

Annual Quality Assurance Report
September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025

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:

September 30, 2025.

II. Regulations

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

Yes/No

If you answered yes to the previous question, please answer the following questions as well.

2. Please briefly describe the reason for/content of the amendment.

We have corrected some formal errors in the sections on the entrance examination and the complex examination, and in Appendix 1, in accordance with the accreditation guidelines, we have included the name of the current student representative on the Doctoral School Council.

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

June 24, 2025.

4. Internet access to the doctoral school's quality assurance plan:

<http://nydi.szte.hu/Szabalyzatok.html>

5. Internet access to the English version of the doctoral school's quality assurance plan:

<http://nydi.szte.hu/Regulations.html>

III. Statistical data

1. Number of applicants of the doctoral school:

Hungarian-language programs: 8

Foreign-language programs: 22 (applicants for the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship).

2. How many of the successfully admitted students did not start the program?

All of the admitted students (6) started the program.

3. Number of failed complex exams:

None.

4. Number of failed defenses:

None.

5. 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 EKÖP Scholarships, may have had a stimulating effect on applications.

IV. Plagiarism screening and artificial intelligence

1. 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.

2. Please inform the Doctoral Institute whether you have regulated the use of artificial intelligence in doctoral training and degree awarding procedures during the reporting period.

No.

V. Personnel issues

1. What personnel changes are expected in the doctoral school's core membership during the next reporting period (between September 1, 2025, and August 31, 2026) (what is the reason for the change)?

The number of core members of the Doctoral School in Linguistics will decrease by one, as Prof. Dr. István Zimonyi will reach the age of 70 and will no longer be an active university professor. The number of Doctoral school core members will remain sufficient and accreditation requirements will continue to be met, as we expanded our core membership with two new, younger members in 2025.

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

No.

3. If so, please briefly explain the reason for this.

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

We have three supervisors who are not employed by the University of Szeged, but all three are members of our doctoral school: Bayarma Khabtagaeva (Università Degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale", Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo), Veronika Vincze (HUN-REN--SZTE Research Group on Artificial Intelligence), Krisztina Polgárdi (ELTE Research Centre for Linguistics).

VI. Other issues

1. 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.

2. 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 eight applicants for Hungarian-language programs and 18 for foreign-language programs, and we were able to admit six applicants to Hungarian-language programs. Unfortunately, we were only allowed to admit two students to foreign-language programs, even though we recommended admitting several times that number. While we were unable to do so in 2023, in 2024 we were able to fill all of the state-funded scholarship places at the Doctoral School in Linguistics, which had not been the case in previous years.