Guide for the doctoral admission project

The following document is targeted at candidates for admission to the Doctoral School and contains information regarding the structure, content, editing rules and assessment criteria of their proposal.

The research project should <u>strictly</u> follow these rules regarding formatting, structure and extent (word limit).

The suggested scores for each section are important: they can help the candidates with estimating the probable costs of their project's flaws. These scores are, however, only suggestions for the comission, who might upgrade or downgrade certain features beyond the mentioned boundaries.

General references:

- The text will be written in Romanian, excepting the situations in which the guide specifies that a translation in English is needed.
- For those condidates who want to complete their doctoral studies in English (i.e., all reports, research projects, final thesis and defense in English), the project's text will be fully written in English.
- The first page will only include the title (according to the model included in the guide).
- The second page will be reserved for the table of contents. The word count for each section will be included next to each chapter title, in square brackets ([...]).
- The next pages will include the presentation, assembled according to these guidelines.
- The text will be edited consistent with the standards of the APA publication manual. Any systematic violation of the APA style will lead to the document not being accepted and to a request to revise and resubmit.
- The document will only contain text, no figures or graphs.
- The maximum specified limit of words can be slightly exceeded (only if absolutely necessary), but the minimum limits will be strictly followed. A proposition containing a sum of words lower than recommended will not be accepted.
- The sum of all scores (maximum 1000) granted according to the specifications in this guide will transform into a grade, by dividing it by 100.

Detailed references:

- Check below, for a detailed structure.

DOCTORAL THESIS PROJECT

Title (Ro):
……………………………………………………………………………………………

Title (En):
……………………………………………………………………………………………

Applicant name: ………………………………………………………………………………
Contact: e-mail: …………………………………………………………………………

Advisor name: …………………………………………………………………………

University of Bucharest
Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
Doctoral School

Date: ………………………………….

Table of contents

1. **Title**
Title
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Abstract
3. **Keywords** [word count]
Keywords
4. **Reasoning** [word count]
   - **4.1 Theoretical relevance**
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5. **The current state of the research domain** [word count]
6. **Research approach** [word count]
   - **6.1 Research objectives**
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   - **6.3 Methodological points**
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7. **References** [reference count]
8. **Research structure** [word count]
   - **8.1 Research plan**
   - **8.2 Estimated difficulties**

Total word count = nnnn

1. Title
Title

- Recommendations
    - Written in Romanian (above) and in English (below). [1]
    - It must explicitly describe the subject of the thesis, i.e., a narrow and targeted research domain.
    - It must be clear, explicit, concise.
- Rating
    - 20 points.
    - Vague, unclear, and confuse statements, incorrect or inadequate translation in English will be downgraded.

2. Abstract
Abstract

- Recommendations
    - Written in Romanian, followed by the English version. [1]
    - Each language version will contain a maximum of 250 words.
    - It must provide a perspective regarding: the theoretical field to which it belongs, the research objective, the expected results, and an estimated theoretical and applicative relevance of the results.
- Rating
    - 20 points.
    - Downgrades will be applied for: missing one of the aforementioned contents, missing clarity and concision, incorrect or inadequate translation in English.

3. Keywords
Keywords

- Recommendations
    - They are written in Romanian and English. [1]
    - A maximum of 10 words/key expressions (not less than 5) will be inserted, separated by semicolons (;).
    - They must indicate generic subjects that are important and characteristic to the proposed topic, they serve as search keys for the topic's identification.
- Rating
    - 10 points.
    - Downgrades will be applied for: insufficient amount (<5), inappropriate, irrelevant, redundant words, incorrect/inappropriate translation in English.

4. Reasoning:
4.1 Theoretical relevance
4.2 Applied relevance
4.3 Personal experience

- Recommendations
    - A maximum amount of 1000 words (not less than 700).
    - Addresses all the three aforementioned sections:
        - *theoretical relevance*: the importance and the topicality of the subject in the current theoretical and scientific context;

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[1] excepting the situation in which the entire project is written in English, in which case the Romanian text can be excluded

- *applied relevance*: the importance and the topicality of the subject, in regard to precisely delimited fields of practice;
- research and/or applied *personal experience* regarding the topic.
  o It must capture the reasons why the applicant thinks that the proposed topic is important, that it fits in the theoretical and applicative context of the field and that it can bring a real contribution to the development of knowledge and practice regarding that field.
- Rating
  o 200 points.
  o Downgrades will be applied for: scarce content (<700 words), vague, unprecise, superficial or unconvincing reasoning, not fully covering all the three subchapters.

5. **The current state of the research field**

- Recommendations
  o A maximum of 2000 words (not less than 1000).
  o The chapter can be divided into subchapters, at the discretion of the applicant, depending on the content.
  o Compared to the previous chapter, in which the emphasis is on the importance and the relevance of the topic, a summary of the most actual research findings regarding the topic will be included here.
  o Relevant references will be used, in which the acknowledged contributions in developing the studied topic are grounded. The presentation will be based on, as a rule of thumb, scientific papers, which will be cited according to the latest edition of the *APA Publication Manual*.
  o Keeping in mind the complexity of the scientific literature, applicants will have to exercise their capacity to select and synthesise information by lucidly defining the actual level of research in that specific field and on their specific topic.
  o If the proposed topic has a pronounced novelty and originality (and hence scarce references), it is expected that this will be legitimized by its anchoring into a general research context.
- Rating
  o 300 points.
  o Downgrades will be applied for: scarce content (<1000 words), low source relevance, not including important contributions in the field, lack of an obvious and convincing picture of the current state of research.

6. **Research approach**
   6.1 Research objectives
   6.2 Research questions
   6.3 Methodological points
   6.4 Intended contributions

- Recommendations
  o A maximum of 1500 words (not less than 1000).
  o The chapter must provide a consistent manner in which the applicant proposes the research approach
    - *Research objectives*: The general objectives pursued by studying the specific topic.
    - *Research questions*: A list of the most important questions for which the candidate proposes to find an answer by the end of the research (they can have a somewhat generic character, the condition being that they will be polished further on, during the study).
    - *Methodological cues*: The fundamental paradigm (quantitative/qualitative), research models considered, control of internal validity, measurement and

data collecting techniques, targeted population, sampling (estimated sample size, sample selection).

- ▪ *Intended contributions*: Theoretical/applied novelty factors proposed by the applicants related to their study.
- o The aspects targeted by this chapter can suffer further important changes, but the applicants must make clear from the very beginning how they intend to address the topic.
- o Not necessarily specified: research hypotheses, statistical procedures, names/titles of the data collection instruments (just their type).

- Rating
  - o 300 points.
  - o Downgrades will be applied for: scarce text (<1000 words), not covering all the subchapters, superficial, unconvincing presentation that lacks precision and consistency.

7. References

- Recommendations
  - o A maximum of 30 references (not less than 15).
  - o The references will be strictly consistent with the APA Publication Manual (latest edition).
  - o The candidate should mainly use scientific sources (articles published in reputed journals).
- Rating
  - o 50 points.
  - o Downgrades will be applied for: scarce references (<15), low relevance or untimely references, editing non-compliant with APA style.

8. Research structure
8.1 Planning
8.2 Estimated difficulties

- Recommendations
  - o A maximum of 700 words (not less than 400).
  - o The chapter must provide a picture of the general plan of the doctoral research, regarding the most important estimated difficulties and the manner in which they may be overcome.
- Rating
  - o 100 points.
  - o Downgrades will be applied for: scarce presentation (<500 words), unsustainable planning, not signaling some relevant difficulties.