



SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY "NEOFIT RILSKI"

Faculty of Law and History

Department of Public Law Sciences

2700 Blagoevgrad, Ivan Mihaylov 66; 073 / 88 55 01; info@swu.bg; www.swu.bg

INFORMATION PACKAGE ON DOCTORAL TRAINING

SCIENTIFIC FIELD: **3. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL SCIENCES**

PROFESSIONAL FIELD: **3.6. LAW**

DOCTORAL PROGRAM: **CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE: **DOCTOR**

NQF LEVEL: **8**

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION: **RESEARCHER**

DURATION OF STUDY: **3 (THREE) OR 4 (FOUR) YEARS**

FORM OF STUDY: **FULL-TIME / PART-TIME / INDIVIDUAL STUDY**

ANNOTATION

The educational and scientific training of doctoral students in the doctoral program 'Criminal Procedure' aims primarily at developing scientists capable of generating new theoretical and applied knowledge, conducting in-depth analysis of relevant literature, correctly interpreting normative acts and evaluating their practical application, thereby contributing effectively to the improvement of criminal justice.

Developing the ability of doctoral students to study the subject matter of criminal procedure requires profound knowledge, correct orientation in current scholarly information and judicial practice, as well as the ability to conduct comparative analysis with foreign legislation.

Doctoral students in Criminal Procedure are trained in the legally established forms of doctoral studies: full-time, part-time, and individual study.

The training includes mandatory and elective courses, approved in the general curriculum of the doctoral program and specified in individual study plans.

During their training, doctoral students undertake the following activities:

- Scientific research, including participation in research projects;
- Attendance and participation in courses (lectures, seminars, etc.);
- Teaching and/or expert activities, participation in scientific forums (national and/or international);
- Participation in administrative and academic life of the department;
- Passing examinations specified in the individual study plan;
- Preparation and defense of a doctoral dissertation.

In accordance with the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria, doctoral students in Criminal Procedure:

- Master the methodology of scientific research, academic research techniques, and methods of teaching legal disciplines;
- Acquire highly qualified scientific, linguistic, computer, and internet-based skills, aimed at ensuring personal informational awareness and facilitating professional contacts with scholars and experts domestically and abroad;
- Develop informed and well-reasoned opinions on complex issues in criminal procedural science and criminal justice;
- Present their ideas and conclusions competently, clearly, and persuasively to specialists and non-specialists;
- Conduct scientific and applied research at a high level, contributing to the development of criminal procedural science and practice.

SECTION I.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES – THEORETICAL TRAINING

I. Mandatory Courses

Doctoral students in the 'Criminal Procedure' program are required to study the following courses: Criminal Procedure, Methodology and Methods of Legal Research, English Language, and Project Preparation and Management. Studying these courses is an essential part of doctoral training, as the acquired knowledge and skills are crucial for professional development.

Preparation includes independent work, attending lectures and seminars, meetings with practitioners, visits to specialized judicial institutions, etc. Each course concludes with an examination before a committee of faculty members, including the doctoral supervisor. Exam results are reported to the Department of Public Law Sciences and included in the individual study plan records.

II. Elective Courses

Doctoral students choose one of the following elective courses: Criminal Law, Criminalistics, Human Rights Protection, Alternative Dispute Resolution, International Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters, Victimology, and Ethics of Scientific Research. Preparation includes independent work, lectures and seminars, meetings with practitioners, visits to judicial institutions, etc.

Each course concludes with an examination before a faculty committee, including the doctoral supervisor. Results are reported and recorded in the individual study plan.

Teaching methods, assessment, and language of instruction

The doctoral training is fully aligned with national legislation and the Internal Rules for Academic Staff Development at South-West University 'Neofit Rilski'. Training is conducted through lectures, seminars, and independent study. Instruction is in Bulgarian.

Faculty members provide detailed and up-to-date information on course content, relevant legislation, and literature; discuss questions arising during independent work; and participate in discussing and resolving practical cases. Doctoral students are expected to deepen their theoretical and practical knowledge of the subject matter.

SECTION II. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

1. Core research activities related to the preparation of the dissertation include:

- Formulation of the topic, subject, objectives, and tasks of the research;
- Bibliographic review and systematization of literature, normative, and internet-based sources;
- Development of a conceptual project and presentation of a research thesis;

- Selection and justification of research methodology and methods;
- Presentation of a research concept and tools;
- Description and systematization of existing studies in the dissertation field;
- Preparation and publication of reports, articles, studies, etc.;
- Participation in research projects;
- Discussion of the dissertation project at two stages.

2. Doctoral students also undertake **teaching and methodological activities** – conducting seminars, grading coursework, reviewing theses, etc., gaining teaching and assessment skills.

3. The final stage of the doctoral training includes **introduction to the procedure for defending the dissertation** before a scientific jury, in accordance with Bulgarian law and internal university regulations.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

ECTS Credits: 10

Hours: 90 lectures / 210 seminars

Assessment: Exam (written)

Status: Mandatory

Department: Public Law Sciences, Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Prof. Dr. Veselin Vuchkov,

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavel Smolichki

Annotation:

Criminal Procedure is a fundamental course within the doctoral program. The course covers criminal procedural law as an independent branch of public law, including all theoretical, scientific, and applied issues, principles of the criminal procedural system, status of participants, legal relations in criminal proceedings, evidence law, and procedural stages.

METHODOLOGY AND METHODS OF LEGAL RESEARCH

ECTS Credits: 5

Hours: 45 lectures / 105 seminars

Assessment: Exam (written)

Status: Mandatory

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manol Stanin

Annotation: The course introduces the methodology and methods of scientific research and

information support, aiming to provide doctoral students with structured approaches to advanced research.

Project Preparation and Management

ECTS credits: 5
hours

Total workload: 15 academic/135 self-preparation

Form of assessment: Examination

Academic discipline status: Compulsory

Exam type: Written

Department: Finance and Accounting

Faculty: Faculty of Economics

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Ivan Todorov, PhD

Annotation:

The academic discipline "Project Preparation and Management" introduces PhD students to the main aspects of project development, which form the basis for the organization and management of projects when applying for European Union programs.

The aim of the academic discipline "Project Preparation and Management" is for PhD students to gain in-depth knowledge of effective project development, the management process involved in their creation and implementation, and the preparation of a project budget.

The main tasks to be addressed in the implementation of the curriculum are:

1. Acquiring theoretical knowledge about the essence, nature, content, and role of projects for the development of the organization's activities.
2. Acquiring skills for reading and interpreting the regulatory documents that are an integral part of the development of a project proposal.
3. Acquiring skills for completing the main documents used when submitting a project proposal.
4. Becoming familiar with the organization of project implementation, its monitoring and control, reporting, and evaluation.

English Language

ECTS credits: 5
hours

Total workload: 60 academic/90 self-preparation

Form of assessment: Examination

Academic discipline status: Compulsory

Exam type: Written

Department: Department of German and Romance Studies

Faculty: Faculty of Philology

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Dafina Kostadinova, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Sakareva, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Yana Chankova, PhD

Annotation:

The course **aims** to provide practical training in English, focusing on the acquisition of basic vocabulary and grammar at lower levels and the improvement and expansion of knowledge and language proficiency at higher levels.

The training is based on an integrative approach, in which the acquisition of new knowledge and skills by PhD students is based on the development of the four basic types of

skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Special emphasis is placed on building speaking and listening skills, as well as on mastering the basic principles of constructing academic texts in English and the skills of preparing presentations, CVs, abstracts, and articles in English.

The English language course for PhD students must include the following modules: practical grammar, vocabulary, writing exercises, reading and listening comprehension, and conversation. Depending on the specific needs of students from different faculties and specialties, specialized vocabulary for the field is also introduced, as well as exercises in specialized and general translation.

The aim of the course is to provide opportunities for developing knowledge and skills for written and oral communication in English in an intercultural scientific environment; develop strategies for successful intercultural communication in various fields of knowledge, as well as build skills for self-improvement and self-study in English in the long term.

The expected results are related to the development and acquisition of knowledge and skills by PhD students in:

- understanding and interpreting scientific texts in English;
- skills for creating scientific texts in English;
- mastering methods for formulating and analyzing problems in English;
- acquiring skills for the practical development of oral presentations in English;
- achieving personal communicative effectiveness in English in an intercultural environment;
- paraphrasing and summarizing scientific texts.

CRIMINAL LAW (Elective)

ECTS Credits: 4

Hours: 45 lectures / 75 seminars

Assessment: Exam (written)

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Krusteva

Annotation: The course provides deep knowledge of criminal law, including general and specific parts, and comparative legal insights.

CRIMINALISTICS (Elective)

ECTS Credits: 4

Hours: 45 lectures / 75 seminars

Assessment: Exam (written)

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Kostadin Bobev

Annotation: The course covers forensic methods and techniques for crime investigation and prevention, including comparative perspectives.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION (Elective)

ECTS Credits: 4
Hours: 45 lectures / 75 seminars
Assessment: Exam (written)
Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Gabriela Belova

Annotation: Covers fundamental human rights, legal protection mechanisms, and national and international law frameworks.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (Elective)

ECTS Credits: 4
Hours: 45 lectures / 75 seminars
Assessment: Exam (written)
Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Gabriela Belova

Annotation: Provides knowledge of alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediation, conciliation, arbitration, and current trends.

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS (Elective)

ECTS Credits: 4
Hours: 45 lectures / 75 seminars
Assessment: Exam (written)
Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nadezhda Krusteva

Annotation: Covers principles, legal institutions, competent procedural authorities, international organizations, and cross-border legal assistance in criminal matters.

VICTIMOLOGY (Elective)

ECTS Credits: 4
Hours: 45 lectures / 75 seminars
Assessment: Exam (written)
Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Kostadin Bobev

Annotation: Studies the victim as a social phenomenon, legal protection mechanisms, and international anti-victimization policies.

ETHICS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (Elective)

ECTS Credits: 4

Hours: 45 lectures / 75 seminars

Assessment: Exam (written)

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manol Stanin

Annotation: Focuses on ethical issues in scientific research, emphasizing societal impact and adherence to national and international ethical standards.