

ORPHEUS SELF-EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

16-06-2018

This questionnaire is a tool for self-evaluation of PhD training programmes. It is based on the publication Best Practices for PhD Training, published 2016 by ORPHEUS (Organisation for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System) and AMSE (Association of Medical Schools in Europe). This publication is available on www.orpheus-med.org and is based on work done over many years by ORPHEUS, AMSE and the World Federation for Medical Education. It represents a consensus by around 100 institutions from almost all European countries. The document provides a number of recommendations of what are considered to be best practices, and has two types of recommendations:

- **Basic Recommendations:** Recommendations that are thought to be particularly important.
- **Quality Development:** Further recommendations that are in accordance with international consensus about good practice.

In addition, there are **Annotations** that are used to clarify, amplify or exemplify expressions in the recommendations, and also to indicate flexibility.

The purpose of the questionnaire is to provide a framework for institutions to discuss and reflect on their PhD programmes a basis for deciding if improvements might be made. The effectiveness of the process will likely be enhanced if relevant stakeholders (e.g. PhD candidates, supervisors, research directors, graduate school administration, graduate school leadership) are involved in completing the form.

ORPHEUS believes that completion of the form will in itself have value for the institution, and the questionnaire is thus part of ORPHEUS' aim of promoting the enhancement of PhD training in Europe and elsewhere. ORPHEUS may, however, use the questionnaire as a basis for applying for

- a) an ORPHEUS Evaluation Certificate, or
- b) an ORPHEUS Label.

Such institutions should also complete the form on the last page of this document.

Details of the procedures for applying for these awards are provided on www.orpheus-med.org.

Institutions interested in entering this process should contact the President of ORPHEUS, Prof. Robert Harris, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, Robert.Harris@ki.se and the chairman of the ORPHEUS Labelling Board, Prof. Michael Mulvany, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark, mm@farm.au.dk.

The questionnaire

Institution	INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, MERSİN UNIVERSITY
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Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)	Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
1. Research environment			

#1: BR 1.1	There should be a strong research environment around every PhD project, either within the institution or within collaborating institutions.		Describe research areas covered by the institution. Give examples of e.g. 5 key papers. Provide information about institution ranking if relevant.	<p>Mersin University was established with Law No. 3837, adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on July 3, 1992, and began its activities on November 10, 1992.</p> <p>In the 1993-1994 academic year, Mersin University commenced education by admitting students to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Faculty of Fine Arts, the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, the Faculty of Engineering, the School of Tourism and Hotel Management, Mersin Vocational School, Gülnar Vocational School, Mut Vocational School, Tarsus Vocational School, and the Institute of Science and Social Sciences, which conducts postgraduate programs.</p> <p>Since its establishment, Mersin University has increased the number of its faculties to 16, the number of its colleges to 7, the number of its vocational schools to 11, the number of its institutes to 5, and the number of its research centers to 34.</p> <p>According to the University Ranking by Academic Performance (CWUR), Mersin University ranks 1165th in the Global 2000 List and 15th nationally, with a score of 69.5% (https://cwur.org/2023.php).</p> <p>Mersin University ranks 1929th in the URAP World Ranking (https://urapcenter.org/Rankings/2023-2024/World_Ranking_2023-2024) and 34th in the URAP Turkey ranking of universities with a Faculty of Medicine for the 2023-2024 academic year (https://newtr.urapcenter.org/cdn/storage/PDFs/FK52kJxFYgc9icEov/original/FK52kJxFYgc9icEov.pdf).</p> <p>According to the 2024 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which assess universities based on their contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, Mersin University is ranked between 801-1000 globally among 2152 universities (https://www.mersin.edu.tr/haberler/384962/universitemiz-the-impact-rankings-siralamasina-gore-dunyanin-en-iyi-universiteleri-arasinda).</p> <p>Mersin University Health Sciences Institute started its postgraduate education activities in 1999 with the approval of the Council of Higher Education. The first students were admitted in the 1999-2000 academic year.</p> <p>The Institute of Health Sciences offers PhD programs in Pharmacy, Medicine, Nursing, and Interdisciplinary Research Programs in Molecular Microbiology, Stem Cell, and Regenerative Medicine (https://sabe.mersin.edu.tr/academic/health-sciences-institute/departments).</p> <p>Several research areas are covered by the programs within the Institute of Health Sciences, including neuroscience, stem cell research, microbiota, polymorphism, hepatitis viruses, SARS-CoV-2, tuberculosis and drug resistance, nanoparticles, cancer research, molecular genetic... etc...</p>
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The postgraduate education programs at Mersin University's Institute of Health Sciences are conducted in collaboration with the Mersin University Faculty of Medicine, Oncology Hospital, Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Nursing, as well as national and international universities and research centers with which they cooperate.

Expanded research opportunities for doctoral education (<https://mersin.edu.tr/en>) are given below;

- Technology Transfer Office
- AB Projects, BAP Projects, Ministry of Development Projects, TUBITAK Projects,
- Information Source such as Catalog Search, Library, and Subscribed Databases
- Mersin University Central Laboratory (MEITAM: Advanced Technology Education Research and Application Center)
- Technopark
- Department research laboratories, classrooms, seminar rooms

The academic activities of all doctoral education academic advisors can be followed up to date via APBS (Academic Personnel Information System).

The academic staff of the Health Sciences Institute have 14 completed and 8 ongoing TUBITAK projects in the last 5 years.

The distribution of articles and presentations produced from theses published by the Health Sciences Institute academic staff in the last five years is given in the table below (Table 1, Table 2).

Table 1: The distribution of articles published by the Health Sciences Institute academic staff.

Year	SCI	SCI-E	SSCI	AHCI	Other international
2020	7	18	0	0	9
2021	17	22	1	0	8
2022	9	12	4	0	12
2023	20	16	6	0	25
2024	13	23	0	0	19

Table 2: The distribution of presentations published by the Health Sciences Institute academic staff.

Year	National	International
2020	5	33
2021	6	29
2022	10	33
2023	6	56
2024	4	33

5 key papers:

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			<p>Kesim B, Ülger ST, Aslan G, Cudal H, Üstün Y, Küçük MÖ. Amplicon-based next-generation sequencing for comparative analysis of root canal microbiome of teeth with primary and persistent/secondary endodontic infections. Clin Oral Investig. 2023;27(3):995-1004. (Q1 category)</p> <p>Patents: The academic staff of the Institute of Health Sciences has not applied for a patent yet.</p>

#2: BR 1.2	Facilities should be compatible with the requirements of completing the PhD project.		Describe facilities available at the institution and from other institutions. Give examples.	<p>Mersin University's Health Sciences Institute includes 20 departments offering PhD programs. These departments are: Analytical Chemistry, Anatomy, Biophysics, Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, Histology and Embryology, Medical Biochemistry, Medical Biology, Medical Microbiology, Medical Pharmacology, Midwifery, Nursing, Nursing in Mental Health and Disease, Pharmaceutical Biochemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Pharmaceutical Technology, Pharmacognosy, Pharmacy Pharmacology, Physiology, and Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine. These departments operate under the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy, and Faculty of Nursing, each offering a wide range of research opportunities, including routine and research laboratories within their structures.</p> <p>Furthermore, Mersin University hosts numerous research centers (https://www.mersin.edu.tr/) that offer comprehensive support and services for researchers' projects. Among these, the Mersin University Advanced Technology Education, Research, and Application Center (MEITAM) (https://mersin.edu.tr/academic/advanced-technology-education-research-and-application-center) stands out as a leading facility, distinguished by its cutting-edge scientific and technological infrastructure. MEITAM's laboratories are outfitted with advanced equipment, facilitating multidisciplinary research activities across various domains, including R&D, educational programs, testing, and analysis. These resources are available to qualified researchers throughout Turkey, promoting high-level scholarly and scientific endeavors.</p> <p>The most significant research facility is Mersin University Hospital, which comprises several departments dedicated to human health.</p> <p>Our external stakeholders include City Hospitals (Medical Faculties under the Ministry of Health), Education and Research Hospitals, Family Health Centers, schools affiliated with the Ministry of National Education, local governmental bodies (municipalities, elderly care centers), the Mersin University Continuing Education Center, and various professional associations.</p>
#3: BR 1.3	Research should be consistent with international ethical standards.		Provide reference to local ethical committee and other organizations concerned with maintaining ethical standards. How are these standards implemented?	<p>The organizational structure of Mersin University includes the Clinical Research Ethics Committee, the Health Sciences Ethics Committee, and the Animal Experiments Local Ethics Committee.</p> <p>https://www.mersin.edu.tr/administrative/klinik-arastirmalar-etik-kurulu https://www.mersin.edu.tr/administrative/hayvan-deneyleeri-yerel-etik-kurulu</p> <p>Strict adherence to ethical guidelines is required for both human and animal studies in all research projects and thesis studies conducted by Mersin University researchers.</p>

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			<p>Thesis proposals for studies carried out at the Mersin University Institute of Health Sciences, require ethics committee approval, must be submitted to the Clinical Research Ethics Committee and/or the Experimental Animal Ethics Committee in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Furthermore, all clinical drug research studies are required to obtain approval from the Ministry of Health prior to commencement (https://www.titck.gov.tr).</p> <p>When evaluating thesis proposals, the Health Sciences Institute Board of Directors reviews the methodology section to determine whether an ethics committee application is required. For applications to the Clinical Research Ethics Committee related to thesis studies, prior approval from the Institute Board of Directors is mandatory.</p> <p>The Scientific Research Projects Unit of Mersin University does not provide funding for studies lacking ethical approval.</p>

#4: BR 1.4	There should be provision for allowing PhD candidates to perform part of their programme in another institution, national and abroad.		Describe the arrangements provided for allowing PhD candidates to spend part of their time in another institution. How many take advantage of these arrangements? Who covers the expenses?	<p>The "Mersin University External Relations and Projects Coordination Office" within our institution is responsible for coordinating efforts related to the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Representing our university on national and international platforms, ○ Ensuring cooperation between our university and domestic and international institutions in the field of education, ○ Facilitating national and international exchange programs. ○ Supporting the development of national and international projects and research studies conducted within Mersin University or in collaboration with other institutions and organizations. <p>Mersin University operates within a broad framework of national and international cooperation partnerships. The following exchange programs are offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Farabi Exchange Program (https://www.mersin.edu.tr/administrative/mersin-universitesi-dis-iliskiler-ve-projeler-koordinatorlugu/faaliyetler/farabi-degisim-programi)* ○ Mevlana Exchange Program (https://www.mersin.edu.tr/administrative/mersin-universitesi-dis-iliskiler-ve-projeler-koordinatorlugu/faaliyetler/mevlana-degisim-programi)** ○ Erasmus Program (https://www.mersin.edu.tr/administrative/mersin-universitesi-dis-iliskiler-ve-projeler-koordinatorlugu/faaliyetler/erasmus)*** ○ European Solidarity Corps (https://www.mersin.edu.tr/administrative/mersin-universitesi-dis-iliskiler-ve-projeler-koordinatorlugu/faaliyetler/avrupa-gonullu-hizmeti)**** <p>However, the number of students with international collaborations is one (in 2024) and participated in the international exchange program is one (in 2022) in the last five years.</p> <p>The number of students who participated in the international exchange program in the last five years is one.</p> <p>The primary reasons for the limited extent of these collaborations can be attributed to family obligations and time constraints associated with the progress of PhD projects and work.</p> <p>*“Farabi Exchange Program” is a “Student and Faculty Exchange Program” that allows the exchange of students and faculty members at associate, undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels between universities and high technology institutes in Turkey through mutual protocols. Non-refundable scholarships are awarded to students who participate in Farabi Exchange Program. (https://farabi.yok.gov.tr/)</p>
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			<p>** Mevlana Exchange Program is a program that enables the exchange of students and faculty members between higher education institutions in Turkey and those abroad (https://mevlana.yok.gov.tr/en). Students participating in the Mevlana Exchange Program may receive scholarships at rates determined by the Turkish Higher Education Institution Executive Board during their engagement in the program.</p> <p>*** The Erasmus program is a European Union initiative designed to encourage collaboration among higher education institutions. This program supports the development and implementation of joint projects and provides financial assistance for short-term student and staff exchanges. (https://uluslararasi.yok.gov.tr/en/international-students/exchange-programmes/erasmus).</p> <p>**** “European Solidarity Corps (ESC aims to enable young individuals aged 18 to 30 to engage in voluntary work for public interest projects in EU member countries or associated nations for a duration of 2 to 12 months. This initiative seeks to foster personal development and enhance solidarity and tolerance among young people. All expenses of the volunteer are covered by the volunteer. Only pocket money is given to volunteers, which varies from country to country (Around 5 Euros per day). (https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity_tr)</p>

#5: QD 1.1	Institutions lacking facilities/expertise could collaborate with stronger institutions to obtain these.		Describe collaborative arrangements with other institutions.	<p>All students participating in the Mersin University Health Sciences Doctorate education program have the opportunity to collaborate with other institutions. The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) at Mersin University plays a crucial role in facilitating the establishment of close relationships between our university's research teams and industry as well as private sector research and development centers.</p> <p>PhD candidates have the opportunity to take courses from various institutions across Turkey, subject to a limited credit allowance (Mersin University Graduate Education and Training Regulation, September 24, 2023).</p> <p>MADDE 46- (7) The maximum number of graduate courses a student can take from a program or institution outside their own is limited to two, excluding specialization courses. (specialization courses are not permitted to be taken from another program/institution.)</p> <p>MADDE 46- (8) For students enrolled in interdisciplinary programs, the maximum number of graduate courses that can be taken from a program or institution outside their own is limited to four; similarly, specialization courses are not permitted to be taken from another program or institution.</p> <p>Our doctoral students have the opportunity to engage in professional training and gain experience through the ERASMUS internship mobility program, which allows them to study for a duration of 2 months to 1 year at foreign universities with which our university has established bilateral agreements or at universities they find themselves (https://www.mersin.edu.tr/bulut/birim_2173/erasmus-pano/2023ERASMUSANLASMALARLISTESI.pdf).</p> <p>Within the framework of the protocol established between our Institute's Department of Midwifery and Mersin City Hospital, our midwifery students have the opportunity to gain experience and practical skills or explore various work opportunities.</p>
#6: QD 1.2	Possibilities for joint and double degrees could be explored.		Are there arrangements for joint or double degrees? How many PhD candidates are	The Mersin University Institute of Health Sciences previously offered a joint integrated doctoral training program in collaboration with İnönü University for Biostatistics and Medical Informatics and Gazi University for Pharmaceutical Toxicology doctoral programs. Totally, seven graduates have completed this program. However, this program is no longer in effect due to a decision made

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			<p>currently using such a programme?</p> <p>by the Higher Education Institution (YÖK) (relevant YÖK decision no 75850160-104.01.04.01-E.70451, date 25.09.2019).</p> <p>Additionally, the Higher Education Institution (YÖK) has established the Regulation on Education and Training for the Integrated Doctor of Medicine Program (February 9, 2022) for medical faculty students. Upon reaching the fifth year of their six-year education, our students who meet the conditions specified in the regulation are assigned a supervisor from the Institute of Health Sciences for a two-year thesis study. After completing these two years and undertaking one year of internship training at the Faculty of Medicine, they graduate with the MD-PhD title, culminating in a total of eight years of comprehensive education and training.</p> <p>Additionally, the Higher Education Institution (YÖK) has established the "Regulation on Joint Education Programs between Higher Education Institutions and Foreign Higher Education Institutions," as amended on October 6, 2016.</p> <p>Students who request and meet the conditions can benefit from these regulations.</p>
2. Outcomes			

#7: BR 2.1	PhD programmes should provide PhD candidates with competences to become qualified and independent researchers, according to principles of good research practice.		What criteria are used to ensure that each PhD candidate has developed these competences?	<p>All PhD programs in the Institute assist candidates in acquiring specific competencies in their fields through various means.</p> <p>According to the Mersin University Graduate Education and Training Regulation (September 24, 2023), our doctoral candidates complete their education by taking at least three compulsory and a total of at least seven theoretical and practical courses during three semesters of their program. Throughout their education, they also engage in fieldwork with their advisors through specialized courses they take each term.</p> <p>The Institute's mandatory courses, “Development and Learning” and “Planning and Evaluation in Education,” support doctoral candidates in developing their skills for conducting qualified and independent research.</p> <p>During their master's education, doctoral candidates take the Institute’s mandatory courses, “Scientific Ethics” and “Research Methodologies,” which foster their ability to conduct independent research. Arrangements will be made to enroll in these courses, for those who commence their doctoral education without prior master's training.</p> <p>Candidates are required to present a seminar related to their research topic, and their skills are evaluated by a committee comprising their advisor and faculty members from the relevant department. This committee may also provide recommendations for the student’s academic development.</p> <p>The student is required to successfully complete the PhD qualification examination, which consists of both a written and an oral component administered by the PhD Qualification Committee, comprised of five faculty members. The committee assesses the candidate's competencies and may recommend additional courses to enhance their academic preparation.</p> <p>The jury of qualification examination includes two faculty members from external institutions. Candidates who do not achieve a minimum score of 80 on the written exam are not permitted to proceed to the oral examination.</p> <p>After passing the exam, the candidate prepares a doctoral thesis proposal and submits it to the Thesis Monitoring Committee. The accepted thesis proposal is then reported to the Institute. Once the thesis topic is approved by the Institute Board, the candidate can begin their research activities.</p>
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			<p>Each semester, all PhD candidates are required to present their progress reports to the Thesis Monitoring Committee, which monitors the candidate’s academic and scientific competencies and developments.</p> <p>The Curriculum Development Committee of our Institute works on the “Supervisor-PhD Candidate Agreement” protocol and the “Advisory Guidelines” to ensure that the responsibilities for scientific and official reports related to the candidate are properly secured, along with the planning of time between the supervisor and the student.</p>

#8: BR 2.2	A PhD degree should also be of benefit in a career outside academic or clinical research (problem solving, analysis, evaluation, technology transfer etc.).		What arrangements are made to ensure that each PhD candidate has developed these competences?	<p>Mersin University Technology Transfer Office (TTO) serves as the integration point for the Turkish Innovation Ecosystem, which encompasses the Ministry of Industry and Technology, TUBITAK, universities and private sector companies, along with the R&D and innovation structures that nourish this ecosystem. It facilitates collaboration between these entities and Mersin University employees.</p> <p>Mersin Teknopark (Technoscope) was established to contribute to Mersin's national and international competitiveness by producing new technologies through research and development (R&D) activities carried out by Mersin University and industry partners, as well as to transfer these technologies to industrial production. Technoscope is structured to foster the establishment and development of companies with high potential to develop advanced technology. Furthermore, PhD students and graduates have the opportunity to establish their own businesses. Technopark offers support to students, graduates, and faculty members in the process of building a company by providing office space and personnel assistance for their ventures.</p> <p>The Young Entrepreneurs Application and Research Center aims to enhance collaboration between the university and the business world, as well as strengthen national and international connections. It is designed to facilitate the realization of entrepreneurial ideas among faculty members, students, and prospective entrepreneurs by enriching the necessary knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship and local development, in alignment with universal approaches.</p> <p>The Mersin University Career Center (KARMER) provides scientific, professional, and educational activities related to new business ideas, entrepreneurship, and professional life for students in associate, undergraduate, and graduate programs, as well as for graduates and local residents. The center also offers consultancy and informational services. Every year, KARMER organizes a Career Fair that brings together various stakeholders and sectors.</p> <p>The Mersin University Lifelong Learning Application and Research Center (MEÜSEM) promotes lifelong learning by offering educational activities in social, cultural, scientific, economic, and technological fields. Active courses are published on the center's website (http://sem.mersin.edu.tr/aktifkurs).</p> <p>Furthermore, our university has sports facilities, including an indoor swimming pool, fitness center, tennis courts, artificial turf pitch, and football fields, which are available for our students (https://sks.mersin.edu.tr/idari/saglik-kultur-ve-spor-daire-baskanligi/hizmetlerimiz/sosyal-tesisler/spor-tesisleri).</p>
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			Additionally, the Health Sciences Institute is developing courses under the “Transferable Skills” category within the elective course pool, aimed at helping students enhance their skills in the social field.

#9: BR 2.3	The outcomes for PhD candidates with a background in medicine or other professional training are the same as for any other PhD.		Are there any special arrangements for PhD candidates with background in professional training?	<p>Graduates of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and veterinary faculties who have completed at least ten semesters of undergraduate education, as well as candidates who have completed their Medical Specialization training, are eligible to commence their PhD education directly. These candidates must have an undergraduate GPA of at least 65 out of 100. However, candidates from faculties with a minimum of eight semesters of education must first complete a master's degree before PhD education (Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulation, September 24, 2023).</p> <p>Candidates holding a master's degree must have a minimum GPA of 75 out of 100, while applicants for the PhD program with an undergraduate degree in fields other than medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and veterinary faculties must have a GPA of at least 80 out of 100.</p> <p>It is important to note that the content of the PhD education may vary for all candidates accepted into the program.</p> <p>Duration of Study and Courses</p> <p>Article 46- (1) The duration of the doctoral program is eight semesters for those admitted with a thesis master's degree, excluding the period spent in scientific preparation, the maximum completion period is twelve semesters. The duration of the doctoral program is for those admitted with a bachelor's degree is ten semesters, with a maximum completion period of fourteen semesters.</p> <p>Article 46- (4) The doctoral program for students admitted with a thesis master's degree comprises at least seven courses, seminars, specialization courses, a qualifying exam, a thesis proposal, and thesis research, accounting for a minimum of 240 ECTS credits and no less than twenty-one national credits. For students admitted with a bachelor's degree, the program includes at least fourteen courses, seminars, a qualifying exam, a thesis proposal, and thesis studies accounting for a minimum of 300 ECTS credits and no less than forty-two national credits.</p>
3. Admission policy and criteria				
#10: BR 3.1	PhD candidates should be selected on the basis of a competitive and transparent process.		Describe the admission process.	<p>The PhD admission process is described clearly in the Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulation, 24 September 2023 (https://mersin.edu.tr/akademik/saglik-bilimleri-enstitusu/pano).</p> <p>It is competitive and transparent with the guidelines of which are developed by the “Turkish Council of Higher Education Graduate Education and Examination Regulation” (20.04.2016).</p>

			<p>Quota and application</p> <p>ARTICLE 42 (1):</p> <p>c) Graduates from dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, and medical faculties who have completed at least ten semesters of undergraduate education may apply for doctoral programs without holding a master's degree. These candidates must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 65 out of 100. Candidates holding a master's degree must have a minimum master's GPA of 75 out of 100, while candidates applying to the PhD program with only an undergraduate degree must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 80 out of 100.</p> <p>ç) Candidates must possess a valid score from the ALES (Academic Personnel and Graduate Education Entrance Exam) for applications to the PhD programs. Applicants with a thesis master's degree must have a minimum score of 55, while those applying with an undergraduate degree must have a minimum score of 80, as specified in the announcement issued by the relevant department. However, graduates from medical specialization, dental specialization, veterinary specialization, or pharmacy specialization programs are exempt from the ALES requirement when applying to the PhD programs.</p> <p>d) For candidates applying for the PhD program with a master's degree, acceptance into the program is based not only on the ALES score but also on their undergraduate and/or graduate GPA, as well as the results of an interview and/or written exam. Additionally, if requested by the institute, applicants must submit a reference letter, a statement outlining their reasons for pursuing a doctorate, and, if available, documentation of international standardized test scores and any other required documents to the relevant institute.</p> <p>ARTICLE 43 (2):</p> <p>Each candidate is evaluated based on a maximum score of 100 for the interview and/or written exam. For candidates who score 60 or above out of 100 on the interview and/or written exam:</p> <p>) For those applying with a bachelor's degree, the doctoral admission score is calculated as follows: 25% of the bachelor's graduation GPA, 50% of the ALES score in the relevant category, and 25% of the interview and/or written exam result.</p>
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			<p>b)For those applying with a master's degree, the doctoral admission score is calculated as follows: 10% of the bachelor’s graduation GPA, 15% of the master’s graduation GPA, 50% of the ALES score in the relevant category, and 25% of the interview and/or written exam result.</p> <p>ARTICLE 43 (3):</p> <p>Graduate of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and veterinary faculties who have completed at least ten semesters of undergraduate education, as well as candidates who have gained specialization authority in a laboratory field according to the regulations set by the Ministry of Health and are applying directly to the PhD program, will have their doctoral admission scores calculated based on the following criteria for candidates who score 60 or above out of 100 on the interview and/or written exam:</p> <p>For each candidate: 25% of the bachelor’s graduation GPA, 50% of the ALES score or the basic medicine score in the relevant category, and 25% of the interview and/or written exam result.</p> <p>ARTICLE 43 (4):</p> <p>For candidates admitted with a bachelor’s degree, the doctoral admission score must be at least 80, while for those admitted with a master’s degree, the score must be at least 65. Candidates are ranked by their scores by the respective departments and are placed according to the available quotas of those departments.</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#11: BR 3.2	Applicants for PhD programmes should have an educational level corresponding to a master’s degree.		Describe the level required. Are persons with a medical degree or other professional degree accepted?	<p>Candidates must possess either a bachelor's or a thesis master's degree. Graduates of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and veterinary faculties who have completed at least ten semesters of undergraduate education, as well as candidates who have completed their Medical Specialization education, can directly begin their PhD studies. However, faculty graduates with at least eight semesters of education are required to obtain a master's degree before proceeding to their PhD education (Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulation, 2023).</p> <p>All these programs correspond to a master's degree according to the regulations of the Turkish Council of Higher Education.</p>

#12: BR 3.3	<p>Before enrolment or at clearly defined times during the programme, the institution should evaluate and approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific quality of the project, - Likelihood to complete within normal timeframe, - The possibility for candidate to provide creative input, - Qualifications of supervisors. 		<p>Describe how and when the PhD project is approved.</p>	<p>The approval process for the doctoral thesis is outlined in the "Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulation" dated September 24, 2023.</p> <p>Initially, the doctoral project must be approved by the thesis monitoring committee. This committee evaluates the thesis project and submits its reports to the Institute. This evaluation includes the project's timeline, the candidate's contribution, its scientific quality, and progress.</p> <p>Formation of the Thesis Monitoring Committee</p> <p>ARTICLE 48- (1) For students who successfully pass the PhD qualifying exam, a thesis monitoring committee is formed within one month following the exam date, based on the proposal of the relevant Department Board and the decision of the Institute Management Board.</p> <p>(2) The thesis monitoring committee consists of three faculty members. The committee includes the thesis advisor, as well as one member from within the Institute's Department and one member from outside the Institute. If there is a second thesis advisor, they may attend the committee meetings as an observer.</p> <p>Thesis Proposal Defense</p> <p>ARTICLE 49 - (1) A student who has successfully completed the doctoral qualifying examination must orally defend their thesis proposal, which includes the purpose, methodology, and work plan of the research to the thesis monitoring committee, within a maximum of six months after completing the examination. Students who do not defend their proposal within six months will have their proposal deemed rejected.</p> <p>(2) The student must distribute a written report regarding the thesis proposal to the committee members at least 15 days prior to the oral defense. The thesis monitoring committee decides on the acceptance, revision, or rejection of the thesis proposal by a majority vote.</p> <p>(3) A student whose thesis proposal is rejected has the right to choose a new advisor and/or thesis topic. In this case, a new thesis monitoring committee may be appointed. A student who requires to continue with the same advisor will be re-evaluated for their thesis proposal defense within three months, while a student who changes their advisor and thesis topic will be re-evaluated within six months.</p>
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Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)	Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
			<p>(5) For students whose thesis proposal is accepted, it is mandatory to meet with the thesis monitoring committee twice a year, once between January and June and once between July and December. The student must submit a written report to the committee members at least one month before the meeting date. This report includes a summary of the work done up to that point and a plan for the work to be completed in the next period. The student's thesis work will be evaluated by the committee as either successful or unsuccessful. The thesis monitoring committee must submit the report to the institute with the decision of the relevant department, at the end of the term in which the committee meeting was held. Any committee meeting that is not held, or one that the student did not attend, will be considered a failure for the student. A student who fails twice in a row or three times intermittently will be dismissed from the institute.</p> <p>NOTE: Advisors are appointed according to the institute's rules (e.g., having previously supervised master's and/or doctoral theses, having recent publications in SCI, etc.) (YÖK Postgraduate Education-Teaching Principles, decision no: E.958656, date: 13.03.2024)</p> <p>NOTE: The thesis proposal evaluation forms assess the scientific quality of the proposed thesis project and its potential to contribute new knowledge or products.</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#13: BR 3.4	A PhD programme should only be initiated when the resources for completion are available.		Describe how PhD programmes are financed and how it is ensured that full financing will be available.	<p>The doctoral program is initiated after being approved by the Institute of Health Sciences, the University Senate, and the Higher Education Commission. Mersin University ensures the infrastructure and supervisory resources and the quality of the training program.</p> <p>Funding sources for doctoral candidates include the Mersin University Scientific Research Projects (BAP), the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), the Presidency of Health Institutes of Turkey (TUSEB), the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), EU project funds, and non-governmental organizations. These funds may cover all or part of the research project budget, candidate salaries, travel expenses, or other program-related costs.</p> <p>With the Council of Higher Education 100/2000 Doctoral Scholarship, candidates from the state universities in Turkey, can receive financial support by submitting applications for funding opportunities announced by faculty members. These opportunities are focused on priority areas specified by the Council of Higher Education across 100 thematic fields.</p> <p>The number of scholarship holders benefiting from the 100/2000 Doctoral Scholarship is 10 for 2020, 9 for 2021, 7 for 2022, 6 for 2023 and 5 for 2024.</p>

#14: QD 3.1	In choosing PhD candidates, the applicants' potential for research ought to be considered, not just past academic performance.		Describe the application procedure, and the weight given to e.g. previous exam marks, research experience, expressed motivation, performance at interview, letters of recommendation, etc.	<p>Before each application period, the application requirements are announced by the Institute in accordance with the regulations of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and the "Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulation."</p> <p>Applications for the PhD program are evaluated as specified under "ARTICLE 42 Admission, Application, and Application Requirements," "ARTICLE 43 Entrance Examination," and "ARTICLE 44 Registration" of the "Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulation" (24 September 2023).</p> <table><tr><th>For candidate s scoring ≥60 out of 100 on the interview and/or written exam</th><th>Undergradua te GPA</th><th>Gradua te GPA</th><th>ALES or equivalen t score</th><th>Basic Medical Score (Article 49, Paragra ph 3)</th><th>Total Score</th></tr><tr><td>Bachelor's degree</td><td>25%</td><td>25%</td><td>-</td><td>50%</td><td>100 (Minimu m Score: 80)</td></tr><tr><td>Master's degree</td><td>25%</td><td>10%</td><td>15%</td><td>50%</td><td>100 (Minimu m Score: 65)</td></tr></table> <p>During the written and/or interview-based scientific evaluation exam, candidates' previous research experience, internships, motivation, and performance are always considered by the jury members. Candidates are also evaluated based on their undergraduate research projects and willingness to engage in a research environment. Some programs may also require letters of recommendation.</p> <p>ALES (Academic Personnel and Graduate Education Entrance Exam) is a standardized test conducted in Turkey, primarily used for admissions to graduate programs (master's and PhD) and for the recruitment and appointment of academic staff in universities.</p>	For candidate s scoring ≥60 out of 100 on the interview and/or written exam	Undergradua te GPA	Gradua te GPA	ALES or equivalen t score	Basic Medical Score (Article 49, Paragra ph 3)	Total Score	Bachelor's degree	25%	25%	-	50%	100 (Minimu m Score: 80)	Master's degree	25%	10%	15%	50%	100 (Minimu m Score: 65)
For candidate s scoring ≥60 out of 100 on the interview and/or written exam	Undergradua te GPA	Gradua te GPA	ALES or equivalen t score	Basic Medical Score (Article 49, Paragra ph 3)	Total Score																	
Bachelor's degree	25%	25%	-	50%	100 (Minimu m Score: 80)																	
Master's degree	25%	10%	15%	50%	100 (Minimu m Score: 65)																	

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#15: QD 3.2	Projects ought to be externally assessed by written project description or presentation to panel of independent scientists.		Are PhD projects externally/independently assessed? Who does this?	<p>The PhD projects are initially evaluated by the “Thesis Monitoring Committee,” which consists of three members: the supervisor, one member within the institute, and one member from outside the institute. The candidate defends the PhD project before the members of the Thesis Monitoring Committee. In other words, both internal and external evaluations are conducted for the project. If the committee members find the project satisfactory, the student may apply for grants from the Mersin University Scientific Research Projects Unit (BAP) or other funding sources such as TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) to support the PhD research study. Consequently, the project undergoes re-evaluation by independent internal and/or external reviewers.</p> <p>The evaluation of the doctoral thesis is conducted as specified in “ARTICLE 48 Establishment of the Thesis Monitoring Committee” and “ARTICLE 49 Defense of the Thesis Proposal” of the “Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulations” (September 24, 2023).</p>
#16: QD 3.3	If the PhD candidate is obliged to obtain extra income, it ought to be ensured that the PhD candidate has the necessary time to complete the programme.		Do PhD candidates get extra time for their project if they have to work for extra income (e.g. by teaching or clinical duties?).	<p>All PhD candidates are required to adhere to the same timeframe. Candidates with additional responsibilities may request up to 2-year extension to complete their thesis. However, if a candidate has valid reasons, they may take an approved leave of absence, and this period will not count toward the total duration of the PhD program.</p> <p>The duration of the doctoral program is regulated as stated in ARTICLE 46 "Duration of Study and Courses" of the "Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulations" (September 24, 2023).</p>
4. PhD training programme				

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#17: BR 4.1	Programmes should be based on original research, courses and other activities which include analytical and critical thinking.		Describe the content of PhD programmes.	Each PhD program includes its own compulsory and elective courses, which are further categorized as theoretical and/or practical. Additionally, the institute offers shared courses, such as “Development and Learning” and “Planning and Evaluation in Teaching.” Transferable skills are provided to PhD students through seminars and elective courses. The course lists are continuously updated and enhanced based on the needs and recent developments within the programs.
#18: BR 4.2	Programmes should be performed under structured supervision.		Describe how the supervision process is structured.	Supervision is determined according to the regulations of the Institute of Health Sciences. One supervisor is mandatory, and additional co-supervisors may be appointed based on the requirements of the thesis. The supervisor is assigned as outlined in ARTICLE 15 of the “Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulations” (September 24, 2023).
#19: BR 4.3	Programmes should ensure that PhD candidates have appropriate training in ethics and responsible conduct of research.		Provide a list of the courses in ethics and responsible conduct of research. How many PhD candidates take these courses each year?	In this context, it is planned for all doctoral candidates to take the course “ Scientific Research and Publication Ethics ” as a compulsory requirement.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#20: BR 4.4	Programmes should have clear 3-4 year timeframe. Extensions should be possible but limited and exceptional.		Provide information about the normal length of PhD programmes. What is the actual length of study from enrolment to (a) submission, (b) defence? How is permission granted for extension?	For candidates admitted with a master's degree (thesis-based), the regular duration of the PhD program is 8 semesters (4 years). However, this period can be extended by up to 4 additional semesters (2 more years). For candidates admitted with a bachelor's degree, the regular duration is 10 semesters (5 years), with the possibility of an extension by up to 4 additional semesters (2 more years). Extensions must be justified with valid reasons, approved by both the supervisor and the academic board of the program, and formally accepted by the institutional board.

#21: BR 4.5	Programmes should include relevant activities not directly related to the project (e.g. courses, journal clubs, participation in conferences, seminars and workshops, including preparation time) totalling about 15% of the whole programme. A substantial part should be concerned with training in transferable skills. (NB. “training” can be liberally interpreted as all scientific activities not directly related to the project, e.g. journal clubs, conferences, etc.).		Provide a list of courses and other activities. How are these assessed?	During their PhD studies, candidates are required to take a certain number of courses. They are allowed to choose courses from different departments, even from other universities, within specified limits. These courses must be approved by the supervisor, the Department, and the Institute. Students are also encouraged to participate in Mersin University Student Associations. “Transferable Skills Courses” are planned to be offered by the Institute.
#22: BR 4.6	PhD programmes that are performed in parallel with clinical or other professional training should have the same time		Describe the arrangements for PhD candidates who do their PhD parallel with the PhD studies. How is it ensured that such PhD candidates have	PhD programs conducted in parallel with clinical or other professional training have the same duration for research and course work as any other PhD program. Departments support PhD candidates with academic/clinical duties by allowing them to dedicate specific days of the week to their PhD studies. If their academic/clinical responsibilities hinder their PhD progress, candidates may be allowed to extend their PhD duration, provided they do not exceed the maximum legal allowable time.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
	for research and course work as any other PhD.		sufficient time for their PhD studies?	
#23: BR 4.7	Progress of PhD candidates should be continuously assessed by the institution throughout the PhD.		Describe the arrangements to monitor PhD candidates.	<p>The Graduate Programs in Health Sciences follow the candidates from admission to graduation and continuously evaluate their progress throughout this period. All courses and exam results are digitally recorded and assessed by faculty members and supervisors. Upon the collection of required ECTS (minimum), candidates must take a proficiency exam in front of five faculty members, one of whom is the advisor and at least two of whom should be out of Mersin University. Following a successful proficiency exam, there are defined deadlines for submitting the PhD project, and thesis monitoring reports are approved by the thesis monitoring committee every six months (each semester). Online student information system (OBS) modules of Mersin University allow to control the grades and to monitor the progress of the PhD candidates by administrative staff of the institute, supervisor and head of department (https://obs.mersin.edu.tr/).</p> <p>The process is regulated according to Articles 48 ("Establishment of the Thesis Monitoring Committee"), 49 ("Defense of the Thesis Proposal"), and 50 ("Completion of the PhD Thesis") of the Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulations.</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#24: QD 4.1	For PhDs performed by clinicians, leave-of-absence from clinical duties could be provided for the PhD part of such programmes		Is leave-of-absence provided?	It can be granted with the approval of the department heads where the PhD candidate holds a permanent position.
#25: QD 4.2	PhD programmes could where relevant have an element of interdisciplinarity.		What proportion of PhD projects could be termed “interdisciplinary”. Give examples.	The program listed below is interdisciplinary, and the PhD projects conducted within this program can be classified as interdisciplinary. 1. Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine
5. Supervision				

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#26: BR 5.1	Each PhD candidate should have a principal supervisor and normally at least one co-supervisor.		How many supervisors do PhD candidates have? How are responsibilities divided?	<p>In our Institute, a total of XXX supervisors are involved in all graduate programs. According to the regulations, to be eligible to supervise a doctoral thesis, faculty members must meet the following criterion: "Except for the departments of faculties of dentistry, pharmacy, medicine, and veterinary, faculty members must have completed at least one master's thesis and have taught courses in a bachelor's or thesis master's program for at least four semesters, or two semesters in a thesis-based master's program, to be eligible to supervise doctoral or art proficiency theses."</p> <p>Actually, XX main supervisors and YY (ZZ of them from another institution) co-supervisors are working with TTT PhD students. In our Institute's doctoral programs, each student is assigned a thesis advisor, and if necessary, a second thesis advisor can be appointed. In our doctoral programs, while %X of theses have a single thesis advisor, %y have two thesis advisors. Second supervisors are typically from different disciplines or institutions that contribute to the thesis process. Second supervisors are not included in the evaluation committee but participate in the thesis monitoring meetings.</p> <p>The main supervisor guides the PhD student throughout the entire process of planning, conducting, evaluating, and finalizing the thesis, ensuring the student benefits from scientific platforms that contribute to the thesis process. The co-supervisor provides guidance to the student in areas related to their expertise that differ from those of the main supervisor, based on the student's needs.</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is "No" please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#27: BR 5.2	The number of PhD candidates per supervisor should be compatible with the supervisor's workload.		What is the usual number of PhD candidates per supervisor? What is the range?	In our Institute, the number of doctoral candidates per supervisor is X (XXX students / YYY supervisors). According to the regulations, each faculty member may supervise a maximum of 14 graduate and doctoral students, and this number includes co-supervisions.
#28: BR 5.3	Supervisors should be scientifically qualified and active scholars in the field concerned.		Provide information about the qualifications required for a supervisor.	In our Institute's regulations, there is a rule stating: "Except for the departments of faculties of dentistry, pharmacy, medicine, and veterinary, faculty members must have completed at least one master's thesis and taught in at least four semesters of undergraduate or two semesters of thesis-based master's programs in order to be eligible to supervise doctoral/art proficiency theses." Supervisory criteria will be developed and Senate approval will be obtained.
#29: BR 5.4	Supervisors should have regular consultations with their PhD candidates.		Provide information about the number and type of consultations that supervisors hold with their PhD candidates.	Our Institute's students select an "Area of Expertise" course each semester. Depending on the number of students, advisors can offer a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 hours of supervision within the scope of the "Area of Expertise" course. Additional Supervision Hours are also available. Generally, it is recommended that the supervision process in the doctoral stage be conducted at least once a month in an official capacity. In necessary cases, it is suggested that the advisor to be accessible and available for supervision every day. The frequency of supervision is committed to by both parties in the student-advisor agreement.
#30: BR 5.5	It should be ensured that training for all supervisors and potential supervisors is available.		Describe the training courses available. Provide information about number of supervisors who have taken these courses.	Each year, a face-to-face or online "Graduate Supervision Skills" training will be organized for newly appointed faculty members who will begin supervising graduate students. Additionally, an annual "Graduate Supervision Skills Update Training" will be provided to faculty members who are continuing their supervision duties.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#31: BR 5.6	The supervisor-candidate relationship is the key to a successful PhD programme. There should be mutual respect and shared responsibility.		Describe the procedures taken to enhance the supervisor-candidate relationship. Describe how supervisors and PhD candidates are matched. Describe arrangements for solving supervisor-candidate conflicts.	<p>In our Institute, "Graduate Advisor-Student Meetings," where both advisors and students participate, are planned to be held at least twice a year. These meetings aim to discuss ethical and moral approaches and to provide information on the responsibilities of both advisors and students during the doctoral process</p> <p>Advisors in our Institute provide support and opportunities for doctoral students to acquire the skills necessary to become competent scientists in the academic community and to achieve their career goals. The assignment of an advisor to a doctoral student is proposed by the academic board of the respective department at the time of admission to the doctoral program and is approved by the Institute Administrative Board.</p> <p>The following clause from our Institute's regulations is implemented: "In necessary cases, the Institute Administrative Board may change the advisor based on a reasoned decision by the Department Board upon the request of the student or the advisor. However, without the written consent of the previous advisor, the new advisor cannot require the student to carry out the same graduate thesis work."</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#32: BR 5.7	Institutional assistance should be provided for career development. This should be continuous, starting from the time of enrolment.		Describe how and when PhD candidates are assisted in career development. How many PhD candidates take advantage of these arrangements?	<p>In addition to scientific support, our Institute organizes educational programs that contribute to personal and professional development with the support of the University's Career Development Center and Continuous Education Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal development programs include topics such as preparing a CV for job applications, preparing for job interviews, entrepreneurship, and more. • Professional development programs include topics such as project preparation and funding, scientific article writing, presentation techniques, reference management software usage, artificial intelligence applications, effective use of the library, Turnitin training, participation in COST projects, and addressing scientific ethical dilemmas. <p>On average, XXX students participate in these programs each year.</p>
#33: QD 5.1	Responsibilities of each supervisor ought to be explicit.		Provide information about the responsibilities of the supervisor.	The responsibilities of supervisors are outlined in the Institute's regulations, and updates to these responsibilities and role descriptions will be implemented.
#34: QD 5.2	Supervisors ought to have broad local and international scientific networks.		How is it ensured that supervisors have suitable networks?	Our Institute does not evaluate or question the scientific and/or professional networks of supervisors.
#35: QD 5.3	Supervisors ought to assist with career development.		How do supervisors assist with career development? Does the graduate school provide assistance?	Supervisors may voluntarily provide career guidance to doctoral candidates, supporting them in identifying and evaluating academic and research opportunities. They can also organize post-graduation training or courses to contribute to alumni development.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is "No" please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#36: QD 5.4	Institutions could consider having contracts on the supervision process, signed by supervisor, PhD candidate and head of graduate school.		Are such contracts being used?	The institute will begin implementing mutual agreements/contracts between supervisors and candidates starting next semester.
#37: QD 5.5	The principal supervisor, at least, ought to have some formal training as supervisor.		Provide information about training courses for supervisors. How many supervisors have had such courses?	Supervisors are required to certify their participation in "Education of Educators" programs. The Institute organizes regular training meetings addressing the current status and updates in PhD education rules and regulations, ethics, research conduct, and related topics. "Supervisor Training Courses" are planned to be initiated starting next year.
#38: QD 5.6	Supervisors could where possible also act as co-supervisors for PhD candidates at other graduate schools.		Is this common?	Approximately XXX faculty members from our Institute have served or are currently serving as co-supervisors in doctoral programs at other universities.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#39: QD 5.7	Graduate schools ought to consider appointing a mentor or equivalent for each PhD candidate, in addition to the supervisor team, to discuss programmes from another aspect than the science topic alone.		Are mentors appointed? If not, would it be a good idea?	Currently, mentors are not assigned in our Institute. However, it is recognized as a beneficial and easily implementable idea that could be considered in the future.
6. PhD thesis				

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)	Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#40: BR 6.1 The PhD thesis should be the basis for evaluating if the PhD candidate has acquired independent research skills and can evaluate work done by others.		Is this correct for your institution? Does the institution have other means for assessing these competences?	<p>The doctoral thesis serves as the cornerstone for evaluating a PhD candidate as an independent researcher. The Graduate School of Health Sciences employs additional tools to assess these qualifications. Doctoral theses are approved and monitored by a thesis monitoring committee through the decision of the institute's academic board. PhD candidates are responsible for reporting the progress of their thesis to the institute every semester. Each discipline's academic board and supervisors encourage complementary activities to help candidates develop independent research skills.</p> <p>During the thesis writing process, PhD candidates meet with the thesis monitoring committee every six months to discuss the progress of their research and submit a progress report to the institute. Candidates who fail to submit their thesis progress reports twice consecutively, as decided by the academic board, are dismissed from the institute.</p> <p>The Graduate School of Health Sciences also employs the following methods to evaluate qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of all required courses, including shared compulsory courses like Scientific Research Methods and Ethics. • Participation in seminar courses. • Passing the qualifying examination. • Completing the doctoral thesis within appropriate timeframes. • Defending the doctoral thesis before a jury consisting of members from the graduate program and one from outside the department/discipline. • Writing or conducting a collaborative research project to evaluate the candidate's research skills. • Publishing conference presentations/scientific articles derived from the thesis and, if applicable, filing patent applications.

#41: BR 6.2	<p>The benchmark for a PhD thesis in health sciences is the equivalent of three in extenso papers in scientific peer-reviewed international journals. Manuscripts are also acceptable. It is the task of the assessment committee to determine if the material demonstrates 3-4 years of research at international level.</p>		<p>Describe the content normally required by the institution for a PhD thesis regarding original work.</p>	<p>Graduation from the Mersin University Health Sciences Institute PhD program requires the publication of three scientific articles derived from the thesis. Additionally, candidates must participate in at least three thesis monitoring committee meetings, spanning a minimum of 1.5 years. The originality of the thesis is also rigorously evaluated through the declaration of originality included in the thesis proposal. Additionally, Mersin University ensures that doctoral theses reflect long-term, comprehensive research of international standards through the provisions outlined in Articles 48 and 50 of its regulations.</p> <p>Article 48-(I)(2): The thesis monitoring committee consists of three faculty members, including the thesis advisor and one member from within and one from outside the department/discipline. If there is a second thesis advisor, they may participate in committee meetings as an observer if they wish.</p> <p>Article 49-(5): For students whose thesis proposal has been accepted, the thesis monitoring committee must convene twice a year, once between January-June and once between July-December. Students must submit a written report to committee members at least one month before the meeting date. This report summarizes the work done so far and outlines the plan for the next period. The committee evaluates the thesis study as "successful" or "unsuccessful." The committee's report must be submitted to the institute via the department/discipline board decision by the end of the term in which the committee meeting is held. Any committee meeting not conducted or attended by the student is considered a failure. Students deemed unsuccessful twice consecutively or three times intermittently by the committee will have their enrollment terminated.</p> <p>Article 50-(1): For a thesis to be finalized in a doctoral program, at least three successful thesis monitoring committee reports must be obtained, and the student must orally defend their thesis, prepared per the principles determined by the Senate, before a jury by the designated date. Students who complete their thesis submit it to their advisor. The advisor forwards the thesis to the institute through the department/discipline along with their opinion that the thesis is ready for defense. The institute obtains a plagiarism report for the thesis to send to the advisor and jury members. If actual plagiarism is detected in the report, the thesis is sent to the Institute Executive Board (IEB) for a decision. The student must deliver a copy of their thesis to each jury member at least seven days before the thesis defense exam.</p> <p>Article 50-(4): After the thesis defense exam, the jury holds a closed session to discuss the thesis, considering the jury members' reports, and decides by a simple majority to accept, reject, or request</p>
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Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)	Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
			<p>revisions. Students whose thesis is rejected will have their enrollment terminated. Students whose thesis is accepted are deemed successful. This decision is reported to the institute within three working days of the thesis defense by the department/discipline chair along with a protocol. If there are any proposed changes to the thesis title, they are finalized upon the recommendation of the thesis defense jury and the approval of the IEB following the department/discipline board decision.</p> <p>Furthermore, our institute has submitted a new regulation amendment to the University Rectorate in line with Orpheus recommendations and is awaiting Senate approval, expected to occur this term. While Mersin University's new regulations have certain differences compared to other Orpheus-labeled universities in Turkey, they share very similar requirements.</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)	Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
<p>#42: BR 6.3</p> <p>In defining the benchmark for a PhD thesis, the assessment committee should take account of the provisos listed in the Annotations, for example the annotation indicating that fewer than three papers may be accepted if published in highly rated journals.</p>		<p>To what extent are the “normal” requirements as described in BR6.2 adhered to, and under what circumstances are other criteria accepted?</p>	<p>To graduate from the Mersin University Health Sciences Institute PhD program, candidates must produce three scientific articles derived from their thesis. The requirements for the Thesis Defense Jury to grant a doctoral degree are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least one article co-authored with the supervisor, published in a national/international peer-reviewed scientific journal indexed in SCI, SCI Expanded, SSCI, or AHCI. 2. At least one article co-authored with the supervisor, published in a national/international peer-reviewed scientific journal within the indices specified by the Institute Board for a period of three years. 3. At least one article co-authored with the supervisor, submitted for review in a national/international peer-reviewed scientific journal within the indices determined by the Institute Board for three years (its suitability is assessed by the Thesis Monitoring Committee). <p>Adjustments to publication requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the first publication is accepted/published in a Q1-category journal, the requirement for three publications is reduced to one. • If the first publication is accepted/published in a Q2-category journal, the requirement is reduced to two. <p>Regarding the thesis, a national/international patent or utility model application under review may be considered equivalent to a Q1 publication.</p>

#43: BR 6.4	In addition to papers, the thesis should include a full literature review and full account of aims, method, results, discussion and conclusion.		Describe the content of the other parts of the thesis.	<p>The "Sample Thesis Writing Template" can be accessed through https://www.mersin.edu.tr/haberler/365118/doktora-formlar. Thesis writing must adhere to the "Mersin University Health Sciences Institute Guideline for Seminar, Term Project, and Thesis Writing." Both the thesis and the thesis proposal should be prepared according to the guides available on the website. Evaluation is carried out through assessment forms completed by the doctoral thesis juries and the thesis submission committee.</p> <p>A doctoral thesis must include the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical Declaration • Abstract • Introduction • Literature Review • Materials and Methods • Results • Discussion • Conclusion and Recommendations • References • Appendices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Institute Board's Decision Accepting the Thesis ○ Ethical Committee Approval for Clinical Studies ○ Institution Permissions (if required) ○ CVs of the Advisor and the Student ○ Acknowledgment Mentioning the Funding Source/Reference Number <p>Furthermore, the requirement to include a plagiarism report in the thesis is being considered. The plagiarism report retrieval guide is also available on the website.</p>
#44: BR 6.5	If the thesis is presented in other formats (e.g. as single monograph), the assessment committee should ensure equivalence		How many theses are presented in other formats e.g. monographs?	The institute's thesis format is well-defined, and adherence to this monographic format is mandatory.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
	to the above benchmark.			
#45: BR 6.6	A PhD thesis in clinical medicine should meet the same standards as other PhD theses .		Is this correct for your institution?	Whether the thesis is related to clinical medicine or not, it must adhere to the same standards and meet all requirements. The thesis must be prepared and defended consistently with these established criteria.
#46: QD 6.1	The thesis ought to be written and optimally also defended in English, unless national regulations stipulate otherwise. An abstract of the thesis should be published in English.		Provide information about the language used in the thesis, and in the defence.	The thesis is written with summaries in both Turkish and English, as outlined in the Thesis Writing Guide. Except for programs conducted in English, the thesis is defended in Turkish.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)	Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#47: QD 6.2 If articles/manuscripts are joint publications, co-author statements ought to document that the PhD candidate has made a substantial and independent contribution. Ownership of results from PhD studies ought to be clearly stated.		Describe the procedure used to identify the contribution of the PhD candidate to each of any multi-authored publications. What procedure is used to assess the accuracy of any statements made? Are there circumstances where the same publication is used in more than one thesis? How is the question of ownership dealt with?	<p>Discussions are currently underway about establishing guidelines to ensure that the PhD candidate is listed as the first author in publications derived from their thesis contributions. This approach aligns with the proposed changes under the ORPHEUS Label process as written above:</p> <p>"Doctoral degree: In publications produced from the thesis, the student should be the first author, and the order of other authors should be determined based on their contributions to the thesis." (Graduate Student and Advisor Agreement)</p> <p>Additionally, it is emphasized that the same publication cannot be used for more than one thesis. While abstracts can be presented and published at conferences, the publication must always explicitly acknowledge the thesis.</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#48: QD 6.3	PhD theses ought to be published on the graduate school’s homepage, preferably in extenso. If patent or copyright legislation prevent this, at least abstracts of the theses ought to be publicly accessible.		Provide information about how PhD theses are published.	Complete and published theses are available at the Mersin University Library, and all doctoral theses are published on the Higher Education Council's National Thesis Center website (https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/giris.jsp). If patent or copyright regulations prevent the full submission of the thesis, with the approval of the Institute Board, it can be declared unavailable for a maximum period of 6 months. A copyright agreement between the doctoral candidate and the advisor regarding copyright issues will be proposed.
#49: QD 6.4	There could be a lay summary of the thesis in the local language.		Describe the format of any lay summary.	As outlined in the Thesis Writing Guide, the thesis is written with both Turkish and English abstracts. Although patent or copyright regulations may restrict access to the full text of the thesis, the Turkish and English abstracts are always accessible.
7. Thesis assessment				

#50: BR 7.1	Acceptance of a PhD thesis should include acceptance of both written thesis and a subsequent oral defence.		Describe the procedures for assessing the written thesis and the oral defence.	<p>Upon completing the thesis, the candidate submits it to the advisor. The advisor then forwards the thesis to the institute with the approval of the academic board of the department for it to be evaluated by a jury. The jury convenes within one month of receiving the thesis to listen the candidate's oral defense.</p> <p>The procedures and principles for the evaluation of the doctoral thesis and the thesis defense exam are detailed in Article 50, Section 5 of the "Mersin University Graduate Education and Examination Regulation," available at the following link: [https://mersin.edu.tr/akademik/saglik-bilimleri-enstitusu/pano]</p> <p>Article 50 - (1) In order for a thesis to be finalized in a doctoral program, it is required that at least three reports from the thesis monitoring committee have been successfully completed, and that the student presents an oral defense of their thesis, written in accordance with the principles determined by the Senate, before the jury by the specified date. Upon completing the thesis, the student submits their thesis to the advisor. The advisor then forwards the thesis to the relevant institute via the Department along with their opinion confirming the defensibility of the thesis. The student is required to provide a copy of their thesis to each jury member at least seven days prior to the thesis defense examination. The institute receives a plagiarism software report regarding the thesis to be sent to the advisor and jury members. If this report indicates plagiarism, the thesis will be sent to the Institute Management Board (EYK) for a decision.</p> <p>(2) The Department Board must send the jury recommendations for the thesis, the examination date, and a copy of the thesis to the institute at least fifteen days before the thesis defense. The doctoral thesis jury is appointed based on the recommendation of the relevant Department Board and the decision of the Institute Management Board, taking into account their areas of expertise. The jury consists of a total of five primary members, at least two of whom must be from the relevant department of another higher education institution, either domestic or international, as well as two substitute faculty members, one of whom must also be from another higher education institution, either domestic or international. Members of the thesis monitoring committee also automatically participate in this jury. The second thesis advisor may attend the thesis defense examination as an observer without voting rights.</p>
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Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)	Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
			<p>(5) A student who receives a decision for corrections regarding their thesis must make the necessary amendments and defend their thesis again before the same jury within a maximum of six months. The time granted for these corrections does not count towards the student's maximum duration. A student who fails in this defense will have their relationship with the institute terminated.</p> <p>(7) Unless otherwise stated, the intellectual property rights of a thesis that is deemed successful in the defense belong to the University.</p> <p>(8) Students who receive a decision for corrections regarding their thesis must be registered for the relevant semester in order to participate in the second thesis defense, if it coincide with the following term.</p>

#51: BR 7.2	PhD degrees should be awarded by the institution on the recommendation of the assessment committee which has evaluated the thesis and the oral defence.		Is this correct for your institution?	<p>After the oral defense, the committee members provide evaluation forms for the thesis and prepare an examination report indicating whether the candidate has been successful. The results, along with the evaluation forms and the examination report, are sent to the institute. The Institute Management Board decides whether to confer the doctoral degree to the candidate.</p> <p>The procedures and principles regarding the awarding of the doctoral degree are detailed in Article 51 of Section Five of the “Mersin University Graduate Education-Teaching and Examination Regulation” and are outlined as follows:</p> <p>Article 51 - (1) A student is entitled to receive a doctoral diploma if they successfully pass the thesis examination and fulfill any other conditions for graduation set by the Senate. To qualify, the student must submit at least three bound copies of the doctoral thesis to the relevant institute within one month from the date of the thesis examination, and the thesis must be deemed acceptable in terms of format. This eligibility is based on the decision of the relevant Department Board and the approval of the Institute Management Board. Upon request, the the Institute Management Board may extend the submission deadline by up to one additional month. A student who fails to meet these requirements cannot obtain their diploma will not be able to access student privileges, and will have their relationship with the institute terminated upon the expiration of their maximum duration until the conditions are fulfilled.</p> <p>(2) The doctoral diploma will include the approved name of the program in the department of the institute as designated by the Higher Education Council, along with the graduation date. The graduation date is the date on which the signed copy of the thesis is submitted to the thesis examination jury committee.</p> <p>(3) Students are provided with an English diploma attachment along with their diploma. The diploma attachments provide detailed information about the education the student has received, their academic performance, and the type of diploma awarded.</p>
#52: BR 7.3	The assessment committee should consist of established and active scientists		How many members does the assessment committee have, how are they appointed and how is it ensured that	The doctoral thesis jury is appointed based on the recommendation of the relevant Department Board and the decision of the Institute Management Board, taking into account their areas of expertise. The jury consists of a total of five primary members, at least two of whom must be from the relevant department of another higher education institution, either domestic or international, as well as two substitute faculty members, one of whom must also be from another higher education

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
	without connection to the milieu where the PhD was performed and without conflict of interest. Min. two should be from another institution.		there is no conflict of interest?	<p>institution, either domestic or international. Members of the thesis monitoring committee also automatically participate in this jury. The second thesis advisor may attend the thesis defense examination as an observer without voting rights.</p> <p>To prevent conflicts of interest, at least two members of the jury must be from the relevant department of other higher education institutions, whether domestic or international.</p>
#53: BR 7.4	The supervisor should not be a member of the assessment committee. If local regulations require this, the supervisor should not have a vote.		Is this correct for your institution?	<p>According to Graduate Education and Training Regulation of The Higher Education Council, that the advisor must be a member of the Thesis Evaluation Committee. Therefore, the advisor is a member of the evaluation committee.</p> <p>22: (4) The doctoral thesis jury is appointed based on the recommendation of the advisor and the chair of the relevant department of the institute, as well as the approval of the institute management board. The jury consists of five faculty members, including the advisor, three of whom are faculty members from the student's thesis monitoring committee, and at least two from outside the student's higher education institution. The relevant management board will determine whether the advisor has voting rights. If the advisor does not have voting rights, the jury will consist of six faculty members. Additionally, a second thesis advisor may participate in the jury without voting rights.</p> <p>https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=21510&MevzuatTur=7&MevzuatTertip=5</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)	Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
<p>#54: BR 7.5</p> <p>If the assessment of the thesis/defence is negative, the PhD candidate should normally be given an opportunity to rewrite/an additional defence.</p>		<p>What arrangements are there following a negative assessment?</p>	<p>A candidate who receives a correction decision regarding their thesis has the opportunity to make the necessary amendments. They have a maximum period of six months to complete these corrections, after which the evaluation committee reconvenes, and the candidate defends the thesis. If the thesis evaluation remains negative, the candidate will be dismissed from the doctoral program.</p> <p>This procedure is detailed in Article 50 of the “Mersin University Graduate Education and Training Regulation.”</p> <p>(4) After the completion of the thesis defense examination, the jury conducts a closed session with the audience and makes a decision regarding acceptance, rejection, or revision by simple majority, taking into account the reports of the jury members on the thesis. A student whose thesis is rejected will have their relationship with the institute terminated. Students whose theses are accepted will be evaluated as successful. This decision will be communicated to the relevant institute in writing by the relevant Department Presidency within three business days following the thesis defense examination. Any proposed changes related to the thesis title, if any, will be made following the approval of the Institute Management Board upon the proposal of the thesis defense examination jury.</p> <p>(5) A student who receives a decision for corrections regarding their thesis must make the necessary amendments and defend their thesis again before the same jury within a maximum of six months. The time granted for these corrections does not count towards the student's maximum duration. A student who fails in this defense will have their relationship with the institute terminated.</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#55: BR 7.6	The oral examination should be detailed enough to ensure that the thesis is the candidate’s own work, that the intended training goals have been achieved, and that the candidate is able to put the results into scientific context.		Describe the format of the oral defence and the extent to which this is a true examination or more a traditional formality. Does the PhD candidate also give a lecture?	The oral defense typically begins with a brief presentation of the candidate's thesis work, followed by questions from the committee. Both the presentation and the questions are conducted in a public setting. After the defense, the committee deliberates in a closed session to decide whether the thesis is acceptable or if it can be accepted after revisions, and then announces the outcome to the candidates and the audience. The doctoral candidate is not required to fulfill any teaching obligations in order to graduate. https://mersin.edu.tr/akademik/saglik-bilimleri-enstitusu/pano
#56: QD 7.1	The oral defence ought to be open to the public.		Who is able to attend the oral defence?	The oral defense is open to everyone, anyone may attend. https://mersin.edu.tr/akademik/saglik-bilimleri-enstitusu/pano
#57: QD 7.2	Where possible at least one member of the assessment committee could be from another country.		What proportion of assessment committees includes members from another country?	While there are no restrictions on inviting jury members from abroad, the number is quite limited due to the difficulty of finding a budget to cover travel expenses. https://mersin.edu.tr/akademik/saglik-bilimleri-enstitusu/pano

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#58: QD 7.3	Apart from the thesis, the institution ought to ensure that sufficient transferable skills have been acquired during the PhD programme.		How does the graduate school ensure that transferable skills have been acquired?	Although the names of the courses taken by the candidate during their doctoral education may not directly correspond to transferable skills or be classified as such, every doctoral program includes courses in this category. However, since we have initiated the Orpheus process, the contents of our programs will be revised accordingly.
#59: QD 7.4	The competences developed during the PhD programme could be documented in a portfolio. This documentation could be evaluated by the assessment committee and form part of their decision concerning the award of the PhD degree.		Do PhD candidates prepare a portfolio, and is this assessed as part of the decision on award of the PhD degree?	Graduate Education and Training Regulation of the Higher Education Council mandates the inclusion of a curriculum vitae in theses. This curriculum vitae summarizes the competencies acquired during the doctoral program. However, there are no rules or regulations regarding the preparation of a portfolio, and therefore it is not considered part of the evaluation for awarding the doctoral degree. https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=21510&MevzuatTur=7&MevzuatTertip=5
8. Structure of Graduate School				

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#60: BR 8.1	The graduate school should have sufficient resources for proper conduct of PhD programmes. This includes resources to: Support admission of PhD candidates, implement the PhD programmes of the PhD candidates enrolled, assess PhD theses and award PhD degrees.		Provide information about the resources available to the graduate school.	Mersin University is a public university, and the Graduate School of Health Sciences operates with an annual budget allocated for the admission of PhD candidates, implement the PhD programmes of the PhD candidates enrolled, assess PhD theses and award PhD degrees. While all regulatory and administrative operations of the PhD programmes are covered by the institute, the salaries of administrative staff are funded by the state.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)	Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#61: BR 8.2 The graduate school should have a website in English and possibly also the national language including transparent information about the content of PhD programmes and the policies of the graduate school.		Describe the website and give its URL. Refer to Best Practices document for type of information that is recommended.	The institute has a bilingual website, available in both Turkish and English, providing all necessary information from application to graduation. English website: https://www.mersin.edu.tr/academic/institute-of-health-sciences Turkish website: https://www.mersin.edu.tr/akademik/saglik-bilimleri-enstitusu

#62: BR 8.3	Merit should be given for courses taken elsewhere or other relevant experience.		Is merit given? For courses? For previous research?	<p>The recognition of merit (equivalence/eligibility) for courses taken or other relevant experiences acquired elsewhere is addressed in Article 46 of the Mersin University Regulations.</p> <p>Article 46:</p> <p>(7) A student may take a maximum of two graduate courses, excluding specialization courses (the specialization courses cannot be taken elsewhere), from programs or institutes outside their own program, including courses taught in foreign languages. If the courses are taken within the University, approval from the academic advisor is required. For courses taken from other higher education institutions, either domestic or abroad, in addition to the advisor's approval, a recommendation from the Department Chair and a decision from the Institute Board are required.</p> <p>(8) For students enrolled in interdisciplinary programs, the maximum number of graduate courses they can take from programs or institutes outside their own program, including courses taught in foreign languages, is four, excluding specialization courses (the specialization courses cannot be taken elsewhere). If the courses are taken within the University, approval from the academic advisor is required. For courses taken from other higher education institutions, either domestic or abroad, in addition to the advisor's approval, a recommendation from the Department Chair and a decision from the Institute Board are required.</p> <p>(9) Students may transfer courses taken from another program within the University or from other domestic/foreign higher education institutions prior to enrolling in the relevant program, provided that these courses were completed within the last three years. Course transfers require advisor approval, a recommendation from the Department Chair, and the Institute Board decision. However, the number of transferred courses cannot exceed 50% of the total credit of the courses that the student must take in the program. The courses Development and Learning and Planning and Evaluation in Teaching are excluded from the exemption calculation.</p>
#63: QD 8.1	There ought to be procedures for regular review and updating of the structure, function and quality of PhD programmes, including both		Provide information about how this is performed.	<p>The institute holds regular meetings with the Institute Board, which represents all faculty members and advisors, where issues and potential solutions are discussed. Additionally, surveys will be conducted each semester with candidates and advisors to review and update the structure, function, and quality of the doctoral programs. Based on the outcomes of these meetings and planned surveys, efforts will be made to improve the programs. It is also planned to conduct feedback surveys for doctoral candidates, graduates, and advisors to evaluate the results.</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
	supervisor and candidate feedback.			
#64: QD 8.2	Representatives of the PhD candidates ought to interact with the leadership of the graduate school regarding the running of the graduate school. Candidate organisations ought to be encouraged and facilitated.		How are PhD candidates involved in the running of the graduate school? Is there a PhD association or equivalent?	A representative committee, consisting of at least three doctoral candidates, is planned to be established to maintain constant communication between the doctoral candidates and the institute. The committee is expected to attend the Institute Board and/or the Institute Administrative Board meetings when necessary to provide their opinions. It will be ensured that all doctoral candidates have easy and sustainable communication with the representative committee, both face to face and through online communication tools (WhatsApp group etc.). Additionally, a Graduate Students and Alumni Association for the Health Sciences will be established.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#65: QD 8.3	PhD candidates ought to have rights and duties commensurate with the value (to the institution) of the research performed.		Describe the rights and duties of PhD candidates. How much are PhD candidates paid?	<p>Doctoral candidates have the right to receive quality education, have a competent advisor, and request a change of advisor. In case of any issue, the candidate has the right to approach the institute for resolution. In return, the candidate must successfully complete the mandatory courses of the program, develop the necessary competencies, prepare a research project with their advisor, present the project to the thesis monitoring committee every six months, and defend the thesis both in written and oral form upon completion. The candidate must also undertake the necessary work to publish research papers. Some candidates work as research assistants and are required to fulfill the duties assigned by the faculty where they are employed. The income of the candidates vary. Some receive their salaries from the university as research assistants, while others may receive scholarships from TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) or other foundations. There is also the “100/2000 scholarship program” that is supported by the government, which provides financial assistance to two doctoral candidates (the number may vary) working in priority research areas announced by YÖK (The Council of Higher Education).</p> <p>Additionally, the candidates involved in projects will be provided the opportunity to earn additional income from the project budget.</p>

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is "No" please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#66: QD 8.4	There ought to be an appeal mechanism allowing PhD candidates to dispute decisions concerning their programmes and thesis assessment.		How can PhD candidates appeal?	Doctoral candidates can appeal with a written objection petition. The appeal mechanism progresses in stages. The appeal process progresses in stages, with the appeal being forwarded to the relevant parties based on the nature of the issue. This appeal mechanism is also applicable in cases of any issues related to the advisor. In situations where the dispute cannot be resolved, the establishment of a Curriculum Dispute Resolution Committee is planned, and candidates may apply to this committee. If the issue remains unresolved and/or no agreement can be reached, the candidate also has the right to pursue legal action.
#67: QD 8.5	Confidential candidate counselling concerning e.g. the PhD programme, supervision, as well as personal matters ought to be offered by the graduate.		Describe what counselling facilities are available, and the degree to which the counsellor is independent of the doctoral school leadership and supervisors. How many PhD candidates use such facilities each year?	Our university has a "Guidance and Psychological Counseling Practice and Research Center," and candidates can benefit from this center free of charge. Since this information is confidential, no specific numbers have been provided.

Basic Recommendations (abbreviated - see Best Practices document for full recommendations)		Does your institution comply? Yes, No, Maybe.	Please expand your answer with the following information. If the answer is “No” please indicate if you would like to make changes that would allow compliance. If such changes are not wanted, please explain.	Response. Please be brief with not more than 10 lines per point and fewer if possible. Refer to e.g. graduate school website where relevant.
#68: QD 8.6	Graduate schools could consider having a thesis committee for each PhD candidate that monitors the progress of the PhD candidate through meetings with the PhD candidate and the supervisors.		Do PhD candidates have a thesis committee? Who is on this committee?	<p>The formation of the thesis monitoring committee is outlined in Article 48 of the Mersin University Regulations. In addition to this article, in order to enhance the development of doctoral candidates, it is planned to include national and international members in the Thesis Monitoring Committee and to facilitate their participation in committee meetings. These meetings will be held in a hybrid format, both online and in-person, to ensure the participation of these members.</p> <p>ARTICLE 48</p> <p>(1) For a student who has passed the doctoral qualifying exam, a thesis monitoring committee will be established within one month following the exam date, based on the proposal of the relevant Department Board and the decision of the Institute Administrative Board.</p> <p>(2) The thesis monitoring committee consists of three faculty members. In addition to the thesis advisor, one member from within the Institute’s Department Board and one member from outside the Institute are included. If there is a second thesis advisor, they may attend the committee meetings as an observer if they wish.</p>

Please provide any recommendations you may have for improvement of this questionnaire

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For institutions that would like to have input from ORPHEUS

The completed questionnaire should be sent to the Chairman of the ORPHEUS Labelling Board, Prof. Michael Mulvany, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark. Tel. +45 28992189, mm@farm.au.dk, who will arrange for expert facilitators to examine the responses and provide suggestions. In this case, please also provide the core data indicated below.

Please note that this service is only available for members of ORPHEUS. Please note also that this information is to provide facilitators with a general overview of the institution, and precise data are not needed; estimates are sufficient.

Please confirm that your institution is a member of ORPHEUS in good standing	
Name, position and e-mail of person completing the questionnaire	
Name of PhD organization responsible for PhD education (e.g. Graduate School of ...)	
Name of the University or Faculty of which the PhD organization is a part	
Name and e-mail of the head of the PhD organization	
Name and e-mail of the head of the PhD organization administration	
Total number of PhD candidates (PhD students) currently enrolled	
Gender, age, etc. of PhD candidates	
Number of PhD candidates who entered the graduate school in most recent year (give date)	
Number of dropouts in most recent year (give date).	
Number of PhD theses successfully defended in most recent year (give date)	
Total number of international PhD candidates currently enrolled	
Number of qualified persons available to the Graduate School for supervision (supervisor pool)	
Number of current principal supervisors	
Number of current co-supervisors	
Number of PubMed publications of supervisor pool in most recent year	
URL of the PhD organization (website address)	