



SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY 'NEOFIT RILSKI'
FACULTY OF LAW AND HISTORY
Department 'Public Law Sciences'

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INFORMATION PACKAGE

SCIENTIFIC FIELD: **3. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND LEGAL SCIENCES**

PROFESSIONAL FIELD: **3.6. LAW**

DOCTORAL PROGRAM: **FINANCIAL LAW**

EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE: **DOCTOR**
LEVEL ACCORDING TO THE NQF: **8**

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION: **RESEARCHER**

DURATION OF STUDY: **3 (three) or 4 (four) years**

FORM OF STUDY: **FULL-TIME / INDEPENDENT / PART-TIME**

ANNOTATION

The education and research training of doctoral candidates in Financial Law is a comprehensive program designed to develop highly qualified researchers, lecturers, and experts. It provides them with the skills to conduct detailed analyses of financial law regulations, assess their practical uses, and actively contribute to improving financial law relations through the advancement of legal doctrine and regulatory frameworks.

The program is based on the idea that financial law is a crucial part of the public law system, monitoring the creation, distribution, and use of public financial resources. Therefore, doctoral training emphasizes not only understanding traditional theoretical ideas but also exploring modern challenges caused by European integration, the globalization of financial markets, and the digitalization of public finances.

The program's principal objective is to achieve a synthesis of **research, teaching, and practical application**. During their studies, doctoral candidates acquire knowledge and competencies in:

- interpreting and applying financial-law norms;
- Critically analyzing judicial practices in tax, budget, customs, currency, and supervisory law.
- comparing national legal frameworks with European and international standards;
- Formulating well-reasoned *de lege lata* and *de lege ferenda* conclusions.

Doctoral training is offered in traditional formats — full-time, part-time, or independent study — and includes:

- research activity, including participation in projects and publications;
- academic coursework (lectures, seminars, colloquia);
- teaching and expert work;
- participation in national and international scholarly conferences;
- examinations in accordance with the individual study plan;
- Preparation and public defense of the doctoral dissertation.

In accordance with Level 8 of the **National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria**, doctoral candidates in Financial Law:

- Master the methodology of legal research and its application to specific financial-law issues;
- Develop skills for critical and comparative-legal analysis of complex financial institutions and mechanisms;
- Acquire competencies for conducting advanced academic research and formulating original scientific contributions;
- Build the ability to present scholarly ideas and findings convincingly before diverse audiences.
- Gain expertise in teaching methods for legal disciplines and in the use of modern information technologies in research and instruction;
- Achieve a high level of linguistic and digital skills, ensuring professional communication and access to international sources.
- Demonstrate capacity to expand and reformulate existing knowledge in financial law and to explore its interaction with other branches of public and private law.

The doctoral program in Financial Law integrates theoretical and empirical training, emphasizing how financial law is essential in managing public resources efficiently and promoting sustainable development within society. Through engaging in research and teaching, doctoral candidates

prepare to become active members of the legal and academic communities, capable of making meaningful contributions to the advancement of national and European legal scholarship. The methodological supervision of the doctoral program in Financial Law is carried out by the Department of Public Law Sciences at the Faculty of Law and History of South-West University "Neofit Rilski." Full-time faculty members with scholarly and pedagogical expertise teach the relevant courses.

SECTION I. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES *(THEORETICAL TRAINING OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN FINANCIAL LAW)*

I. Compulsory Courses

Doctoral students in the Financial Law PhD program must complete the following core courses: Financial Law, Project Preparation and Management, English Language, and Methodology and Methods of Legal Research.

The exam grade is reported to the Council of the Department of Public Law Sciences and becomes part of the documentation for implementing the doctoral student's individual study plan.

II. Elective Courses

Doctoral students in the Financial Law PhD program enroll in these elective courses: Financial Control and Supervision, Budgetary Law, Tax Law, Customs Law, Currency Law, and Ethics of Scientific Research.

Preparing for these courses requires independent study, attending lectures and seminars, and participating in other training activities. Each course ends with an exam administered by a committee that includes the academic supervisor, as outlined in the individual study plan. The exam grade is reported to the Council of the Department of Public Law Sciences and serves as part of the documentation for implementing the doctoral student's individual study plan.

III. Teaching and assessment methods and language of instruction:

Training fully complies with current legislation and the Internal Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at South-West University "Neofit Rilski." It is conducted through lectures and self-directed learning. The instructor offers explanations about the course topics, relevant legislation, and required literature, and addresses any questions that arise during independent work, including discussions and practical case resolutions.

The language of instruction is Bulgarian.

Throughout their studies, doctoral students are expected to improve both their theoretical and practical knowledge through the courses they take.

SECTION II RESEARCH ACTIVITY *(MAIN ACTIVITIES OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN PREPARATION OF THE DISSERTATION AND SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT)*

1. The primary research activities involved in preparing the doctoral dissertation include:

- Formulation of the research problem, along with the development and presentation of a scientific thesis.
- Conducting a bibliographic review and organizing sources systematically.
- Description and classification of prior studies in the field of the dissertation topic.
- Defining the aims and objectives of the research, and selecting the approach and methodology to be employed.
- Formulating a rationale for the selected research methods and methodologies.
- Preparing a conceptual project for the dissertation;
- Discussion of the dissertation project – two stages;
- Presentation of the research concept and instruments;
- Research activities – preparing and publishing a study, article, or scientific report.
- Participation in research projects.

2. Doctoral students in Financial Law can also participate in teaching and methodological activities, such as leading seminar sessions, grading coursework, reviewing master's theses, and more. Through these activities, doctoral students learn methods and techniques for teaching and evaluating exam papers.

3. The final stage of the doctoral students' academic preparation is their introduction to the procedures for defending their dissertation before a scientific jury in Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure, as well as their preparation for the defense.

Financial Law

ECTS Credits: 10

Total Workload: 90 Contact Hours / 210

Individual Study Hours

Form of assessment: Exam

Status: Compulsory

Methodological guidance:

Department: *Public Law Sciences*

Faculty: *Faculty of Law and History*

Lecturer: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentina*

Aleksandrova

Annotation:

The course Financial Law is a core subject in the doctoral training program, designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the principles, structure, and institutions of financial law as a distinct branch of public law.

The discipline covers both general aspects of financial law theory (such as subject, method, sources, financial acts, and legal relations) and specific financial law institutions (including budgetary, tax, customs, currency, and banking law).

The course helps develop skills in interpreting and applying financial law norms, analyzing case law, and conducting research in public finance. Emphasis is placed on current trends in European and international financial law, including fiscal integration, supervision, and control processes.

Tax Law

ECTS Credits: 4

Total Workload: 45 contact hours / 75 individual study hours

Assessment Method: Exam

The course analyzes the modern tax system of the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Union. The goal is to provide doctoral students with a comprehensive understanding of tax relations, various types of taxes, taxation principles, tax oversight, and administrative penalties for tax violations.

Special focus is on aligning national tax laws with EU regulations and on international tax collaboration.

Budgetary Law

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 contact hours / 75 individual study hours

Form of assessment: Exam

Methodological guidance:

Department: *Public Law Sciences*

Faculty: *Faculty of Law and History*

Lecturer: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentina Aleksandrova*

Annotation:

The course aims to deepen doctoral students' understanding of the structure, principles, and mechanisms of the budgetary system. It examines the stages of budget preparation, adoption, execution, and reporting, as well as the competencies of the public authorities involved in these processes.

Issues of legality and efficiency in managing public funds, as well as the roles of parliamentary and audit control, are also analyzed.

Customs Law

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 contact hours / 75 individual study hours

Form of assessment: Exam

Annotation:

This subject provides an understanding of the legal framework governing customs relations and the institutions that regulate them. It includes key customs regimes, customs duties and their functions, customs obligations, and customs offenses and sanctions.

Special emphasis is placed on the application of the Union Customs Code and the interplay between national and European customs law.

Currency Law

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 contact hours / 75 individual study hours

Form of assessment: Exam

Annotation:

The course covers the legal regulation of currency relations and the control of financial flows. It explores the concepts of currency, currency values, and international payments, as well as the activities of authorities involved in currency control.

The course also analyzes international monetary regimes and the roles of the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Central Bank.

Financial Control and Supervision

ECTS credits: 4

Total workload: 45 contact hours / 75 individual study hours

Form of assessment: Exam

Methodological guidance:

Department: *Public Law Sciences*

Faculty: *Faculty of Law and History*

Lecturer: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentina Aleksandrova*

Annotation:

The goal of the discipline is to develop knowledge of the system of authorities, mechanisms, and procedures for overseeing the financial activities of the state and public entities. The course explores internal and external financial control, the powers of the National Audit Office, the Agency for State Financial Inspection, the Financial Supervision Commission, and internal audit units.

Doctoral students learn techniques for assessing financial discipline and spotting irregularities in the public sector.

Methodology and Methods of Legal Research

ECTS credits: 5

Total workload: 45 contact hours / 105 individual study hours

Form of assessment: Exam

Status: Compulsory

Exam Format: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department: *Public Law Sciences*

Faculty: *Faculty of Law and History*

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

Department: *Civil Law Sciences,*
Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

The course covers the fundamentals, methodology, and techniques of scientific research, along with information support during research activities. It aims to provide doctoral students with opportunities for more in-depth, focused, and well-organized research. The stages of the research process are outlined to help improve the organization and management of scientific work.

English Language

ECTS Credits: 5

Total Workload: 60 contact hours / 90 individual study hours

Assessment Method: Exam

Status: Mandatory

Exam Format: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department: *Public Law Sciences*

Faculty: *Faculty of Law and History*

Lecturers: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dafina Kostadinova; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivanka Sakareva; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yana Chankova*
Faculty of Philology, Department of Germanic and Romance Studies

Annotation:

The training adopts an integrative approach where acquiring new knowledge and skills is based on developing four key language competencies: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Special emphasis is placed on improving oral and listening skills, as well as mastering the principles of academic writing in English and preparing presentations, CVs, abstracts, and articles in English.

Project Preparation and Management

ECTS credits: 5

Total workload: 15 contact hours / 135 individual study hours

Form of assessment: Exam

Status: Compulsory

Exam Format: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department: *Public Law Sciences*

Faculty: *Faculty of Law and History*

Lecturer: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Todorov*
Faculty of Economics, Department of Finance and Accounting

Annotation:

The course Project Preparation and Management introduces doctoral students to the essential aspects of project development, serving as a foundation for organizing and managing projects under EU programs.

Doctoral students gain in-depth knowledge for effective project design, the management process during project creation and implementation, and preparing project budgets.

Ethics of Scientific Research

ECTS Credits: 4

Total Workload: 45 Contact Hours / 75

Independent Study Hours

Assessment Method: Exam

Status: Elective

Exam Format: Written

Methodological guidance:

Department: *Public Law Sciences*

Faculty: *Faculty of Law and History*

Lecturer: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manol Stanin*

Department: *Civil Law Sciences*
Faculty of Law and History

Annotation:

The course examines ethical issues associated with the development of scientific research in modern society. It emphasizes the importance of moral principles in research and the role of scientific progress in advancing social development.

The goal is for doctoral students to understand the importance of ethical norms in conducting research, as well as to analyze and find ways to address practical issues using scientific and ethical methods.

The training also highlights the ethical aspects of current national and international legal frameworks.