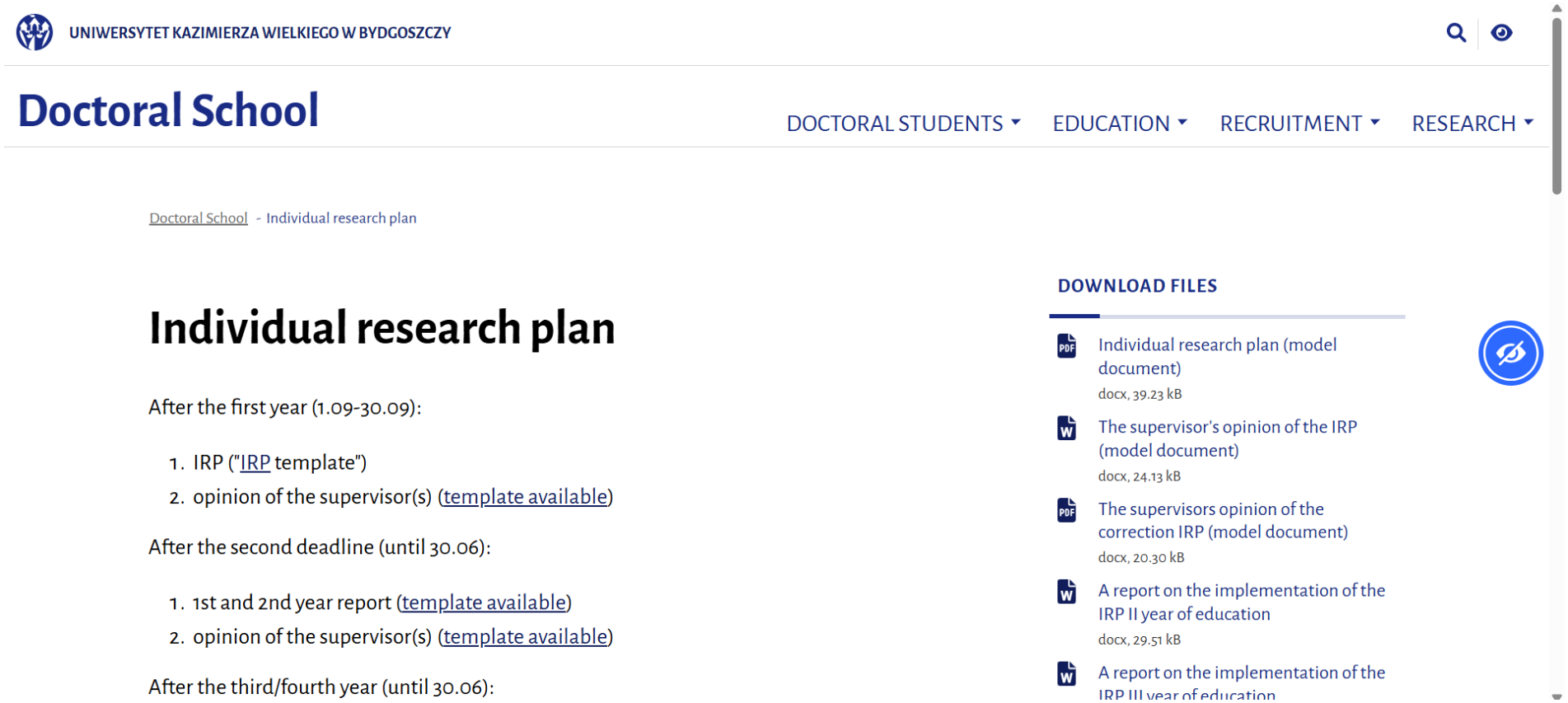
Individual research plan

Indywidualny plan badawczy

SZKOŁA DOKTORSKA UNIWERSYTETU KAZIMIERZA WIELKIEGO

DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF KAZIMIERZ WIELKI UNIVERSITY

IRP template and supervisor's opinion template



UNIWERSYTET KAZIMIERZA WIELKIEGO W BYDGOSZCZY

Doctoral School

DOCTORAL STUDENTS EDUCATION RECRUITMENT RESEARCH

Doctoral School - Individual research plan

Individual research plan

After the first year (1.09-30.09):

1. IRP ("IRP template")
2. opinion of the supervisor(s) (template available)

After the second deadline (until 30.06):

1. 1st and 2nd year report (template available)
2. opinion of the supervisor(s) (template available)

After the third/fourth year (until 30.06):

DOWNLOAD FILES

- Individual research plan (model document) docx, 39.23 kB
- The supervisor's opinion of the IRP (model document) docx, 24.13 kB
- The supervisors opinion of the correction IRP (model document) docx, 20.30 kB
- A report on the implementation of the IRP II year of education docx, 29.51 kB
- A report on the implementation of the IRP III year of education

When should the plan be developed?

In the 1st year of doctoral education – the IRP also includes the 1st year of education

Submission – typically in September (within 12 months)

moving beyond the concept phase

What is the IRP?

Art. 202.

1. The doctoral candidate, **in consultation with the supervisor or supervisors**, develops an individual research plan containing, in particular, **a schedule for preparing the doctoral dissertation** and submits it to the entity running the doctoral school **within 12 months of the date of commencement** of education. In the event that an auxiliary supervisor is appointed, the plan is submitted after the supervisor has given his opinion.

2. The implementation of the plan is subject to a mid-term evaluation in the middle of doctoral education.

The Law on Higher Education and Science

What is the IRP?

An agreement between the university, supervisor and doctoral candidate defining the scope of duties

the scope of doctoral education

(together with the **curriculum**)

learning outcomes

The doctoral candidate is able to plan and implement their own and their team's research, including in the international academic community (P8S_UO), **autonomously plan and pursue their personal development;** (P8S_UU)

organization of research work
(schedule)

project outline

What to discuss within the IRP?

- the scope of supervisory care
- the division of duties between supervisors
- the relationship between the implementation of the IRP and the doctoral seminar
- the principles of access to research infrastructure
- the method of spending funds for research (the general cost and the annual costs estimates)
- the methods of verifying learning outcomes – criteria for assessing research work

What does the IRP define?

- the **deadline** for submitting the doctoral dissertation:

(month and year) no later than 2028 (2024-2028)

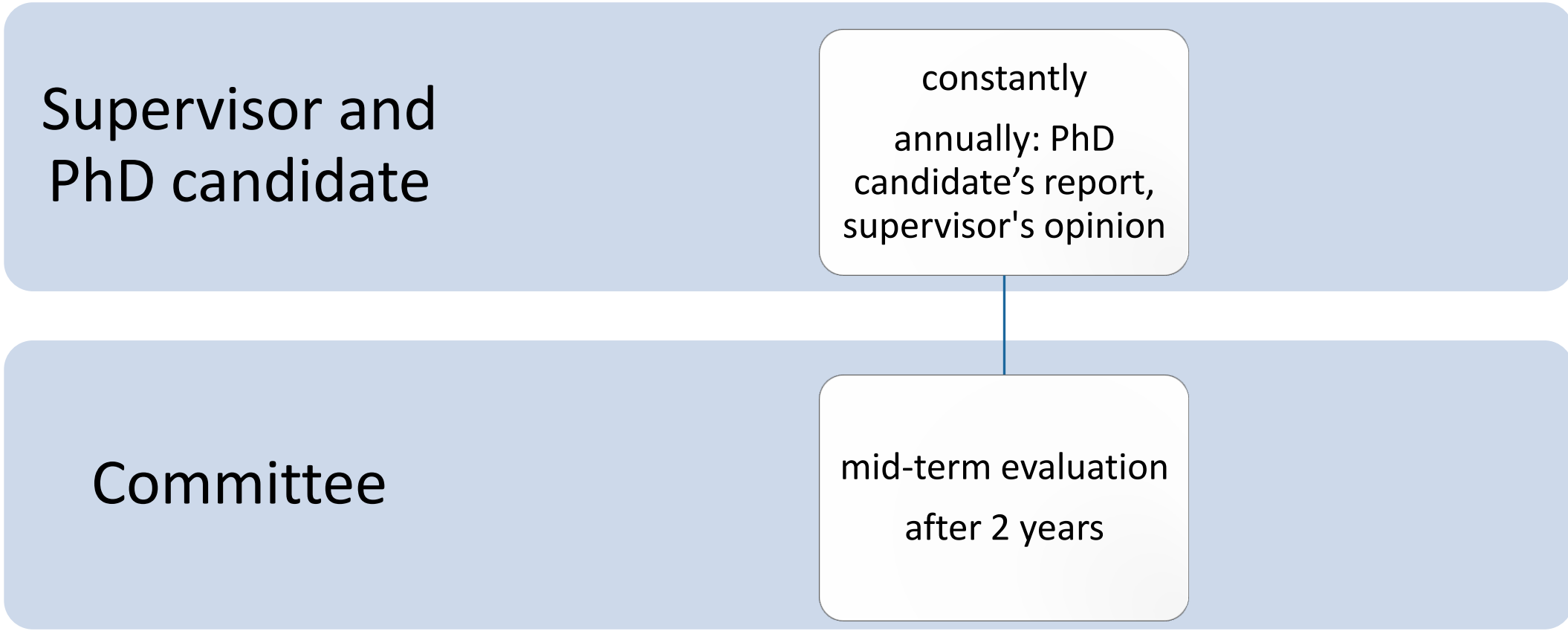
- the IRP is a **plan** – modifications are possible, including the title of the dissertation, the risk factor taken into account, major corrections possible when significant changes are necessary
- the development of the plan reflects the development of the doctoral candidate
- the IRP modification (correction) and annual reports
- **the type of doctoral project** (monograph, publication series, other)
- **the effects** (results of research tasks, SMART) ≠ learning outcomes (PQF Level 8)
- obligatory learning outcomes (PQF Level 8) are included in section G

SMART
the IRP research tasks, goals and effects

1. *Specific* (research tasks) what? where? when? how? for what purpose? how much?
2. *Measurable* (indicators)
3. *Assignable* – approved by the PhD candidate and the supervisor
4. *RealisticTime-related:* Defining responsibility clearly

NCN: Research tasks are a concise description of the planned research. The tasks should be formulated clearly, explicitly, unambiguously, and specifically. Research tasks do not include activities related to the logistics of the project, such as the purchase of equipment, reagents, materials, editorial work, conference trips, or preparation of publications; rather, they involve the analysis and interpretation of research results

Verification of the IRP implementation



Common mistakes

- confusing the IRP with didactics (education program)
- overgeneralisations and vague formulations in the IRP (research tasks)

e.g.: "writing a dissertation", "analysis of results", "interpretation of data", "collecting literature", "expanding theoretical knowledge", "improving scientific skills", "working on skills", "improving the methodology of conducted research", "formulating hypotheses"

- long periods of implementation for single task

e.g. "October – May: library visit" [no measurable information: how many days, what resources sought after, etc.]

- lack of thematic/conceptual frameworks
- no specific information, e.g. on the number of participants in preliminary research
- lack of measurable/verifiable results (effects) of research tasks (what? where? when? how much?)
- **no criteria for passing the year (research work)**
- no plan for spending funds on research (the budget vaguely defined – "own funds")

Examples of Errors - Review Excerpts

The plan is methodologically weak. It lists 17 theoretical methods and several empirical ones without explaining what will be done with all these different methods and how might lead to the completion of the research task.

Although sampling is an important part of the project and I understand that it will take a significant amount of time, ***it seems risky to leave all*** *bacterial identification and metagenomic* ***analysis until the third year of the project****. If each sampling site is analyzed independently, it would make much more sense to do the analysis after sampling. Another reason for doing this is to have some results before the project ends.*

Further negative examples

Task duration: October 2024 – July 2025

Task : Development of the theoretical basis for the doctoral dissertation

Description: The aim is to write theoretical chapters of the doctoral dissertation

Result: Two theoretical chapters of the doctoral dissertation

Task duration: May 2026

Task : IRP submission

Description: IRP preparation and submission

Effect: completion of formalities

Task duration: May 2027 – September 2027

Task : Obtaining questionnaires for the study / research

Description: Finding the necessary questionnaires

Effect: having a ready-made research survey

Positive examples

Task duration: October 2024 – September 2025

Task: improving methodological skills and collecting data

Description: The goal of the task is to expand knowledge and develop skills in the field of discipline X, as well as to gather data and study the relevant literature, both subject-specific and related to the researcher, which will allow for a more precise definition of the theoretical approach, subject, and purpose of the research, refinement of research problems and hypotheses, as well as the formulation of methodological assumptions; conducting a risk analysis and preparing a plan for financing the research.

Effect: developing and submitting the IRP

Task duration: January 2025 – September 2026

Task name: analysis of XYZ data obtained from XYZ databases

Description: [substantive description – detailed scope]

Result: publication of a scientific article

Task duration: July 2025 – December 2025

Task name: development of research tools

Description: Defining the sample selection and clarifying the dependent and independent variables, preparing interview sheets and survey questionnaires, and revising the prepared research tools. [+ detailed content in accordance with the discipline]

Effect: preparation of survey sheets, interview