



**SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY “NEOFIT RILSKI”**

**FACULTY OF LAW AND HISTORY**

**Department of Civil Law**

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# **INFORMATION PACKAGE OF DOCTORAL EDUCATION**

**FIELD OF STUDY: 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences**

**PROFESSIONAL FIELD: 3.6. Law**

**DOCTORAL PROGRAMME: Insurance law.**

**EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE: PhD**

**NQF Level: 8**

**PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION: Researcher**

**DURATION OF STUDIES: 3 /three / or 4 /four/ years**

**FORM OF STUDY: Full time/Independent/Part-time**

## ANNOTATION

The educational and scientific training of doctoral students in the field of Insurance Law is primarily aimed at developing scholars capable of generating new theoretical knowledge, conducting in-depth analysis of legal norms, assessing their practical application, and contributing to the improvement of the implementation of legal rules related to the provision of insurance services.

One of the key objectives of the training process is to ensure the practical relevance and applicability of the doctoral students' research work. The gradual development of skills enabling doctoral candidates to analytically explore the subject matter of insurance law and legal relations requires a profound understanding of the field, accurate orientation within current scholarly information and case law, and the ability to carry out comparative analyses with foreign legal systems.

Doctoral students in **Insurance Law** are trained in the traditional forms of doctoral study — full-time, part-time, and independent.

The training of doctoral students is implemented through the courses prescribed in the curriculum of the doctoral programme in *Insurance Law* and specified in the individual study plans. These include compulsory, elective, and optional courses. In addition to the compulsory courses in *Insurance Law* and a *foreign language*, doctoral candidates may choose from courses such as *Civil Law*, *Law of Obligations*, *Commercial Transactions and Insolvency*, *Risk Management and Internal Control in Insurance*. Optionally, they may attend courses in *Comparative Civil and Commercial Law*.

The training of doctoral students includes the following activities:

1. Research activities, including participation in scientific projects;
2. Attendance and participation in academic courses (lectures, seminars, etc.);
3. Teaching and/or expert activities, participation in scientific forums (national and/or international);
4. Examinations provided for in the individual study plan;
5. Defence of a doctoral dissertation.

In the course of their studies, doctoral students in *Insurance Law*, in accordance with the **National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria**,:

- Acquire knowledge of research methodology and its application to specific scientific and practical problems;
- Develop competence for a detailed understanding of techniques used in scientific research and complex academic studies;
- Gain skills in the use of academic research tools;
- Develop abilities to identify, extract, and analyse theoretical and practical problems and to make informed judgments on complex issues in the field of insurance law, even in the absence of complete data, as well as to present their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to both specialists and non-specialists;

- Acquire skills for applying a scientific approach and using appropriate research instruments in their scholarly work;
- Gain knowledge of the methodology of teaching legal disciplines, acquire specialised skills for working with diverse information sources, and develop a high level of computer and language proficiency to ensure personal information literacy and facilitate professional communication with scholars from other countries;
- Acquire specialised and systematic knowledge enabling critical analysis and synthesis of new ideas;
- Develop the ability to expand and update existing knowledge in the field of insurance law, as well as to explore its interaction with other legal disciplines.

## *SECTION I*

### *EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY*

#### *(Theoretical Training of Doctoral Students in Insurance Law)*

##### **I. Compulsory Courses**

Doctoral students are required to study in depth the following courses: Insurance Law, Methodology and Methods of Legal Research, English Language, and Project Preparation and Management. The doctoral training includes independent study, attendance at lectures and seminars, and other related activities.

Completion of the training is by examination before a committee, including the doctoral supervisor, in accordance with the individual study plan. The examination grade is reported to the Department of Civil Law and recorded in the documentation reflecting the implementation of the doctoral student's individual study plan.

##### **II. Elective Courses**

During their studies, doctoral students in Insurance Law may choose one of the following courses: Civil Law, Law of Obligations, Commercial Transactions and Insolvency (Commercial Law, Part II), Risk Management and Internal Control in Insurance, Comparative Civil and Commercial Law, or Ethics of Scientific Research.

The preparation of doctoral students in these courses includes independent study, attendance at lectures, court proceedings, seminars, and other activities. Each course concludes with an examination before the lecturer and/or the doctoral supervisor, and the grade obtained is recorded in the documentation reflecting the implementation of the doctoral student's individual study plan.

Methods of Teaching and Assessment, and Language of Instruction:

The training fully complies with the applicable legislation and the Internal Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at South-West University “Neofit Rilski”. Instruction is carried out through lectures and independent study by doctoral students. The lecturer provides explanations regarding the subject matter of the discipline, the relevant legal framework, the required literature, and any questions arising during independent study.

The language of instruction is Bulgarian.

**SECTION II**  
**RESEARCH ACTIVITY**  
*(Core Activities of Doctoral Students Related to the Preparation of the Dissertation  
and to Their Scientific Development)*

During their scientific training and the preparation of their dissertation, doctoral students in *Insurance Law* shall:

1. Participate in seminar sessions and discuss didactic issues;
2. Prepare reports (on topics related to or beyond the dissertation theme but within the scope of the doctoral programme) for scientific events, discussions, conferences, and round tables;
3. Take part in the development and implementation of research projects;
4. Participate in meetings of the Department of Civil Law concerning theoretical and practical issues under discussion;
5. Conduct research in the course of preparing their dissertation;
6. Regularly study insurance case law and analyse relevant judicial acts;
7. Keep abreast of new trends and developments in the administration of justice and EU law, as well as of the dynamics of changes in domestic legislation;
8. Analyse the necessity and feasibility of amendments to national legislation.

The main research activities that form part of the preparation of the dissertation include:

- Formulating the research problem and developing and presenting a scientific thesis;
- Conducting a literature review and systematising the sources;
- Describing and organising prior research in the field of the dissertation topic;
- Defining the aims and objectives of the research, selecting the appropriate approach and methodology;
- Developing a rationale for the chosen research methods and techniques;
- Preparing a conceptual outline of the dissertation;
- Presenting and discussing the dissertation project (in two stages);
- Presenting a research concept and instruments;

- Carrying out research activities, including writing and publishing a study, article, or scientific paper;
- Participating in research projects.

Doctoral students in *Insurance Law* will also engage in teaching and methodological activities — leading seminar sessions, reviewing coursework, preparing evaluations of diploma theses, and other related tasks. Through these activities, doctoral students acquire teaching methods and techniques.

The final stage of the doctoral students' scientific training involves their preparation for the **procedure of defending the dissertation** before a scientific jury, in accordance with the provisions of the *Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria*, its Implementing Regulations, and the *Internal Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff* at South-West University "Neofit Rilski."

### **Insurance Law**

**ECTS credits:** 5

**Workload:** 45 lecture hours / 105 self-study hours

**Form of assessment:** Examination

**Course status:** Compulsory

**Type of exam:** Written / oral

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Civil Law Sciences**

**Faculty of Law and History**

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Veselina Kanatova-Buchkova, PhD

**Department of Public Law Sciences**

**Faculty of Law and History**

### **Annotation**

The course "Insurance Law" is included as a compulsory academic discipline and aims to acquaint doctoral students with the fundamental principles of the insurance relationship, its mandatory elements, and the specific features distinguishing it from other institutions of civil and contractual law. The course also covers the state supervision exercised over insurance and reinsurance activities. Training in "Insurance Law" encompasses both civil law and public law institutions and therefore has an interdisciplinary character.

### **Methodology and Methods of Legal Research**

**ECTS credits:** 5

**Workload:** 45 lecture hours / 105 self-study hours

**Form of assessment:** Examination

**Course status:** Compulsory

**Type of exam:** Written

**Methodological guidance:****Department of Civil Law Sciences****Faculty of Law and History****Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD**Annotation**

The curriculum is developed through an introduction to the foundations of the methodology and methods of scientific research, as well as the information support used in conducting research. The discipline aims to provide doctoral students with opportunities for more in-depth, focused, and well-structured scholarly investigations. It presents the stages of research activity and supports better organisation of the research process.

**Project Preparation and Management****ECTS credits:** 5**Form of assessment:** Examination**Type of exam:** Written**Methodological guidance:****Department of Civil Law Sciences****Faculty of Law and History****Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Ivan Todorov, PhD**Department of Finance and Accounting****Faculty of Economics****Workload:** 45 lecture hours / 105 self-study hours**Course status:** Compulsory**Annotation**

The course “Project Preparation and Management” introduces doctoral students to the key aspects of project development, which form the basis for organising and managing projects under the European Union programmes. The aim of the discipline is for doctoral students to acquire in-depth knowledge of the effective development of projects, the management process involved in their creation and implementation, as well as the preparation of project budgets.

**English Language****ECTS credits:** 5**Form of assessment:** Examination**Type of exam:** Written / oral**Methodological guidance:****Department of Civil Law Sciences****Faculty of Law and History****Lecturers:**

Assoc. Prof. Dafina Kostadinova, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Ivanka Sakareva, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Yana Chankova, PhD

**Department of Germanic and Romance Studies****Faculty of Philology****Workload:** 60 lecture hours / 90 self-study hours**Course status:** Compulsory

### **Annotation**

The discipline aims to provide practical training in English for doctoral students, focusing on the acquisition of fundamental knowledge of vocabulary and grammar at the lower levels, and on the improvement, expansion, and advancement of language proficiency at the higher levels. The English Language course for doctoral students necessarily includes the following modules: practical grammar, vocabulary, written exercises, reading and listening comprehension, and conversation. Depending on the specific needs of learners from different faculties and specialisations, the course also introduces field-specific vocabulary and exercises in specialised and general translation.

### **Ethics of Scientific Research**

**ECTS credits: 4**

**Workload: 45 lecture hours / 75 self-study hours**

**Form of assessment: Examination**

**Course status: Elective**

**Type of exam: Written**

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Civil Law Sciences**

**Faculty of Law and History**

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

### **Annotation**

The discipline examines ethical issues in relation to the development of scientific research activity in modern society. It emphasises the importance of ethical rules in research, focusing on how scientific progress can contribute to social development. The aim of the course is for doctoral students to recognise the significance of ethical norms in conducting scientific research and to analyse and explore ways of solving practical problems through both scientific and ethical approaches. The course also places emphasis on the ethical elements present in the current national and supranational legal framework.

### **Civil law**

**ECTS credits: 4**

**Workload: 45 lecture hours / 75 self-study hours**

**Form of assessment: Examination**

**Course status: Elective**

**Type of exam: Written / oral**

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Civil Law Sciences**

**Faculty of Law and History**

**Lecturers:**

**Assoc. Prof. Aleksandar Ivanov, PhD**

**Assoc. Prof. Raya Ilieva, PhD**

### **Annotation**

The course is designed to provide fundamental training for doctoral students, enabling them to acquire knowledge and skills concerning the basic institutions of Civil Law. The knowledge gained in this discipline has methodological importance for all other branches of

private law. The course covers general legal categories and norms that are applied throughout other fields of private law, which have evolved through differentiation from civil law. The subject matter includes the main institutions of legal capacity, capacity to act, legal transactions, invalidity of transactions, representation, and prescription, which are foundational concepts used directly in other branches of private law..

### **Law of Obligations**

**ECTS credits: 4**

**Form of assessment: Examination**

**Type of exam: Written / oral**

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Civil Law Sciences**

**Faculty of Law and History**

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Aleksandar Ivanov, PhD

**Workload: 45 lecture hours / 75 self-study hours**

**Course status: Elective**

#### **Annotation**

The Law of Obligations, as a system of legal norms, regulates obligatory relationships, which serve the dynamics of civil turnover. The interests of private-law subjects related to the acquisition and use of material goods can be satisfied within the framework of the obligatory legal relationship as part of the mechanism of legal regulation. For this purpose, the Law of Obligations, as objective law, must rest on principles that recognise and protect these interests. In addition to the principle of freedom of contract, which is based on the autonomy of will, the Law of Obligations is also guided by the principles of good faith and fairness. The Law of Obligations regulates not only relationships concerning the dynamics of material goods — the object of an obligation may also be intangible goods. It also recognises the non-pecuniary interest of the creditor as worthy of legal protection. The diversity of the sources of obligatory relationships and the richness of their content determine the place and significance of the Law of Obligations as a science and academic discipline, which continuously develops and expands.

### **Commercial Transactions and Insolvency**

**ECTS credits: 4**

**Form of assessment: Examination**

**Type of exam: Written / oral**

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Civil Law Sciences**

**Faculty of Law and History**

**Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Aleksandar Ivanov, PhD

**Workload: 45 lecture hours / 75 self-study hours**

**Course status: Elective**

#### **Annotation**

The discipline studies the special legal norms governing equal relationships between traders in the course of their business activity, including relations with non-traders (consumers).



In this respect, it builds upon the Law of Obligations, providing knowledge of the general principles of commercial transactions, which represent deviations from the rules established in the general part of the Law of Obligations. The course also examines individual types of commercial transactions, some of which are not modifications of civil-law contracts but are contracts unknown to the Law of Obligations, including those lacking specific legal regulation, such as franchising, factoring, and distribution agreements, among others. Furthermore, the discipline covers the law and procedure of insolvency, applicable to insolvent or over-indebted traders, providing an understanding of the legal mechanisms governing insolvency proceedings.

### **Risk Management and Internal Control in Insurance**

**ECTS credits: 4**

**Workload: 45 lecture hours / 75 self-study hours**

**Form of assessment: Examination**

**Course status: Elective**

**Type of exam: Written / oral**

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Civil Law Sciences**

**Faculty of Law and History**

**Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Veselina Buchkova-Kanatova, PhD**

**Department of Public Law Sciences**

**Faculty of Law and History**

#### **Annotation**

The discipline “Risk Management and Internal Control in Insurance” focuses on the strategic management of insurance companies and the management of risk. Risks are understood as the possibility of incurring losses, and their management involves methods aimed at reducing, controlling, and financing these risks. The risk management process is continuous and evolving, with a clear distribution of responsibilities among employees involved in its administration both within and outside the insurance company. The course places particular emphasis on the specific risks faced by insurance companies and the identification of appropriate methods for effective risk management.

### **Comparative Civil and Commercial Law**

**ECTS credits: 4**

**Workload: 45 lecture hours / 75 self-study hours**

**Form of assessment: Examination**

**Course status: Elective**

**Type of exam: Written / oral**

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department of Civil Law Sciences**

**Faculty of Law and History**

**Lecturers:**

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Ivanov**

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raya Ilieva**

#### **Annotation**

The discipline “Comparative Civil and Commercial Law” examines the similarities and differences between legal systems in the fields of civil and commercial law, with a particular focus on the continental and Anglo-Saxon legal traditions. It analyses key legal institutions such

as contract and property law, commercial transactions, and corporate governance across different jurisdictions. Special attention is devoted to the impact of international trade agreements and the processes of harmonisation within the European Union. The course develops skills in comparative legal analysis, preparing doctoral students for professional engagement in international legal and business environments.