

UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED
DOCTORICAL SCHOOL OF HISTORY
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Quality assurance and development plan of the Doctoral
School of History at the University of Szeged

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Development Plan

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1. The foundations of quality assurance at the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged

The basis for quality assurance in teaching, research, and degree awarding procedures at the Doctoral School of History (TDI) is provided by Act CCIV of 2011 on Higher Education (last amended on February 1, 2017) and the relevant sections of Government Decree 387/2012 (XII.19.) on doctoral schools, doctoral procedures and habilitation, which has also been amended several times (the latest amendment entered into force on 17 December 2016), as well as the Regulations Governing the Doctoral Training Programmes and the Awarding of the Doctoral Degree, which entered into force on November 28, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the SZTE Doctoral Regulations (registration number: SZ-13/2020/2021), amended on January 27, 2025). The SZTE Doctoral Regulations contain the aspects of quality assurance in doctoral training and degree acquisition and the values to be created by fulfilling them. In addition, the SZTE Quality Development Regulations were adopted in 2022 (June 27, 2022).

Building on these, our doctoral school's quality assurance plan sets out principles which, taking into account the strategic recommendations of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee (MAB), ensure that the training provided here, and the academic performance of our doctoral students, the Doctoral School of History (TDI) at the University of Szeged will continue to secure its place among the most prestigious domestic and international centers of historical studies.

Based on this, our Doctoral School's first quality assurance regulations were drawn up in 2022. Before finalizing them, we compared each of the following topics with the document entitled "Standards and Guidelines for the European Higher Education Area (ESG)" and the MAB 247/2020. reference number "Report of the visiting committee participating in the accreditation procedure of the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged", which drew particular attention to the shortcomings observed during the 2019 visit. These regulations were reviewed, and certain parts were amended in May 2025.

Accordingly, ESG, EFQM, BSC, and QSC quality standards, models, and guidelines have been given special attention in TDI's quality assurance guidelines. The explicit aim of the TDI quality assurance plan is to ensure that the training requirements include a) planning, b) procedures, c) monitoring and d) feedback cycles, the values they represent, and the expected

results.

2. Quality assurance requirements of the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged

Based on the above, the TDI's quality assurance requirements are as follows:

1) The doctoral school's current quality assurance plan was therefore developed according to the logic of planning – procedure – control – feedback.

2) It is of paramount importance to ensure accountability, which will help improve the quality of doctoral education. This issue is addressed by a joint initiative of the university, the faculty, and the school, the forms of which were created jointly by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (BTK), the Doctoral Council of the Faculty (TDT), and the TDI. The data collection that forms the basis for accountability can be carried out on the basis of a three-pronged process consisting of the evaluation of the work of lecturers and researchers, student evaluation, and self-evaluation in accordance with ESG guidelines. This is primarily implemented through the established interfaces, buildings, and administration of the BTK.

The doctoral training programme prepares an annual quality assurance report on the implementation of the quality assurance plan for the University Doctoral Council, which is completed using a form developed by the Doctoral Institute of the University of Szeged.

The TDI's annual quality assurance report is reviewed by the University Doctoral Council (EDT), the secretary of which informs the Senate in writing of the results. The primary task of the University Doctoral Council, in close cooperation with the Doctoral Institute of the University of Szeged, is to raise awareness of intellectual property protection.

The TDT is an intermediary body between the University Doctoral Council and the TDI, which is responsible for ensuring the consistency of the quality assurance plans developed by the doctoral schools at the level of scientific disciplines, based on the University Quality Assurance Guidelines for Doctoral Training and the Awarding of the Doctoral Degree, ensuring the highest degree of consistency between the quality assurance plans of the doctoral schools belonging to the BTK at the scientific field level.

3) Increasing student and lecturer satisfaction and well-being, objectively measuring the extent of this, and ensuring feedback are important elements of quality assurance, and accordingly,

cooperation has also been established between SZTE BTK and TDI.

4) Although TDI has made great strides in the area of internationalization, this needs to be further developed both in student and lecturer respect.

Taking the above principles into account, our goal is to strengthen the culture of quality assurance, reduce intolerance, and promote equality. At the same time, we strive to achieve the standard of doctoral programmes at leading European universities based on our quality assurance performance indicators. Knowing the work of internationally renowned institutions and participating in the procedures of some of them, we can conclude that the difference is not characterized by a lag in educational standards or methodological preparedness, but by existing differences in financing and administrative support. Improving these is linked to our efforts to increase the quality and quantity of scientific and educational indicators.

3. Detailed quality assurance action plan of the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged

3.1. The operating mechanism of the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged based on its quality assurance concepts

3.1.1. Assessment, student-centeredness, review of training regulations and quality assurance plan:

The primary goal of TDI is to ensure that its training meets the requirements of student-centeredness, including fair and proportionate learning, teaching, and assessment, based on relevant expectations. To this end, it has prepared a comprehensive Guide in Hungarian and English covering the entire training programme, from the student admission process to the training, the comprehensive examination, the preparation of the dissertation, its defense, and the awarding of the degree. The school's goal, as will be seen in the elements below, is to organize the assessment mechanism for admission, workshop seminars, and the comprehensive exam in such a way that students demonstrate their knowledge before a committee, their evaluation is a collective decision that is made publicly, and, if necessary, includes a written evaluation in addition to grades and points.

The training regulations and quality assurance plan are reviewed every four years, unless compelling circumstances or proposals require earlier review. The review and amendment shall

be carried out by a committee appointed by the School Council, which shall include, in addition to lecturers and supervisors (a minimum of four persons from the four training programmes), a representative of the PhD Students' Union. The committee prepares a written proposal addressing suggestions regarding quality assurance and training regulations during the past period, which serve as useful input for determining the direction of the amendment. All draft amendments must be submitted for discussion to the TDI teaching and research staff and student community, and then the amended draft, based on the amendments suggestions, shall be voted on by the councils of the programmes and then by the School Council. Both regulations must be submitted to the TDT for countersignature. In the event of an irreconcilable difference of opinion, the matter shall be referred to the EDT.

3.1.2. In accordance with the university and faculty quality assurance plans, the annual quality assurance report must be prepared by the end of March, which is compiled by the School Council and submitted to the EDT.

3.1.3. The TDI has four programmes: Antiquity, Medieval Studies, Modern Age, and Contemporary and Comparative History, which enjoy a high degree of autonomy in terms of their operation. Each programme delegates one lecturer and one supervisor to the committee that reviews the training regulations and quality assurance plan and makes proposals for amendments. Participation of a representative of PhD students in history is mandatory. The heads of programmes and one supervisor each are members of the School Council, to which the PhD Students' Union also delegates a representative. Based on the above, it is ensured that, in addition to the heads of programmes, supervisors, and lecturers, doctoral students are also involved in the regulatory and quality assurance processes.

3.1.4. The basic principle of quality assurance is transparency, and accordingly, annual reports are published on the website.

3.1.5. The TDI quality improvement officer is the current School Council secretary, who reviews, coordinates, and consults with the head of the school on the tasks that arise. The name of the School Council secretary is published on the Doctoral School's website.

3.1.6. In addition to the TDI quality assurance officer, a separate communications officer assists with the work, whose task is to ensure that all school regulations, forms, training plans, and course descriptions are published on the website in Hungarian and English. This person is listed on the Doctoral School's website.

Every supervisor and lecturer is responsible for regularly updating the OTD (doktori.hu) database with information, while the secretariat of the Institute of History is responsible for entering data related to administrative authorisation.

3.1.7. The procedure for student complaints, appeals, and legal remedies, taking into account the provisions of the university's doctoral regulations, is as follows: The doctoral School Council appoints one of its members to the appeals, complaints, and legal remedies committee, which also includes one lecturer or thesis supervisor. The leadership tasks are performed on a rotational basis by the heads of programmes (in this case, the head of the Antiquity programme, Dr. Melinda Székely). He or she is joined by a colleague who is a lecturer or thesis supervisor from another programme (in this case, Dr. Andrea Kökény, assistant professor in the Modern Age programme) and a representative from the PhD Students' Union (in this case, Benjámin Dávid). The rotation takes place at the beginning of each academic year in September, in chronological order of the programmes.

Appeal protocol against the decision: First level: TDI School Council, second level: TDT, third level: EDT, and finally the rector. In matters concerning student status, the School Council is the deciding body, with the above-mentioned appeal options.

3.2. TDI quality assurance regulations for lecturers and supervisors

3.2.1. The TDI has developed a uniform approach for supervisors, announcers of the doctoral topics and lecturers. Accordingly, anyone with an academic degree recognized by the MAB can be a thesis supervisor, announcers of the doctoral topics, or lecturer. They must be actively present on domestic and international academic platforms, regularly publish high-quality works in Hungarian and foreign languages, which they also make public by uploading them to MTMT2. They strive for the highest level of domestic and international scientific cooperation. They perform their teaching work at a high level, through which they demonstrate their ability to play a role in the education of the next generation of scientists. They meet the requirements for scientific advancement appropriate to their age.

3.2.1.1. The admission procedure for TDI lecturers, announcers of the doctoral topics, and thesis supervisors is as follows:

The programme concerned prepares a written proposal on the colleague to be admitted, attaching their professional CV and a selected list of publications. (MTMT2 is used for the full

review.) The programme director initiating the proposal shall verbally supplement the proposal at the School Council meeting, justifying their proposal and its significance from a research, academic, and student perspective. A secret ballot is held on the proposal. The material is submitted by the head of the school at the regular TDT, where a vote is taken on the acceptance of the School Council's decision.

3.2.2. TDI defines the regular review of personal conditions below, thereby ensuring the renewal of the team of lecturers, announcers of the doctoral topics, and thesis supervisors:

a) Based on the results of the quality assurance measurement system (TÉR) created by SZTE BTK, as well as student feedback (OMHV questionnaire) and completed self-assessment forms, TDI reviews the quality-related activities of core members and teaching staff every four years. At the same time, it continuously reviews the structure of the teaching staff based on age and prepares for the replacement of retiring colleagues, submitting proposals to the faculty management and the dean for the awarding of emerita/emeritus and honorary university professor titles (in cooperation with the departments). Through these measures, it ensures the framework for the school's personnel conditions. Both measurement and cadre development require close cooperation with the faculty management.

b) TDI provides external experts with the opportunity to perform supervisory duties. The quality requirements for them are the same as for colleagues employed by the university. They must undergo the same quality assurance procedure. The school's goal is for external colleagues to become full-fledged supervisors (through voluntary contracts). There is also the possibility of dual supervision, in which case there is no need to recruit the person in question as a listed supervisor at the school, because the main task of supervision is undertaken by an internal member. The inclusion of colleagues who are not employed by our university as lecturers and supervisors is one of the TDI's goals for the following two reasons: Many outstanding professionals work at external institutions (research institutes, public collections, archives) whose specialized professional knowledge would undoubtedly strengthen the doctoral school, on the other hand, they would not otherwise have any opportunity to participate in the education of the next generation.

c) One of the main goals of the TDI is to make student evaluations part of lecturer evaluations. The Faculty Quality Assurance Plan specifically addresses Student Evaluations of Teaching (OMHV questionnaire), which it undertakes to administer, evaluate, and provide feedback on.

(See: SZTE Faculty Quality Assurance Plan). A questionnaire has been developed that allows for the electronic and anonymous evaluation of all teaching staff for each semester. Data collection is automatic and digital.

3.2.3. The TDI strives to continuously improve the educational environment. Progress has been made in two areas: 1) Over the past decade, the doctoral school's teaching staff has gradually developed its foreign language teaching skills, foreign language teaching materials, and network of contacts in order to better meet the new challenges arising from the internationalization of the school. The school has always had a very extensive international network of contacts, but this has been further developed thanks to the large number of students arriving on Stipendium Hungaricum scholarships. 2) Another ongoing quality assurance measure at the school is to make it natural for an increasing number of lecturers, announcers of the doctoral topics, and thesis supervisors to teach classes and supervise dissertations in foreign languages.

3.2.4. These new challenges have made it necessary to review the existing curricula in line with the expectations of prospective students. Several programmes have modified and updated the curriculum, and are working to involve the public more in this transformation. As a result of the new curricula, the involvement of new lecturers, and the internationalization of education, the focus has shifted from strictly domestic topics to their international context, and new methodological and knowledge transfer elements have begun to be applied. One example is the transformation of the Modern Age programme DMELM102 Fundamentals of Modern Age Research lecture, in which the programme's supervisors jointly undertook methodological lectures, and then, building on these, the students directly used the new methodological elements they had learned when presenting their own research topics. The last three elements of the course unit were transformed (on an experimental basis) into a methodological workshop seminar, and based on its success, the two compulsory seminars in the newly designed curriculum will follow the above model for both Hungarian and international students.

4. The academic requirements of the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged

4.1. TDI's quality assurance efforts in the scientific field

a) The TDI reviews and checks the possible thesis topic descriptions listed on the website of the school every four years. This is necessary due to the slow fluctuation of the teaching staff,

the constantly changing international and domestic scientific environment and methodology, as well as the personal development of lecturers, announcers of the doctoral topics, and supervisors.

b) TDI is the highest level of the unified historian/history teacher training programme. As a result, its lecturers, thesis supervisors, and announcers of the doctoral topics are represented at all levels and in all areas of education, attracting interested students who are suitable for academic training and preparing them for an academic career. The TDI pays special attention to involving students who appear suitable in academic work even before the admission process, thereby preparing them to meet the requirements in the admission process (one or two preliminary publications, language skills beyond the training requirements, participation in TDK, participation in OTDK, conducting scientific research, gaining experience abroad). It strives to attract students who have published their first publications and participated in local and national scientific competitions (TDK, OTDK) to doctoral training. Lecturers, announcers of the doctoral topics, and thesis supervisors strive to involve them in their own research and motivate prospective PhD students to engage in quality-oriented scientific work.

c) Historiography uses very different methods and techniques depending on the period and research topic, including classical ancient Greek-Latin-Hebrew philology, medieval Latin document analysis, diplomatics, archaeology, early modern Latin-German-Hungarian-Ottoman Turkish philology, military history, and comparative and statistical studies. All TDI programmes have a full arsenal of methodological diversity at their disposal and strive to impart theoretical and practical knowledge of field-specific topics. The school considers the tutorial nature of Anglo-Saxon-type doctoral programmes to be the model to follow.

The programmes differ in terms of the subjects taught. The Contemporary and Comparative History programme provides PhD students with a predefined educational package, regardless of their research topics. The other programmes focus primarily on the doctoral student's field of research, helping students to develop the practical skills necessary for research (source language, document analysis, palaeography, auxiliary sciences, etc.) in addition to their theoretical expertise. This is necessary, as current university education provides increasingly limited opportunities to acquire the basic professional knowledge necessary for research. To this end, TDI supports the development of areas (Latin, Greek, early modern Hungarian, Ottoman Turkish, etc. languages and source knowledge) that are not available at every major Western university.

5. Quality assurance requirements during the doctoral admission process

The Guide, compiled for students, contains information on the rules governing the entire training period, the comprehensive examination and the dissertation, and the complete schedule for obtaining a degree. It gives detailed information on the admission procedure, as well. Below, we present only the section on the composition of the admissions committee and the rules of procedure.

The admission exam for the Doctoral School of History is conducted by a committee organized by the four heads of programmes (Antiquity, Medieval Studies, Medieval Studies-Archaeology, Modern Age, Contemporary and Comparative History). The committee consists of one representative from each programme, the head of the school, and the secretary, supplemented by a PhD student delegated by the SZTE PhD Students' Union. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of their application materials and an oral admission exam. During the oral exam, a general professional discussion takes place regarding the student's MA thesis and planned research topic.

Based on the scores received, the Doctoral School Council ranks the applicants and then makes an admission recommendation to the TDT based on the ranking, which submits the list of recommended applicants to the EDT. The latter body decides on the number of state-funded and tuition-paying places.

At the end of the oral admission interview, the applicants must again declare whether they are applying exclusively for a state-funded place or wish to continue their doctoral studies as a tuition-paying student (for example, because they work full-time elsewhere), or if a state-funded place is available, they would start their studies in that form, but if not, they would also participate in the tuition-paying programme.

Applicants will receive official notification of their admission (and its form: state-funded/tuition-paying) or rejection in the summer.

There are no pre-determined topics during the admission process; the applicant presents his/her previous knowledge and a preliminary research plan. Antiquity and Medieval Studies also require a proof translation into the source language and the specialist language. Applicants from ethnography and archaeology, but also increasingly from other subject areas, present their planned research topic through a short presentation. The total number of points that can be

obtained during the procedure is 100. The full admission schedule and how the points are calculated are available in the PDF file attached to the Admission Information window of the Website: <http://arts.u-szeged.hu/tdi/felveteli-informaciok/felveteli-informaciok>

The admission list of students is established based on the order formed during the score calculation, which the admission committee informs the applicants about at the end of the oral admission procedure. The list and scores presented at that time only give an idea of the relative ranking, as the allocation of the admission quota is carried out at the TDT meeting and its finalization at the EDT meeting.

If the epidemic situation permits, admission will always take place in person at the headquarters of the SZTE BTK.

TDI's annual quality assurance report contains the annual experience of the admissions process.

6. Quality assurance requirements during doctoral studies

6.1. TDI has outlined the implementation of its quality assurance plans in its Student Guide and Mission Statement.

a) The personal and material conditions of the TDI as the highest element of the three-division historian training (BA, MA, PhD) (supplemented, of course, by students participating in undivided teacher training) are built on the infrastructure of the SZTE BTK Institute of History, so they cannot be separated from the BTK and the Institute of History's material and personal conditions.

TDI cooperates with the BTK faculty management to implement the necessary developments. In terms of assessment methods, the school is conservative: it uses traditional assessment systems of colloquiums, seminar papers, seminar exams and essays based on independent research. In the case of admission, workshop seminars, comprehensive exams, unofficial preliminary defenses and public defenses, it ensures that the assessment is the result of a collective decision.

b) In addition to the compulsory lectures, we hold compulsory special seminars, which are held by the leading lecturers and professors of each programme. The rest of the training is largely tutorial-based, and the heads of programmes play a major role in most programmes. They are

the ones who can primarily monitor the progress of the students. At the same time the high-credit *Individual Research Project* covering each semester and the annual written report provide a clear picture of the student's individual progress. We can also illustrate the student's progress with objective data backups based on Neptun.

c) TDI supports the international and domestic scientific advancement of students. There are programmes that visited relevant foreign research centers every year, although this system was set back by the coronavirus pandemic. Medieval Studies regularly organizes its PhD conference on medieval history, the studies of which are published in a series of volumes. Modern Age students annually participate in the so-called 'Nachwuchskonferenz' at the universities of Vienna, Salzburg, Graz, Bratislava, Sofia, the University of Pécs, the Pázmány Péter Catholic University and the Eötvös Loránd University(Budapest), where they present in German or English. We provide them with the opportunity to publish in Hungarian and international publications at the institute and department level (Mediterranean Studies, Chronica, Acta Historica). The SZTE Klebelsberg Library manages the publications of the SZTE Institute of History and the TDI, digitizing them and presenting them to a wide public.

d) As mentioned above, the SZTE Klebelsberg Library digitizes student publications and also keeps several copies of the printed versions. All completed dissertations can be searched in the SZTE Doctoral Repository (<http://doktori.bibl.u-szeged.hu>). PhD students are required to register with MTMT2 at the beginning of their doctoral studies. A completed dissertation requires five published (or accepted) scientific publications, two of which must be in a foreign language. We use MTMT2 to verify this.

e) The procedure and requirements of the comprehensive exam, as well as the system of its evaluation criteria, were decided at the level of the programmes. At the beginning of the exam semester, students receive the exam topics and the compiled reading list, which are published by the programmes and the school. The materials, readings and questions listed by the programmes, as well as the examiners suggested by the programmes, are reviewed and voted on individually by the School Council. The head of the school submits the entire comprehensive exam material to the TDT, where it is reviewed again and voted on. This multi-round procedure ensures objectivity and impartiality. The quality requirements imposed on the members of the comprehensive exam committee are monitored by the School Council and the TDT. The chairman of the committee is a professionally competent university professor or habilitated associate professor, or habilitated professor at a College, or Professor Emeritus of the

University or a lecturer/ researcher holding the title of Doctor of Sciences awarded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. One of the committee members is also employed by the university. The School Council decides on the person on the proposal of the programme, which the TDT either approves or rejects. The other member can only be an external person, a subject and field expert from Hungary or from abroad who is not in an employment relationship with the university. His/her person is selected based on the above mechanism. The supervisor cannot be a member of the examination committee.

f) Student feedback (especially student satisfaction measurement) operates on the basis of the uniformly organized and operated system (OMHV) of the SZTE BTK. It has been developed, and we have the opportunity to implement it in practice from this semester. TDI can track student progress through the Neptun system, while it receives data on dropouts from the Student Affairs Department of the Faculty. The number of these is very low. (Only one foreign student admitted with Stipendium Hungaricum left the Modern Age programme because another doctoral programme was more suitable for his/her qualifications.) At the same time, TDI also accepted a foreign student who applied to us from another school for similar reasons. In the case of the latter procedure, the credit transfer committee reviewed his/her previous course units and accepted those that were relevant to us. (The credit transfer policy can be read on the website: <https://arts.u-szeged.hu/tdi/dokumentumok/dokumentumok>)

6.2. The TDI reviews the list of compulsory and elective courses every four years, which is first reviewed by the programmes. Adapting to the constantly occurring personnel changes and domestic and foreign inquiries affecting the school, as well as the changes and development of the professional interests of lecturers, announcers of the doctoral topics and supervisors, it makes proposals for the revision of the titles and content of the courses.

7. Quality assurance requirements during doctoral degree process

7.1. The process of obtaining a degree in doctoral school is regulated in detail, according to which:

a) The publication and foreign language requirements set as a prerequisite for the degree award procedure are checked by the Doctoral Secretariat at the Dean's Office operating within the framework of the TDT when applying for the public defense procedure. A material that

complies with the rules laid down and precisely defined in the Student Guide must be compiled for the public procedure, which includes information on language competencies and publication requirements. If all regulations and requirements have been met, the Doctoral Secretariat forwards the application material for the doctoral defense procedure to the head of the school, who, in cooperation with the programmes, organizes the defense committee, the substitute committee, which he presents to the TDT. The defense procedure is conducted by secret ballot, the members of the committee are voted on by show of hands.

b) The members of the committee for the degree-granting procedure conducted in a foreign language, in addition to being excellent experts in the subject, must also have a high level of knowledge in the language of the defense.

c) The Doctoral School has determined the form in which the informal preliminary defense (in-house defense) should take place. The most important of these is that in addition to the two assessors' review, every person present, with or without a degree, can form an opinion on the submitted doctoral dissertation. Among those present, those with a PhD degree have the right to vote, and the in-house defense can be considered only valid if at least five colleagues with degrees have cast their votes, including the supervisor and the two reviewers. The debate can be led by any invited member of the programme, even the supervisor. The minutes of the debate and the results of the vote must be recorded on a pre-prepared form, which each participant authenticates with their signature. The system has been working excellently for the past six or seven years, and no proposals for changes have been received against it, despite this, the school board reviews it every five years.

d) The process of the public defense is laid down in detail, which is precisely stated in the Student Guide. Based on the selection of the committee, at least two people must be external expert, who may not be employed by SZTE. Accordingly, at least one of the assessors must be external, a recognized representative of domestic or international science. A person who is a close relative of the candidate or from whom an objective assessment of the case cannot be expected may not participate in the doctoral procedure as an official reviewer or committee member. The candidate may not have a joint publication with any member of the committee. The supervisor of the candidate may not be a member of the committee. All members of the committee are obliged to make a written declaration of conflict of interest to the competent doctoral school, taking into account the provisions of this point. The defense schedule is carried out according to a uniform system, and the members of the committee vote secretly

based on the reviews of the two assessors, the candidate's answers, and the quality of the answers given to the questions posed on spot. The defense committee compiles a roughly half-page text report, which is publicly presented along with the points and percentage results of the vote. It is not within the competence of the TDI to change the uniform system, but it will forward any relevant proposal to higher bodies.

8. Internal principles of the quality assurance system of the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged

- Ensuring the control of domestic and international professional public throughout the entire process of doctoral training and degree acquisition.
- Enforcing the principles of the Scientific Ethics Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and other scientific ethics requirements in the quality assurance process.
- Constant monitoring of the scientific performance of doctoral training programmes carried out in domestic and foreign institutes.
- Making the elements and process of quality assurance policy transparent to the professional public.
- Providing continuous feedback to lecturers and supervisors participating in doctoral training. Strengthening the quality-focused approach of lecturers and students.
- Full enforcement of intellectual property protection regulations in doctoral training and degree acquisition.
- Accurate documentation of procedures that are part of doctoral training.

9. Factors ensuring the high quality of training at the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged

The following elements play a key role in ensuring the high professional standard of activities taking place in the doctoral school:

- The high level of education provided within the framework of organized training, which is

guaranteed by the career of qualified lecturers and verified by student feedback.

- Consistent monitoring of the quality of publications required for the preparation of PhD dissertations, with particular attention to the extent to which the papers are published in prestigious domestic or international publications.
- Conducting the evaluation procedure for doctoral dissertations with the involvement of independent, recognized experts.
- The doctoral students' participation in national and international conferences.
- Monitoring the professional careers of those who have obtained degrees in the doctoral school. The good professional relations of the doctoral school with other significant domestic and foreign scientific research institutes and institutions, and the guest lecturers coming from them, raise the standard of training.
- Providing doctoral school students with the opportunity to become acquainted with the latest international research and professional results through foreign scholarships.
- The openness of the doctoral school to all kinds of external review and inspection.

10. Quality assurance elements for members of the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged

The Doctoral School Council evaluates the scientific and teaching work of the school lecturers and supervisors every four years based on the current academic standards.

- The professional and scientific activities of the members are examined according to the following main criteria: The person's scientific publication activity, membership in domestic and international professional organizations and activities performed; participation in research projects and tenders, scientific organizing work, possible expert activities; official recognition of their scientific achievements, awards.
- The following factors are decisive in the evaluation of the teaching work of the members: The quality of the courses and consultations held within the framework of the doctoral school training, the member's supervisory activities, the quality of the dissertation(s) completed under his/her supervision; support for the progress of the students in the scientific field.

11. Quality assurance elements for students of the Doctoral School

of History at the University of Szeged

- At the beginning of each academic year, doctoral students prepare a plan for their professional work to be carried out during the given period, and report on its completion at the end of the academic year. This is reviewed and approved by their supervisor, and the materials are then forwarded to the heads of the programmes.
- The doctoral school supports its students in participating in domestic and foreign conferences and encourages them to publish scientific publications. In this area, doctoral students receive all professional assistance from members of the school, especially their supervisors.
- Students can participate in university education. This gives them the opportunity to develop their teaching and educational skills.

12. The role of the scientific relations of the Doctoral School of History at the University of Szeged in the quality assurance system

The Doctoral School maintains long-standing, well-functioning and constantly expanding relationships with renowned domestic and foreign research institutes and universities. These include 4 domestic and 27 foreign – German, Austrian, French, Italian, Spanish, English, Finnish, Czech, Polish, Norwegian, Tunisian – scientific institutions. Both our lecturers and students (for example, within the framework of the Erasmus Programme) maintain useful relationships with these professional centers. This gives them the opportunity to become acquainted with the latest scientific results and to get involved in the research activity itself

13. Current priority quality assurance goals of the Doctoral School of History of the University of Szeged

Ensuring the renewal of core members,

Increasing the number of applicants to the Doctoral School,

Significantly improving the efficiency indicator (ratio of admitted students and students acquiring PhD degree),

More intensive involvement of students in education.

Responsible: Dr. Ágnes Deák, Head of the Doctoral School Council

Deadline: June 30, 2027.

Annex 1: Scientific institutes and universities cooperating with the Doctoral School of History of the University of Szeged

Institutional relationship with domestic scientific institutions

Hungarian National Archives Csongrád-Csanád County Archives, Szeged

Móra Ferenc Museum, Szeged

HUN-REN Humanities Research Center, Institute of History, Budapest

Institutional relations with foreign institutions

Institutions cooperating in the framework of co-tutelle training

Université Pasquale Paoli (Corte, France), defense 2023.

Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne Université, defense: 2023.

Philipps-Universität Marburg, expected defense: 2026.

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg (contract in progress)