



## **Quality assurance plan of the Doctoral School**

The aim of the doctoral education is to make the PhD students be able to plan and perform primary and secondary researches and to perform the analytical and synthesising processing of the literature to perform a high-level scientific work. Further expectations are the acquisition and the use of the scientific methodological applications during the research. The PhD student shall prove these skills and knowledge by making and defending his/her doctoral thesis. The curriculum is reviewed at least once in three years.

The first year PhD students shall make a “Training and research plan” until 15 October. The research plan submitted by the PhD students are assessed by the expert committee established by the Council of the Doctoral School. At the end of the academic year, the PhD students with their consultants shall make a Partial report of their academic and scientific progress (credits, publications, language exam, study visits etc.), which shall be supervised by the Council of the Doctoral School. The fourth year students shall make a Final report until 31 August of the year concerned.

The precondition of the submission of the dissertation for a workplace debate or public debate shall be the achievement of the minimum publication requirements. The public debate shall be headed by a professor. Both for the workplace and public debate, two reviewers are requested and one of them shall be an external reviewer. One of the two reviewers of the workplace debate is usually requested to perform a review again in the committee of the public debate, while the other reviewer becomes a member of such committee. Owing to this, the doctoral dissertations are usually assessed by three reviewers during the procedure (workplace and open debate). The dissertation, the Hungarian and English theses, the date and time and the venue of the workplace and public defences and the opinions of the opponents are published and made available for everyone in the website of the Doctoral School. The PhD students and the doctoral candidates are expected to regularly take part in the workplace debates and the public debates. Aiming the continuous increase of the standard of the complex exam, the Council of the Doctoral School shall review the material of the subjects of the complex exam every three years.

Every November, on the occasion of the Science Day, a Scientific Forum and a PhD Student Conference are organised in Hungarian and English languages. In the Scientific Forum, the PhD students shall report their scientific results in their fields of research before the committee appointed by the Council of the Doctoral School. The material of the highest level presentations is usually published by the PhD students as a scientific article in a Hungarian or international journal.

The Council of the Doctoral School shall continuously supervise the suitability of the lecturers of the Doctoral School. The lecturers of the Doctoral School can be only lecturers and researchers having a habilitation title or equivalent scientific performance who are found suitable - for the recommendation of the head of the Doctoral School - by the Council of the Doctoral School to perform education, research and consultancy tasks within the framework of the Doctoral School for the given period.



The Council of the Doctoral School shall continuously assess the progress of the PhD students in the doctoral training and the performance of the PhD students and the consultants. The PhD student shall electronically submit a partial report and a list of publication every academic year with the signature of his/her consultant to the Doctoral School which shall archive the annual reports of the students. The Council of the Doctoral School shall pay particular attention to the scientific performance necessary for the initiation of the PhD graduation procedure of the PhD students. The council of the doctoral school shall notify the Social Sciences Doctoral Council of the result of the periodical qualification and if necessary, it shall make recommendation on the change of the consultant or the reclassification of the PhD student of state subsidy/state scholarship to a training of tuition fee.

For the supervision of the educational activity of the Doctoral School, the assessment of the lecturers' work shall be assessed by the students. The aim of this is to contribute to the increase of the standard of the education in the Doctoral School by getting to know the opinion of the students, to increase the efficiency of the training, to ensure a possibility for the evaluation of the management and the lecturers of the Doctoral School and to facilitate the termination of the discovered defects and deficiencies. The assessor shall be the PhD student having a student status with the Doctoral School and taking part in the training, while the assessee shall be the lecturer in charge of the given subject in the Doctoral School and the assessment shall be the assessment of the PhD students subject to the training and having a student status with the Doctoral School on the level and quality of the training in the Doctoral School. Anonymity of the assessor shall be ensured in the assessment procedure. The head of the Doctoral School shall ensure that the assessor shall receive no disadvantage for his/her assessment. The assessment of the work of the lecturer by the students shall include:

- a) the level and the quality of training;
- b) the teaching material;
- c) the methods of training;
- d) the material and technical conditions of training;
- e) the relationship between the lecturers and the students;
- f) other aspects of significance regarding the level of training.

The questionnaires shall be processed by the representative of the PhD students with the coordination of the Doctoral School. The head of the Doctoral School and the dean shall be entitled to use the assessment to increase the standard of the training in the Doctoral School and to improve the work of the lecturers of the training units of the Faculty. Every lecturer liable for a given class shall be entitled to inspect the assessment on him/her at the head of the Doctoral School. Based on the findings of the questionnaire assessment, the best lecturer taking part in the PhD training may receive the "Lecturer of the year" prize. To honour the outstanding work for the Doctoral School, the Ihrig Károly Doctoral School shall issue a Gold Level / Silver Level /Bronze Level Commemorative Medal.

In connection with the consultant activity within the Doctoral School, the assessment of the consultancy work by the students shall be performed every academic year. The aim of the assessment of the consultancy work by the students is not only to increase the standard of the



consultancy within the Doctoral School, but also to contribute to the assessment of the consultancy work of the Doctoral School to eliminate the revealed mistakes and deficiencies.

During its operation, the Doctoral School shall consider the following principles:

- a) Principle of *professional control* and quality orientation: throughout the whole process of the doctoral training and the acquisition of the PhD degree, the supervision by the international and Hungarian scientific community shall be enforced.
- b) The principle of *publicity*: the main stages of the quality assurance system shall be widely available for the scientific community, i.e. throughout the whole procedure of the doctoral training and the acquisition of the PhD degree, the public shall be notified (before the public debate, the opinions of the opponents are published on the website of the Doctoral School).
- c) Every event of the process of the acquisition of the PhD degree shall be published on the website of the Doctoral School (dates and times of the complex examination, workplace debate and public debate). The dissertations and the short versions thereof submitted for the public debate together with the opinions of the opponents shall be available on the website of the Doctoral School. On the website of the Hungarian Doctoral Council, the dates and times of the public debates shall be published and the dissertations and the short versions thereof shall also be uploaded.
- d) Principle of the consideration of the *scientific ethics*: during the establishment and the operation of the Quality Management System, the related policies of the Scientific Ethics Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences shall be enforced.
- e) Principle of *feedback*: the people affected by the operation of the Doctoral School, i.e. the lecturers and consultants taking part in the doctoral training and the members of the different bodies of the Doctoral School shall receive continuous feedback about the level of their activities and they also have the possibility to submit their feedback on their experience.
- f) Principle of the protection of intellectual property: the doctoral training shall be in full harmony with the regulations of the European Union and Hungary on the protection of intellectual property.
- g) Principle of the enforcement of the personal responsibility: in the doctoral training, the task and the scope of liability of everyone is clearly transparent.
- h) Principle of the *documentation* of the processes: Every decision regarding the doctoral training and the acquisition of the PhD degree shall be documented, however, the Doctoral School aims to impose the least possible administrative burden on the lecturers and researchers taking part in the training and the degree acquisition procedures during the operation of the Quality Management System.

In the incidentally arisen scientific ethical questions, the Code of Ethics of the University of Debrecen shall be followed.

The registry of the graduated students is performed by the secretary and the administrator of the Doctoral School as well. The former PhD students having acquired their degree in the



Doctoral School are also invited every year to the Scientific Forum and the PhD Student Conference. The scientific event is accompanied with an *alumni meeting* as well. Particular attention is paid to the cultivation of the relationship with the graduated students within the framework of the alumni programme also in the future.

### ***Assessment of the quality assurance procedure of the Doctoral School based on the Figure 1***

- 1) The continuous review and the actualisation of the training-related documents are considered as the basic task of quality assurance. The Regulation stipulates that the Rules of Operation and the programme of the training shall be reviewed and updated according to the changes by the Council of the Doctoral School at least annually. Before their publication, the Council of the Doctoral School shall supervise, assess and authorise the research topics. Additionally, the Council of the Doctoral School shall assess the suitability of the consultants as well. Similarly, the Council of the Doctoral School shall classify and assess the lecturers taking part in the doctoral training and the programmes of the subjects and it shall confirm the model curriculum of the Doctoral School as well.
- 2) The applicants shall submit an application for the published research topics (paragraph (5) of the section 7 of the Rules of Operation) where they shall describe their research perspectives and motivations (preliminary topic plan). The admission committee shall be approved by the Social Sciences Doctoral Council based on the initiation of the Council of the Doctoral School. The appointed admission committee shall assess the performance of the applicants according to the principles determined in the paragraphs (4)-(7) of the section 7 of the Rules of Operation and shall make a recommendation on the admission of the applicants, which shall be approved by the Social Sciences Doctoral Council.
- 3) As described in the Rules of Operation, the student shall compile his/her individual training plan at the beginning of the training, which shall be approved by the head of the Doctoral School according to the principles determined in the Rules of Operation. Based on this, the student shall acquire the required credits. Any deviation from the plan may be possible only with the approval of the head of the Doctoral School. To elaborate the selected topic, the student shall make a research plan with the continuous consultation with his/her consultant, according to the requirements in the Rules of Operation. The research plan submitted by the PhD students are assessed by the expert committee established by the Council of the Doctoral School, the PhD student shall publicly defend his/her ideas described in the research plan and shall respond to the oppositions. By considering the debate, he/she shall finalise his/her research plan. The second, third and fourth year PhD students shall hold a scientific presentation on their research results.

The training and research performance of the student shall be assessed by his/her consultant every semester in a report. With the termination of the student status, the student shall summarise his/her performance in a final report, which shall be certified by the signature of his/her consultant.

- 4) The precondition of the initiation of the graduation procedure shall be the submission of the related request and the annexes thereof to the Social Sciences Doctoral Council. The application for the graduation procedure shall be qualified as an application for the complex



examination as well, since the successful performance of the complex examination shall be a precondition of the initiation of the graduation procedure. Based on the application, the Social Sciences Doctoral Council shall bring a decision on the proposal of the Council of the Doctoral School.

- 5) In the application for the initiation of the graduation procedure, the PhD students applies for the complex examination as well. The precondition of the application for the complex examination shall be the acquisition of at least 90 credits by the PhD student during the first three semesters and within this, to achieve every training credits required by the Council of the Doctoral School. Based on the application and the opinion of the Council of the Doctoral School, the Social Sciences Doctoral Council shall bring a decision on the subjects involved in the complex examination and the composition of the examination board of such complex examination. During the selection of the members of the board of the complex examination, the Social Sciences Doctoral Council shall consider the incompatibility described in the regulations of the Social Sciences Doctoral Council and of the Doctoral School. The complex examination shall be passed publicly. The board of the complex examination shall consist of at least 3 members having a scientific degree, at least one third of these members shall be an external member and the head of the board may be a lecturer or researcher with a title of professor, habilitated associate professor, habilitated college associate professor, professor emeritus or doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The precondition of the admission to the complex examination shall be that the consultant of the PhD student shall evaluate the performance of the PhD student in writing and he/she shall recommend the initiation of the graduation procedure. The complex examination shall have two main parts. In the first, the theoretical part, the members of the board of the complex examination assess the knowledge of the PhD student in the at least two examination subjects determined by the Social Sciences Doctoral Council. In the second, the dissertation part of the examination, the PhD student shall report on his/her progress, literature knowledge, research results and the PhD student shall inform the board of his/her research plan and publication schedule for the second two-year period of the doctoral training. The board of the complex examination shall evaluate the two parts of the complex examination separately, in a two-stage evaluation system. The complex examination is passed, if the PhD student gets a "Pass" qualification for both parts of the examination. The failed complex examination may be repeated by the PhD student once, in the same examination period. The topics of the subjects of the complex examination and the literature-related requirements of the teaching material shall be made available by the people in charge of the certain subjects for the candidate and the examination board. The topics of the complex examination subjects and the literature to be processed shall be made available for the student at least one month before the complex examination. The date and time of the complex examination shall be published on the website of the Doctoral School. A report shall be made of the complex examination.
- 6) The student can prove his/her research performance with his/her publication activity the management of which shall be primarily the task of the consultants. The requirements on publications is summarised in the section 14 of the regulation of the Social Sciences Doctoral Council. The compliance with such requirements shall be checked by the Social





Sciences Doctoral Council upon the application for the graduation and upon the appointment of the members of the board of the public debate.

- 7) After the successful completion of eight semesters and the performance of at least 240 credits, the PhD student gets a final (pre-degree) certificate. The final (pre-degree) certificate certifies that the PhD student has fulfilled his/her education and research obligations during the doctoral training. Based on the fulfilment of the education and research obligations, the Doctoral School shall issue the final (pre-degree) certificate to the PhD students. The detailed procedure of the issue of the final (pre-degree) certificate shall be determined by the doctoral councils of the given discipline of science. The acquisition of the final (pre-degree) certificate shall be certified in the electronic education system.
- 8) After the compilation of the preliminary dissertation and the short version of the dissertation and the fulfilment of the minimum requirement on publication, the Council of the Doctoral School requires the performance of a workplace debate. In the Doctoral School, the performance of the workplace debate is mandatory. The consultant of the candidate shall make a recommendation to the head of the Doctoral School on the opponents of the workplace debate. If the consultant and the head of the Doctoral School cannot agree on the opponents, the Council of the Doctoral School shall bring a decision on the opponents to be requested. It shall be the minimum requirement to have at least 5 people with scientific degree and experience in the field of the given discipline to take part in the workplace debate. A report shall be made of the workplace debate.
- 9) After a negotiation with the consultant, the head of the Doctoral School shall make a proposal to the Council of the Doctoral School on the committees of the public debates and the opinion of the Council of the Doctoral School shall be submitted to the Social Sciences Doctoral Council for approval. Documents necessary for the acceptance of the assessment committee of the public debate:
  - a) the doctoral dissertation intended to be final and the short summary thereof (in Hungarian and in English)
  - b) proof of language knowledge
  - c) professional Curriculum Vitae
  - d) list of publication
  - e) upload of the publications to the Hungarian Scientific Bibliography (MTMT) and the iDEa Academic Profiles
  - f) foreign language and Hungarian list of publication, certified by the library
  - g) co-author declaration in case of the publications considered
  - h) certification sheet
  - i) declaration within the dissertation

With the issue of the Certification sheet, the consultant and the head of the Doctoral School unanimously declare that the candidate has fulfilled the training requirements and his/her dissertation made on the basis of his/her individual research complies with the requirements on both content and format.



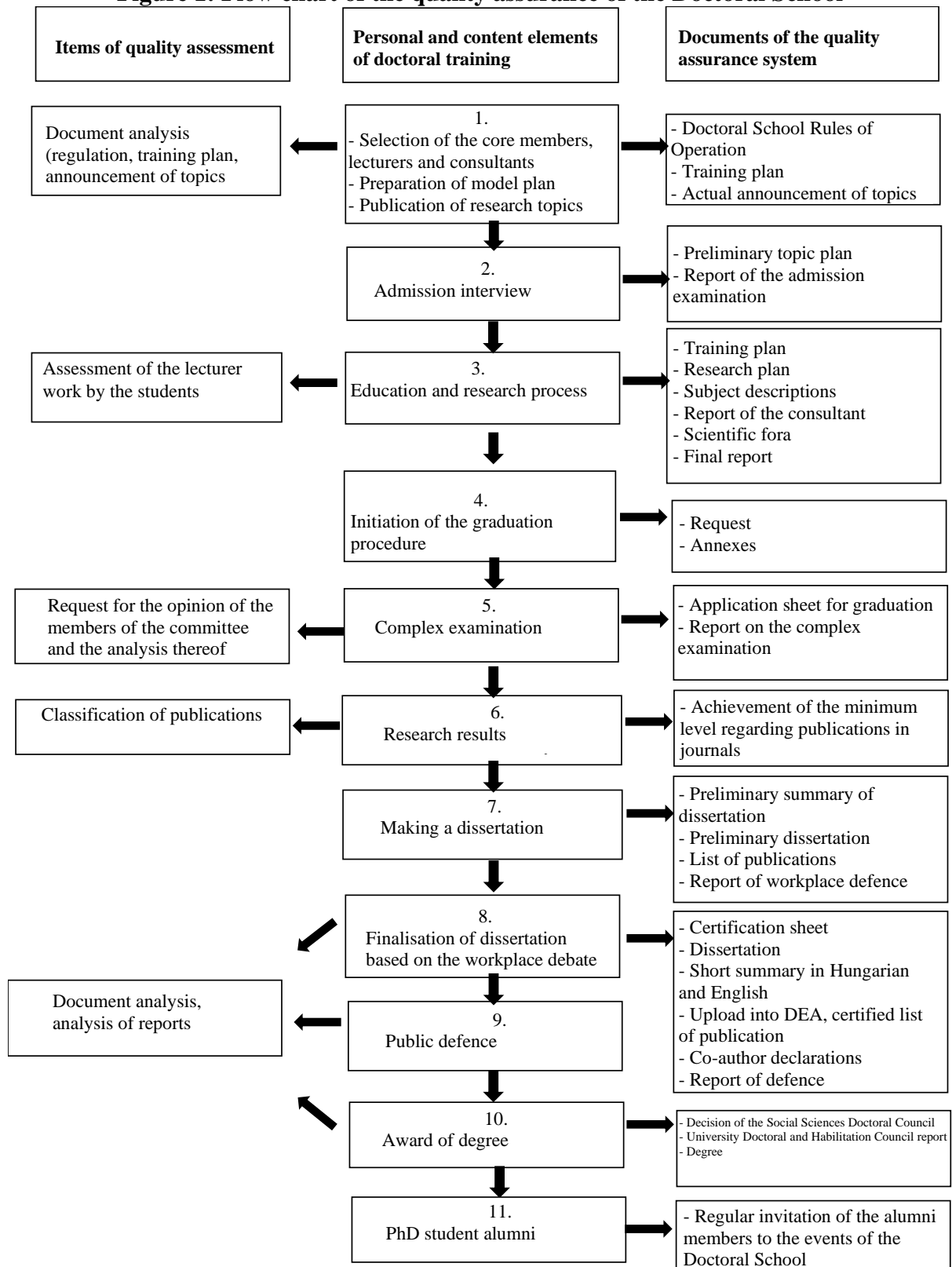
The opponents of the public debate are approved by the Social Sciences Doctoral Council for the proposal of the Doctoral School and are requested by the Head of the Doctoral School. One of the opponents shall come from another institution (external opponent) than the institution the PhD student has performed his/her PhD studies. The proposed head of the committee shall be one of the professors, professor emeriti of the Faculty and the core members of the professors of the Doctoral School. Among the members of the assessment committee, there shall be at least two head lecturers having external doctoral experience. Upon the determination of the members of the committee, it shall be strived to let one of the members be the opponent of the workplace debate. As a result of this, together with the requested opponents, there are at least three members in the committee, who know the work of the candidate in the level of an assessor.

By considering the opinions of the opponents and the responses of the candidate, the head of the Social Sciences Doctoral Council shall set the date and time of the debate and request the head, the secretary and the members of the committee. The date and time of every defence shall be published in the database of the website [doktori.hu](http://doktori.hu) and on the website of the Doctoral School, while the theses and the dissertation shall be published electronically in the Archives of the University of Debrecen.

- 10) Based on the report of the successful defence, the Social Sciences Doctoral Council shall review the fulfilment of the requirements and based on a secret ballot, it shall make a recommendation on the award of the doctor's degree and the final decision thereon shall be brought by the Doctoral and Habilitation Council of the University.



**Figure 1: Flow chart of the quality assurance of the Doctoral School**







## *The scientific appearance of the Doctoral School*

Before the integration process of the University of Debrecen, i.e. in 1993, in the new system doctoral training, the Debrecen University of Agricultural Science acquired the accreditation certificate to perform PhD training and issue doctoral degrees in two disciplines: **Agricultural sciences and Economics**. In the Agricultural sciences part, the crop production and agroecology programme, while in the Economics part, the agricultural economy programme was accredited in 1994. The other programmes of the Debrecen University of Agricultural Sciences were accredited later.

As scientific vice rector, Dr. NEMESSÁLYI Zsolt professor emeritus headed the organisation of the new system of the doctoral training in the Debrecen University of Agricultural Sciences and between 1993-2000, he was also the first head of the agricultural economy programme accredited in the Economics part. The high scientific level was guaranteed by the awareness and recognition of the agricultural economic activity of the university both in Hungary and abroad. The programme “Agricultural enterprises and the economy of rural development” had 17 internal and 13 external participants with the cooperation of 9 foreign institutions. Consequently, in the first seven-year period of the Doctoral School, the doctoral works based on agricultural economic research and aimed at the development of agriculture and the rural areas were dominant. In economy, the first PhD degrees were awarded in 1998.

The organisation of the agricultural economic doctoral programme into a doctoral school can be linked to professor Dr. SZABÓ Gábor. In the image of the school, the multidisciplinary aspect was dominant. The Multidisciplinary Social and Agricultural Sciences Doctoral School took the name of IHRIG Károly in 2008. In 2010, the doctoral school was accredited in the disciplines of Economics and Organisation Science. After the retirement of SZABÓ Gábor, in 2010, the Ihrig Károly Doctoral School of Management and Business was headed by professor Dr. BERDE Csaba, between 2012 and 2019 by professor Dr. POPP József and since 2019, it has been headed by professor Dr. BALOGH Péter.

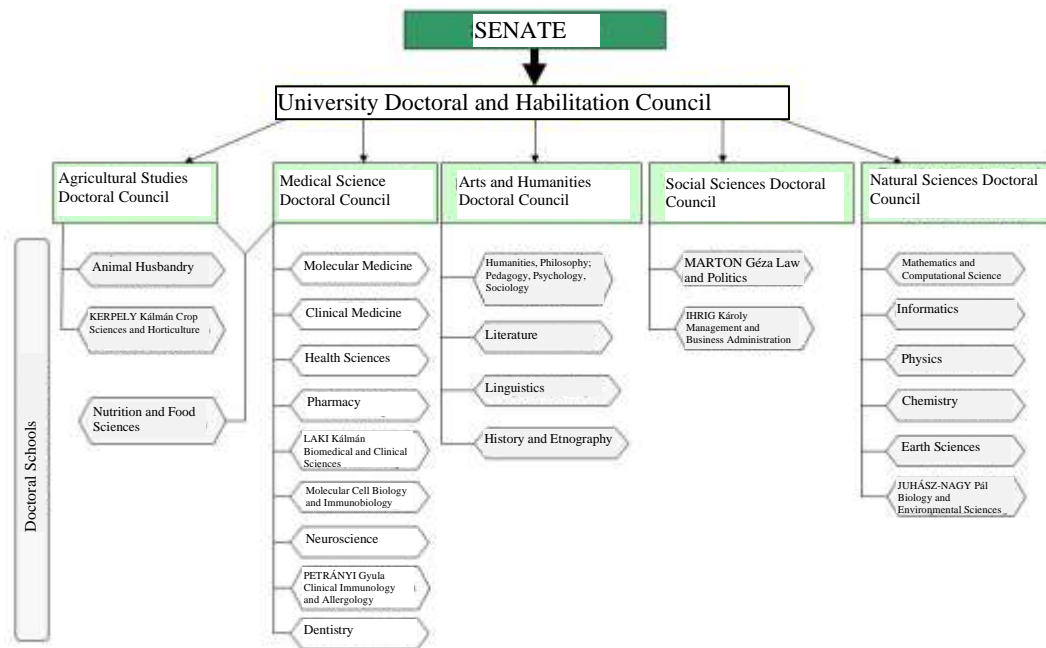
In the University of Debrecen, there is a University Doctoral and Habilitation Council supervising the trainings and the procedures in the Ihrig Károly Doctoral School of Management and Business as well. The operation of the Doctoral School is directly supervised by the Social Sciences Doctoral Council. The decision making body of the Doctoral School is the Council of the Doctoral School. The members of the Council of the Doctoral School who have voting right are the head of the Doctoral School, the core members of the Doctoral School and the elected representative of the PhD students. For the request of the head of the Doctoral School, the secretary of the Doctoral School, the heads of the institutions of the Faculty of Economics and Business, the professor emeriti and the assistant of the Doctoral School may have the right of consultation. The heads of the legal predecessor programme or school of the Doctoral School, the lifetime members and the honorary members of the Council of the Doctoral School - if they are not core members - may take part in the sessions of the Council of the Doctoral School with a right of consultation.

The Ihrig Károly Doctoral School of Management and Business together with the Marton Géza Doctoral School of Legal Studies belong to the Doctoral School of Social Sciences. The University Doctoral and Habilitation Council of the University of Debrecen coordinates the doctoral council of five disciplines and the operation of altogether 24 doctoral schools. The



organisational structure of the doctoral schools operating in the University of Debrecen and the place of the Ihrig Károly Doctoral School of Management and Business within is shown by the Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Organisational structure of the doctoral schools operating in the University of Debrecen**



Source: University of Debrecen (2020)

The first study “The scientific appearance of the Doctoral School from 66 dissertations” was made in 2011 for the period 1993-2010.

The second one analyses the “produce” of the almost 20-year-old doctoral school. The author, professor Dr. BORSOS János processes 100 PhD dissertations made in the Ihrig Károly Doctoral School of Management and Business (and the legal predecessors thereof) classified into 11 topic groups. He organised the aims, new statements and practical results of the dissertations. The novel initiative of professor Dr. BORSOS János, the collation and the content analysis of the scientific products made during the two decades gives a good review of the activity and the research results of the Doctoral School.

The third book introduces the period and the “performance” of the 25-year-old doctoral training. It organises the successfully defended 130 PhD dissertations (until September 2018) in the Doctoral School into 11 categories and it describes the reminiscences of the graduated PhD students and the former heads and consultants of the Doctoral School. We were looking for the answers how the training of the doctoral school served the career of the graduated former PhD students in the practice.



THE ASSESSMENT OF THE WOK OF THE LECTURER BY THE STUDENTS

We call the attention of the assessing students that the questionnaire which is the part of the quality assurance system of the Doctoral School is treated anonymously.

Name of the assessed lecturer: .....

Subject taught: .....

What percentage of the classes did you attend?

- 0-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61-80% 81-100%

What percentage of the classes were held?

- 0-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61-80% 81-100%

What percentage of the classes were held by the lecturer in charge of the subject?

- 0-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61-80% 81-100%

Please evaluate the questions and typical aspects in a five-point scale. (If not typical of the lecturer or the given subject, give 1, if very typical, give 5. Please give 0, if you cannot decide, you do not have an opinion or the question is irrelevant.)

Table with 7 columns: Question / Aspect, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 0. Contains 13 rows of evaluation questions.

Other notes, amendments:

.....