

## ACCREDITATION DECISION

Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of  
Economics (KhNUE), Ukraine

Economics PhD Programme

**June 2019**

## SCOPE OF THE ACCREDITATION GRANTED BY HCÉRES

Hcéres has built its evaluation process based on a set of objectives that Higher Education Institution PhD programmes must pursue to ensure recognised quality within France and Europe. These objectives are divided up into four fields among which are the accreditation criteria.

As for the "External Evaluation Standards", the accreditation criteria have been specifically designed for foreign PhD programmes. The accreditation criteria were adopted by the Board on March 2018 and are available on the Hcéres website ([hceres.fr](http://hceres.fr)).

The accreditation committee, meeting his accreditation decision, has wholly taken into account the final evaluation report of the PhD programme. This accreditation decision is the result of a collegial and reasoned process.

The accreditation decision issued by Hcéres shall not grant any rights whatsoever, whether in France or abroad. The decision on a PhD programme accreditation confers an accreditation label and does not infer recognition of the accredited qualifications. The Hcéres accreditation process therefore has no impact on the qualifications recognition process in France.

# ANALYSIS OF THE ACCREDITATION CRITERIA

## AREA 1: THE POSITIONING OF THE DOCTORATE

### Accreditation criteria

The positioning, the content and the objectives of the doctorate are clearly defined. Its interactions with the stakeholders (lead institution(s), foreign partners, socio-economic environment) are formally set out and effective. Its links with the research units and the institution's scientific policy are effective.

### Criteria assessment

The Economics PhD program is perfectly characterized and identifiable within Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics (KhNUE) and more generally in the Ukrainian academic environment. The Economics PhD programme is well defined. It is perfectly integrated into the general strategy of KhNUE and it participates as a part of this university in creating high level of research and teaching. The distinctive features of the Economics PhD program are likewise well defined and have been clearly presented in the self-evaluation report and during the interviews to the panel of experts. Thematic, regional, national and now international orientations are well integrated into curricula but the international aspect is to be developed.

## AREA 2: ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DOCTORATE

### Accreditation criteria

The doctorate's organisation and management are clearly defined and rely on material and human resources adapted to the requirements of programmes at ISCED level 8. Internal quality assurance mechanisms are in place and effectively used in order to improve continuously the doctorate. The doctoral students recruiting is formally set out, their funding is fair and sustainable.

### Criteria assessment

The Economics PhD programme is well organized with very good administrative support from the Postgraduate and Doctoral Department and scientific support by the Research Department. Quality control is provided by integrating student feedback and internal communication of faculty and administrative offices. The recruitment of students is organized according to the Ukrainian regulations but the procedure of recruitment of international students needs to be improved.

## AREA 3: SUPERVISION AND TRAINING FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

### Accreditation criteria

A strict policy of supervising and follow-up of doctoral students is set. Doctoral students have access to various teaching and professional trainings and take part in scientific/professional actions. Explicit rules are defined concerning the thesis duration and defence. Measures to combat fraud, plagiarism and corruption are applied within the doctorate.

### Criteria assessment

PhD students in Economics prepare their thesis in an extremely strict framework established by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, with clear rules in force at KhNUE. This framework concerns the education programme as well as the research programme. The strengthening of knowledge in Economics and the gradual establishment of research work are well organised. PhD students are made aware of science ethics and various controls are intended to avoid plagiarism. A weakness is the low level in internationalization (difficulty for PhD students to attend scientific events abroad, low participation of foreign academics in the training programme and thesis follow-up, few publications in internationally rated reviews).

## AREA 4: INTEGRATION OF DOCTORS INTO THE JOB MARKET

### Accreditation criteria

The doctorate implements systems to promote the doctorate and the integration of doctors into the job market. The integration monitoring and analysis are effective and used to perform the continuous improvement of the doctorate.

### Criteria assessment

Even though most graduates enter a career at university or in other educational and research institutions, KhNUE is concerned with the possibilities of professional integration in the non-academic sector. There are links with industry, broadly defined. The University Department of Carrier Development deals more particularly with the integration of graduates on the job market. Few graduates are looking for jobs in private companies but they are informed of the opportunities that exist and the PhD programme is promoted to various partners and stakeholders.

## ACCREDITATION PROPOSAL

Considering the accreditation criteria analysis detailed above, the committee proposes to the accreditation commission the following decision:

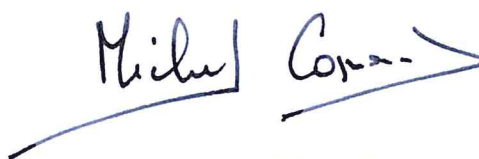
### **“Five-year unreserved accreditation decision”**

and draws attention to the various recommendations made by the committee of experts in its evaluation report:

- The research carried out by PhD students in Economics must be at the international level (choice of thesis topics that are not limited to local topics, permanent exchanges with foreign researchers, publications in international journals with a good ranking rather than local or national journals, participation of foreign academics in the defense of the thesis).
- A stay of several months abroad should be generalised for all PhD students in Economics, which could be facilitated by the establishment of agreements with partner universities.
- The educational staff should be complemented by foreign academics to broaden approaches to the latest developments in economic science.
- In a context where it will be more difficult for graduates to find a job at university, the links with professional circles should be strengthened.
- The internal quality assurance policy must remain a concern of KhNUE.

### SIGNATURE

For HCERES and on behalf of



Michel COSNARD,

President

Date: Paris, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019



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