

UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS

Quality Policy of the Doctoral School of Biology and Sport Biology

The Doctoral School of Biology and Sport Biology (hereinafter: BDS) aims to ensure the effective implementation of the following key principles of quality assurance:

1. ***Principle of Professional Control.*** Throughout the entire process of doctoral education and degree attainment, the BDS enforces the oversight of both the international and domestic professional and scientific communities. In addition to Hungarian experts, the BDS occasionally involves Hungarian researchers residing abroad in the evaluation of dissertations. For dissertations submitted in English, the BDS strives to ensure that at least one of the reviewers is a foreign scholar or a Hungarian researcher living abroad.
2. ***Principle of Adherence to Scientific Ethics.*** In developing and operating its quality management system, the BDS adheres to the statements and recommendations of the Committee on Scientific Ethics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Research involving animal experiments, human subjects, or genetically modified organisms (GMOs) may only be conducted with the necessary prior ethical approvals, and dissertations must include appropriate references to these ethical permits.
3. ***Principle of Transparency.*** The main phases of the quality assurance system implemented by the BDS shall be broadly transparent to the professional and scientific community. Defended dissertations are made publicly accessible through both the national doctoral database (www.doktori.hu) and the University Library of Pécs website, except for classified or confidential works.
4. ***Principle of Feedback.*** Supervisors, instructors, and members of the BDS Council receive continuous feedback on the quality of their activities and have the opportunity to share their experiences and suggestions. Therefore, the BDS's annual opening sessions, reports, and official events are open to all members of the academic community, including the research progress presentations held as part of the complex examination after the second year. A student representative, elected by the doctoral candidates, participates in the meetings of the BDS Council.
5. ***Principle of Quality Orientation.*** Through the development and operation of its quality management system, the BDS aims to continuously enhance the aspirations and standards of both its students and faculty. It seeks to instil in them a deep respect for science, while fostering initiative and creativity as core elements of their intellectual framework. Members of the BDS community are expected to be familiar with and apply international trends in science and scientometrics, including updates to the so-called Norwegian List.
6. ***Principle of Intellectual Property Protection.*** The quality management system supports the alignment of the university's doctoral training with the intellectual property protection standards of both the European Union and Hungary. According to the Code of Doctoral Studies of the University of Pécs, doctoral candidates who hold patents and have at least a 15% ownership share are exempted from the requirement of publishing a second scientific paper.
7. ***Principle of Individual Responsibility.*** The establishment and operation of a scientific school is a collective effort, but its success depends on clearly defined roles and responsibilities throughout the processes of training and research. Therefore, the BDS reviews the list of supervisors at least once per accreditation period and makes changes when necessary.

8. ***Principle of Process Documentation.*** Documentation is required for all decision points related to doctoral education. Reviewing these documents is a fundamental task of the quality management system. A key objective of the BDS is to ensure that the administrative workload of instructors does not increase as a result of the implementation of the quality management system. To support documentation, the electronic student information system is used to its full potential.
9. ***Principle of Equal Opportunity.*** As the BDS also admits international students, it is committed to cultural sensitivity and ensuring equal treatment for all participants.

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Biology and Sport Biology