



Guarantor: Rector's Office

Košice, 18 December 2025  
Ref.: REK007315/2025-UPA/2783

**Rector's Decision No. 27/2025**  
**on the establishment, organisation, and activities**  
**of the Doctoral School at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 15(1)(o) of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, Article 4(3) of the Rules of Organization of UPJŠ in Košice, as amended, the Doctoral Study Regulations of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Rector's Decision No. 2/2025, issuing the Rules for the Internal System for Assuring and Verifying the Quality of Education, Scientific, Research, Developmental, Artistic or Other Creative and Support Activities at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice,

**I hereby issue**

the following decision on the establishment, organisation, and activities of the Doctoral School at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (hereinafter the "Decision"):

**Article 1**

**Subject matter and purpose of the Decision**

1. This Decision establishes the Doctoral School at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (hereinafter the "Doctoral School") and regulates its organisation, management, scope of authority, and activities.
2. The purpose of this Decision is to create conditions for the systematic improvement of the quality of doctoral studies at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice through the establishment of the Doctoral School.
3. This Decision is issued in accordance with the objectives of the Long-term Strategy of UPJŠ for 2026 – 2031, approved by the Academic Senate of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice on 19 June 2025 and by the Board of Trustees of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice on 13 November 2025, in accordance with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. The activities designed for early-career researchers, which are carried out as part of the implementation of the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers at UPJŠ, form an integral part of the Doctoral School. The Doctoral

School is governed by the Doctoral Study Regulations of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, as amended.

## **Article 2**

### **Mission and objectives of the Doctoral School**

1. Doctoral School is a professional and organisational body that oversees accredited doctoral study programmes at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (hereinafter “UPJŠ”) and coordinates the activities of doctoral students, supervisors, and research units at UPJŠ in the field of third-cycle higher education in accordance with applicable and effective legal regulations and internal regulations of UPJŠ. It delivers systematic education of doctoral students in all study programmes through courses, specialized training, thematic workshops, and networking events.
2. The objective of the Doctoral School is to promote the quality of doctoral studies and excellent research, create conditions for interdisciplinary collaboration, coordinate the scientific training of doctoral students, strengthen the development of doctoral students’ competencies in the field of scientific research, in pedagogical and transferable skills, to strengthen the competencies of supervisors in mentoring doctoral students, to ensure the transfer of knowledge between faculties and research units at UPJŠ, as well as to support the international mobility of doctoral students and cooperation with the non-academic sector and other universities in Slovakia and abroad.

## **Article 3**

### **Definition of terms**

1. *Doctoral study programme* is a third-cycle higher education programme focused on obtaining knowledge based on the current state of scientific and artistic knowledge, and, in particular, on the student’s own contribution to it, which is the result of scientific research and independent creative activity in the field of science or technology, or independent theoretical and creative activity in the field of the arts.
2. *Doctoral student* is a student enrolled in a doctoral study programme. The obligations of a doctoral student include, in particular, fulfilling the requirements of the individual study plan, participating in the university’s scientific events, submitting interim reports on the progress of research, and adhering to ethical principles of research. Full-time doctoral study includes teaching or other professional activities related to teaching for a maximum of four hours per week on average during the academic year in which instruction takes place. A doctoral student has the right to consultations, access to scientific resources, participation in national and international projects, and support for mobility.
3. *Supervisor for the relevant field of study* may be a teacher at a university where the doctoral study is conducted, or another expert after approval by the scientific board of the university, or, if the doctoral study is conducted at a faculty, by the faculty’s collective body designated by the university’s statute, if established.

## **Article 4**

### **Organisational structure of the Doctoral School**

1. The Doctoral School at UPJŠ is an independent organisational unit within the organisational structure of the UPJŠ Rector’s Office, falling under the Department of Education and Scientific Research Activities.

2. The advisory and coordinating body of the Doctoral School is the Doctoral School Council, which:
  - a) prepares a plan of educational activities common to all UPJŠ doctoral students;
  - b) proposes new areas of study;
  - c) evaluates the quality of activities carried out within the Doctoral School;
  - d) facilitates coordination and communication regarding planned and ongoing activities with the faculties, research units at UPJŠ, external partners, and entities from both the academic and non-academic sectors, and the Aurora European Universities Alliance;
  - e) coordinates international partnerships and sharing of experiences with doctoral schools abroad.
3. The members of the Doctoral School Council are appointed by the Rector of UPJŠ. The term of office of the members of the Doctoral School Council is tied to the term of office of the Rector of UPJŠ.
4. The Doctoral School Council consists of the following members:
  - a) the Chair, i.e. the UPJŠ Vice-Rector for Academic Qualifications and PhD Studies;
  - b) the vice-deans of UPJŠ faculties responsible for doctoral studies;
  - c) a representative of doctoral students from each faculty;
  - d) the Doctoral School Coordinator.
5. Upon the proposal of the members of the Doctoral School Council, relevant UPJŠ staff, external partners, and employers may be invited on an ad hoc basis.
6. The Doctoral School Coordinator is nominated by the Doctoral School Council and appointed by the Rector of UPJŠ. The Doctoral School Coordinator reports to the Vice Rector for Academic Qualifications and Doctoral Studies. The Doctoral School Coordinator is responsible for:
  - a) organising and coordinating individual activities;
  - b) communication with faculties, university departments, and external partners and entities;
  - c) administration of the web portal (web platform) of the Doctoral School.

## **Article 5**

### **Forms of education**

1. Education is delivered through both in-person and online workshops, seminars, webinars, training sessions, and courses.
2. Participation in educational activities organised by the Doctoral School is either compulsory elective or elective, depending on the focus of the specific educational activity.

## **Article 6**

### **Cooperation and international mobility**

1. The Doctoral School cooperates with:
  - a) faculties and research centres at UPJŠ;
  - b) the Lifelong Learning Centre and Project Support;
  - c) the UNIPOC University Counselling Centre;
  - d) international university alliances;
  - e) scientific, research, and innovation entities in Slovakia and abroad;
  - f) external experts and organisations in Slovakia and abroad.

2. The Doctoral School supports research stays abroad, conference participation, joint research projects, dual supervision of dissertations (cotutelle), and programmes/schemes for double and joint doctoral programmes and degrees.
3. Doctoral student mobilities are carried out in accordance with the applicable and effective regulations of UPJŠ and in accordance with the Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, and similar programmes.

#### **Article 7** **Final Provisions**

1. This Decision was approved by the Academic Senate of UPJŠ on 18 December 2025.
2. This Decision comes into force and takes effect on 1 January 2026.

Prof. Daniel PELLA, MD, PhD.  
Rector of UPJŠ