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“MIHAI VITEAZUL”
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACADEMY
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APPROVED BY
The President of ANIMV Academy Senate
Associate Professor Ecaterina DRĂGHICI



METHODOLOGY

FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF THE THESIS FOR
MASTER'S STUDY PROGRAM IN HYBRID THREATS AND
STRATEGIC RESILIENCE

Approved by the Senate of “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy through
Resolution no. 9 dated 25.03.2026

- Bucharest, 2026 -

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Law no. 199/2023 on higher education, with subsequent amendments and additions;
- Law no. 80/1995 on the status of military personnel, with subsequent amendments and additions;
- Government Decision no. 206/1995 on the reorganization of the National Intelligence Institute as “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy, with subsequent additions and amendments;
- Government Decision no. 428/2025 on the approval of accredited master’s degree programs and field of study and the maximum number of students who may be enrolled for the 2025-2026 academic year, with subsequent amendments and additions;
- Government Decision no. 962/2024 on the approval of the Methodology for the external evaluation of educational quality in higher education;
- Government Decision no. 404/2006 on the organization and conduct of Master’s degree studies;
- ARACIS Board Decision, no. 62/H/06.03.2025, Specific quality standards regarding the conduct of activities related to full-time undergraduate degree programs in the first cycle of higher education, differentiated according to fields of study;
- Order of the Ministry of Education no. 3691/2024 on the approval of the Framework methodology on the organization and conduct of graduation, bachelor’s/diploma and dissertation exams, with subsequent amendments and additions;
- Order of the Ministry of Education no. 3.692/2024 on the list of nationally recognized programs for the purpose of determining the degree of similarity for final graduation projects;
- Order of the Ministry of Education no. 4.394/2024 on the approval of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities;
- Order of the Minister of Education and Research no. 4.156/2020 on the approval of the Framework Regulation on the study documents system and university documents within the higher education system, with subsequent amendments and additions;

- Order of the Ministry of Education no. 4.481/2024 on the approval of the Regulations on making higher education accessible to people with disabilities;
- Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council dated June 13, 2024, establishing harmonized rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) no. 300/2008, (EU) no. 167/2013, (EU) no. 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and EU 2020/1828 (Regulation on Artificial Intelligence);
- The Strategy for Preventing and Combating the Plagiarism Phenomenon in „Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy;
- The Code of student rights and responsibilities at the „Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy;
- University Charter of the „Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy.

SECTION I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art.1. (1) ANIMV, through the Faculty of Intelligence Studies, has initiated the accreditation process for the “Hybrid Threats and Strategic Resilience” program, in the field of master’s level studies in “Security studies”.

(2) The study program will be offered only if the master’s degree program is accredited by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

(3) This methodology details how the dissertation exam for graduates of the “Hybrid Threats and Strategic Resilience” program is organized and conducted, and will be used in the accreditation process to demonstrate the existence of a culture of quality regarding the graduation process at ANIMV.

Art.2. (1) ANIMV, through the Faculty of Intelligence Studies, conducts dissertation examination in accordance with this Methodology, structured in compliance with the general criteria for organizing final exams in higher education, Cycle II - Master’s degree, drafted by the Ministry of Education and Research and supplemented with specific provisions, established by the „Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy’s Senate within this Methodology.

(2) At the Faculty of Intelligence Studies, Master’s degree programs conclude with

a dissertation exam, which consists of a single component: the presentation and the thesis defense.

(3) The presentation and the defense of the dissertation thesis is public and takes place through direct, unmediated contact, with the examination committee and the examinee present in the same place, at the same time.

(4) The dissertation exam is conducted in Romanian.

(5) The results of the oral exams cannot be contested, according to the provisions of Article 36, Paragraph (3) of the Methodology approved by OMEN no. 3691/2024.

Art.3. For students enrolled in master's degree programs offered by the Faculty of Intelligence Studies, the dissertation exam is conducted by the Faculty's Secretariat.

Art.4. Only graduates who have fulfilled all the requirements set forth in the curriculum and course descriptions may take the dissertation exam.

Art.5 (1) The research areas in which a dissertation work is conducted are determined by the academic community, represented by the Faculty of Intelligence Studies and the research structures, in accordance with ANIMV's vision and strategy for research, development and innovation, as well as the curriculum and the course descriptions used by the students.

(2) The research topic is carried out under the guidance of a faculty member.

Art.6. In order to ensure a range of options, students will propose titles and topics for their dissertation within their advisor's areas of research.

Art.7 (1) Each student will have a faculty advisor to assist with the thesis; the advisor must hold at least the teaching rank of associate professor.

(2) Students enrolled in Master's degree programs designed to train intelligence officers for the Romanian Intelligence Service will have, in addition to the advisor referred to in paragraph 1, as a subject-matter expert, a specialist from the unit where they operate.

Art.8 (1) Students are required to choose a thesis topic at least two semesters before completing their studies. After expressing their choice, the Faculty of Intelligence Studies Council approves a table which includes the student's name, the title of the paper and the advisor. Advisors shall ensure that all students have chosen their dissertation topics in accordance with the terms set forth in this Methodology.

(2) The student must obtain the approval of the thesis advisor and the subject-matter expert, respectively. The final decision regarding the direction of the research project rests with the thesis advisor.

(3) The titles of the papers will be compiled by the Secretariat of the Intelligence Studies Faculty.

Art.9 (1) Dissertation papers shall be prepared in accordance with academic writing guidelines and in compliance with internal regulations regarding classified documents, as applicable.

(2) The academic writing guide, as well as the guidelines for preparing and drafting the paper, will be made available to students by the coordinator or through dedicated platforms.

Art.10 (1) Dissertation papers must contain original content. If violations of the rules of academic ethics and integrity are found, and the thesis advisor decides to reject the thesis, the graduate loses the right to take the final examination during that session and is considered REJECTED.

(2) The instructor has the right to assign a “REJECTED” grade, prior to running the plagiarism check on the paper, if the student has failed to fulfill their obligations regarding the submission of the paper at various stages during the preparation and drafting process, if the student has not followed the advisor’s recommendations, or if the scientific quality of the paper is inadequate.

(3) The Faculty Council approves the maximum permissible thresholds for similarity coefficients and the AI content indicator.

(4) The similarity report and the AI content detection report serve as advisory tools in the process of evaluating the paper. These reports are intended to assist the thesis advisor, who has the final decision regarding the grade assigned.

(5) Students are responsible for ensuring the originality of the content of their papers. Dissertation advisors have a duty of care to verify that scientific papers comply with the specific requirements for an original work.

(6) A student who submits a plagiarized or falsified paper – claiming authorship of a paper that was purchased – in order to take the final exam shall be penalized by being barred from taking the final exam during that session.

(7) While researching their dissertation, students can use Artificial Intelligence tools. However, students are prohibited from generating parts of their thesis using Artificial Intelligence and claiming authorship of those parts. Any use of Artificial Intelligence must be mentioned in the paper and may only be done with the supervising professor's approval.

SECTION II

THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE THESIS ADVISOR AND GRADUATING STUDENTS

Art.11. The dissertation advisors have the following responsibilities:

- a) To determine, together with the student, the topic of the dissertation, the research plan, and the timeline for completing the dissertation;
- b) To advise students whenever they request it;
- c) To periodically review the progress of the dissertation and to offer comments and suggestions for additions or revisions, where appropriate;
- d) To ensure the originality of the paper by checking it with the help of plagiarism detection software, in accordance with the established deadlines;
- e) To verify compliance with the rules on academic integrity and the prevention of plagiarism;
- f) To assign grades or scores based on the quality of the work;
- g) To comply with the provisions of the Code of academic ethics and professional conduct.

Art.12. The students writing their dissertation have the following **rights**:

- a) To be notified of the results of their dissertation defense;
- b) To be notified of the date set for the dissertation defense;
- c) To receive guidance from the thesis advisor.

Art.13. The students writing their dissertation have the following **obligations**:

- a) To propose a dissertation topic in accordance with the research areas proposed by the Faculty of Intelligence Studies;
- b) To change the topic of the dissertation or the dissertation advisor only once, for well-founded reasons, based on a report approved by the dean of the relevant faculty;

- c) to submit to the Secretariat of the Faculty of Intelligence Studies, within the deadline, the request for choosing the Thesis Subject;
- d) to comply with the requirements of the Scientific Coordinator, in relation to the content of the Thesis;
- e) to comply with the Academic Writing Guide / drafting and editing of the dissertation paper;
- f) to observe the Synoptic, for guiding the dissertation works;
- g) to comply with the rules of Code of Ethics and Academic Deontology;
- (h) to get consent of the research ethics subcommittee where the research involves human subjects;
- (i) to comply with the rules of anti-plagiarism;
- j) to follow the scientific coordinator's advice on material generated by computer applications capable of generating text and content through artificial intelligence.

SECTION III

THE ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF THE DISSERTATION EXAMINATION

Art. 14. (1) The organization and the conduct of the examination for the dissertation defense shall be carried out under the coordination of an *Examination Board*, appointed by the Unit's Agenda.

(2) In organizing the dissertation defense, the provisions of Order no. 4.481/2024 regarding the access to higher education for disabled persons will also be taken into consideration. The rights of disabled persons and of the persons with special educational needs as provided by current legislation and the Code of Student Rights and Obligations of the "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy will also be respected.

Art. 15 (1) The president of the exam commission and the structure of the commissions, by specialization, are proposed by the dean of the Faculty of Intelligence Studies.

(2) The members of the committees shall be approved by the Commandant (Rector) of the ANIMV.

(3). Each examination committee shall be composed of at least four members, as follows: one chairman, at least two teachers and one secretary.

(4) The chairman of the dissertation exam board must hold at least the academic rank of associate professor.

- (5)** The members of the commission must have at least the academic rank of lecturer.
- (6)** The secretary of the commission must have at least the academic rank of associate professor and is exclusively responsible for drafting and managing administrative documents.
- (7)** The members of the Examination Board may not be with those examined or with each other in relation to spouses, kinship and up to 3rd degree relatives, according to the law.
- (8)** The structure of the panel for the dissertation exam shall be published on the internal channels of the institution.
- (9)** The structure of the graduation exam committees, as well as the number of their members, shall not change during the final exams.
- (10)** The ANIMV management and the Examination Board shall be fully responsible for organizing and conducting the dissertation exam.

Art. 16. The Master's students shall submit the following documents to the Academy 15 working days before the exam date:

- a) application for exam registration (Annex 1)
- b) dissertation paper in electronic format, with a .doc and .pdf extension, on the e-mail address indicated for this purpose;
- c) affidavit (Annex 2) regarding the originality of the dissertation.

Art. 17. The Faculty of Intelligence Studies Secretariat must centralize the dissertation papers received by the set deadline and sends them individually to the mentors within 5 working days.

Art. 18 (1) The Scientific Coordinator will draw up an evaluation paper for the dissertation work (Annex 3), which will contain the analysis of the paper and the recommendation either to accept the dissertation for defense before the examination committee or to reject it, by marking the option in the appropriate section and mentioning the arguments that led to the rejection of the paper in this recommendation. The evaluation paper and the grade of the advisor cannot be contested by the graduate.

(2) The evaluation form and the grade assigned by the Scientific Coordinator cannot be contested by the graduate.

(3) The evaluation form accompanied by the similarity check reports shall be sent to the Secretariat of the Faculty of Intelligence Studies by the advisors within at least 5 working days before the date of the exam.

(4) The Secretariat of the faculty prepares the schedule for the defense of the

accepted dissertations and notifies the students with regard to it at least 5 working days before the defense exam.

Art. 19 (1) Each member of the Committee proposes a grade from 1 to 10. The exam passing score for the dissertation exam shall be the arithmetic average of the marks awarded by the members of the committee. It shall be calculated to two decimal places without rounding, based solely on the marks awarded by the members of the Examination Board.

(2) The average of the dissertation exam must be at least 6,00.

(3) The decisions of the Committees regarding the results of the defense exam are not public.

Art. 20 (1) For Master's Students who do not pass the dissertation exam, the Faculty of Intelligence Studies will plan a new session, in accordance with the provisions of OMEN 3691/2024, upon the proposal of the Faculty Council and with the approval of the University Senate.

(2) The graduate who did not pass the defense exam can take part in a new session after paying an exam fee in the amount approved by the Board of Directors and the University Senate, upon the proposal of the Council of the Faculty of Intelligence Studies.

Art. 21. The Dissertation Committee is responsible for the implementation and compliance with the provisions of this Methodology.

SECTION IV FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 22. The graduates of the Faculty of Intelligence Studies within the ANIMV who passed the defense exam will receive a Master's degree, as well as a Diploma Supplement, which will be issued within 12 months as of the date of completion, in accordance with the regulations in force.

Art. 23. (1) Until the diploma is issued, the graduates who passed the dissertation exam will receive, upon request, a certificate valid for 12 months, which confer the same legal rights as the diploma on the holder and which will include information on the field of the university studies, the study program/specialization, the period of study, the average score of the study years, the provisional accreditation/authorization status, the form of education, the language of teaching, the geographical location, the number of credits and the normative act that

establishes them (Government Decision, Order of the Minister, as the case may be).

(2) The graduates are usually issued a single certificate of graduation. In case of loss or destruction, upon request, a new certificate with a new registration number shall be issued, the validity of which shall be within a maximum period of 12 months calculated from the passing of the defense exam.

Art. 24. The graduates who were absent or have not passed the dissertation exam are issued, upon request, a Certificate of Graduation Without a Final Examination, which will include information on the field of the university studies, the program of studies/specialization, the period of studies, the average score of the study years, the provisional accreditation/authorization status, the form of education, the language of teaching, the geographical location, the number of credits and the normative act that establishes them (Government Decision, Order of the Minister, as the case may be).

Art. 25. The Commandant (Rector) of the ANIMV may cancel, with the approval of the University Senate, an examination for completion of studies, a certificate or a diploma of studies when it is proven that it was obtained by fraudulent means or by violation of the provisions of the Code of Ethics and University Deontology.

Art. 26. The overall average used to determine the ranking of the graduates is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the averages for the years of study and the dissertation exam.

Art. 27. The existing Methodology may be amended by the University Senate of the National Intelligence Academy "Mihai Viteazul" upon the emergence of new regulations on the general framework for organizing final exams in higher education, developed by the Ministry of Education and Research or within the Romanian Intelligence Service.

Art. 28. This Methodology shall take effect as of the date of its adoption by the University Senate.

Annex no. 1

“MIHAI VITEAZUL”

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACADEMY

FACULTY OF INTELLIGENCE STUDIES

No. _____ of _____

Dean,

I, the undersigned _____ (surname, father's first name, first name) _____, a student of the Master's degree program _____ of the Faculty of Intelligence Studies, specialization _____, daytime program, training series _____, in view of my dissertation defense, please approve my registration for the session _____

Please find attached the dissertation thesis in electronic format (.doc and .pdf format), as well as the affidavit on the originality of my thesis content.

I also hereby attach proof of payment of the defense exam fee.

Date

Signature

Annex no. 2

“MIHAI VITEAZUL”

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACADEMY

FACULTY OF INTELLIGENCE STUDIES

No. _____ of _____

AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned _____, ID card number _____, issued by _____, declare that the dissertation entitled _____ belongs entirely to me, is the result of my work, based on my research and information obtained from sources that have been cited and indicated, according to the Academic Regulations, in footnotes and bibliography.

I declare that I have not tacitly or unlawfully used the work of others and that no part of the thesis infringes the intellectual property rights of other natural or legal entity.

I declare that the thesis has not been presented in this form to any higher education institution.

Date

Signature

Annex no. 3

“MIHAI VITEAZUL”

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ACADEMY

FACULTY OF INTELLIGENCE STUDIES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THESIS DEFENSE:

May be defended	May not be defended

SIGNATURE OF SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR: _____

DATE: _____

Thesis Evaluation Form

SURNAME AND FIRST NAME OF THE STUDENT	
STUDY PROGRAM	
TITLE OF THE THESIS	
SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR	

THESIS EVALUATION

CRITERIA		SCORE									
1.	Representativeness of the theme in the field	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Size of the thesis (under/oversized/appropriate to the subject)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Structure of the thesis (division into chapters, balance of writing)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Documentation and use of bibliographic sources (brief/rich, updated; correct citation)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Critical analysis, examination and critical interpretation of the bibliography and the facts studied	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Application of concepts and methodology to a new idea	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	Originality, personal contribution, new viewpoints	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Quality of exposure and argumentation (mastering of concepts, methodological justification, rigorous argumentation)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Style, expression (coherence, fluency, correctness)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Editing (grammar errors/correct, neat spelling)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

GRADE PROPOSED: _____

SIGNATURE OF SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR: _____

DATE: _____