

## **Standard 1. Structure of the study program**

### **Elements of the study program**

1.1. Each study program contains clearly stated elements, which are detailed in the respective standards.

**a. Name of the study program:** Doctoral academic studies Public Law.

At the Faculty of Business and Law, doctoral studies are organized in the field of legal sciences, specifically focusing on the narrow scientific field of public law. These studies span a duration of three years (six semesters) and are structured to accumulate 180 ECTS credits.

**b. goals of the study program:**

The study program boasts clearly outlined objectives aimed at fostering scientific abilities, honing academic skills, nurturing creativity, and mastering practical proficiencies essential for advancing one's career in the field of public legal sciences. Specifically, the goals of the doctoral study program encompass equipping students with the expertise to independently conduct original, scientifically based research and critically assess the findings of fellow scholars, and adeptly prepare emerging talents for teaching roles at law faculties.

**c. Learning outcome:**

The principal outcome of the doctoral academic program in Public Law within the scientific domain of social sciences and humanities is to educate adept specialists and scholarly figures with elevated professional and scientific proficiencies in the field of public law. This educational pursuit enables the independent execution of scientific and research endeavors within the field of public law.

**d. Academic title:**

Doctor of Laws

**e. Admission requirements:**

Candidates are admitted to the program through a competitive process overseen by the Senate of MB University, following a recommendation from the Teaching and Research Council of the Faculty of Business and Law. Applicants who have completed a minimum of 300 ESPB in their undergraduate and master's studies are eligible to enroll in the first year of study. For enrollment in the third year, candidates holding a Master of Law or related academic qualification are considered. These criteria are stipulated in the Statute of the Faculty of Business and Law at MB University and the Rulebook on Doctoral Academic Studies. Selection of candidates is based on their grade point average from previous academic studies and the duration of their studying period.

**f. List of compulsory and elective subjects**

Study programs comprises two compulsory subjects: Methodology of scientific research, Modern legal systems in the first semester; six compulsory subject activities: preparation of the doctoral dissertation project, the defense of the doctoral dissertation project before the faculty's committee in the fourth semester. Following this, students engage in study research directly related to their dissertation in the fifth and sixth

semesters. Alongside compulsory subjects, the program includes 12 elective courses, with three taken in the second semester and three in the third semester.

Throughout the three-year program, scientific research is a central focus. This includes drafting the scientific concept of a research project related to the Methodology of Scientific Research, as well as seven research seminar papers from compulsory and elective subjects in the first, second, and third semesters. In the fourth semester, students prepare and defend their doctoral dissertation project before the faculty's committee. Additionally, they prepare a doctoral dissertation application.

Further research activities include preparing and publishing a scientific article in a journal from the SCI list of the Ministry of Science and participating in a thematic international scientific conference with an accepted paper in the third, fourth, and fifth semesters. Students also report on research progress before the research commission and engage in scientific research directly related to their doctoral dissertation in the fifth and sixth semesters, culminating in the preparation and public defense of the final doctoral dissertation.

#### **g. the methodology of conducting studies – credit value of each subject expressed in line with European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System;**

For each subject, the appropriate number of ECTS points is determined based on the workload required for mastering the subject's content. The total number of ECTS points per semester is 30, and for the year, it is 60. The doctoral thesis, which carries 30 ECTS points, is mandatory for the student to prepare and defend. The point value of each course is expressed in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and is detailed in Table 5.1 and Table 5.2.

The student earns points in the course through participation during class, completion of pre-exam assignments, and successful performance in the exam. The total points achievable is 100, corresponding to a maximum grade of 10. Pre-exam activities contribute up to 50% of the total points, while the remaining 50% is allocated for the oral exam. Each subject within the study program outlines a clear and transparent method for earning points.

The doctoral study program spans three years, during which a total of 180 ECTS credits are earned, equating to 60 credits per year.

#### **h. Doctoral dissertation expressed in ECTS credits;**

A doctoral dissertation with study research (SRW) is worth 110 ECTS credits, meeting the requirement that at least half of the ECTS points allocated for doctoral studies pertain to the doctoral dissertation.

The dissertation is an original and independent scientific research, contributing to the advancement of legal scientific thought and demonstrating the student's capacity to function as an independent researcher within a specific scientific domain. The attained scientific contribution is appraised through the publication or acceptance for publication of at least one scholarly paper in a pertinent international journal or a journal endorsed by the ministry overseeing science, containing research findings relevant to the dissertation's subject matter. Additionally, participation in at least one thematic international scientific conference is required, with the paper subsequently published in the conference proceedings. The procedures and protocols for preparing and defending the dissertation are specified in the Rulebook on Dissertation

Application, Preparation, and Defense, which governs the approval of dissertation topics, evaluation of completed dissertations, and fulfillment of requirements for participating in the public oral defense.

**i. Preconditions for enrolment in certain subject or subject group;**

The requirements for enrolling in individual subjects are outlined in Table 5.2. The criteria for taking exams vary by subject and typically include meeting specific pre-exam prerequisites, such as accruing a designated number of points from pre-exam obligations, fulfilling particular pre-exam activities, and successfully passing the oral examination.

**j. Method of electing subjects from other study programs at the same or different university;**

The doctoral study program incorporates a sufficient number of elective courses, which contributes to the overall quality of the study program.

**k. Requirements for transfer from other study programs within the same or similar study fields;**

A student may transfer to this study program from other programs within the same or related fields provided they have passed exams equivalent to those in this program and have accumulated the requisite number of ECTS points for the respective year of study. Guidelines for transferring ECTS points and the rules governing the transfer process are outlined in the relevant rulebooks accessible on the Faculty of Business and Law website.

**l. other important considerations for the implementation of the study program**

The main features of the study program are the following:

- Courses span one semester.
- The number of ECTS points allocated to each course is determined based on the workload required for mastering the course content. The total number of ECTS points per year is 60. Upon successful completion of doctoral academic studies, the student accumulates a total of 180 ECTS points. After defending the doctoral dissertation, the student is conferred the academic title of Doctor of Science in Legal Sciences.
- The total number of lecture hours in the study program is 20.00 hours. The average number of hours of active teaching per week for lectures is 6.00, slightly more than 25% of the total hours of active teaching per week.  
The average number of hours of active teaching per week for SIR is 18, constituting 75% of the total hours of active teaching per week.
- Scientific research work is performed for all three years of study;
- Throughout their studies, students are required to write and publish a minimum of one scientific paper. Additionally, they must participate in a thematic international scientific conference by presenting the accepted paper;
- Study program is conducted by faculty members with extensive teaching, scientific, and pedagogical expertise. The majority of these educators originate from esteemed state faculties, ensuring a high standard of lectures and guidance.
- Teaching process is conducted through mentoring and interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering direct interaction between students and professors. The curriculum emphasizes case studies for comprehensive analysis, encourages individual initiative and professional creativity, and promotes

teamwork to develop students' interpersonal skills. Students gain practical knowledge and utilize modern literature, with access to one of the world's largest scientific databases, EBSCO, available 24/7, 365 days a year, to support their academic endeavors at any time

- The parameters of the doctoral academic program – Public Law could not be self-assessed in the self-evaluation process as this study program is accredited for the first time. All insights derived from this self-assessment, alongside regular monitoring of the quality of this and other study programs and teaching processes at the Faculty of Business and Law, are integrated into this study program DAS Public Law.

The overarching objective of the Faculty of Business and Law, as an institution of higher education, is the continuous enhancement of all areas of the teaching process to ensure alignment with the Law on Higher Education, the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education, accreditation standards for study programs, and the evolving trends and objectives of higher education observed in Western European countries

## **Standard 2: Purpose of the study program**

**2.1.** The purpose of the Public Law doctoral study program is clearly defined and focuses on training students to conduct research in specialized areas of public law. The program equips students to independently carry out original scientific-theoretical and empirical research within these domains. The doctoral program aims to prepare graduates for leadership roles and the most complex legal positions in companies, higher education institutions, scientific bodies, and other national and international public institutions. By training students in the conceptualization and execution of basic, applied, and developmental research, as well as preparing them for leadership roles in public law, the program fosters the acquisition and development of new knowledge. This, in turn, contributes to the creation of a scientifically and research-oriented youth, who will play a pivotal role in developing a knowledge society and advancing various branches of public law.

A special purpose of this study program is to advance the development of innovative methods, nomotechniques, and procedures. These advancements aim to enhance the creation, application, and interpretation of legal norms within the specific field of public law. By doing so, the program ensures the efficient operation of the legal system as a cohesive entity.

A significant purpose of this study program is to deepen and enrich students' comprehensive understanding of theoretical, methodological, and applied aspects within the field of public law. It aims to cultivate a capacity for critical thinking among students, enabling them to form innovative perspectives on complex legal matters. Moreover, the program seeks to equip students with the skills to critically evaluate scientific research conducted by their peers and predecessors. Ultimately, it empowers students to effectively apply the knowledge gained from rigorously conducted theoretical and empirical research in their academic and professional endeavors.

**2.2.** By integrating scientific research with educational services, and tailoring them to the needs of both the environment and users, the Faculty of Business and Law in Belgrade has developed a high-quality program-doctoral academic studies with a specialization in public law. Through ongoing professional development and research, the faculty aims to play an active role in fostering a dynamic educational community dedicated to enhancing the quality of continuous education in the field of public law sciences.

The doctoral academic studies program in Public Law offers specialized postgraduate training for top candidates, with the objective of enhancing and deepening their theoretical and methodological expertise. It empowers participants to independently develop new insights and tackle the most intricate challenges within the field of public law. Through rigorous research endeavors undertaken by doctoral students, this program fosters the discovery of innovative solutions that contribute to both professional and scientific advancements in legal practice. Upon completing their doctoral studies and successfully defending their dissertation, students possess the skills to autonomously conduct original and scientifically grounded research. They are equipped to critically assess the work of their peers and predecessors, contributing to the advancement of legal knowledge in the specialized area of public law. Additionally, these graduates emerge as highly proficient legal practitioners capable of actively engaging in the development of legal disciplines. Through both basic and applied research, spanning theoretical and empirical realms, they play a pivotal role in shaping the evolution of public law.

The core principle of the study program revolves around the doctoral dissertation as an original scientific endeavor attained through research projects. Through the process of writing their dissertation, students gain the ability to independently address a specific scientific issue. They are tasked with scientifically describing, classifying, and typologizing the subject matter at its foundational level. Moving beyond, they delve into uncovering and scientifically elucidating the underlying patterns and legal principles governing the phenomenon under investigation. At the culmination of their research, students are expected to offer prognostications or propose scientifically informed solutions to legal challenges. Ultimately, the aim is to unveil novel insights, previously undiscovered within the subject of their doctoral dissertation.

**2.3.** The purpose of doctoral academic studies is in line with the mission and goals of the faculty of Business and Law and with the goals of the principles outlined in the Law on Higher Education.

### **Standard 3: Goals of the study program**

The doctoral studies program in the specialized domain of public law is structured around clearly defined objectives, which encompass:

- (1) expanding the existing knowledge and acquiring new insights within narrower scientific areas of public law through original scientific research, culminating in the completion of a doctoral dissertation.
- (2) mastering the process of scientific research and developing specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities to design, analyze, and implement research that makes a significant and original contribution to general knowledge and professional practice in the fields of public law, in accordance with the highest scientific and ethical standards.
- (3) training students to independently utilize scientific literature and apply scientific methods, techniques, instruments, and procedures in researching scientifically and socially significant problems in public law
- (4) training students in critical-analytical thinking, fostering their ability to creatively and independently solve complex problems within specific scientific domains of public law.
- (5) developing students' capacity to integrate, refine, and enhance the knowledge acquired during their undergraduate and master's studies within the specialized domain of public law.

(6) training students for: preparation and active participation in both domestic and international projects, professional and effective communication of research findings at scientific conferences and meetings, publishing research results in reputable scientific journals, utilizing diverse data sources to draw informed conclusions in the drafting process of their doctoral dissertations.

(7) cultivating scientific competencies and academic aptitudes in students, thereby fostering advancements in scientific discourse within the specialized domains of public law. The program also seeks to nurture students' creative abilities and refine specific practical skills essential for their future careers in the field of public law.

The goals of the doctoral study program encompass training students to independently conduct original, scientifically grounded research and to critically assess the findings of other scholars. Additionally, the program aims to prepare young academics thoroughly for teaching roles at law faculties, ensuring the delivery of high-quality education. These objectives are closely aligned with contemporary trends in the advancement of specialized public law disciplines and their constituent scientific fields. Moreover, they are in line with the fundamental vision, missions, and objectives of the Faculty of Business and Law.

**4.1.** Upon completion of the doctoral academic studies program in Business Management in compliance with the Law on the National Framework of Qualifications (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 27/2018), students acquire a comprehensive set of general competencies, knowledge, and skills. These capabilities equip the future doctor of laws with a solid foundation for their professional activities:

- to demonstrate advanced theoretical and practical expertise necessary for conducting critical analysis and research within both fundamental and applied domains of management and business sciences. This expertise is aimed at expanding and redefining existing knowledge within the scientific disciplines of public law;
- to independently tackle practical and theoretical challenges, conducting fundamental, applied, and developmental research within the specialized domain of public law;
- to address pivotal challenges encountered in the research of specific disciplines within public law;
- to develop novel legal methodologies, nomotechniques, tools, and models pertinent to the specialized domain of public law;
- to apply effective communication skills for articulating and critiquing public law theories, methodological approaches, and findings. It also focuses on presenting research outcomes to the scientific community in alignment with international standards;
- to foster critical thinking, creativity, and independent action in investigating contemporary issues within the theory and practice of public law;
- to adhere to the principles of the code of ethics and good scientific research practices.
- to independently assess current findings and advancements, aiming to enhance existing paradigms and innovate new theories, models, and legal solutions within the realm of public law;
- to encourage students to comprehend and utilize technological knowledge effectively in delivering legal services and advice;
- to cultivate a culture of innovation, scientific integrity, and professional ethics. It emphasizes the prioritization of developing novel legal models and solutions to enhance existing social relationships, addressing the key concerns of both the social and scientific legal communities;
- to design, analyze, and execute research within the specialized domain of public law, contributing significantly and originally to the broader legal knowledge base and/or legal practice;

- to encourage students to participate in international scientific projects related to public law, to oversee interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary projects in the realm of social and humanistic sciences, and to independently initiate national and international collaborations in the field of legal sciences;

- to communicate professionally when disseminating the results of their scientific endeavors. Students are adept at presenting their research findings at scientific conferences and autonomously publishing new nomotechnical solutions and legal models in scholarly journals. These contributions significantly advance the development of public legal scientific thought;

4.2. Upon mastering the study program, students acquire the following competencies:

a) a comprehensive understanding and mastery of the fundamental and associated scientific disciplines relevant to their chosen subject for the doctoral dissertation;

b) the capability for independent application of research methods, nomotechniques, tools, and legal procedures;

c) the integration of foundational knowledge from the field of public law, ensuring its accurate interpretation and application within the legal system;

d) cultivating the development of skills, legal skills, and readiness to keep pace with modern advancements, utilizing knowledge effectively within the specialized domain of public law;

e) utilization of modern information and communication technologies in acquiring legal knowledge. This enables students to provide creative legislative solutions, particularly in support of the integration of new technologies.

#### **Standard 4: Students' competencies**

4.3. Mastering a study program equips students with a diverse set of competences that are applicable across various fields. The competences typically acquired through a study program facilitate professional development in science, education, economy, and the public sector.

The primary objective of the doctoral academic studies in Public Law is to cultivate an expert-level, academic profile with rich professional and scientific competencies in the field of public law. The program is designed to equip students with the requisite knowledge and skills to conduct independent research within the specialized domain of public and legal sciences. Upon completion, attaining the academic title of Doctor of Laws signifies not only mastery in the field but also equips individuals with methodological tools essential for scientific research work in public law. Moreover, it fosters independence, innovation, and expertise crucial for both professional and scientific activities. Applying comprehensive knowledge, coupled with a critical examination of existing scientific findings within the field of public law, and integrating one's own research outcomes using contemporary legal methodologies and techniques, serves as a solid foundation for effectively addressing legal challenges. This approach applies equally to both theoretical and empirical legal issues, providing practical solutions within the specialized domains of public law.

Upon earning the esteemed title of Doctor of Laws, the student not only gains foundational knowledge within specific subfields of public law, as evidenced by their defended doctoral dissertation, but also develops legal skills, abilities, and competencies essential for autonomously addressing both practical and theoretical

challenges within the discipline. Equipped with this expertise, they are proficient in organizing and executing comparative scientific inquiries within the narrower confines of public law, while also staying abreast of advancements and achievements across the broader legal scientific landscape. Completion of the study program empowers students with critical thinking skills, enabling them to conduct independent research and engage in sophisticated discourse with fellow members of the international academic community. Their ultimate objective is to make meaningful contributions to the advancement of public legal scholarly thought.

**4.4.** The learning outcomes are defined in accordance with the learning outcome descriptors outlined by the National Qualifications Framework, as put forth by the National Council for Higher Education and ratified by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development.

Doctoral studies facilitate the independent resolution of both practical and theoretical challenges in public law, offering analytical responses to contemporary issues within the realms of legal theory and practice. These studies afford the opportunity to integrate knowledge drawn from allied legal and interdisciplinary fields, enabling the application of such insights. Moreover, students develop the capacity for critical analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of novel legal concepts, fostering innovation and advancement within the discipline. Upon successful completion of the doctoral academic program in Public Law, students will demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate original research, generating novel legal questions within their specialized areas of public law. They will possess the capacity to rigorously and critically track advancements in specific scientific domains within public law, continuously engaging with contemporary developments. Additionally, graduates will be adept at autonomously producing scientific research work based on their original research, showcasing their analytical prowess and academic rigor. Furthermore, they will exhibit creative and independent thinking, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the scholarly discourse and legal practice within the field of public law. In addition, students will possess the skills to proficiently engage in discussions, conduct research, and present their scientific findings. Their contributions will significantly advance the development of public legal scholarship, fostering the exchange of expert legal knowledge and ideas within academic circles. Graduates will have the capability to effectively transfer their specialized legal expertise to their colleagues and join international projects.