

Information about the Doctoral Programme in Legal Studies

1. Academic program information

Name of the programme: doctoral programme in **legal studies** is offered by the University of Ljubljana's **Faculty of Law** (address: Poljanski nasip 2, SI-1000 Ljubljana).

Mode of study: full-time

According to the basic aim of the Bologna Reform Programme the doctoral programme in legal studies is formed as a unified three year doctoral study, within which every student chooses one of the following modules (orientations):

- **Civil law**
- **Labour law and social security law**
- **Economic analysis of law**
- **European law**
- **Commercial law**
- **Criminal law**
- **Criminology**
- **International law**
- **Legal history**
- **Roman law**
- **Theory of the state and law**
- **Administrative law**
- **Constitutional Law**

Number of ECTS credits: **180**. According to the Bologna educational scheme the program represents the third cycle of education.

Students that fulfil all of the obligations required by this academic program receive the title **PhD** (*doktor znanosti*).

2. Basic goals of the program and general skills acquired in the program

The basic goal of the doctoral program is to offer specialized studies to graduates with a Bologna second-cycle (master's) degree that wish to learn more about their selected area of expertise. The emphasis is thus on individual doctoral students' research. The doctoral program in legal studies has traditionally been oriented toward theoretical exploration of law and analysis of legislation and case law, and students gain practical experience by taking the State Bar Examination. As mentioned above, the goal of the doctoral program is primarily to study a selected legal issue, reference or institute in greater depth, in which the selected issues can also be studied using an interdisciplinary approach – that is, from the perspective of other social sciences or even technical disciplines – if they involve complex topics and issues. The final result of the doctoral program is the doctoral dissertation, which must possess all the properties of a scholarly monograph in terms of methods, approaches, and content.

With regard to the program's basic goals, the general skills acquired include the following:

- Specialized legal expertise in the selected doctoral dissertation topic;
- In-depth theoretical study of areas connected with the selected doctoral dissertation topic;
- Encouraging the system of values underlying all the processes of legal reasoning;
- Using various research methods;
- Capacity to use various interpretative methods to interpret legal texts;
- Using legal syllogism and argumentation;
- Capacity for efficient oral and written expression and communication regarding legal issues;
- Capacity to conduct basic research and find legal sources;
- Encouraging socially responsible thinking and a critical attitude towards social developments;
- Promoting the highest ethical standards of the legal profession.

3. Admission requirements and selection criteria for limited enrolment

Anyone that has completed the following is eligible to enrol in the doctoral program:

- a) A second-cycle degree program (Bologna master's degree),
- b) A university undergraduate program adopted before 11 June 2004,
- c) A higher professional degree program (adopted before 11 June 2004) and a specialization program. These students must meet the academic requirements of a maximum of 35 ECTS credits in the second-cycle (master's) degree program in legal studies before enrolment. The academic requirements (selection of courses) for these students are defined by the faculty's Academic Affairs Committee, which takes into account the students' area of expertise (i.e., the type of program they have completed);
- d) An academic program for professions governed by EU directives or any other uniform master's program worth 300 ECTS credits.

In selecting students for enrolment, the following shall be taken into account:

- Second-cycle (master's) degree performance (grade-point average and master's thesis grade): 30%,
- Elective (oral) exam performance: 70%.

Based on the number of suitable students and supervisors, the committee responsible for doctoral studies defines the limitation of enrolment slots for individual module.

Students that have completed a master's program and received a master's degree are entitled to up to 60 ECTS credits for the first year of the doctoral program and can enrol in the second year if they prepare and submit a dissertation proposal. Students that were enrolled in a master's program but did not complete it by receiving a master's degree can transfer credits in place of the courses in the first year of doctoral studies. Credit transfers are decided upon by the doctoral studies committee.

4. Criteria for recognizing expertise and skills acquired before enrolment in this program

Students' expertise and skills acquired in various forms of non-formal education before enrolling in the doctoral program can be **recognized** by the faculty. In doing so, the Faculty of Law shall take into account the Rules on the Procedure and Criteria for Recognizing Informally Acquired Expertise and Skills, adopted by the University of Ljubljana.

5. Conditions for advancing to the next year

In order to advance from the first to the second year of the doctoral program, students must collect at least 45 ECTS credits and submit a doctoral dissertation proposal.

In order to advance from the second to the third year of the doctoral program, students must fulfil all of the first-year requirements in the amount of 60 ECTS credits, collect 5 ECTS credits in the first doctoral seminar, and receive approval of their doctoral dissertation topic from the Senate of the University of Ljubljana.

Students who have not completed all of the study requirements for the enrollment in the next year, may repeat a year once during the course of the studies.

Repeating the first year of the doctoral program can be approved to students who have completed study obligations to the extent of at least 25 ECTS credits.

In order to repeat the second year of the doctoral program, students must fulfil all of the first-year requirements.

6. Conditions for completing the program

In order to complete the doctoral program in legal studies, students must pass all of the exams in obligatory and optional subjects, complete both doctoral seminars, publish at least one scholarly article in a Slovenian or foreign journal, and pass their dissertation defence, thus collecting a total of 180 ECTS credits.

An evaluation whether the publication meets the criteria of a scholarly article is made by the committee responsible for doctoral studies.

The doctoral dissertation is an independent work written by a student that writes it under the guidance of a qualified supervisor holding a faculty rank and defends it orally after receiving a passing grade.

7. Transfers between academic programs

Students enrolled in a third-cycle (doctoral) program can transfer to this doctoral program. Transfer of credits is decided upon by the committee responsible for doctoral studies based on the student's application. In its decision, the committee also decides whether there are any deficiencies in coursework.

8. Grading methods

Examination and grading methods are defined in each teaching unit's curriculum. Grading of exams and other forms of examination is performed using a 1–10 grading scale: 6–10 (pass) and 1–5 (fail). The relevant provisions of the Statute of the University of Ljubljana and the Rules of the Faculty of Law are considered.

The doctoral seminar is graded with the grade "pass" or "fail."

The doctoral dissertation is graded with the following grades: "fail", "pass", and "cum laude".

9. Program course outline and planned course coordinators

The program is designed to consist of lectures, doctoral seminars and individual student research work guided and assisted by the supervisor. Already with enrolment, a student has to choose a supervisor and his optional courses. The list of doctoral program courses' coordinators, which is also the list of potential supervisors, is available at the [faculty website](#).

Classroom instruction is planned primarily for the first year. In the second and third year, the program is designed as an individual research work by a student, leading to the doctoral dissertation. In reaching this aim, a student is led and guided by the chosen supervisor.

There are also two doctoral seminars, within which a student firstly presents the disposition of his doctoral dissertation (first doctoral seminar) and later also his advancement in his research work (second doctoral seminar).

First Year

	No.	ECTS credits	ECTS credits (%)	Semester
Required obligatory subjects	1	10	16.66	First
Required module subjects	3 or 4	30	50	First and second
Optional subjects	2	10	16.66	First and second
Individual research	1	10	16.66	First and second

Second Year

	No.	ECTS credits	ECTS credits (%)	Semester
First doctoral seminar	1	5	8.33	Third
Individual research	1	55	91.67	Third and fourth

Third Year

	No.	ECTS credits	ECTS credits (%)	Semester
Second doctoral seminar	1	5	8.33	Fifth
Individual research	1	55	91.67	Fifth and sixth

According to the methodology described above, doctoral students can enrol in the following courses:

Subject	Lecturer	ECTS
Obligatory general subject for all study modules		
Theory of law and methodology of scientific work	Marijan Pavčnik	10
Obligatory subjects of the module		
Module Civil law		
Selected chapters in civil law I	Damjan Možina	10
Selected chapters in civil law II	Miha Juhart	10
Selected chapters in civil procedural law	Aleš Galič	10
Module Labour law and social security law		
Labour law	Luka Tičar	10
Social security law	Grega Strban	10

International labour and social law	Grega Strban	10
Module Economic analysis of law		
Selected chapters of commercial law I	Klemen Podobnik	10
Economics	Katarina Zajc	10
Economic analysis of law	Katarina Zajc	10
Module European law		
EU commercial and civil law	Peter Grilc	10
Legal remedies in EU law	Peter Grilc	10
European public law	Matej Accetto	10
Module Commercial law		
Selected chapters of commercial law I	Klemen Podobnik	10
Selected chapters of commercial law II	Peter Grilc	10
Selected chapters in civil procedural law	Aleš Galič	10
Module Criminal law		
Criminal procedure - national and comparative legal aspects	Katja Šugman Stubbs	10
Criminal law – national and comparative legal aspects	Matjaž Ambrož	10
Optional subject from the field of criminal law I		5
Optional subject from the field of criminal law II		5
Module Criminology		
Criminology and crime policy	Katja Filipčič	10
Criminological research	Matjaž Jager	10
Optional subject from the field of criminology I		5
Optional subject from the field of criminology II		5

Module International law

International law	Mirjam Škrk	10
International law and EU	Vasilka Sancin	10
Peaceful settlement of international disputes	Mirjam Škrk	10

Module Legal history

Theory and methods of legal history	Katja Škrubej	10
European legal history	Katja Škrubej	10
Legal history of the selected period	Katja Škrubej	10

Module Roman law

Roman property law in relation to modern laws	Janez Kranjc	10
Continuity and reception of Roman law	Marko Kambič	10
Analysis of passages of Roman legal texts	Janez Kranjc	10

Module Theory of the state and law

Sociology of law	Tilen Štajnpihler	10
Theory of state	Aleš Novak	10
Theory of law	Marijan Pavčnik	10

Module Administrative law

Public administration	Bojan Bugarič	10
Administrative law	Rajko Pirnat	10
Administrative procedure and administrative dispute	Erik Kerševan	10

Module Constitutional law

Constitutional law	Igor Kaučič	10
Comparative and European constitutional law	Franc Grad	10

Human rights law	Ciril Ribičič	5
Constitutional procedural law	Igor Kaučič	5
All modules		
First doctoral seminar	According to the selected subject	5
Second doctoral seminar	Supervisor	5
Optional subjects		
	Lecturer	
Reading glossatorial and post-glossatorial works	Janez Kranjc	5
Criminal evidence law	Katja Šugman Stubbs	5
Social construction of normality	Zoran Kanduč	5
Labour economics	Franjo Štiblar	5
The economics of social security	Mitja Čok	5
European civil procedural law	Aleš Galič	5
European labour and social law	Grega Strban	5
European contract law	Damjan Možina	5
European administrative law	Bojan Bugarič	5
Economic criminal law	Vid Jakulin	5
The fundamental assumptions of the discourse on crime and punishment	Zoran Kanduč	5
Public services and EU law	Bojan Bugarič	5
Criminal law of the EU	Katja Šugman Stubbs	5
White-collar crime	Matjaž Jager	5
Criminology	Katja Filipčič	5
Local self-government	Ciril Ribičič	5

International organizations	Vasilka Sancin	5
International criminal law	Matjaž Ambrož	5
Juvenile criminal law	Katja Filipčič	5
Direct democracy	Igor Kaučič	5
Responsibility of public officials	Igor Kaučič	5
Deviance and literature	Matjaž Ambrož	5
Parliamentary law	Franc Grad	5
Legal elements in Roman literary and philosophical writings	Janez Kranjc	5
Legal aspects of enforcement of penal sanctions	Matjaž Ambrož	5
Law and biomedicine	Viktorija Žnidaršič Skubic	5
Law and sports	Peter Grilc	5
Intellectual property law	Klemen Podobnik	5
Law on civil service	Bojan Bugarič	5
The law of international sales	Damjan Možina	5
Law of treaties	Mirjam Škrk	5
Misdemeanours law	Katja Filipčič	5
Environmental law	Senko Pličanič	5
Law of regulated markets	Peter Grilc	5
Transferable securities law	Miha Juhart	5
Overview of Roman criminal law	Marko Kambič	5
Comparative civil law	Miha Juhart	5
Comparative competition law EU-USA	Klemen Podobnik	5
Comparative law – selected chapters	Aleš Novak	5

Psychoanalysis and crime	Aleš Završnik	5
Psychology and criminal law	Katja Šugman Stubbs	5
Development of public administration	Rajko Pirnat	5
Development of Roman state with basic Roman public law	Marko Kambič	5
Trends of development of EU commercial law	Peter Grilc	5
Common foreign and security policy of the EU	Vasilka Sancin	5
General principles of EU law	Matej Accetto	5
Ancient Oriental laws	Katja Škrubej	5
Ancient Greek law	Katja Škrubej	5
Education law - aspects of civil law	Barbara Novak	5
Punishment - theory and practise	Dragan Petrovec	5
Therapeutic intervention in criminology	Katja Šugman Stubbs	5
Constitutional procedural guarantees in civil proceedings	Aleš Galič	5
Constitutional revision procedure and legislative procedure	Igor Kaučič	5
Introduction to administrative science	Bojan Bugarič	5
Protection of social-economic rights	Grega Strban	5
Electoral law	Saša Zagorc	5
History of legal and political ideas	Aleš Novak	5
Crime and surveillance in the information society	Aleš Završnik	5

10. Available elective courses and student mobility

The doctoral program in legal studies provides a wide variety of elective courses. The Faculty of Law has established contacts with a number of universities abroad and provides its students the

opportunity to fulfil part of their academic requirements abroad as part of a student exchange program.

Students may also fulfil part of their academic requirements at **another faculty** of the University of Ljubljana or any other university in Slovenia or abroad as part of student exchange programs.

11. Brief description of individual courses

Descriptions of all program courses are available at <http://www.pf.uni-lj.si/iii-stopnja/ucni-nacrti-7376/>.

12. Research and projects

The Faculty of Law is proud to have a long lasting tradition in scientific research. Its employees often take an active part in the process of drafting the Slovenian legislation, aiming at writing legal text on a high professional level on a basis of their in-depth and wide knowledge of certain specific areas of law. With critical scientific and professional public contributions, they strive to additionally improve legislative provisions.

More information regarding research and projects by the Faculty of Law is available at: <http://www.pf.uni-lj.si/raziskovanje-in-projekti/razvojni-projekti/>.

Consult our website!