

PhD programme

“International Law and International Relations”

Professional field:

3.6 “Law”

Academic major:

“International Law and International Relations”

Field of higher education:

3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Faculty:

Faculty of Law and History

Department:

International Law and International Relations

Short annotation:

Training of PhD students in scientific specialty "International Law and International Relations" Law and History Faculty of the Southwestern University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad meets the current trends in the development of science in the field of a PhD programme. Regarding this a few basic goals and tasks related to the training program are formulated:

- 1) Priority objective in the preparation of cadres is acquiring educational and scientific degree "doctor";
- 2) Addressing the specific needs of the Law and History Faculty, in particular the Department of "International Law and International Relations" for development of personnel through training of qualified cadres;
- 3) Topicality of the programmes based in the scientific subject;
- 4) Preparation of cadres who will be competitive in the application of theoretical knowledge and practical skills in specialized areas;
- 5) Stimulating scientific researches (as a team and individually);
- 6) Assimilation of knowledge, skills and experience needed to work in a dynamic environment which defines international law and international relations;

- 7) High quality of the PhD programmes, complemented with multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary programmes;
- 8) Competitiveness of the PhD programme at European and international level, thereby contributing to strengthening and enhancing the prestige of the institution;
- 9) Investing in the development of the young researcher and his/her realization on the labor market as a highly professional;
- 10) Maintenance and development of advanced knowledge base by transferring both existing and by exploring new knowledge, experience and skills.

The main priority areas set out in the PhD programme in "International Law and International Relations", aim at upgrading the already received knowledge in the field, as well as acquisition and approval of the necessary educational and scientific experience among the students. These priorities cover scientific and theoretical accumulation of teaching experience and methodological skills, language training and training in the field of information technologies.

Scientific and theoretical training of PhD students is essential with regard not only to the scientific significance of their dissertations, but also their subsequent realization in the scientific field. The systematic and thorough theoretical training of PhD students enables them to acquire knowledge and skills necessary to perform original works in a relevant scientific problem and themes.

Directly related to the scientific and theoretical training of PhD students is the accumulation of teaching experience and methodological skills. The process of preparation of PhD students in this priority area starts from the second year of their training and includes conducting seminars with students majoring in "Law", "Public Administration", "International Relations" and "European Studies". This is possible only after the PhD students have completed the necessary preparation of the course in a certain discipline and have successfully passed the exams set in the individual plan. Conducting regular meetings of PhD students with their tutors, consultations with the holders of the various disciplines involved as a minimum in their individual plans, as well as visiting specialized seminars and conferences in this area are the foundation on which any methodological skills and possibilities are based on.

Good foreign language skills are set as a compulsory requirement when applying for admission of PhD on "International Law and International Relations". For a scientific field like public international law, law of international treaties, diplomatic and consular law, international relations, a foreign language is a necessity, especially in the development of a dissertation in order to research and analyze international experience, the availability of specialized researches and bibliography, as well as the traditions and scientific achievements in this field.

The work with PhD students in the Department of "International Law and International Relations" aims at achieving a complex, thorough and comprehensive preparation meeting all the criteria for acquiring educational and scientific degree "doctor".

Competencies of those who have completed the programme:

The programme on "International Law and International Relations" is consistent with the new opportunities associated with mastering the knowledge and skills of PhD students and is oriented towards the adoption of foreign practices and experiences. As a result, they are facing a number of options for participation in specialized courses and trainings organized and intended to raise their qualification skills. PhD education in the specialty provides opportunities for specializations in Bulgaria and abroad, through various educational programmes.

PhD programme in international law and international relations is characterized by its specificity. In the conditions of a serious competitive environment in Bulgaria the Department and faculty strive to protect their ambitions with dignity of one of the most fundamental units in the training of specialists in international law and international relations. Therefore, a lot of effort is made to maintain a high level of PhD education in this area.

The PhD students who successfully complete the programme, manage to find realization, using the acquired research skills in the private, public and NGO sector as teachers and researchers at universities and other research institutes in Bulgaria and abroad, senior experts in public administration, international organizations and their institutions, as well as highly skilled analysts at NGOs.

Successful career and user satisfaction of cadres is an indicator of the growth and development of the certified graduate of South-West University based on personal qualities, as well as the knowledge and skills he has acquired during his preparation.

Curriculum (contains discipline, form of assessment, teacher)

Scientific knowledge and practical skills acquired by PhD students during their studies in the PhD programme in "International Law and International Relations" include basic concepts in the field of international law and international relations. The theoretical knowledge includes basic courses such as:

- Public International Law;
- History of International Relations;
- Theory of Foreign Policy;
- Diplomatic and Consular Law;
- Law of International Treaties;

- International Organizations;
- European Union Law;
- Foreign Policy of Bulgaria;
- Foreign Policy of the United States and Europe.

PhD students should have common knowledge in the field of international law and international relations, European Union law, the law of international treaties as well as extensive knowledge in the field of their dissertation they develop, allowing them to use all the necessary methods for their research (logical, historical, comparative, evolutive, inductive, deductive, etc.).

The practical training includes the following activities:

- Conduct of seminar classes
- active participation of PhD students in meetings related to the discussion of controversial issues with theoretical and practical nature;
- participation of PhD students in the preparation of reports and conduct of scientific sessions, forums, discussions and conferences;
- conducting research in law schools, diplomatic academies and other specialized institutions in neighboring European and other countries in preparation for writing the dissertation.

Assessment of the knowledge and abilities of PhD students is the fulfillment of the requirements mentioned in the individual PhD curriculum under which PhD students take exams in theoretical law issues and foreign language. Examinations are given before a committee of three professors and associate professors. The individual curriculum is drawn up by the PhD student under the guidance of his tutor and submitted for discussion on a Department Council of the Department of "International Law and International Relations" and then is approved by the Faculty Council of the Law and History Faculty.

The PhD education of PhD students in "International law and international relations" includes the following activities;

1. research (artistic and creative) activities, including participation in research projects;
2. visit and participation in training courses (lectures, seminars, tutorials, etc.);
3. teaching and / or expert activities, participation in scientific conferences (national and / or international);
4. exams provided in the individual curriculum;
5. defense of doctoral dissertation.

Graduation:

- Taking Exams included in the individual PhD curriculum;
- Defense of doctoral dissertation.