Ludovika University of Public Service, Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training

Strategy of the Doctoral School of Military Engineering (2026-2030)

The strategy of the Doctoral School of Military Engineering (DSME) at Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training for the period 2026-2030 is based on its Quality Assurance Plan, to which it is appended. The Quality Assurance Plan sets out the general principles, while the strategic plan contains the development goals of the DSME, its quality objectives, indicators, and those responsible for them. The quality assurance system of the Doctoral School was developed based on ESG 2015 standards, with particular regard to standards 1.1-1.8. The quality assurance system of the DSME operates as a subsystem of the institutional quality management system, while it has its own decision-making and feedback mechanisms. Core members, research area leaders, and a doctoral student representative participated in the development of the strategy.

The most important quality objective of the DSME is to ensure the quality of doctoral training programme and the doctoral degree procedure at all stages (admission, doctoral studies, dissertation preparation, degree procedure) and in all forms. The operation of the quality assurance system is documented, traceable, and integrated into decision-making mechanisms.

1. Research areas

The Doctoral School of Military Engineering defined its strategic goal to continuously cover research areas in the entire field of military technical science, responding to shifts in focus, the emergence of new research challenges, and areas. It aims provide answers and solutions should there be changes in interest in individual research areas, in the number of applicants, or in the quality of those working in the research area. If justified, the Doctoral School of Military Engineering should initiate the creation of new research areas or the termination, combination, or renaming of existing ones to comply with quality assurance principles. This may be justified if there have been no applicants for five years or no successful doctoral thesis defenses in the research area for five years.

Indicator: number of research areas in the Doctoral School of Military Engineering

Development goal: maintaining the quality of the current nine research areas.

Action plan: Continuous monitoring of research trends in military engineering as an interdisciplinary field, adapting to changes in line with the needs of the field, taking into account the opinions of the heads of the research areas.

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral school

Review frequency: every second semester of the academic year.

2. Core members

The strategic goal is to ensure that the number and quality of core members in the Doctoral School continuously meet the conditions for its operation. To this end, it is essential to

continuously monitor the quality indicators of core membership, take action when necessary, and support the work of potential future core members.

Indicator: number of core members and number of university professor core members.

Development goal: maintaining the number of core members (12), and university professor core members (7).

Action plan: Continuous monitoring of core members' competence, supervision, and encouragement of high-quality publication activity (in Q-rated journals). This is supported by the annual university performance evaluation system (PES, or TÉR in Hungarian), in which it is suggested to initiate the recognition of these two activities with higher scores. Selection of potential core members (including, in particular, university professor candidates), support for achieving core member competency, and possible determination of this talent management path.

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral school

Review frequency: every January.

3. Lecturers

The strategic goal is to maintain and develop the teaching and research quality of the lecturers involved in the work of the Doctoral School of Military Engineering. Maintaining the necessary attention and control, intervening when necessary. Significant research activity is expected, which in the case of research topic announcers (lecturers) means that they must have at least five recent, high-quality (at least B-rated according to the Committee on Military Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) scientific publications on the topic in the five years prior to the announcement of the research topic. All of above must be published as open access in the MTMT (Repository of Hungarian Scientific Works) database and the doktori.hu site.

Indicator: number of lecturers.

Development goal: maintaining the number and quality of lecturers, strengthening the teaching base in newly established research areas.

Action plan: Continuous monitoring of lecturers, research topic announcers, and supervisors, encouraging publication activity. Continuous monitoring of lecturer quality, strengthening the supervisory role of doctoral school management and research area leaders. Strengthening doctoral student feedback on lecturer, using it as input in quality assessment, initiating personnel changes where appropriate. Periodic evaluation of supervisors, particularly in relation to the two main benchmarks of the doctoral training programme, the comprehensive examination and the success rate of degree procedure. Increasing the intensity of communication with doctoral supervisors.

Research areas: heads of research areas

Review frequency: every January.

4. Doctoral research topics

Doctoral research topics are fundamental indicators of the work carried out at the DSME and determine the number and quality of applicants. Accordingly, their continuous updating is essential.

Indicator: number of topics announced annually.

Development goal: maintaining the current number of research topics announced (141), requiring them to follow scientific developments in the field and respond to challenges. Increasing the number of doctoral research topics in foreign language (30).

Action plan: Continuous monitoring of research trends in the field, identification of current scientific problems in the research area and recognition of suitable research topic announcers. Preference for comprehensive research topics that can be easily integrated into the specific research topics of doctoral candidates. Review of topics that have been inactive for more than five years. Incorporating sustainability considerations into research topics, where possible. Annual review of doctoral research topics, during which the DSME examines the professional alignment between the announced topics and the research actually carried out, with particular regard to admission data, publication results, and dissertation titles.

Responsible: the head of the Doctoral School and the heads of the research areas.

Review frequency: every first semester of the academic year.

5. Applying for doctoral programmes

During the admission process, the selection committee of the DSME evaluates the academic background, aptitude, research topic, and language skills of the applicants and then makes a recommendation for admission or rejection. The strategic goal is to maintain the quality of admitted students.

Indicator: number of students admitted each year.

Development goal: stabilizing the number of admissions at around 20 while maintaining quality (capacity of the doctoral school is 40). Admitting 1 to 2 foreign students. Increasing the proportion of full-time students.

Action plan: Continuous development of habitus examination criteria during the admission process, with the aim of selecting the most suitable applicants. An increase in the number of foreign-language doctoral research topics may also result in an increase in the number of foreign applicants. Keeping full-time enrolment on the agenda during consultations with partners.

Responsible: the head of the Doctoral School and the heads of the research areas.

Review frequency: every May.

6. Courses

In order to maintain the high quality of courses, the Doctoral School of Military Engineering reviews the list of courses to be announced each academic year and asks lecturers to update their courses. The strategic goal is to improve the quality of the courses offered.

Indicator: number of subjects included in the training plan.

Development goal: maintaining the number of accredited courses.

Action plan: Integrating the latest results in the given fields into the subject programs, launching new courses if necessary. Gradually phasing out subjects that are not or hardly preferred by students, as well as "outdated" subjects that are less relevant.

Research areas: heads of research areas

Review frequency: every second semester of the academic year.

7. Research plan

The strategic goal is for the research plan to ensure the stability, predictability, pace, and controllability of the work of doctoral students. This can be monitored and modified as necessary by having all students report on their progress in writing each year.

Indicator: improvement in the quality (accuracy, detail) of research plans.

Development goal: preparing a plan that is relevant to the research topic and feasible.

Action plan: Research methodology basis for compiling accurate and feasible research plans. Requiring close alignment of the research problem, hypotheses, objectives, research methods, sub-research, and research results in the research plan. Continuous monitoring of the compliance of the mid-year reports with the research plan, making corrections, and direct intervention if necessary.

Responsible: heads of research areas

Review frequency: every second semester of the academic year.

8. Active participation in conferences

The strategic goal is to give as many doctoral students as possible the opportunity participate at national and international conferences.

Indicator: number of doctoral students who participated in national and international conferences in the past calendar year.

Development goal: increase the number of doctoral students participating in national and international conferences each year.

Action plan: Monitoring conferences related to the field of study, keeping doctoral students informed about conference opportunities. Motivating active participation (as presenter) with credits and publication points. Taking into account limited financial resources, provide financial support and contributions for participation in certain conferences, which may appear as a separate item in the annual budget of the Doctoral School of Military Engineering.

Responsible: the head of the Doctoral School, the heads of research areas, and the supervisors.

Review frequency: every second semester of the academic year.

9. Study trips and part-time programme

The strategic goal is to provide doctoral students with opportunities to gain experience abroad and to utilize the best practices acquired in their research.

Indicator: number of doctoral students who participated in study trips and part-time programme abroad in the past calendar year.

Development goal: to increase the number of doctoral students involved each year.

Action plan: Strengthen participation in mobility programs. Support course enrolment and cross-registration at other higher education institutions offering PhD programs abroad under the Bologna education system. Establish academic relationships with doctoral schools abroad.

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School, heads of research areas, and supervisors.

Review frequency: every second semester of the academic year.

10. National and international applications

The strategic goal is for our students and teachers to participate intensively in research applications, thereby increasing the quality of training and degree procedure.

Indicator: number of teachers and doctoral students involved in successful applications.

Development goal: maintaining current participation rates.

Action plan: Monitoring of applications. Increased involvement of doctoral students in faculty and departmental grant projects. To this end, increased cooperation with the relevant heads of department. Strengthening participation in grant programs. Dissemination of application information from university and faculty development organizations, requesting application writing support from them.

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School, supervisors.

Review frequency: every second semester of the academic year.

11. Doctoral degree procedure

The strategic goal is to help as many doctoral students as possible obtain their degrees, reducing dropout rates for any reason. All this should be done with as little administration as possible, in the most flexible way possible, but with all requirements being met.

Indicator: number of students obtaining a PhD degree; number of doctoral candidates obtaining an absolutorium but not a PhD degree.

Development goal: maintaining current success rates, i.e., keeping the percentage of doctoral students obtaining a degree between 30% and 40%, while maintaining the same percentage for those obtaining an absolutorium between 55% and 60%.

Action plan: Strengthening preparation for degree procedure. Presenting best practices for degree procedure within the framework of the course titled "Basic Knowledge of the Academic Degree Procedure." Strengthening the role of thesis supervisors in the degree procedure, raising awareness of the responsibilities of thesis supervisors. Identify the reasons for dropouts and eliminate factors dependent on the DSME. Simplify administration within the framework provided by UDHC. Support doctoral students in obtaining missing language exams, seeking solutions within the faculty in cooperation with the Foreign Language and Technical Language Department.

Responsible: the Head of the Doctoral School, the heads of research areas, the supervisors.

Review frequency: every January.

12. Communicating with doctoral students

The strategic goal is to maintain a lively relationship between the doctoral school and its students. The means to achieve this are continuous information, administrative support, activation of doctoral student representatives, gathering opinions, student satisfaction, and responding to incoming suggestions.

Indicator: student representative activity, collection of doctoral student opinions.

Development goal: evaluation of feedback results, publication in quality assurance.

Action plan: Providing comprehensive information during semester orientation classes, answering questions that arise. Ensuring the continuous and constant availability of administrative staff. Simplifying the website of the doctoral school and making it more user-friendly, monitoring all of this annually through questionnaires.

Responsible: the Head of the Doctoral School, the heads of research areas, the supervisors.

Review frequency: every first semester of the academic year.

13. Career tracking

The strategic goal is to obtain information about the further academic and professional careers of graduates, which can be used to increase the effectiveness of training and degree procedure.

Indicator: creating a questionnaire on the success of doctoral students' career paths.

Development goal: development of training and quality assurance plans based on feedback.

Action plan: Creation of an updated repository of degree holders. Soliciting the opinions of graduates in order to improve the quality of training and degree procedure. It is advisable to organize roundtable discussions between graduates and current students at specified intervals for the purpose of sharing experiences.

Responsible: Head of the Doctoral School, Quality Manager.

Review frequency: every first semester of the academic year.

14. Publication

The strategic goal is for DSME students and lecturers to continuously share their research results in journals that are relevant in terms of doctoral training. Taking into account the specific characteristics of military engineering, the number of foreign publications should be increased.

Indicator: Number of publications, with a particular focus on those listed by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and within that, publications in international journals.

Development goal: Increase the number of publications in international journals, preferably in Q-rated journals.

Action plan: Encourage and support the publication of foreign journals. Select appropriate journals, taking into account the specific characteristics of the field of military engineering research. Utilize the existing network of DSME lecturers to support the publications. Prefer

journals from nearby military higher education institutions (almost all of which are rated as international B by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences). Widely publicize the opportunity to apply for publications in Q-rated journals owned by the University. Promote the indexing of relevant journals (Scopus).

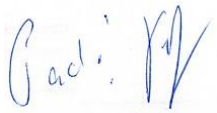
Responsible: Head of the Doctoral school

Review frequency: every first semester of the academic year.

The strategy of the Doctoral School of Military Engineering for 2026–2030 serves to strengthen sustainable quality, scientific excellence, and international visibility, ensuring that the doctoral training and degree awarding system operates in a documented, transparent, and development-oriented manner.

This strategy was adopted by the Doctoral Council of the DSME at its meeting on February 26, 2026.

Budapest, February 26, 2026.



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