



**SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY "NEOPHYT RILSKI"**

**FACULTY OF LAW AND HISTORY**

**Department of Civil Law**

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## **INFORMATION PACKAGE ON DOCTORAL TRAINING**

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

**PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION: 3.6. LAW**

**DOCTORAL PROGRAM: LABOR LAW AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

**EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE: DOCTOR**

**NQF LEVEL: 8**

**PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION: RESEARCHER**

**TRAINING TERM: 3 /three/ or 4 /four/ YEARS**

**FORM OF TRAINING: REGULAR / INDEPENDENT /  
IN ADDRESS**

## ANNOTATION

The educational and scientific training of doctoral students in the field of the doctoral program in "Labor Law and Social Security" has as its main goal the development of scientists who are capable of thoroughly analyzing regulatory acts, assessing their practical application and participating in the improvement of labor and social security relations in their regulation.

One of the main tasks in the training process is related to the practical significance and application of the scientific developments carried out by the doctoral students. Gradual development of skills in the preparing doctoral students to research the subject of labor and social security relations requires their in-depth knowledge, proper orientation in current scientific information and case law, and the ability to conduct a comparative analysis with foreign legislation.

The training is conducted in accordance with modern trends in the development of legal science, and the doctoral program itself is presented in clear documentation that sets sustainable goals. The training of doctoral students ensures the expansion of the fundamental scientific and practical preparation for the development of a dissertation on a current problem for science and practice, which is carried out in accordance with high modern requirements, and the dissertation works meet the need for direct linking of the doctrine with the specific needs of practice.

The gradual development of skills in the doctoral candidates to research the subject of all private law relations requires their in-depth knowledge, proper orientation in current scientific information and case law, and the ability to conduct a comparative analysis with foreign legislation outside the legal framework of the member states of the European Union. In view of the overall process of their academic development, young scholars create original works, referring to Bulgarian case law, scientific doctrine and the *acquis communautaire* of the European Union.

Doctoral students in "Labor Law and Social Security" are educated in traditional forms: *full-time, part-time and self-study*.

The preparation of doctoral students is implemented through the compulsory and elective disciplines regulated in the curriculum of the doctoral program in "Labor Law" and approved in the individual curricula.

The training of doctoral students includes the following activities:

1. scientific research activity, including participation in scientific projects;
2. attendance and participation in training courses (lectures, seminars, etc.);
3. teaching and/or expert activity, participation in scientific forums (national and/or international);
4. taking exams provided for in the individual curriculum;
5. defense of a doctoral dissertation.

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In the process of training, doctoral students in "Labor Law and Social Security", in accordance with the National Qualification Framework of the Republic of Bulgaria, aim to:

- 1) Master the methodology of scientific research and its application through the prism of the specific scientific and practical problem;
- 2) Build competence for a detailed understanding of the techniques applied to scientific research and complex academic studies;

- 3) They develop skills in handling scientific equipment;
- 4) They build skills for searching, deriving and analyzing scientific and practical problems and skills to form informed judgments on complex issues in the field of private law sciences, in the absence of sufficient data and information, as well as to present their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to both specialists and non-specialists;
- 5) Develop skills for applying a scientific approach and correctly using scientific equipment in research work;
- 6) They acquire knowledge for applying a pedagogical approach to the methodology of teaching legal disciplines, form special knowledge and skills for working with various information sources such as legal programs, legal and reference software, acquire high computer literacy and language training, oriented towards ensuring their intellectual information awareness and facilitating professional contacts with teachers and researchers from other countries;
- 7) They acquire specialized and systematized knowledge for performing critical analysis and for synthesizing and arguing for new ideas;
- 8) They develop the ability to expand and modify existing knowledge in the field of private law sciences, as well as its interaction with other scientific branches in the field of law in order to achieve an interdisciplinary approach.

In their activities, doctoral students are *guided by certain criteria*:

- 1) assessment of the relevance of the scientific problem developed in the dissertation;
- 2) does the proposed text contain new scientific ideas and results with an opinion on their significance;
- 3) to what extent the conclusions and recommendations made are supported by the available data;
- 4) opinion on the language and volume of the dissertation;
- 5) opinion on the quality and number of proposed illustrative material – diagrams, graphs, tables, etc.;
- 6) an opinion on the extent to which the dissertation candidate knows the background of the issues under consideration – is there adequate and complete citation of previous scientific research without regional or any other limitations;
- 7) assessment of the extent to which the dissertation is a personal contribution of the candidate;
- 8) assessment of the publications on which the dissertation is based - are there any publications of a marginal nature, i.e. publications in publications that are not included in the global system for referencing, indexing and evaluation;
- 9) opinion on the extent to which the candidate has complied with the rules of scientific ethics (incorrect citation of literary sources, publication of the same manuscript in different places, fragmentation of a manuscript in order to increase the number of one's own publications, plagiarism, publication of scientific compilations, the new problem of 'copy-paste' in scientific work).

**SECTION I.**  
**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY**  
**(THEORETICAL TRAINING OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN THE DOCTORAL**  
**PROGRAM IN "LABOR LAW AND SOCIAL SECURITY")**

**I. Compulsory subjects**

*Doctoral students studying in the doctoral program in "Labor Law and Social Security" study the following mandatory disciplines:*

*1. Labor Law or Insurance Law ( one of the mandatory disciplines depending on the choice of topic);*

*3. English language;*

*4. Project preparation and management;*

*5. Methodology and methodology of legal research.*

preparation of doctoral students in these courses includes independent preparation, attendance at lectures and seminars, etc. The courses are completed by passing an exam. before the teacher or before a committee with the participation of the scientific supervisor. The exam grade is reported to the council of the Department of Civil Law and is included in the reporting documents on the implementation of the doctoral student's individual work plan.

**II. Elective courses**

*During their studies, doctoral students in the doctoral program in "Labor Law and Social Security" can choose one of the following elective disciplines:*

*1. International labor and social security law ;*

*2. Labor justice;*

*3. Ethics of scientific research;*

*4. European Union law.*

The preparation of doctoral students in these courses includes independent preparation, attendance at lectures and seminars, and more. The course is completed with an exam before a committee with the participation of the supervisor, in accordance with the individual work plan, and the exam grade is reported to the council of the Department of Civil Law and included in the reporting documents on the implementation of the doctoral student's individual work plan.

**IV. TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS AND LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION.**

The training is fully compliant with the current legislation and the Internal Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Southwestern University "Neofit Rilski". The training is

carried out through lectures and independent preparation of the doctoral students. The teacher provides explanations to the doctoral students regarding the subject matter of the studied discipline, the regulatory framework, the literature necessary for the preparation, issues arising in the process of independent work related to the studied subject matter, discussion and solution of practical cases.

The language of instruction *is Bulgarian*.

During their studies, doctoral students should deepen their theoretical and practical knowledge of the courses studied.

## **SECTION II.**

### **SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY**

#### **(MAIN ACTIVITIES OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN PREPARATION OF THE DISSERTATION AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS)**

In the course of their scientific preparation and the development of their dissertation, doctoral students studying in the doctoral program in " Labor Law and Social Security":

1. participate in seminars and discussions of didactic problems;
2. prepare reports (on the topic of the dissertation and beyond, but in the field of the doctoral program) for scientific events, discussions, conferences, round tables;
3. participate in the development and implementation of research projects;
4. participate in the meetings of the Department of Civil Law in discussing discussion issues with a theoretical and practical focus;
5. carry out research work in the preparation of the dissertation;
6. periodically familiarize themselves with the practice of civil cases related to notarial proceedings by analyzing the relevant judicial acts;
7. become familiar with the new trends and changes in European Union law and the dynamics of changes in domestic legislation, as well as with the case law of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Supreme Court of Cassation of the Republic of Bulgaria;
8. and analyze the need and possibilities for changes in domestic legislation.
9. participate in preparing legal opinions on interpretative cases.

*The main scientific and research activities*, part of the preparation of the dissertation work of doctoral students studying in the doctoral program in " Labor Law and Social Security" are:

1. formulating the problem of scientific research and developing and presenting a scientific thesis;
2. conducting a bibliographic search and systematizing sources;
3. description and systematization of previous research in the field of the dissertation topic;
4. setting goals and objectives of the study. Choosing an approach to conduct the study and the methodology to be used;

5. developing a justification for the selected methods and methodologies for conducting the research;
6. developing a conceptual design for a dissertation;
7. discussion of a dissertation project – two stages;
8. presentation of a concept and research tools;
9. research activity – preparation and publication of studies, articles or scientific reports;
10. participation in research projects.

Doctoral students studying in the doctoral program in " Labor Law and Social Security " can also carry out **educational, methodological and pedagogical activities** - conducting seminars, checking coursework, preparing reviews of diploma theses, etc. In the course of performing these activities, doctoral students master methods and techniques for teaching and evaluating examination papers.

### **Graduation:**

During their studies, doctoral students studying in the doctoral program in " Labor Law and Social Security" take doctoral minimums before a committee - doctoral minimums.

The exams taken by doctoral students are determined by the individual preparation plan of the doctoral student in accordance with the current regulatory provisions and depending on the provisions of the curriculum for the doctoral program in "Labor Law and Social Security".

**The final part of the doctoral students' scientific preparation** is the introduction to the procedures for defending the dissertation before a scientific jury and preparation for defending the dissertation work in the doctoral program in " Labor Law and Social Security".

## **I. MANDATORY COURSE SUBJECTS**

### **Labor law**

**ECTS credits:** 10

**Workload:** 45 az/ 255 sp

**Assessment form:** exam

**Status of the discipline:** mandatory

**Type of exam:** written

**Methodical guidance:**

**Department:** Civil Law Sciences

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Lecturers:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrey Alexandrov

### **Annotation:**

The main goal of the training in the discipline "Labor Law" is to provide doctoral students with the opportunity to acquire basic theoretical and practical knowledge of the current labor legislation in the Republic of Bulgaria, the main international standards and the law of the European Union.

### **Insurance law**

**ECTS credits:** 10

**Assessment form:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Methodical guidance:**

**Workload:** 45 a/ 255 sp

**Status of the discipline:** mandatory

**Department:** Civil Law Sciences

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Lecturers:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrey Alexandrov

#### **Annotation**

The training in the discipline "Social Security Law" aims to familiarize doctoral students with the legal framework of social security law through short-term and long-term (mandatory and voluntary) social security, health insurance, social security disputes, control of compliance with and liability for violation of social security legislation, as well as with the coordination rules for social security in the European Union.

### **Methodology and methodology of legal research**

**ECTS credits:** 5

**Assessment form:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Methodical guidance:**

**Workload:** 45 a/ 105 sp

**Status of the discipline:** mandatory

**Department:** Civil Law Sciences

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Lecturers:** Assoc. Dr. Manol Stanin

#### **Annotation**

The program was developed through presentation the basics of methodology and scientific research methodology research, as well as information insurance for scientific research . The discipline aims to offer doctoral students opportunities for more in-depth, targeted and well- structured scientific The stages of the scientific research are presented. activity and is supported better organization of the workplace process.

### **Project preparation and management**

**ECTS credits:** 5

**Assessment form:** exam

**Workload:** 45 hours/ 105 minutes

**Course status:** mandatory

**Type of exam:** written

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department:** Civil Law Sciences

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Lecturers:** Prof. Dr. Ivan Todorov

**Department:** Finance and Accounting

**Faculty:** Faculty of Economics

### **Annotation**

The course by the discipline "Preparation and Management" on projects introduces PhD students with the main aspects at development on projects that is appear basis for organization and management on projects at application by the programs on The European union . The goal on the school "Preparation and management " discipline on projects " is the doctoral students yes receive in-depth knowledge for the effective development on projects , management process at their creation and implementation , as well as the preparation on project budget .

### **English language**

**ECTS credits:** 5

**Assessment form:** exam

**Exam type:** written/ oral

**Methodological guidance:**

**Workload:** 60 hours/ 90 minutes

**Course status:** mandatory

**Department:** Civil Law Sciences

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Lecturers:**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dafina Kostadinova;

Prof. Dr. Ivanka Sakareva

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yana Chankova

**Department:** German Studies and Romance Studies

**Faculty:** Faculty of Philology

### **Annotation:**

The discipline aims at practical preparation of doctoral students in English, with the focus on mastering basic knowledge of vocabulary and grammar at lower levels and improving and expanding knowledge and increasing the level of language proficiency at higher levels. The English course for doctoral students necessarily contains the following modules: practical grammar, vocabulary, written 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.

## **II. ELECTIVE DISCIPLINES**

### **International labor and social security law**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment form:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Methodical guidance:**

**Workload:** 45 a.m./ 75 p.m.

**Course status:** elective

**Department:** Civil Law Sciences

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Lecturers:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrey Alexandrov

#### **Annotation:**

The course in the discipline "International Labor and Social Security Law" introduces doctoral students to the emergence, subject matter and sources of international labor and social security law, as well as to the functions, activities and acts of the ILO bodies and bodies of other international organizations. The aim of the course is for doctoral students to gain in-depth knowledge of the international legal framework of social security and labor law.

### **Labor justice**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment form:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Methodical guidance:**

**Workload:** 45 a.m./ 75 p.m.

**Course status:** elective

**Department:** Civil Law Sciences

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Lecturers:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Andrey Alexandrov

#### **Annotation:**

The course on the discipline "Labor Law" introduces doctoral students to the procedural order and special rules for considering labor disputes related to the emergence, existence, amendment and termination of employment relationships, as well as ensuring the protection of labor rights. The training also includes the current issue of participation of the parties to a labor dispute in a mediation procedure in accordance with the provision of Art. 140a, para. 1, item 9 of the Civil Procedure Code.

## **Research Ethics**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Assessment form:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Methodical guidance:**

**Workload:** 45 a.m./ 75 p.m.

**Status on discipline:** compulsory

**Department:** Civil Law Sciences

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Lecturers:** Assoc. Dr. Manol Stanin

### **Annotation**

The course examines ethical issues in accordance with the development of scientific research in modern society. The importance of ethical rules in scientific research is emphasized, with an emphasis on the benefit of scientific research to social development. The aim of the training is for doctoral students to take into account the importance of ethical norms in the implementation of scientific research, to analyze and explore ways to solve practical problems through scientific and ethical means. During the training, emphasis is also placed on the ethical elements in the current national and supranational regulatory framework.

## **European Union law**

**ECTS credits:** 4

**Form of assessment:** exam

**Type of exam:** written

**Methodological guidance:**

**Department:** Civil Law Sciences

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Lecturers:** Prof. Dr. Gabriela Belova

**Department:** "International Law and International Relations"

**Faculty:** Faculty of Law and History

**Workload:** 45 credits/ 75 credits

**Status of the course:** elective

### **Annotation**

The place of the course "Law of the European Union" is already established and traditional in the curriculum of the "Law" specialty at the South-West University "Neofit Rilski". The law of the European Union differs significantly from both international law and the domestic law of the EU Member States. It represents a unique autonomous legal order that poses specific theoretical and practical issues. This independent legal order is in direct and complex relations with the national legal system of each Member State. As a complex system of legal norms, EU law is directly applicable in the Republic of Bulgaria from the date of its membership in the EU - 01.01.2007. The norms of this unique legal system are applied by law enforcement authorities, taking into account, on the one hand, the own hierarchy of its legal norms and, on the other hand, the supremacy or primacy that all of them and each of them have over all Bulgarian domestic legal norms, including constitutional ones.