

ANNOTATION

The educational and scientific training of PhD students in the PhD program "Criminal Law" has as its main goal the development of scholars capable of generating new theoretical knowledge, to analyze normative acts in depth, to assess their practical application, and to participate in the improvement of criminal law regulations.

The teaching methods ensure the expansion of fundamental theoretical and professional training and the development of a dissertation on a current issue in criminal law science in accordance with high contemporary requirements and the need for a direct link between theory and the specific needs of practice. The program prepares scholars who are capable of thoroughly analyzing normative acts, assessing their practical application, and participating in the improvement of criminal law relations in their regulation.

One of the **main tasks** in the training process is related to the practical significance and application of the scientific research developed by PhD students. Gradually, PhD students develop skills and abilities to research current issues in criminal law. Making scientifically sound conclusions requires in-depth knowledge and proper orientation in current scientific information and judicial practice, as well as the ability to perform comparative analysis with foreign legislation. PhD students in Criminal Law are trained in the traditional forms – full-time, part-time, and independent study.

The training of PhD students is carried out through the compulsory and elective academic disciplines regulated in the General Study Plan of the PhD program in Criminal Law and approved in the individual work plans. In addition to the compulsory subjects "Criminal Law," "Methodology and Methods of Legal Research," "English Language," and "Project Preparation and Management," PhD students can choose between the subjects "Criminal Procedure Law," "Cooperation on Criminal Law Issues in the EU," "Criminalistics," "Human Rights Protection," "Criminal Enforcement Law," and "Ethics in Scientific Research."

The training of PhD students includes the following **activities**:

1. Scientific research, including participation in scientific research projects.
2. Educational activities in individual disciplines (lectures, seminars, etc.).
3. Teaching and/or expert activities, participation in scientific forums (national and/or international).
4. Participation in the administrative activities and academic life of the educational unit.
5. Taking exams as specified in the individual work plan.
6. Development and defense of a PhD dissertation.

During the academic discipline of their studies, PhD students in Criminal Law, in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria:

- master the methodology of scientific research and its application through the prism of a specific scientific and practical problem;
- build competence for a detailed understanding of the methods applied to scientific research and complex academic studies;
- develop skills for using scientific apparatus;
- develop skills for searching, identifying, and analyzing scientific and practical problems and skills for formulating informed judgments on complex issues in the field of criminal law, as well as presenting their ideas and conclusions clearly and reasonably to specialists and non-specialists;

- develop skills for applying a scientific approach and using scientific tools in research work;
- acquire knowledge of teaching methods for legal disciplines, develop special knowledge and skills for working with various information sources, and acquire high computer literacy and language training, aimed at ensuring personal information awareness and facilitating professional contacts with scientists and teachers from other countries;
- acquire specialized and systematic knowledge for critical analysis and synthesis of new ideas;
- develop the ability to expand and modify existing knowledge in the field of criminal law, as well as its interaction with other branches of law.

SECTION I.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(THEORETICAL TRAINING OF PHD STUDENTS IN CRIMINAL LAW)

I. Compulsory Academic disciplines

PhD students in Criminal Law are required to study in depth the subjects "Criminal Law", "Methodology and Methods of Legal Research", "English Language" and "Project Preparation and Management". The training of PhD students in these subjects includes independent study, attending lectures and seminars, and other activities. The subjects are completed by taking an exam before the lecturer or a committee with the participation of the academic supervisor.

The study of the academic discipline "Criminal Law" is an absolutely necessary part of the professional training of PhD students, and the knowledge acquired in this field is useful for all lawyers, both in theory and in practice.

The exam grade is reported to the Council of the Department of Public Law Sciences and is included in the reporting documents on the implementation of the PhD student's individual work plan.

II. Elective Academic disciplines

During their studies, PhD students in Criminal Law can choose one of the following subjects: Criminal Procedure Law, Cooperation on Criminal Law Issues in the EU, "Criminalistics," "Human Rights Protection," "Criminal Enforcement Law," and "Research Ethics." The training of PhD students in these subjects includes independent study, attending lectures and seminars, and other activities. The academic discipline is completed with an exam before a commission with the participation of the scientific supervisor in accordance with the individual work plan, and the exam grade is reported to the council of the Department of Public Law Sciences and included in the reporting documents on the implementation of the PhD student's individual work plan.

Teaching and assessment methods and language of instruction:

The training is fully compliant with the applicable legislation and the Internal Rules for the Development of Academic Staff at South-West University "Neofit Rilski." The training is carried out through lectures and independent preparation by the PhD students. The lecturer provides explanations to PhD students on the subject matter of the discipline being studied, the regulatory framework, the literature required for preparation, questions arising in the academic discipline of

independent work related to the subject matter being studied, and the discussion and resolution of practical cases.

The language of instruction is Bulgarian.

During their training, PhD students should deepen their theoretical and practical knowledge of the subjects studied.

SECTION II.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

(MAIN ACTIVITIES OF PHD STUDENTS IN PREPARATION OF THE DISSERTATION AND SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT)

1. **The main research activities** that are part of the preparation of the dissertation are:
 - formulating the research problem and developing and presenting a scientific thesis;
 - conducting a bibliographic review and systematizing the sources;
 - describing and systematizing previous research in the field of the dissertation topic;
 - setting research goals and objectives. Selecting an approach for conducting the research and the methodology to be used;
 - developing a justification for the selected methods and methodologies for conducting the research;
 - developing a conceptual draft of the dissertation;
 - discussing the dissertation draft – two stages;
 - presenting the research concept and tools;
 - research activity – preparing and publishing a study, article, or scientific paper;
 - participation in scientific research projects.
2. PhD students in Criminal Law may also carry out **teaching and pedagogical activities** – conducting seminars, checking academic discipline work, preparing reviews of theses, etc. In the academic discipline of these activities, PhD students learn methods and techniques for teaching and assessing exam papers.
3. **The final part** of the PhD students' scientific training is an introduction to the procedures for defending their dissertation before a scientific jury in Criminal Law and preparation for the defense.

Criminal Law

ECTS credits: 10

Form of assessment: Examination

Exam type: Written

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Nadezhda Krasteva, PhD

Total workload: 90 academic/210 self-preparation hours

Academic discipline status: Compulsory

Assoc. Prof. Yuliana Mateeva, PhD

Annotation:

The academic discipline "Criminal Law" is a core and compulsory subject for PhD students enrolled in the PhD program in Criminal Law.

The curriculum follows the structure of criminal law science. It consists of a general and a specific part. The general part clarifies issues related to the main categories and institutions such as: crime, punishment, guilt, stages, complicity, etc. On this basis, the specific part further clarifies the different types of crimes.

The study of the discipline is aimed at deepening the knowledge of PhD students in the field of criminal law, which will contribute to the development of scientific research.

The aim of the academic discipline is to provide students with advanced knowledge, including comparative knowledge, of contemporary criminal law and policy. The essential functions and role of criminal law determine the importance of the discipline for the overall training of lawyers.

Expected results:

- PhD students will consolidate and improve their skills in the correct analysis and application of criminal law norms.
- PhD students will be able to fully apply the knowledge they have acquired in their scientific research.

Methodology and Methods of Legal Research

ECTS credits: 5

Form of assessment: Examination

Exam type: Written

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Total workload: 45 academic/105 self-preparation hours

Academic discipline status: Compulsory

Annotation:

The curriculum is developed by presenting the basics of scientific research methodology and methodology, as well as information provision in scientific research. The discipline aims to offer PhD students opportunities for more in-depth, targeted, and well-structured scientific research. The stages of scientific research are presented and better organization of the work process is supported.

Project Preparation and Management

ECTS credits: 5

Form of assessment: Examination

Exam type: Written

Department: Finance and Accounting

Faculty: Faculty of Economics

Total workload: 15 academic/135 self-preparation hours

Academic discipline status: Compulsory

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

Total workload: 60 academic/90 self-preparation hours

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 Procedural Law

ECTS credits: 4

Form of assessment: Examination

Exam type: Written

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Prof. Veselin Vuchkov, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Pavel Smolichki, PhD

Total workload: 45 academic/75 self-preparation hours

Academic discipline status: Elective

Annotation:

Criminal procedural law is a fundamental criminal law discipline, which is studied as an elective in the PhD program in Criminal Law. This branch of law provides the necessary regulatory framework and is important both for the conduct and assessment of procedural and investigative actions, as well as for scientific research and the generation of new knowledge in the field. Special emphasis is placed on the problems of evidence law, the phases and stages of procedural development, European investigation issues, etc.

The aim of the training is to provide in-depth and specialized knowledge in the field of criminal procedural law, which will expand the competence of PhD students in relation to their independent scientific research.

Expected results:

- PhD students will improve their skills in using scientific methodology to analyze basic concepts and apply them to clarify the mechanism of regulation of public relations under criminal procedural law.
- PhD students will be able to fully apply the knowledge they have acquired in their scientific research.

Cooperation on Criminal Law Matters in the EU

ECTS credits: 4

Form of assessment: Examination

Exam type: Written

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Nadezhda Krasteva, PhD

Total workload: 45 academic/75 self-preparation hours

Academic discipline status: Elective

Annotation:

The academic discipline "Cooperation on Criminal Law Matters in the EU" covers the acts that regulate cooperation on criminal law matters between individual EU Member States.

Special attention is paid to institutions whose activities are aimed at combating and preventing serious transnational crime, such as Europol, Eurojust, the European Judicial Network, the European Anti-Fraud Office, Joint Investigation Teams, etc.

An important part of the academic discipline is to familiarize students with the nature of the individual crimes on which cooperation is envisaged – terrorism, trafficking in human beings, trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, child abuse, cybercrime, corruption, counterfeiting, racism and xenophobia, and many others.

The aim of the training is to provide in-depth and specialized knowledge in the field of cooperation on criminal law matters in the EU, which will broaden the competence of PhD students in relation to their independent research.

Expected results:

- PhD students will improve their theoretical training in relation to the acts governing cooperation on criminal law matters; the activities of individual institutions; and the crimes for which cooperation is envisaged.

- PhD students will be able to fully apply the knowledge they have acquired in their scientific work.

Criminalistics

ECTS credits: 4

Form of assessment: Examination

Exam type: Written

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Prof. Kostadin Bobev, SJD

Total workload: 45 academic/75 self-preparation hours

Academic discipline status: Elective

Annotation:

Criminalistics is a legal science that offers special knowledge about the detection and investigation of crimes, as well as their prevention, through specific criminalistic methods and techniques. It uses a wide range of its own methods and tools, as well as the knowledge of other private sciences. The academic discipline studies the main issues of criminalistics tactics, methodology, expertise, etc. The multidisciplinary nature of the knowledge offered by

criminalistics is determined by its close interconnection with other sciences and academic disciplines – criminal procedure, criminal law, forensic expertise, criminology, international legal cooperation in criminal matters, etc.

By providing a scientific basis for the direct application of the achievements of other specific sciences in the administration of justice and the protection of rights, the knowledge provided by criminology is particularly useful for the daily professional activities of judges, prosecutors, investigators, police investigators, and other competent authorities, as well as for scientific research, analysis, and summarization of investigative and judicial practice, and the generation of new knowledge.

The curriculum in "Criminalistics" **aims** to provide PhD students in the Criminal Law PhD program with in-depth and specialized knowledge in this field, which will expand their competence in relation to their independent scientific research.

Expected results:

- PhD students should improve their theoretical training in relation to the main issues of criminal investigation tactics, methodology, expertise, etc.
- PhD students should be able to fully apply the knowledge they have acquired in their scientific research.

Protection of Human Rights

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 academic/75 self-preparation hours

Form of assessment: Examination

Academic discipline status: Elective

Exam type: Written

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Prof. Gabriela Belova, DSc

Annotation:

The academic discipline "Protection of Human Rights" examines fundamental issues in human rights studies, the system of fundamental rights and freedoms, and the methods and mechanisms for their protection. Human rights are examined as a subject of domestic and international law. The aim of the academic discipline is to provide basic knowledge of the legal regulation and implementation of human rights in social practice. The knowledge acquired as a result of the training is important both for the theoretical preparation of PhD students in criminal law and for their practice and scientific research, since in the process of investigating crimes, respect for the fundamental rights of the accused, the victim, witnesses, etc. is of particular importance.

The aim of the academic discipline is for PhD students to acquire basic knowledge of the legal regulation and implementation of human rights in social practice.

Expected results:

- To have detailed knowledge of human rights and their implementation in practice.
- To be able to fully apply the acquired knowledge in their scientific research.

Criminal Enforcement Law

ECTS credits: 4

Form of assessment: Examination

Exam type: Written

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Prof. Veselin Vuchkov, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Pavel Smolichki, PhD

Total workload: 45 academic/75 self-preparation hours

Academic discipline status: Elective

Annotation:

Criminal enforcement law has made some awesome progress over the last decade. This is mostly thanks to better rules and, especially, the (relatively) new 2009 Law on the Enforcement of Sentences and Detention.

The training of researchers in the field of criminal enforcement law is a response to the need for modern penitentiary law science to contribute to finding current solutions to numerous and complex social problems through its own scientifically based and practically applicable achievements.

The aim of the training is to provide in-depth and specialized knowledge in the field of criminal enforcement law, which will expand the competence of PhD students in relation to their independent scientific research.

Expected results:

- PhD students will improve their skills, with the help of scientific methodology, to analyze basic concepts and use them to clarify the mechanism of regulation of public relations by criminal enforcement law.
- PhD students will be able to fully apply the knowledge they have acquired in their scientific research.

Ethics in Scientific Research

ECTS credits: 4

Form of assessment: Examination

Exam type: Written

Department: Public Law Sciences

Faculty: Faculty of Law and History

Lecturers:

Assoc. Prof. Manol Stanin, PhD

Total workload: 45 academic/75 self-preparation hours

Academic discipline status: Elective

Annotation:

The academic discipline examines ethical issues in relation to the development of scientific research in contemporary society. It emphasizes the importance of ethical rules in scientific research, focusing on the benefits of scientific research for social development.

The aim of the academic discipline is for PhD students to recognize the importance of ethical standards in scientific research and to analyze and explore ways of solving practical

problems through scientific and ethical means. The academic discipline also focuses on the ethical elements in the current national and supranational regulatory framework.