

The quality assurance strategy of the Doctoral School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Szeged (2023-2028)

The five-year strategy of the Doctoral School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Szeged (KTDI) (2023-2028) is based on the KTDI quality assurance plan. While the quality assurance plan sets out the general principles, this strategic plan contains the development aspirations, quality goals, indicators, and responsible parties. The development of the Strategy was carried out with the participation of the program leaders, the representative of the doctoral students, and the other members of the Doctoral School Council.

The aim of the KTDI is to ensure the high quality of the doctoral training and the doctoral degree acquisition process, in all its stages (admission, doctoral studies, dissertation preparation, and degree acquisition).

1. Doctoral Research Topic Announcements

KTDI publishes topic announcements announced by KTDI supervisors with the approval of the Head of the Doctoral School on the website of the National Doctoral Council under the “research topics” menu.

Indicator: Number of topic announcements per year

Development effort: maintain the current level of approximately 20-25 topic announcements; topic announcements should follow the scientific development in the field.

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School

Frequency of review: annually, in April of each year

2. Admission

The admissions interview is obligatory for applicants for doctoral training. The Admissions Committee consists of the Head of the Doctoral School, the program leaders, and the representative of the doctoral students. The Admissions Committee assigns a score to each applicant based on the guidance of the document “KTDI Training Plan - Appendix 1”. The Admissions Committee makes a recommendation to the Doctoral Council of Natural Sciences on the candidates to be admitted based on the order prepared based on the admissions interviews and the documents attached to the admission application.

Indicator: Number of applicants per year for training (Hungarian and Foreign students)

Development effort: Complete filling of the state-funded PhD training places determined for the given year, and admission of at least 5 foreign students to the English-language training program. Increasing the proportion of more prepared students among students, and attracting university students with outstanding abilities to PhD training.

Responsible: Head of Doctoral School and program leaders

Review frequency: annually, in July of each year

3. The conditions of core membership and accrediting new core members

Indicator: Number of core members and number of university professor core members

Development effort: rationally increasing the number of core members and university professor core members, while maintaining their high professional standards. Youngening the age group of core members.

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School and program leaders

Frequency of review: annually, in October of each year

4. Continuous monitoring of the research work and academic progress of PhD students

Indicator: Number of students obtaining a PhD degree in the doctoral school; number of doctoral candidates who obtain an absolutorium but do not obtain a PhD degree.

Development effort: reducing dropout rates over the 4 years (8 active semesters); Reducing the number of doctoral candidates who obtain the absolutorium but do not obtain a PhD degree to less than 25%

Responsible: supervisors, program leaders, head of the Doctoral School

Review frequency: annually, in October of each year

5. Checking the implementation of the research plan on the reporting days/events

Indicator: Number and proportion of PhD students who give an oral report (Working report course) and submit a written semester report (Coospace scene).

Development effort: to ensure that each student reports annually on their progress over the past year

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School and program leaders

Review frequency: annually, in July of each year

6. Review of the number and content of accredited subjects in the KTDI doctoral course

Indicator: Number of accredited subjects included in the training plan

Development effort: to maintain and continuously update the number of accredited subjects

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School and program leaders

Review frequency: annually, in July of each year

7. Number and quality of doctoral courses offered in a given academic year

Indicator: Number of doctoral courses offered in a given academic year

Development goal: maintain the number of doctoral courses offered; maintain the breadth of the training spectrum

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School and program leaders

Frequency of review: annually, in July of each year

8. Participation of PhD students in domestic and foreign conferences

Indicator: Number of students participating in domestic and foreign conferences in the past calendar year (based on Neptune)

Development effort: increasing the number of students participating in domestic and foreign conferences

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School, program leaders and supervisors

Frequency of review: once a year, in July of each year

9. Participation of PhD students in study trips and partial training abroad

Indicator: Number of students participating in study trips and partial training abroad in the past calendar year (based on Neptune)

Development effort: increasing the number of students involved

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School, program leaders, and supervisors

Frequency of review: annually, in July of each year, once

10. Improving publication performance related to PhD training

Indicator: Number of publications related to KTDI published in the previous year, and their aggregate impact factor and evaluation

Improvement efforts: increasing the ratio of publications with Q1 and Q2 evaluations, and increasing the specific impact factor (aggregate impact factor/number of publications) to 1.8

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School, program leaders, and supervisors

Frequency of review: once a year, every July

This five-year strategy was adopted by the Council of the Doctoral School of Environmental Sciences of SZTE on February 22, 2023.