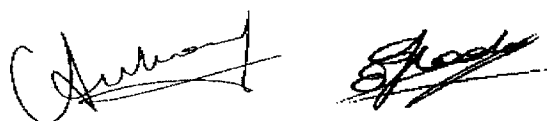
At the beginning of the academic year, based on their needs for academic staff, the basic units of the respective faculty submit to the Faculty Council the requirements for filling the vacancies. The Faculty Council determines the admission criteria, the competition procedures and establishes the Evaluation Committee.

Ratio FTS/PTS

5/3

Ratio of academic staff/Administrativ staff/Student

8/2/2



Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	
<p>Criterion 6 The number and level of researchers engaged in this program constitutes a guarantee for program implementation (60% of them should be internal academic staff, engaged in research and holders of academic titles "Professor", "Associate Professor" or scientific degree "Doctor" or "PhD" awarded in universities well known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field;</p>	<p>The internal fulltime academic staff engaged in the Dr-PS program is 5 out of a total 8, the required ratio of 60% between internal and total faculty with academic titles "Professor", "Associate Professor" or scientific degree "Doctor" or "PhD" awarded from Western Universities, is fulfilled.</p>
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
<p>Criterion 1 The institution that offers programs of study of third cycle (doctorate), has sufficient academic staff with scientific titles and degrees;</p> <p>Criterion 2 The institution has sufficient administrative and research structures for activities provided in the study program to conduct research. The institution may organize joint programs of doctorate study with one or more other institutions, based on agreements between them;</p>	<p>AU has sufficient academic staff with scientific titles and degrees even though academic promotions should be encouraged as most of the academic staff have PhD degrees. The academic staff should have more scientific production such as research papers published in peer reviewed international journals, grant writing for national and international funds, international exchanges through outreach lectures, internships and training.</p> <p>Faculty members, staff and preceptors are evaluated in accordance with Faculty policy, using multiple sources of information with reference to clearly outlined criteria.</p> <p>The research infrastructure is not adequate as teaching laboratories for Bachelor/Master level cannot support the scientific research of a graduate program. The Dr-PS program is not organized as a joint program with other Albanian or International institutions.</p>
<u>Conclusions of EEG:</u>	
<p>The EEG, based on the documents provided and the In-Situ visit, concludes that the administrative and academic staff are professionals who guarantee this third cycle program study in terms of lecturing and theoretical mentoring. Critical point remains the faculty performance that must be consistent with University policy. In terms of the scientific production the performance of the academic staff is poor in scientific papers, research projects and international exchanges.</p>	

4. Facilities, infrastructure, logistics and other services of doctoral program

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: infrastructure, material resources, logistics and other services, information technology (IT), libraries, other services for students.

AU infrastructure (in terms of classrooms, buildings, logistics) is adequate, several buildings are in use for the didactic process for Bachelor and Master programs offered from AU. The buildings are adapted for student activities, offices, teaching laboratories, study area as well as canteen and cafeteria. However, the facilities infrastructure restricts access by students with special physical needs.

Teaching laboratories of Organic Chemistry, General Chemistry, Pharmacology and Pharmacognosy cannot serve as scientific research laboratory to complement the success of the doctoral program. The laboratories do not comply with the safety regulations and management of hazardous chemical and biological waste.

Apparatus and methods are not up-to-date, research in the laboratory is lacking as the doctoral projects proposed are mainly theoretical, without any innovation for the community of pharmacists in Albania and beyond. Candidates have limited access to online libraries while access to online databases such as SCOPUS, PubMed, SciFinder, Reaxys, ect does not exist.


Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the Facilities, infrastructure and logistics for doctoral school (verify the data, according to Table 6)

- EEG should analyze and evaluate other logistics database, as:
 - number of PC per doctoral students;
 - number of PC furnished labs per students;
 - number of PC for academic staff
 - number of PC for administration
 - number of printers for each one
 - number of photocopying machines for each one
 - number of head projectors
 - number of video-projectors
 - number of scanners

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard II.2 - Didactic basis and technical support	
Criterion 1 Students admitted in the third cycle study program have necessary conditions to realize the study program with academic and research character;	Doctoral candidates admitted in the third cycle study program Dr-PS do not have the necessary conditions to successfully accomplish their scientific degree. Due to the



<p>Criterion 2 Doctorate studies program provides harmonization of student's goals in scientific-research field, approved research projects and, at its conclusion, even the possibility of academic career and employment;</p> <p>Criterion 3 A scientific library with publications in hardcopy and electronic form and complete IT infrastructure available to of third cycle study program;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Students have sufficient technical support for scientific research development;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Researches that include laboratory researches are supported by sufficient scientific laboratory basis.</p>	<p>absence of research laboratories as well as of the inovative scientific research proposals, the candidate can not develop scientific critical thinking, problem-solving skills supported through the application of information and other instructional technologies, laboratory experiences, practice and decision support tools, case studies, guided group discussions, problem-based learning cases, and simulations and other practice based exercises. The proposed research projects of such quality cannot lead their employment in pharmaceutical industries or in academia.</p> <p>Laboratory technicians are qualified for teaching purposes laboratory techniques. Technical support for the scientific research development is limited, the laboratory basis is basic for Bachelor/Master level courses. Wet lab work is not included in the research proposals as they are mainly theoretical (involving statistics etc.).</p>
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Conclusions of IEG:

AU infrastructure (in terms of classrooms, buildings, logistics) is adequate, several buildings are in use for the didactic process for Bachelor and Master programs offered from AU. The buildings are adapted for student activities, offices, teaching laboratories, study area as well as canteen and cafeteria. However, the facilities infrastructure restricts access by students with special physical needs. Concerning the research infrastructure, the EEG concludes that is absent as teaching laboratories for students enrolled in the first and second level programs are not scientific laboratories.

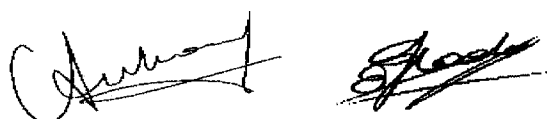
5. Financing and management of financial resources

Descriptions part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: financial resources, data over the years, expenditures, costs per students, financial auditing, managing capacities.

The financial resources made available to the Dr-PS program are entirely derived from student's tuition fees. Apparently, no other financial resources including national or international grants are available. AU has the expertise for proper management of University finances, the budget is discussed yearly and evaluated within the specific internal committees and the Administration Office after the internal financial audit.

AU does not provide stipend for the doctorate students and has no strategic plan in building scientific laboratories to support the Dr-PS program.



Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the Financial resources, data over the three years (verify the data, according to Table 7)

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the Costs for students and their mobility costs;
- Transparency and internal financial control, audit and outcomes;
- Financial management capacity;

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	
Criterion 5 Doctorate study program is supported by a sufficient budget for research;	AU provides financial support for administrative expenses, covered by tuition fees. No budget is allocated for the research work by either AU or other public/private agencies. The internal fulltime academic staff involved in the Dr-PS has yet not submitted any grants proposal for national or international funds.
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
Criterion 8 External funding received for scientific research is indicative of high level research activity and they are administered for the progress of relevant study program.	There are no external grants available for the Dr-PS program.
Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program	
Criterion 7 Financial budget of doctorate study program is sufficient to achieve research objectives for each doctorate student; Criterion 8 Financial budget distribution structure of doctorate study program matches with scientific research policy and needs.	The EEG analyzed all the documents made available by AU and realized that the financial budget distribution structure is not documented, this EEG has no proof of it. For the research area of Pharmaceutical Sciences, a mainly experimental discipline, AU has no budget allocated for the experimental work.
Standard III.3 - Financing of doctorate study program	
Criterion 1 Number of research works funded by the ministry; Criterion 2 Distribution of funds to host and supervision teams of scientific research works is done in a balanced way; Criterion 3 Number of research works funded under national research projects, benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;	The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has not allotted any funds to the Dr-PS program at UA. No research work is funded within any national or international project. To the best of our knowledge, the internal fulltime academic staff have no ongoing projects nationally or internationally founded.



<p>Criterion 4 Number of research works funded under international research projects benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;</p>	<p>Still, no effort is made to write grants or initiate collaboration for such applications.</p>
<p>Conclusions of EEG: The hosting Institution of Dr-PS program must allocate funds in their annual budget (such evidence is missing) supporting the scientific research work. Currently, there are no scientific research financed in the framework of national and international research projects., while the accademic staff has to apply for national and international funding grants, such effort could not be evidenced.</p>	

6. Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS)

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: Internal Monitoring for Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU), its functions in doctoral programs, self-assessment and continuous quality improvement.

The IQAS Unit is composed of six members, it operates in collaboration with the Departments. A questionnaire is filled by the students, altogether with the reports provided from the Head of the Departments are published. The six members of the IQAS are in charge for monitoring Bachelor/Master's program and the Doctorate programs, including the Dr-PS program as well.


Meanwhile, shortcomings were reviewed by the Academic Senate. Following the analysis, it was decided on re-organization of third cycle programs, (where PhD program in Pharmaceutical Sciences also belongs) as a legal obligation of new law on higher education 80/2015, as well as a necessity for settling the underlined problems.

Even though the current generation of students might be the only, AU and NJSBC are maximally engaged to meet the required standards of the program, as long as AU does not have a great experience in this respect.

University decision makers, based on the results of the surveys, further steps to render the PhD program more functional and adapted to the student's needs have not been elaborated yet. The EEG examined in details the various aspects of the IQAS and concluded that the national standards are substantially met.

Measurable indicators:

As specified in the IER, based on the unsuccessful completion of first evaluation, AU, and NJSBC in particular were maximally engaged in cooperation with doctoral students in realization of informative meetings for the accreditation process and responsibilities and duties of institution and students, who were asked to meet all legal criteria and standards regarding quality.



- ☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate the quantitative data for IQAU, as:
 - How many surveys are made with students?
 - How many students were surveyed?
 - How many surveys are processed, and what problems are issued?
 - Which have been the next steps?
 - etc.

- ☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate the analyses for *Internal quality control*, as:
 - Responsibilities in monitoring and quality management, until the department level
 - Self assessments conducted, and their results
 - Quality improvement policies, on the basis of periodic self-assessment
 - The results of the audit and preview external assessment

7. Study program, its organization

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: Title of Diploma (in Albanian and English), mission and objectives of the research program, the organization of the first year in doctorate school, the curriculum content of all its elements (subjects / modules, corresponding credits, sharing teaching hours per study forms, classes in /outside of auditorium under the forms of teaching), literature and other auxiliary materials, etc.

Mission and objectives of the Doctoral program are well defined particularly the increasing of knowledge, facilitation and guiding of scientific quality products in the field of pharmaceutical Sciences while no realistic effort is made to support the mission and objectives of the Dr-PS through innovative research doctorate proposals.

Measurable indicators:

Doctoral students, during their studies have been supported by following institutions:

- University Hospital Center, Tirana (Oncology Service, Hematology service, Cardiology)
- National Association of Palliative Care, Ryder Albania
- Healthcare Compulsory Insurance Fund
- “Shefqet Ndroqi” University Hospital, Tirana
- Public Health Institute, Tirana
- Obstetric-Gynecological Hospital “Mbretëresha Geraldinë” (Molecular Diagnostication Center) for gathering necessary data for realization of doctoral projects. With these institutions Albanian University has signed special cooperation agreements.



Based on the research project proposals, progress reports, comments and suggestions from supervisors and academic staff of the Department of Pharmacy, the EEG again emphasizes that projects proposed are not for doctoral level research.

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the: doctoral thesis and its presentation

To date the doctoral thesis of the two doctorate candidates is not submitted for evaluation as the requirements are not fulfilled. The candidates have not published as first author three research papers of their doctoral project in journals with Editorial Board, while both the candidates have participated in International Congresses fulfilling this obligatory standard.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards/criteria
Standard I.4 - Design and realization of theoretical course of third cycle studies (Doctorate)	
<p>Criterion 1 Programs of third cycle studies include 60 credits for theoretical organized studies;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Theoretical organized studies anticipate balanced ratio of classes for academic and scientific general and specific training;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Detailed teaching program is approved pursuant to bylaws in force;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Theoretical doctorate course is evaluated with a general theoretical examination in relevant field of study, organized by Dean's office and Professors' Council, with a commission consisting of 5 (five) professors in the relevant research field or approximate to it. Candidates who achieve over 80% points are allowed to attend the doctorate research studies. Those who do not reach this result receive a certificate for conducted modules, together with accumulated credits and interrupt doctorate studies.</p>	<p>The Dr-PS program includes 60 credits for theoretical studies developed in the first year of the program.</p> <p>Teaching program in the first year is organized in two semesters at the end of each semester the student gains 60 credits, as well as attends a total of about 1500 teaching hours, 600 out of which are hours in the auditory and 900 other hours, distributed in the course of the academic year. are individual study hours. In the study program curricula is presented a balance between general academic preparation hours and those of specific academic preparation. Subjects and modules are assessed by credits according to the principle 1 credit consists of 25 teaching hours. The determining hours of the credit are included also the hours outside the auditory necessary for learning the teaching material, completion of assignments, as well as time for independent work of the student. Calculation of credits is carried out according to orientating coefficients approved by relevant Ministry.</p> <p>The teaching programs are in good</p>

	<p>understanding with internal and national regulations.</p> <p>The general theoretical exam takes place at the end of the first year. It is organized by Dean's office and candidates who achieve over 80% score were allowed to pursue the scientific research work.</p>
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Standard II.3 - Drafting and approval of proposed research project

<p>Criterion 1 Applicant who requires to be admitted to doctorate studies program has submitted the request for a particular research area and this has been discussed with him in the interview;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Scope of research is selected in such a way that doctorate studies program can support it;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Proposal is approved by Professors' Council if criteria prescribed and announced in regulation of doctorate studies are met.</p> <p>The following should be also confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Duration of study program; b) Modalities of verification of research or creative activity of doctorate students; c) Manner of final presentation of scientific research result that doctorate student will achieve; <p>Criterion 4 A member of academic staff with the title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or with scientific degree "Doctor" or ("PhD") awarded in the scientific field in which doctorate student follows the studies in universities known in the world, for quality and rich researching and publishing activities in the relevant field, is appointed by Board of Professors to supervise and support student's research work;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Doctorate student presents to Board of Professors the research development plan, designed by him and discussed with his supervisor;</p> <p>Criterion 6 Supervisor has advised repeatedly the students that he supervises for didactic duties and research activities as well as research methodology to ensure the progress of his studies in this program.</p>	<p>Candidates have submitted a research project advised by their scientific supervisors.</p> <p>Scope of the research project for each candidate is supported by this program at AU because none of the proposals require modern instruments or laboratory infrastructure.</p> <p>Proposals are approved by the Professors' Council. The current two doctoral candidates are supervised by full professors who are continuously supporting and advising the candidates for the proposed projects.</p>
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Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research

<p>Criterion 1 A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p>	<p>All the supportive documents provided to this EGG testify that there is no individual research work from the candidates but collection of data and statistical evaluation.</p>
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Standard II.4 - Doctorate student's supervision and continuous evaluation of progress of doctorate studies

<p>Criterion 1 Scientific supervisor of student is responsible for directing, advising, assessment of student's needs and for developing and monitoring progress of student's research work. He has the academic title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or the scientific degree "Doctor" or ("PhD") awarded in Western universities and has a rich research and publishing activity;</p> <p>Criterion 2 All scientific supervisors have had the expertise,</p>	<p>The scientific supervisors have the adequate titles as required by law to lead a doctoral research project.</p> <p>All scientific supervisors have the expertise to successfully advise the research work in the proposed filed but because of the</p>
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instruction and proper guidance for their role in realization of scientific research project of doctorate students;

Criterion 3 Scientific supervisors work to update their knowledge and skills, based on institutional arrangements in order to enable the exchange of best practices and providing advice to support students effectively;

Criterion 4 Board of Professors selects scientific supervisors, capable to supervise doctorate students' research work, based on assessment of their publishing and research activities inside and outside the country;

Criterion 5 The main scientific supervisor and the other supervisor (when program of doctorate studies is offered by more than one university) guarantee that doctorate students receive sufficient support and guidance to facilitate their work to achieve success;

Criterion 6 In all cases, the student must have only one identified contact point, who should be his main supervisor. If his main supervisor is not available, the student must know who will be the person to replace him;

Criterion 7 University ensures that supervisor has enough time to supervise doctorate student;

If the main leader is unable to continue supervision of student, or will be absent for a considerable period, he should be replaced by another his main supervisor before the period of awarding the diploma for scientific degree "Doctor";

Criterion 8 If relationship student-supervisor does not function well, at the request of student or his supervisor, supervisor is changed, provided that this does not affect the project progress;

Criterion 9 Clear and transparent procedures are set for verification of knowledge or periodic evaluation of student (for example, an annual review by a panel called for this purpose or by a special commission set up by Professors' Council). **Criterion 10** Doctorate student and his supervisor should be present during this process. The manner and periods of verification of knowledge or periodic evaluation of doctorate student are stipulated and specified in the beginning of doctorate studies program;

Criterion 11 Continuous evaluation conclusions for realization of scientific research project of program of doctorate studies are clear and transparent including suspension, extension or withdrawal from doctorate studies;

Criterion 12 Meetings between supervisors and doctorate students are documented, especially during the review of progress reports.

absence of the scientific laboratory infrastructure the proposals are oriented more to theoretical work.

For most of the scientific supervisors is not easy to update their knowledge because no research work is been carried out in this institution and the internal fulltime academic staff is involved mainly in teaching and not conducting research work. Exchanges are encouraged by the policy of the AU but till now no student (Doctoral candidates) exchanges occurred. There are agreements of collaborations with international institutions and a document specifying that PhD-candidate N. has been award with an Erasmus+ exchange at the University of Pisa, no document was provided as a proof of such fulfillment. The candidate was asked by the EEG concerning this exchange, she responded that she was not able to do the five months internship at the University of Pisa.

The doctorate program is not a joint degree so AU is the only institution responsible to ensure the success of this program. AU has support from other institutions established by signed agreements, this support was mainly for the teaching part of the program.

The students have all the support in case the supervisor is not available or ethics are involved. The Professors Council has the right to replace the supervisor if not enough time is dedicated in mentoring the candidate or based on student/supervisor request to stop their work.

The candidates report the progress annually through presentations in the department, where questions and suggestions are made from the special commission approved by the Professors Council, members of the department also make question and give ideas for the ongoing of the research projects.

Both candidates and supervisors are



presents when the reporting takes place. All these meetings are documented and a relation is made for each presentation/following up.

Conclusions of EEG:

The study program “PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences” includes 60 credits for theoretical organized studies, which are held during 1st year of doctoral school. At the end of first year of doctoral studies, the student, who has already managed to gain 60 credits, undergoes a test about assessment of general theoretical level. The type of exam is determined by Council of Professors. Positive assessment in the qualification exam is a necessary condition for the attendance of studies by the student and registration in second year. The EEG concludes that the theoretical satisfies the standards.

The doctorate candidates after five years of being enrolled in the Dr-PS, have not fulfilled the requirement of publishing three research papers (related to their doctoral project) as first authors in international journals with Editorial Board.

8. Teaching – Learning outcome (in first year)

Description part

Terma reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: organization, teaching methods, quality of workload and realisation of it, teaching technologies, internal evaluation of teaching, students' participation in the activities of the doctoral school, control of student knowledge, student scientific leadership etj.

Organization of teaching and forms of teaching.

In the third cycle (doctorate) program, the teaching is organized in accordance with the rules and acts in force, and by following the contemporary methods, considering the academic freedom of the lecturers to organize lessons and seminars, according to the forms they consider to be most suitable for the nature of the subject. Teaching is mainly interactive, inviting students to become part of the discussions, bring the information they have read or receive from other sources, and share them with the audience in accordance with the issues raised. Teachers use contemporary teaching methods: they use contemporary visual methods that make interactive and interesting lessons, use DVD lessons, etc.

Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the student’s workload, forms of teaching (verify the data, according to Table 10)
- EEG should analyze and evaluate the policies for Learning Outcomes control (verify the data, according to Table 11)



- EEG should analyze and evaluate the: students's participation in the research activities of the University/Faculty/etc. (verify the data, according to Table 12)

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.2 - Continuous increase of theoretical level and promotion of students' team work are targets of a study program of third cycle, doctorate.	
<p>Criterion 1 Level of scientific research development helps in student training to complete the study program successfully;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Students have the opportunity to participate in various research activities closely related to the specific area in which they attend doctorate studies, which help him/her to be trained for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Acquisition of research methodologies for independent creative activities, such as scientific articles, presentations, standard approach for references, bibliography, indexes and content writing as the basis for doctor a thesis processing; b) Independent work in laboratory; c) Use of information resources (e.g. libraries and Internet) and information management; d) Use of modern technologies for public presentations; e) Acquisition of advanced methods of analysis and data processing; f) Learning and mastery of specialized terminology associated with the research field of doctorate student; <p>Criterion 3 Doctorate students participate in foreseen activities young and their research work. A doctorate student is free to participate as a listener or as a speaker in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lectures; b) Seminars; c) Interdisciplinary debates, organized in the framework of doctorate study program; d) Other possibilities of learning such as following presentations of post doctorate students and research projects, even when it is not related directly to the student's research interest. e) Scientific mentors advise students to take part in scientific activities and conferences that help them in their scientific research; <p>Criterion 4 Students have gained skills for appropriate communication with a scientific level (<i>Student's communication skills include: the competency to write clearly and with an appropriate style, use of persuasive arguments and clear articulation of ideas before the public concerned; the ability to debate and support others, involved in teaching, supervision or demonstrations</i>);</p>	<p>During the meeting with the two enrolled doctorate students, the EEG was able to assess that they have opportunities to participate in seminars, lectures outside their obligatory course as well as conferences. The students possess good theoretical knowledge to pursue their research proposals. Both the students have great communication skills, mastering the way they present their ideas about research work. Both candidates are enthusiastic fulltime lecturers at AU, lecturing first and second cycle classes within the Faculty of Medical Sciences.</p> <p>The EEG strongly believes that Dr-PS must offer the opportunity for scientific training through laboratory experience, to acquire of right attitude and development of higher cognitive skills that enhance professional competence, to acquire critical and analytical skills that will enable the student design and undertake original research in pharmaceutical sciences and implement a research project, and enable students to be intentional and reflective in the transfer of knowledge and practice of clinical pharmacy.</p>

Criterion 5 Students have acquired the ability to communicate correctly with others, and necessary skill for a scholar, but also in other situations (*being able to develop and maintain cooperation and working relationships with others, awareness that their behavior affects them and others and be willing to listen, to give and to take reactions and responses with sharpness*);

Criterion 6 Development of communication skills of doctorate students encouraged them to be engaged in teaching in study programs of first and second cycle (e.g. by engaging in teaching as lecturers, in support of professors guiding their thesis).

Conclusions of EEG:

The PhD studies in Pharmaceutics Sciences organized by AU consists of three years of study. Teaching is mainly interactive, inviting students to become part of the discussions. It offers a combination of lectures, seminar, presentations, and team work.

The EEG strongly believes that PhD-SP must offer the opportunity for scientific training through laboratory experience.

Areas of improvement have been addressed in the chapters above.

9. Doctoral students

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: academic criteria and procedures for enrollment of doctoral student, quality of students enrolled, the number of students enrolled and who has finished in years, average duration of doctoral studies (in years), statistics, collaboration with students who have received diploma, student's information.

Academic criteria and admission procedures for doctoral students. Academic criteria and admission procedures are in line with the regulation of Study Program [Evidence 1.1, Chapter V, article 23,24].


Quality of students enrolled

In [Evidence 9.1.a, b] is a summary of the student doctoral dossier since their admission up to date.

Number of students entering and leaving the year.

Minimal number of students admitted in doctoral school is 3, whereas the maximal is 30. The study program "PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences" is being held for the first time in third course of performance. There are 2 doctoral students registered in the study program "PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences"

Average duration of doctoral studies.



The study program "PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences" offered by Albanian University is a third cycle study program with a full academic character, based on scientific research and creative activity. The Doctoral study program is structured in three academic years and is run on a full- time basis. The normal term of doctoral studies is three years and the maximum term of study is four years. A student who fails to complete the studies within the three-year term, at the latter's request to the Council of Professors, may benefit from an additional year which, as a rule, is required when this requires the workload of the doctoral study. The postponement of the thesis defense is approved by the Council of Professors on the basis of the arguments and documents submitted by the candidate requesting this postponement.

Statistics

The study program "PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences" has not yet graduated the first generation of doctoral students.


Doctoral students are continuously informed by the responsible instances (department, program coordinator, leader, etc.) on the activities related to the progress of the study program.

Communication with Alumni

Students attending the study program "PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences" are the first doctoral students.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.3 - Admission of students in a doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 1 The student admitted to doctorate study program has completed second study cycle with average grade (> 80% of points) and was awarded the university degree "Master of Science"/ "Master of Fine Arts" or an equivalent degree, following completion of university studies that include a scientific thesis evaluated with 30-40 ECTS;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Candidate who applies to continue the third cycle program, the doctorate, has profound theoretical knowledge in the relevant field of study. Some basic knowledge that doctorate student has is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Creative thinking; b) Development of critical sense about research; c) Connections between different fields of research; d) Skills developed for solving problems arising during research work; e) Competence to manage research complexity and to propose new ideas in research field; <p>Criterion 3 The student admitted to doctorate study program is ready to apply in practice the knowledge gained from research in relevant field of studies;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Student owns the English language certified in the international level, at least "C1", based on internationally recognized tests and a second foreign language as French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian. In social</p>	<p>The rules for recruitment of doctorate students are clearly defined. The student admitted to Dr-PS program have a Master of Science degree in Pharmacy. Candidates submit a written proposal to the Department for review and assignment of a supervisor(s) while there is no justified project budget in their research proposal.</p> <p>The EEG strongly believes that Dr-PS must offer the opportunity for scientific training through laboratory experience, to acquire of right attitude and development of higher cognitive skills that enhance professional competence, to acquire critical and</p>



sciences it may be Latin, Ancient Greek, Persian or other languages needed for research in the area;

Criterion 5 Professors' Council set the criteria for admission to program of doctorate studies contained in regulation of doctorate program of studies;

Criterion 6 The applicant has received detailed information about doctorate program of study, before being admitted into it. He is fully informed regarding:

- a) Duration of study program;
- b) Conditions that student should meet before appearing in doctorate exam;
- c) Support that institution provides to the student through administrative and research structures for activities envisaged in the study program (laboratories, libraries, etc.).
- d) Modalities of exercise of research or creative activity of doctorate students, especially with regard to preparation of doctorate thesis;

Criterion 7 Admission criteria include also interviews and supports that can be provided by references and additional documents;

Criterion 8 Admission policies include also doctorate admission exam.

analytical skills that will enable the student design and undertake original research in pharmaceutical sciences and implement a research project, and enable students to be intentional and reflective in the transfer of knowledge and practice of clinical pharmacy.

Graduate students have proficient knowledge of foreign languages such as English and Italian, enabling them to do literature search and to follow up with the latest scientific inputs.

AU does not have information booklet (Students' Handbook for Dr-PS), the online system for this program does not exist, efforts should be addressed in implementing this system where students can find the content of the program, policies and all the needed information.

Admission policies do not include doctorate admission exam but candidates are interviewed and references are provided as additional documents supporting their application.

Standard II.5 - Final evaluation of students in this cycle of studies

Criterion 1 Student provides evidence that he has acquired:

- a. Profound knowledge in relevant scientific field;
- b. Profound knowledge in some areas approximate to it;
- c. Professional skills in using modern technology to solve critical problems related to his field of scientific research;
- d. Innovation, to expand and update existing knowledge;
- e. Autonomy, scientific, professional integrity and dedication for development of new ideas that encourage scientific research;

Criterion 2 Student provides evidence that he has brought original scientific products, scientific works of a high scientific level through conducted scientific research, some of which have deserved or deserve publication in scientific national and international magazines;


Criterion 3 Final evaluation of doctorate students is based above all on an assessment of their scientific research product;

Criterion 4 On the basis of an agreement reached in the phase of the study program approval, scientific research result is presented as a dissertation thesis, or cumulative with 3 scientific articles published in

Students throw the theoretical exams have provide evidence of profound knowledge in the scientific field of Pharmaceutical Sciences. They also have supervised Master's students research work for their thesis as a proof of autonomy and dedication toward the scientific research.

Scientific products for the proposed doctorate research proposal is poor, the reequipments to obtain the scientific doctor degree are not fulfilled.

No dissertation thesis is yet submitted, the candidates are still advancing in publishing



international journals with impact factor coefficient above 1;

Criterion 5 In case of doctorate examination with dissertation thesis, doctorate student meets the following conditions:

- a. He has realized as first author at least three scientific papers or presentations (poster), of which two papers or presentations are held in a international scientific event, in a western country (symposium, conference, congress), accepted on the basis of a preliminary scientific assessment, published in "Proceedings", indexed with an ISBN code;
- b. He has published as first author, at least three scientific articles in scientific journals. At least two of the articles have been published or accepted for publication in well-known western journals with editorial board;
- c. He has prepared and presented to Faculty Board of Professors the dissertation, along with a summary, approved by scientific supervisor. Structure of dissertation and its summary are defined in doctorate study regulation;

Criterion 6 Board of Professors defines two or three opponents, one of which is from outside the institution. Opponents are also members of the jury to assess dissertation. They have required academic titles and rich research and publishing activities inside and outside the country in the relevant field of study in which program doctorate studies is offered;

Criterion 7 Opponents who have had a substantial involvement in the work of doctorate student, or whose work is the very focus of research project;

Criterion 8 A dissertation copy is given to every opponent, giving enough time to read it and to write a separate report. Opponents should not communicate among themselves, with doctorate student or its scientific supervisor during this period. Opponents must verify the authenticity of data used in dissertation, observance of scientific research practice as well citations of scientific research works and articles of other authors.

Criterion 9 Opponents express clearly that scientific paper is free of plagiarism. If they notice and find that this has happened, they ask for termination of dissertation assessment;

Criterion 10 Dissertation is accompanied by a summary, about 10 pages in English. This review is published in the official website of the institution, in the section designated for information for this study;

Criterion 11 Scientific supervisor of the student should not be an opponent;

Criterion 12 When opponents have completed their reports, they are called by the Dean and Head of Board of Professors to agree to conduct oral examination;

Criterion 13 It is recommended, that a jury member of doctorate examination be from universities known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field, which has at least the scientific degree "Doctor" awarded in the scientific field in which doctorate student follows the studies and over 5 years academic and research experience. This criterion may not be applied to

their data.

The Dr-PS program has the policy and is obliged by law to fulfill criterion 5-18.



<p>Albanology sciences.</p> <p>Assessment of doctorate student in examination is made open by consensus, provided that all members are pronounced for a passing grade. Even if one member has evaluated doctorate student by convincing arguments, with a failing grade, the final outcome will be failing;</p> <p>Criterion 14 Opponents submit to dean of unit that organizes the program of doctorate studies and chairperson of doctorate examination jury a copy of their individual reports;</p> <p>Criterion 15 Dissertation defense for obtaining the diploma for scientific degree "Doctor" is public. It is announced at least 4 weeks before and it is done in the presence of department interested members, students and teachers in the relevant Higher Education Institution;</p> <p>Criterion 16 Evaluations that opponents can make include: granting diploma of scientific degree "Doctor", or resubmission of written scientific research paper after completion of their recommendations, or a further extension of study program, or denial of diploma for scientific degree "Doctor";</p> <p>Criterion 17 A copy of dissertation of student who received a diploma for scientific degree "Doctor" is deposited in library of faculty, research institute, university research centers, university where study program is carried out and scientific paper and a copy in National Library. Scientific degree "Doctor" is not issued without dissertation being deposited in aforementioned institutions, published in paper and on disk (CD) and without making it public in the official website of respective higher education institution;</p> <p>Criterion 18 Scientific degree "Doctor" is not issued without being registered in National Register of Doctorates of Securities Commission Academic Assessment (KVTA) in MES.</p>	
Standard III.2 - Quantitative aspects of doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 1 Total number of registered doctorate students and doctorate number for each year;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Number of registered doctorate students coming from outside the unit that has opened the doctorate study program;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Number of diplomas issued to receive "Doctor" degree for each year;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Average duration of doctorate studies and trend of this indicator;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Number and percentage of those who gave up doctorate studies in the level of study program.</p>	<p>To date no Doctor of Science degree was issued from Dr-PS program since the starting year 2013.</p> <p>Initially 6 students were enrolled in this program while 4 resigned in September 2019 after the negative accreditation decision from ASCAL.</p>
Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 1 Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Kosovo and other areas where Albanians live and Albanian diaspora;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Balkans region.</p> <p>Criterion 3 Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from the EU countries;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from other countries of the world;</p>	<p>Since 2013, when the program started, 6 students were admitted to pursue doctorate degree in PS, all the candidates are Albanians living in Albania, most of them obtained a Master of Science degree from AU. There are no doctorate students coming from Kosovo, Albanian diaspora, Balkans or EU countries.</p>

Conclusions of IEG:

The rules for recruitment of doctorate students are clearly defined and fulfilled. Criteria for the last year of the program (third year) are not fulfilled as the candidate are still progressing in fulfilling the required obligations before their thesis defense. More effort should be put for the internalization of the doctorate study program as to date there are no doctorate students coming from Kosovo, Albanian diaspora, Balkans or EU countries. The EEG cannot conclude concerning the defense of the dissertation as none of the candidates have defended their doctoral thesis to date.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POLICIES

10. Research in doctoral school and involvement of doctoral students

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: research policies of HEI /Doctoral School, publications over the years, acquired and implemented projects, participation of doctoral student in activities at home and abroad, the activities organized by the unit, etc..

Table 12 summarizes the measurable indicators related to research activities and involvement of doctoral students. AU has a periodical journal "OPTIME" with ISBN ISSN: 2220461X, which also allows Doctoral students to publish parts of their scientific research project.

Doctoral students have participated in different scientific events, such as International Pharmaceutical Conference on "Advances in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences", organized by Department of Pharmacy of Albanian University in cooperation with University of Pisa, Italy. Papers of this conference were accepted on the basis of a scientific preliminary review and were published in the "book of proceedings".

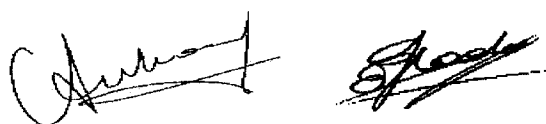
Also, during doctoral studies, doctoral students (at the same time full time lecturers) are engaged in teaching various disciplines of the Pharmacy Program, such as Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Technology, Toxicological Chemistry, and Pharmacognosy.

Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: data for research (verify the data, according to Table 13)

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards/ criteria
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	



<p>Criterion 1 A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p> <p>Criterion 4 The institution has the capacity to perform supervision of each doctorate student in research activities and respective didactic duties;</p> <p>Criterion 6 Academic staff must show achievements in the research field through such creative activities as: presentations, scientific publications, magazines, books or monographs;</p> <p>Criterion 7 Indicators of high level research activity are publications that contain statements from publishing and scientific research activity by other scholars outside doctorate study program, especially international, regarding the outcome of scientific research in the institution that offers doctorate programs;</p>	<p>The Dr-PS is integrated within the AU teaching system and its development in the organization of the research activities is complemented by other national institutions such as Public Health Institute and the Department of Pediatric Oncology of the QSUT, as well as by international institutions such as The University of Pisa and University of Palermo in Italy etc. All the above-mentioned institutions have qualified academics with productive research work, track of publications in peer reviewed journals and international students from joint and funded programs.</p> <p>EEG addresses again the lack of wet laboratory research work from the proposed research projects within the Dr-PS.</p>
<p><u>Conclusions of EEG:</u></p> <p>The academic staff appointed as scientific supervisors of the two doctorate students are qualified to supervise doctoral level research proposals. Based on the documents provided to this EEG, the agreements with international institutions are still in paper as no research is performed in these institutions by the candidates after 5 years of enrollment in the Doctoral program.</p>	

11. National and international cooperation, in function of doctoral study

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: Doctoral School's cooperation with institutions /national or international research organizations, invited academic staff, etc.

Table 14 lists activities in the framework of international cooperation. It is obvious that most of the activities relate to classical theoretical learning activities. To date, training abroad and mobility of students are still lacking.

Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the national and international cooperation (verify the data, according to Table 14)



- ☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate: the Cooperation with scientific institutions (verify the data, according to Table 15)

AU collaborates with a series of Albanian and International Institutions. Teaching staff exchange is a valuable opportunity for doctoral candidates to increase their exposure to international researchers.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards/criteria
Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 5 Doctorate study program encourages doctorate mobility by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for academic training outside doctorate study program;</p> <p>Criterion 6 Doctorate study program encourages mobility of doctorate students by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for presentation of research results in national and international scientific activities (symposium, conference, congress);</p> <p>Criterion 7 The institution has an agreement, at least with one Western university, guaranteeing programs of exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and realization of joint research projects. For Albanological Sciences cooperation could also be with a Higher Education Institution or research centre in Kosovo and lands where Albanians live;</p> <p>Criterion 8 Doctorate study program creates the necessary space to develop joint doctorate study programs with homologous universities in the region, Europe and beyond;</p> <p>Criterion 9 Doctorate study program provides for 3-4 modules (not less than 15 ECTS) to be conducted, organized in theoretical studies and doctorate students have the exam by professors of partner universities, known in the world, for quality and research, publishing activities in the relevant field of study. Exception cited in criterion 7 applies for Albanological Sciences;</p> <p>Criterion 10 Doctorate study program promotes involvement of professors from foreign universities as scientific supervisors or as scientific collaborators of doctorate students.</p>	<p>AU, to date has no funding allocated for supporting the candidate's mobility in international institution such as the University of Pisa but there is a signed agreement between the two Institutions. AU has supported the candidates by covering the expenses for participating in International Conferences organized by the Faculty of Medical Sciences, AU.</p> <p>To date, there is no evidence in developing joint doctoral programs with any homologous Universities in the region, Europe and beyond. Agreement with external Institutions have resulted successfully mainly in teaching support. AU supports professional internship for the two doctorate students who are also fulltime lectures at AU by receiving paid leave for several months, even though, to date such internships did not take place.</p>
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
<p>Criterion 5 The institution has agreements with other academic or research institutions at home and abroad, supporting the exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and academic and research activities of doctorate school;</p>	<p>AU has a signed agreement with University of Pisa (Key 1 Action Erasmus+) for higher education student and staff mobility. University of Pisa supports the research activities of the Dr-PS program but to date the doctorate students have not visited the University of Pisa for the 5 months internship documented in the signed agreement.</p>



Conclusions of EEG:

Dr-PS is a new program at AU, as a research institution AU does not have scientific laboratories supporting the mission and the vision of this program. For instance, the program has to build the scientific reputation at a national level as it has the human resources in achieving it. After being a consolidated program, initiative for joint programs with homologous European Universities can be realistic. Dr-PS does not support the mobility of doctorate students through ad hoc funding, as an essential requirement to successfully complete the program. The Rector of AU confirmed during the visit at HEI that their two full time lecturers (doctoral students at the same time) will be supported with paid leaves for the five months of internship at the University of Pisa.



SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

1. The academic atmosphere is highly positive; Albanian University demonstrates a high degree of collegiality.
2. Appropriate teaching staff number and composition, and teaching facilities for such a program.
3. Potential involvement of several local industrial and hospital partners, and also of a few national and international partners for internships and contribution to teaching.
4. Highly qualified administrative PhD-PS)
5. The rules for recruitment of Doctoral candidates are clearly defined and respected during the selection of candidates.
6. Already established an effective communication plan for disseminating news of research accomplishments and increasing public awareness of ongoing research in the University through the International Congresses organized by AU.
7. The rules for thesis defense are clearly stated and provided to doctoral students.

Weaknesses

1. AU and specially the Department of Pharmacy need to undertake strategic vision and planning on the graduate program.
2. AU does not support the PhD-PS program with *ad hoc* specific budget dedicated for equipment's, consumables or candidates training in other institutions abroad.
3. The department must build linkages with industry through career fair for job opportunities" can be moved to the Recommendations section, at the end of the 3d point (Impact /collaborations).
4. The Department is not active in research and faculty members do not have any research papers published Journals indexed in Scopus since 2015, some of them since 2012.
5. Scientific laboratories do not exist, while teaching laboratories for Bachelor and Master courses level cannot serve for a doctoral level research.
6. Limited access to online libraries, no access to Scopus, Pubmed, SciFinder and other library databases.
7. None of the research proposals have experimental design focused on pharmaceutical sciences, thus the candidate do not develop research skills. To our understanding the program does not bring any innovation in the research field.
8. The candidates are overdue of their thesis defense date and still have not accomplished the requirements of publishing 3 original scientific papers, from the documented evidence the EEG observed that some of the papers are reviews while the research papers published are not in the same research field of the proposed doctoral project also the candidates are coauthors and not first author as required by law.
9. In some cases, the scientific supervisors have a different expertise from the proposed research project.
10. The graduate academic program PhD-PS is not strong to attract the best national or international students.
11. Graduates cannot pursue for post-doctoral training to become specialists in the field of research entrepreneurship and the practice of Pharmacy.



Opportunities

1. The doctoral program if reorganized can be an instrument of preparing highly professionals in the field, who can contribute for the raising industry of Biotech in Albania as a potential economic growth for the fragile Albanian economy.
2. New funding sources through national and international funds build on new visibility by strengthen ties with international Institution. Department should make real efforts in writing grants as a partner institution or as a leader.

Threats

1. There is the distinctive danger of forming Doctor of Science, without the necessary scientific skills and knowledge, to start a research or academic career in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
- 2.

Recommendations in relation to:

1. Research and related facilities

Evidence about initiation of the research “wet lab” activities as recommended also from the previous EEG review is still necessary. Internal funds should be allocated to this program and grant proposals should be submitted for national and international funds. Recruit new faculty/staff that enhances strengths and contributes to achieve a stronger team science in the support of the development of the PhD-PS program. Establish metrics for assigning value to research activity. Support training and advancement opportunities for staff. Regulations on setting criteria for mentoring and co-mentoring the proposed research projects. Ensure appropriate and equitable balance between teaching, research and service for all the academic members. Ensure that full-time faculty and research active adjunct faculty have the necessary research skills, writing ability and publication activity. Improve writing ability through writing workshops as well as peer evaluation of proposals and manuscripts.

2. Academic/teaching part

Implement assessment and quality improvement processes to analyze and improve student learning outcomes across Doctoral program. Thesis defense should be evaluated by a committee of national and international academics in the research area of Pharmaceutical Science. Special services for students with particular needs such as students with physical disabilities must be addressed. Renovate and re-purpose existing space to meet needs. The study program should be reorganized in its existing structure, taking into consideration the recommendations of this EEG. Department should have annual retreats to enable strategic planning.


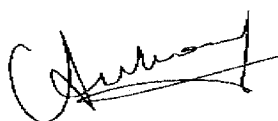


3. Impact / collaborations

Intensify teaching and research activities through national and international scientific and technological projects. Increase the reputation of the University as a leader in education, research and outreach by supporting areas of strength in research to further enhance the reputation of the School of Pharmacy and attract high-quality researchers. Increase the scientific productivity.

External Evaluation Group:

1. PhD. Entela Celiku
2. Prof. Dr. Arben Merkoci



Annexes

Table 1

<i>Dr-PS AU Faculty of Medical Sciences</i>	Number of FAS		Number of PAS		Number of AE		Total number	
	Total number	Number of Degree's	Total number	Number of Degree's	Total number	Number of Degree's	Total number	Number of Degree's
	5	2 Prof. Dr 2 Prof. Assoc. 1 PhD (Italy)	3	3 Prof. Dr	2	2 MSc	11	5 Prof. Dr 2 Prof. Assoc. 1 PhD (Italy)

Council of Professors and the coordinator of the study program

Table 2

Name /Surname	Scientific Title	Position (Member/Chairman)
Kaliopi Naska	Prof. Dr	Chair
Anesti Kondili	Academic. Prof. Dr	Member
Vera Ostreni	Prof. Dr	Member
Margarita Hysko	Prof. Dr	Member
Vasilika Kume	Prof. Dr	Member
Hivzi Muharremi	Prof. Dr	Member
Juliana Latifi	Prof. Dr	Member

Accademic staff from the start of the program who carried out the teaching of the modules and were appointed as scientific mentors

Table 3.1

AU / Department of Pharmacy / Dr-PS							
<i>Full-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)</i>		<i>Position in the Department</i>	Degree	<i>Part-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)</i>		Degree	<i>Institution where he/her works full time</i>
1	Anesti Kondili	Full-time Lecturer at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, AU	Prof. Dr	1	Anila Godo	Prof. Dr.	University Hospital Center of Tirana
2	Vera Ostreni	Full-time Lecturer at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, AU	Prof. Assoc.	2	Jul Bushati	Prof. Dr.	University Hospital "Shefqet Ndroqi" Tirana
3	Aida Dama	Head of the Pharmacy Department	PhD (West)	3	Edi Harshova	Prof. Assoc.	University Hospital "Mbreteresha Geraldine" Tirana. Head of the Medical Statistics Sector
4	Alba Laho	Full-time Lecturer	PhD (West)	4	Gentian Vyshka	Prof. Assoc.	University Hospital Center of Tirana
5	Mimoza Basho	Full-time Lecturer	Prof. Assoc.	5	Vincenzo Calderone	Prof. Assoc.	Universita degli studi di Pisa, Italy
				6	Stefano Fogli	Prof. Assoc.	Universita degli studi

						di Pisa, Italy
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Actual Accademic staff who will carry out the teaching of the modules for the incoming years

Table 3.2

AU / Department of Pharmacy / Dr-PS								
<i>Full-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)</i>		<i>Position in the Department</i>		<i>Degree</i>	<i>Part-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)</i>		<i>Degree</i>	<i>Institution where he/her works full time</i>
1	Anesti Kondili	Full-time	Lecturer, AU	Prof. Dr	1	Zana Bruci	Prof. Dr.	Institute of Forensic Medicine
2	Vera Ostreni	Full-time	Lecturer, AU	Prof. Dr	2	Vincenzo Calderone	Prof. Dr.	Universita degli studi di Pisa, Italy
3	Aida Dama	Full-time	Lecturer, AU	Prof. Assoc	3	Antonello Santini	Prof. Dr.	University Federico Napoli, Italy
4	Rilinda Klosi	Full-time	Lecturer, AU	Prof. Assoc.	4			
5	Fiorentin Nushi	Full-time	Lecturer, AU	PhD (Italy)	5			

Qualification data and reports between them (verify the data, according to Table 4)

Table 4

Academic and administrative staff	FAS	PAS		FAS/PAS rate
		Albanian	Foreign (invited)	
Professors	2	-	2	1/1
Associate Professors	2	1	-	2/1
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	1	-	-	
Administrative employes	2			

Data by age (verify the data, according to Table 5)

Table 5

Academic and administrative staff	Data by age (years old)							
	(36-45)		(46-55)		(56-65)		(66-68)	
	FAS	PAS	FAS	PAS	FAS	PAS	FAS	PAS
Professors					1	1	1	1
Associate Professors	1			1			1	
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	1							
Administrative employes								

Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the Facilities, infrastructure and logistics for doctoral school (verify the data, according to Table 6)

Table 6

Facilities for doctoral school or study program	Number	Square m ²
Auditoriums	5	1256.2
Classrooms	4	530.3
Laboratories	1	55.9
Computer/internet laboratories	1	55.9
Library buildings	1	73
Corridors / halls	5	626.57
University sports facilities		
Buildings for tertiar servicies	3	3421
Recreational facilities such as cafeterias / fast-food/etc	1	70
Students Information office	2	47
Logistics Room (for photocopying machines, etc.)	3	98.3
Officies for Dean/ Chancellor/etc	1	15
Corridors/halls/stairs/lift	18	584
Departmentet offices	3	47.9
Human resourse office	1	19
Meeting halls	1	16.9
Toilet units for staff and students	35	508.4
Technical service venue	1	19
Office for reaching secretary	5	153.4
Rate m²/per student		

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the Financial resources, data over the three years (verify the data, according to Table 7)

Table 7

RESOURCES FROM:	For three or four years (as the PhD study program continues)
NON-PUBLIC FUNDS:	
Central government	None
Local government	None
NON-PUBLIC FUNDS:	
Grants on research and contracts	None
Consultations, services	None
All kinds of tuition fees	Doctoral program tuition fees
Sponsorships	None
Donations, assurance activities, foundations etc.	None

- Analyses and evaluation for: academic curriculum plan of the first year, the division of subjects in credits, and according to the forms of teaching (verify the data, according to Table 8)

Year I	Subjects/ Modules	Semester	Credits (ECTS)	Academic Curriculum Plan							
				Lecture (hour)		Seminar (hour)		Laboratory (hour) Practice (hour)		Total In class	Total Individual student work
				Total credits	In class	Total credits	In class	Total credits	In class		
1	Research Methods in Pharmaceutical Studies	I	11	7	70	2	30	2	10	110	165
2	Pharmacology	I	14	10	106	4	34	-	-	140	210
3	Advanced Medical Chemistry	I	12	9	105	2	15	1	10	130	170
4	Clinical and Pharmathera Pharmacy	II	12	9	90	3	30	-	-	120	180
5	Pharmaceutical Care	II	11	7	70	4	40	-	-	110	165
Total			60	42	441	15	149	3	20	610	890

- Analyses and evaluation for Academic Curriculum Plan, related to the relevant academic staff (verify the data, according to Table 9)

Table 9

Subject/Module	Responsible professor/s (Name Surname)	Title/degree	Department	FAS or PAS	
1	Pharmacology	Vincenzo Calderone Aida Dama	Prof. Assoc. PhD	Department of Pharmacy, University of Pisa Department of Pharmacy, AU	1. PAS 2. FAS
2	Scientific reserach methodologies	Eduart Harshova Gentian Vyshka	Prof. Assoc. Prof. Assoc.	Department of Statistics, Geraldina Hospital Department of Clinical Medicine, QSUT (UHCT)	1. PAS 2. FAS
3	Clinical and Pharmatherapy Pharmacy	Stefano Fogli Aida Dama	Prof. Assoc. PhD	Department of Pharmacy, University of Pisa Department of Pharmacy, AU	1. PAS 2. FAS

4	Pharmaceutical Care	Mimoza Basho Vera Ostreni	Prof. Assoc. Prof. Dr	Public Health Institute Faculty of Medical Sciences, AU	1.PAS 2. FAS
5	Advanced Medical Chemistry	Aida Dama Anesti Kondili	PhD Prof. Dr.	Department of Pharmacy, AU Faculty of Medical Sciences, AU	1. FAS 2. FAS

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the student's workload, forms of teaching (verify the data, according to Table 10)

Table 10

Forms of teaching	Class hours for
Lecture	441
Seminars	149
Exercises	-
Laboratories	-
Practice for subjects	20
Total	610

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the policies for Learning Outcomes control (verify the data, according to Table 11)

Table 11

Learning Outcomes control	in %
Active participation in lectures, seminars, etc.	10
Implementation of obligations (laboratory course tasks, essays)	10
Intermediate tests	20
Final exam	60
Etc	
In total	100%

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the: students's participation in the research activities of the University/Faculty/etc. (verify the data, according to Table 12)

Table 12

HEI scientific activity	Number of students activated
For individual Papers of Lectures	-
For scientific projects of Faculty / Department / Doctoral School	6
For research projects, in collaboration with other	-

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: data for research (verify the data, according to Table 13)

Table 13

Planned activities, individual and institution, who are involved in doctoral students		Number	The titles of scientific journals, projects, research activities
1.	Publications, where students have scientific articles	13	Optime Journal
2.	Research projects, acquired by leading professors or doctoral students	1	Erasmus+
3.	Projects Implemented	0	*No students exchange
4.	Scientific activities organized by the HEI	11	Conferences organized by AU
5.	Participants in scientific activities	600	
6.	Students involved in research	6	
	etc		

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the national and international cooperation (verify the data, according to Table 14)

Table 14

Scientific activities in the framework of international cooperation		
1	Number of students participating as partners in national and international projects	-
2	Number of Students participating in scientific activities, outside of HEI / presentations abroad	-
3	The number of foreign lecturers, who are invited to teaching	2
4	The number of classes held by invited foreign lecturers	260
5	Number of participants in training, in the field of abroad research	-
6	Mobility of students to and from HEI	-
7	The number of international awards in the field of research	-

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the Cooperation with scientific institutions (verify the data, according to Table 15)

Table 15

Institutions and scientific organizations, which is cooperating with	
	Type of cooperation
Statistics Institution, INSTAT, Tirana	Research
University Study Center, Tirana	Research
National Center for Medical Control	Research
Albanian Chemist Order	Research and organizing mutual academic events
The Obligatory Healthcare Insurance Fund	Research and organizing mutual academic events
University Hospital "Shefqet Ndroqi"	Research

Tirana	
Public Health Institute	Research, laboratory support
University Hospital "Mbretresha Geraldine" (Center for Molecular Diagnostification)	Research, laboratory support
University of Pisa, Italy	Research, Staff exchange
University of Palermo	Research, Staff exchange
University of L'Aquila	Research, Staff exchange
Sigmund Freud University (SFU)	Research, Staff exchange
University of Medicine and Pharmacy Lasi	Research, Staff exchange
Profarma (Pharmaceutical Company)	Practical internships for Master's level courses
Mediterranean Center of social and educational research	Research, Staff exchange