

Annual Quality Assurance Report

January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024

I. Doctoral School and details of the person completing the form

1. Doctoral school:

Doctoral School in Linguistics

2. Name of person completing the form:

Dr. Zsuzsanna Gécseg, Dr. Enikő Németh T.

3. E-mail of person completing the form:

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4. Date of completion:

November 12, 2024

II. Regulations

Since when has the doctoral school's quality assurance plan been in effect?

April 8, 2022

Internet access to the doctoral school's quality assurance plan:
http://nydi.szte.hu/Szabalyzat_files/minosegbiztositasi_terv_2022.pdf

Internet access to the English version of the doctoral school's quality assurance plan:
http://nydi.szte.hu/Szabalyzat_files/minosegbiztositasi_terv_2022.pdf Yes/No

Did the doctoral school amend its training regulations during the reporting period?

Yes/No

The amendment of the training regulations was necessitated by personnel changes within the Doctoral School in Linguistics. Due to the retirement of Professor Mihály Kocsis, we elected a new core member in the person of Dr. Katalin Sipőcz, PhD, associate professor. There was also a change in program management: Dr. Katalin Sipőcz, PhD, habil. associate professor, replaced Dr. Marianne Bakró-Nagy, professor emerita, as head of the Uralic Linguistics program. The change in program leadership was motivated by the desire to have an active colleague at the helm of the Uralic Linguistics program. The change in program leadership is indicated in Appendix 1 of our regulations. The change in core members is indicated on doktori.hu.

III. Statistical data

1. Number of applicants of the doctoral school:

Hungarian-language programs: 12 students (2023: 4 students, 2024: 8 students)

Foreign-language programs: 105 students (2023: 55 students, 2024: 50 students), of which 102 applied for the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship

Number of failed complex exams:

None.

Number of failed defenses:

None.

Number of rejected dissertations:

None.

6. If justified, please provide a textual explanation for the above figures:

We were delighted to see that interest in Hungarian-language programs increased in 2024 compared to 2023. There is a need for replenishment due to the aging of the domestic linguistic research and teaching community. The addition of PhD scholarships by the University of Szeged, as well as the Excellence Scholarships and ÚNKP Scholarships, may have had a stimulating effect on applications.

IV. Plagiarism screening

When did the doctoral school start using the plagiarism detection software provided by the Klebelsberg Library?

August 9, 2022

Please briefly summarize your experiences with plagiarism screening during the current academic year. (Effectiveness, areas for improvement, requirements, etc.)

Screening takes place within a few hours of the document being submitted, which is a great help to us. In most cases, screening is effective, but in some cases (typically where the percentage of suspected plagiarism is higher and the candidate has plagiarized non-contiguous text passages), problems have arisen. It is very annoying to receive a graphic PDF file in which, even though there are numbered references, these cannot be used either within the document (to the sources indicated at the end of the document) or to jump to a website. This makes it impossible to quickly check the real reason for the highlighting/marking. Due to the graphic nature of the file, suspicious text passages must be manually copied into Google and searched for the source file and matches with it. In addition, mechanical Google searches can be very time-consuming.

It would also be important to have access to tools that can filter out the use of artificial intelligence.

V. Personnel issues

What personnel changes are expected in the doctoral school's core membership during the next reporting period (between January 1, 2025, and August 31, 2025) (what is the reason for the change)?

No changes are expected in the core membership of the doctoral school in 2025. However, in 2026, when Professor István Zimonyi retires, we will need to nominate a new core member to replace him. We will begin preparations for this in 2025.

Has the position of internal supervisor been abolished at the doctoral school?

No.

If so, please briefly explain the reason for this.

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How many external supervisors did the doctoral school appoint in the current year?

Four external supervisors worked at the Doctoral School in Linguistics during the reporting period.

VI. Other issues

If relevant, please summarize your experiences with handling student complaints during the current academic year.

At Doctoral School in Linguistics, we follow the following procedure to resolve student complaints: the student takes their complaint to their program director, who attempts to resolve it and, if necessary, involves the thesis supervisor and the program council. If the complaint cannot be resolved at the program level, the program director refers the student to the head of the doctoral school, who investigates the complaint within her own jurisdiction and attempts to resolve it. If it is beyond their authority, they report the case to the Doctoral School Council (DIT) and Area specific Doctoral Council (TDT). Foreign students can also address their complaints to the staff of the Faculty's International Office, that in such cases report the complaint to the head of the Doctoral School and assist in resolving it. The third option is for students to contact the student representative of the doctoral school, who will report the complaint to the head of the Doctoral School. No student complaints were received by the Doctoral School in Linguistics during the reporting period. Student questions regarding student work, postponement of dissertation submission, and language requirements for foreign students were submitted directly to the head of the DI or through the student representative. The head of the Doctoral School responded to these questions in writing in accordance with the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Szeged and the Regulations of the Doctoral School in Linguistics.

Please briefly summarize your experiences with the admission process during the current academic year.

During the reporting period, the Doctoral School in Linguistics continued the practice of previous years, i.e., it applied the 100-point scoring system introduced in 2023 (30 points awarded + 70 points earned). We included the consideration of science popularization lectures (1 point) in the points earned and introduced the category of "Other points earned," which includes the following activities: a) participation in the organization of a linguistics conference: 1 point, b) teaching a linguistics course as a teaching assistant: 2 points, c) translation of a specialist linguistics book: 2 points. This has created a more favorable assessment system for students.

The admissions committee had two permanent members, the head of the Doctoral School and her deputy, and the third member was the relevant program director. If the program director was also the potential supervisor, another instructor from the program participated in the examination. The applicants were motivated and well prepared, and their research plans were well thought out. In 2024, we interviewed twice as many applicants as in 2023, eight in total. While we were unable to fill all the places available at the Doctoral School in Linguistics in 2023, we were able to do so in 2024, which had not been the case in previous years.