

PhD programme: "Criminal Process"

Professional field: 3.6 "Law"

Academic major: Criminal Process

Field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Department: Public law

Annotation:

Educational and scientific preparation of PhD students in the field of criminal proceedings is the main objective of scientists, able to generate new theoretical knowledge, to analyze legislations, to assess their practical application and to participate in improvement of criminal justice.

One of the main tasks in the training process is related to practical importance and application of the scientific works of PhD students. The building of skills of doctoral students to examine matters of criminal process requires thorough knowledge, correct orientation in the current research information and judicial practice and the capability to perform a comparative analysis with foreign laws.

Doctoral students in criminal process are trained in the traditional forms of doctoral studies: Regular, part-time and a self-study.

Training of PhD students in scientific specialty "Criminal Process" at 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 Public Law 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 "Criminal Process", 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" and "National Security". 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 "Criminal Process". A foreign language use 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 Public Law 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 "Criminal process" 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.

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 magistrates.

In particular, graduates of the program have:

- Ability to identify scientific issues arising from the development of Criminal Procedure Law, both in theory and in practice as a starting point for research;
- Ability to master the scientific style of presentation (oral and written) and to state their thoughts in coherent, logical and comprehensive way;
- Ability to describe and communicate their research and accurately, clearly and concisely to formulate the basic theses and their possible applications;
- To modify and create learning plans and programs in accordance with the objectives and tasks under specific teaching subjects in Criminal Procedure Law in higher education and current societal needs;
- Drawing and reading specific applications, diagrams, etc..., which illustrate, interpret and analyze the results in his study;
- Conscientiously citing foreign research work and follow the rules of scientific ethics, creatively refers to research of other scientists;
- A strict adherence to the requirements for publication of scientific articles, reports, reports, studies, etc.;
- To establish professional contacts with colleagues and scientists from different countries and to generate interest to their studies; to be involved in international scientific exchange;
- Creative and constructive acceptance of critical notes and basing on them in further scientific pursuits and research;
- To develop, improve and implement the scientific achievements of the theory in Criminal Procedure Law in judicial practice;
- Proficiency in classic and innovative methods and technologies of teaching in higher education, to addressing psychological and communicative skills necessary for the formation of a creative personality of the teacher and accordingly improve their teaching practice and skills;
- Formation of skill to detect interactions, relationships and trends in studied problems and use them in their research;

- Self-orientation in contemporary scientific problems, selecting those areas in which doctoral student should enhance.
- The training should comply with the content of their research.

Curriculum :

The training in educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the Department of "Public Law" is carried out in accordance with the requirements of doctoral programs and in compliance with the provisions and requirements of the Higher Education Act, the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria,(State Gazette No. 38 of 21.05.2010), the Regulations for application of the Law for development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the structure and activity of SWU "Neofit Rilski", The internal rules for the development of the academic staff in SWU "Neofit Rilski" and other regulations governing this process. The preparation of doctoral students is in accordance with the priorities set in the Development Strategy of the Southwestern University "Neofit Rilski", as well as the Development Strategy of the Faculty of Law and History.

In the curriculum of every PhD student is included training in special methodological and language skills, which is realized through individual work and participation in related courses and the dissertation seminars.

Each PhD student and the tutor prepare an individual learning plan, which is discussed in Department of Public Law and approval deciding upon approval by Faculty Council.

Theoretical training includes basic disciplines such as:

1. Criminal proceedings
2. Criminal law
3. Criminalistics
4. Human rights protection
5. Alternative dispute resolution
6. International legal cooperation in criminal matters
7. Victimology
8. Criminal - executive law
9. Criminology, etc.

In addition, foreign language training and project preparation and management are provided.

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, judiciary and other specialized institutions in neighbouring European and other countries in preparation for writing the dissertation.

Assessment of the knowledge and abilities of PhD students is the fulfilment 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 education of PhD students in “Criminal Process” includes the following activities:

1. research 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. defence of doctoral dissertation.

Graduation:

- Taking exams included in the individual PhD curriculum;
- Defence of doctoral dissertation