

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
“1 DECEMBRIE 1918” UNIVERSITY OF ALBA IULIA
DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF PHILOLOGY**

[Annex](#)

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL
FOR ADMISSION TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN PHILOLOGY -
ENGLISH LANGUAGE DISSERTATIONS**

MARKING SCHEME

For admission to the Doctoral School, candidates will submit an admissions file, which will include, apart from the required documents, a research proposal in their field of interest. This Proposal will be defended in front of the Admissions Committee, as part of the admissions interview.

The final grade (maximum 100 points, scaled down to maximum 10) will consist of three components, as follows:

- a) Research Proposal evaluation – max. 65 points;
- b) Research Proposal defence – maximum 25 points;
- c) Previous research activity – maximum 10 points.

The **Proposal** will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Review of Previous Research – 10 points

1. How closely is the literature reviewed in the study related to previous literature?
2. Is the review recent? Are there any outstanding references that were left out?

Problem and the Purpose – 5 points

3. Is the statement of the problem understood?
4. Is the purpose of the study clearly stated?
5. Does the purpose seem to be tied to the literature that is reviewed?
6. Is the objective of the study clearly stated?
7. Is there a conceptual rationale to which the hypotheses are grounded?
8. Is there a rationale for why the study is an important one to do?

Hypotheses – 5 points

9. Are the research hypotheses clearly stated?
10. Are the research hypotheses explicitly stated?
11. Do the hypotheses state a clear association between variables?
12. Are the hypotheses grounded in theory or in a review and presentation of relevant literature?
13. Are the hypotheses testable?

Method – 15 points

14. Are the independent and dependent variables clearly defined?
15. Are the definition and description of the variables complete?
16. Is it clear how the study was/will be conducted?

Sample – 10 points

17. Was the sample/corpora selected in such a way that it is representative of the population/research topic?
18. Is it clear where the sample/corpora came from and how it was selected?

19. How similar are the subjects/texts in the study to those that have been used in other similar studies?

Results and Discussion – 10 points

20. Does the author relate the results to the review of the literature?

21. Are the results related to the hypotheses?

22. Is the discussion of the results consistent with the results?

23. Does the discussion provide closure to the initial hypotheses presented by the author?

References – 10 points

24. Is the list of references current?

25. Are the references consistent in their format?

26. Are the references complete?

27. Does the list of references reflect some of the most important reference sources in the field?

28. Does each reference cited in the body of the paper appear in the reference list?

The **defence of the proposal** will be evaluated separately by each of the members on the Admissions Committee, based on the following criteria:

Presentation organisation and delivery – 10 points

1. Are the presentation style and language adequate?

2. Is time management appropriate?

Rhetorical argumentation and persuasion – 10 points

3. Are the problem and the proposed solution well-articulated?

4. Does the candidate respond appropriately to examiners' questions?

Candidate readiness for research – 5 points

5. Does the candidate prove effort, confidence and commitment to research?

A maximum of **10 points** may be awarded for the candidate's **previous research activities** (such as publication of articles/reviews in internationally indexed journals - WoS, EBSCO, ERIH Plus or participation in national/international conferences and symposia).