



Jihočeská univerzita  
v Českých Budějovicích  
University of South Bohemia  
in České Budějovice

Internal regulations of the School of Doctoral Studies of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

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The Academic Senate of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice approved pursuant to Section 9(1)(b) of Act No 111/1998, on Higher Education and on Amendments and Supplements to Other Acts (Higher Education Act), as amended, on 27 January 2025 and the Rectorate of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice registered the Statute of the School of Doctoral Studies of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice on 29 January 2025 under No USB/2025/002628.

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PhDr. Petr Dvořák, Ph.D.  
USB Academic Senate, Chair

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prof. Ing. Pavel Kozák, Ph.D.  
USB Rector

## **STATUTE OF THE SCHOOL OF DOCTORAL STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH BOHEMIA IN ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE**

### **PREAMBLE**

- 1) The University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (hereinafter also referred to as 'USB') perceives doctoral studies as an intensive individual training of young researchers who constitute a significant part of the USB academic community, contribute significantly to the scientific performance of the University and are able to independently develop research activities in research or academic institutions or actively apply research skills in many areas of social life after graduation.
- 2) The goal of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice is to provide talented and motivated students with an excellent start to their professional careers, and through high-quality standards of doctoral degree programmes, a welcoming and professional research environment, to become creative, critical thinkers and respected carriers of knowledge and leadership skills inside and outside the academic environment nationally and internationally. Through education in doctoral programmes, USB aims to ensure that young scientists and researchers respect generally accepted principles of scientific integrity, are able to transcend the boundaries of their discipline and are motivated to work with a positive impact on society, including addressing major societal challenges.
- 3) Doctoral studies at USB have good foundations for quality improvement in the doctoral degree programme boards. The University wants to link their activities aimed at improving the quality of doctoral studies and to add a transdisciplinary dimension to them, while aiming to create a comprehensive system of support for doctoral studies. Therefore, in accordance with the USB Strategic Plan 2021–2030, the USB School of Doctoral Studies (hereinafter referred to as 'SDS') is established.
- 4) The mission, activities and organisational structure of the SDS are governed by this Statute of the USB School of Doctoral Studies (hereinafter referred to as the 'Statute').

## **Part One**

### **Status of the School of Doctoral Studies**

#### **Article 1**

##### **General provisions**

- 1) SDS is a part of the structure of USB within the meaning of Act No 111/1998, on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Other Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the 'Higher Education Act').
- 2) SDS is established to support the improvement of the quality of doctoral studies and to improve the conditions for study in doctoral programmes at USB. It builds on the good work of the doctoral programme boards and follows the good practices of USB faculties in the organisation of studies in these programmes. SDS is transdisciplinary in nature; it is intended to set up processes that will help to improve the quality of doctoral studies across USB.
- 3) SDS complements and interconnects the system of doctoral studies at USB, which consists of doctoral degree programmes and the relevant field boards. SDS does not take over the competencies of the faculties and their field boards in the organisation of doctoral studies, nor in the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of doctoral degree programmes.
- 4) SDS is intended to unify the processes and practices of individual faculties and create a comprehensive system of support for doctoral studies – students, their supervisors and supervising facilities.
- 5) SDS also aims to support the implementation of doctoral studies in cooperation with partners outside the USB, in particular with the Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter referred to as 'CAS'). CAS is perceived as an important and strategic partner and SDS will act as a coordinator and mediator of activities between USB and CAS in order to improve the quality of doctoral degree programmes. The specific setup of the cooperation with non-USB partners and their individual departments will be defined in other documents at the USB and faculty levels.
- 6) SDS is of the type of other facilities for educational and creative activities pursuant to Section 22(1)(c) of the Higher Education Act.

## **Part Two**

### **SDS mission and activity**

#### **Article 2**

##### **Mission**

- 1) The mission of SDS is to:
  - a) formulate, in cooperation with the faculties, a University strategy for the development of doctoral degree programmes at USB,
  - b) further improve the quality of education and contribute to transparency and streamlining of the doctoral study processes at USB,

- c) promote innovation and interdisciplinarity in the preparation and development of doctoral programmes,
- d) set the basic framework for doctoral studies at USB, including the formulation of quality standards on which the regulations of the faculties concerning doctoral degree programmes will be based,
- e) improve the status of doctoral students at USB,
- f) provide educational and support activities for students (beyond their existing degree programmes) and supervisors,
- g) monitor the impact of doctoral studies on the career development of graduates and track their performance.

### **Article 3**

#### **Activity**

- 1) SDS proposes and formulates, in consultation with the faculties, the University's strategic goals in the area of doctoral studies and creates the conditions for their implementation. It assists the faculties in identifying and achieving the faculty's strategic goals in the field of doctoral studies development.
- 2) SDS concretises the strategic objectives into an action plan for the promotion and development of doctoral studies; after its approval by the University management, it is guided by it in its activities.
- 3) In cooperation with faculties and disciplinary councils, SDS develops a system for improving the quality of doctoral studies and their evaluation and formulates standards and recommendations for effective and quality doctoral studies at USB.
- 4) SDS coordinates the harmonisation of the organisation of the processes of studies across faculties and the synergistic linking of faculty activities, especially in the promotion of studies and attracting talented applicants. For an effective degree of unification of the study process, SDS creates conditions by harmonising study regulations.
- 5) A key part of SDS's activities is cooperation with the doctoral programme boards. SDS complements, appropriately oversees and coordinates the activities managed and organised by the field boards, especially in the field of education and support for students and supervisors.
- 6) SDS monitors data on the progress of doctoral studies at USB, tracking trends, possible risks and potential for further development of the quality and structure of doctoral studies at USB.
- 7) SDS creates a system to support students in developing their research competencies as well as to support their career and personal development and engagement with the USB academic community.
- 8) SDS is actively involved in the evaluation process of doctoral degree programmes in cooperation with the Internal Evaluation Board (hereinafter referred to as 'IEB USB'). It also monitors and harmonises processes and internal regulations governing the course and quality evaluation of doctoral studies in cooperation with the IEB USB. On the other hand, SDS does not approve plans to submit applications for accreditation, extensions of the accreditation period or extensions of

the accreditation period of doctoral degree programmes, i.e. it does not carry out duplicate activities to those carried out by the IEB USB.

### **Part Three**

#### **Organisational structure and integration in the University structure**

##### **Article 4**

##### **Organisational structure**

- 1) SDS is managed by a director who reports directly to the Rector.
- 2) The director is responsible to the Rector for the activities of SDS, for the efficient management of the allocated funds and entrusted property and the fulfilment of other tasks set by the Rector.
- 3) The director manages the activities and activities of SDS, coordinates interaction with other USB constituent parts and organisational units involved in doctoral studies, and represents USB at internal and external meetings and forums dealing with strategic issues of doctoral studies development. In addressing the tasks of SDS, the director cooperates with the USB Vice-Rector for Research and faculty coordinators for doctoral studies (hereinafter referred to as the 'faculty coordinators').
- 4) Faculty coordinators, delegated by the Deans of the respective USB faculties, ensure the interaction of SDS with the faculty management, field boards and guarantors of doctoral degree programmes at the faculty.
- 5) The Board of the School of Doctoral Studies (hereinafter referred to as the 'SDS Board') is a part of SDS, which addresses conceptual issues of doctoral studies at the USB and expresses its opinion on the action plan for the promotion and development of doctoral studies at USB, strategic issues of the development of doctoral degree programmes and on the activities of SDS. The SDS Board is convened and chaired by the SDS Director. In addition to the director, it consists of faculty coordinators, the Vice-Rector for Research, the Vice-Rector for Internal Evaluation and Accreditation, the Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, two student representatives nominated by the Student Chamber of the USB Academic Senate and two CAS representatives.
- 6) The SDS Board delegates representatives to the committees that the IEB USB establishes for the evaluation of doctoral programmes.

##### **Article 5**

##### **Funding and operation of the School of Doctoral Studies**

- 1) SDS works in cooperation with other USB constituent parts.
- 2) Administrative support for SDS is provided by the Science and Research Office of the USB Rectorate.
- 3) SDS is funded by the USB budget; it also makes good use of project opportunities to support its activities.

#### **Part Four**

#### **Action plan for the promotion and development of doctoral studies**

##### **Article 6**

##### **Preparation and implementation of an action plan for the promotion and development of doctoral studies**

- 1) SDS will start its activities by setting up its bodies. Once the position of the director has been filled and faculty coordinators have been delegated, it will start the preparation of an action plan for the promotion and development of doctoral studies at USB (hereinafter referred to as the 'Action Plan') for the first period.
- 2) The Action Plan specifies the University's intentions in the area of doctoral studies, based on the University's strategic documents, consultations with faculties and the University management. The Action Plan must not overlap with the periods of two USB strategic plans and is created for a maximum period of four years.
- 3) After the action plan is approved by the University management, SDS follows it in its activities, plans and evaluates its implementation yearly and discusses necessary adjustments with the University management.

#### **Part Five**

##### **Final provisions**

##### **Article 7**

##### **Final provisions**

- 1) This statute enters force on the day of its approval by the USB Academic Senate and takes effect on 1 February 2025.
- 2) This statute was approved by the USB Academic Senate on 27 January 2025.

prof. PaedDr. Iva Stuchlíková, CSc.  
USB School of Doctoral Studies, USB