

Title of the Educational Program	Law
Name of the Educational Program in English	Law
Level of Higher Academic Education	Doctoral Studies
Type of Educational Program	Regulated
Language of Instruction	Georgian
Qualification to be Awarded and Code:	
In Georgian:	Doctor of Law (0421)
In English:	Doctor of Law (0421)
Date of Program Approval:	President's Order of the University No. 01/05-111, August 7, 2009
Dates of Program Revision:	29.06.2026, N01/01-69
Program Director(s): (See full information in "Program Director's CV")	Levan Mosakhlishvili, Doctor of Law, Affiliated Professor

Program Structure

Pursuant to the Law of Georgia on Higher Education, a "Doctoral Educational Programme" is "a third-cycle academic higher education programme that combines a learning component and a scientific-research component and whose learning outcomes correspond to the generalised learning outcomes defined for Level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework."

The Doctoral Educational Programme comprises a learning component (60 ECTS credits) and a scientific-research component. The official duration of the Doctoral Programme is at least 3 years (6 semesters). Upon expiry of the duration of the Doctoral Educational Programme (6 semesters), a doctoral student with outstanding academic obligations may continue studying with active doctoral-student status for no more than 4 semesters.

The academic year is organised on a semester basis. The first (autumn) and second (spring) semesters each comprise 20 calendar weeks. Accordingly, the academic year is planned over 40 weeks.

One ECTS credit equals 25 credit hours, including the doctoral student's contact workload and independent work. Within the learning component, contact and independent hours are defined by the syllabus of the relevant course; within the scientific-research component, independent work is carried out as research activity under the supervision of the scientific supervisor.

The Doctoral Programme is completed by preparing and defending a doctoral dissertation.

Doctoral Program Components and Credits	
Learning Component	60 ECTS
Scientific-Research Component	-
Learning Component	
First Thematic Seminar (Compulsory)	20 ECTS
Second Thematic Seminar (Compulsory)	20 ECTS
Legal Research Methods and Dissertation Preparation Standards (Compulsory)	10 ECTS
Innovative Teaching Methods (Compulsory)	5 ECTS
Professor Assistantship (Compulsory)	5 ECTS
Scientific-Research Component	

➤ Preparation and Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation	Implemented after the completion of the learning component and continues for no less than two years.
Note:	
During work on the doctoral dissertation, a doctoral student of the School of Law prepares an individual research plan in agreement with the scientific supervisor (co-supervisor). The research plan includes a schedule for work on the dissertation. It also includes a schedule for publishing two scientific articles and participating in a scientific conference. Both scientific articles (at the standard established by the Programme and the Regulations) and the conference paper must relate to the doctoral dissertation, and their completion constitutes a prerequisite for admission to the dissertation defence.	
Admission Requirements	
A person is eligible to study in the Doctoral Educational Programme in Law of Caucasus University School of Law if they have been awarded the academic degree of Master of Research in Law or an equivalent academic degree. The academic degree of Master of Research must have been obtained by fully completing, either as a single programme or, where the programme is implemented in two parts, both parts of a Master's Educational Programme comprising at least 120 ECTS credits in total, accumulating at least 120 ECTS credits, and successfully defending a master's thesis. A person holding the academic degree of Master of Laws is also eligible to study in the Doctoral Educational Programme in Law if they enrolled, before 1 September 2026, in a Master's Educational Programme in Law comprising at least 120 ECTS credits and completed that programme. A doctoral candidate must have one of the following experiences or achievements in the relevant field: - at least one scientific paper or publication; - participation in a scientific-research project or a scientific event; - at least two years of professional experience in the relevant field. A doctoral candidate must possess English language proficiency at no lower than B2 level. English language proficiency shall be evidenced by one of the following documents or means: - an appropriate international certificate, including an IELTS score of at least 6.0, a TOEFL score of at least 78, or another international certificate confirming B2-level proficiency; - an appropriate valid certificate issued by the LEPL National Assessment and Examinations Center; - a diploma or another official document confirming completion of an English-medium educational programme, provided that no more than two years have elapsed since completion of that programme; - successful completion of an internal examination organised by Caucasus University, which establishes that the candidate's English language proficiency corresponds to B2 level. Where the language of instruction of the Doctoral Educational Programme is Georgian and the doctoral candidate's native language is not Georgian, the candidate must demonstrate Georgian language proficiency at no lower than B2 level by an appropriate certificate or successfully pass an internal Georgian language examination organised by Caucasus University. Admission to the Doctoral Educational Programme in Law is possible through mobility in accordance with the legislation of Georgia and the legal acts in force at the University. An applicant seeking admission through mobility must satisfy the admission requirements defined by the Doctoral Educational Programme and the Regulations of Doctoral Studies and the Dissertation Council. Admission to the Doctoral Educational Programme in Law on the basis of a qualification awarded by a foreign higher education institution shall be carried out in compliance with the Law of Georgia on Higher Education and other relevant legal acts. Education or a qualification obtained abroad must be recognised by the LEPL National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia. Additional conditions for admission of a doctoral candidate, required documents, selection procedures and the assessment procedure shall be determined by the Doctoral Educational Programme, the Regulations of Doctoral Studies and the Dissertation Council of Caucasus University School of Law, and the relevant legal acts in force at the University.	

Objectives of the Doctoral Programme	
The objectives of the Doctoral Programme are to: • prepare a new generation of scientific researchers and academic staff; • develop precise and advanced academic scientific-research skills in doctoral students; • through in-depth scientific study and understanding of theoretical-doctrinal, dogmatic and practical aspects, generate new knowledge and develop, introduce, present and demonstrate innovative approaches in a specific branch/sub-branch of law in order to address issues of legal theory and the problems facing modern society at local or global level, so as to influence the formation of a national legal system that serves respect for human dignity, the development of a socially oriented, solidary, sustainable and inclusive society, and the strengthening of democracy and justice; • prepare highly qualified, competitive and responsible specialists who are firmly committed to academic honesty, demonstrate highly ethical professional conduct and integrity, and are devoted to liberal and democratic values.	
Program Learning Outcomes	
A graduate of the Doctoral Program must possess the qualifications and professional competencies that are based on the achievement of the program's defined learning outcomes: A. A. Knowledge and Understanding Upon completion of the Doctoral Educational Programme in Law, the graduate: A1. Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge within a specific field or subfield of law, grounded in contemporary scientific achievements and encompassing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Exhibits an understanding of the historical, cultural, economic, and social foundations of the chosen field or subfield, as well as current trends in its development at both the national and global levels (across different legal systems or national legislations). Identifies theoretical and practical legal issues and conceptual approaches for their scholarly resolution. A2. Possesses advanced expertise in and applies modern and innovative methods of legal research, academic writing, and teaching. B. Skills Upon completion of the Doctoral Educational Programme in Law, the graduate: B1. Independently plans and conducts research in accordance with the principles of academic integrity, employing appropriate legal research methodologies and contemporary scientific writing techniques to generate new knowledge and produce scholarly work that meets the standards of internationally refereed publications. B2. Independently identifies new and contested scholarly positions, diverse methodological approaches to legal problem-solving, and relevant or controversial judicial precedents at the national and international levels. Compares, synthesizes, and analyzes them comprehensively across various legal systems and jurisdictions; systematizes findings and draws theoretical and practical conclusions based on legal reasoning and value-based analysis, resulting in original and scientifically significant outcomes. B3. Selects and applies appropriate methods, formats, and approaches for documenting and presenting research outcomes in accordance with academic standards. Produces well-structured scholarly work (as part of both academic and research components) in Georgian or English; presents research findings to academic and professional audiences, effectively communicates newly generated knowledge, and upholds high academic and ethical standards in scholarly discourse and debate. B4. Plans and delivers practical teaching activities, including lectures, seminars, practicums, and assessments; contributes to curriculum development and instruction by implementing innovative teaching methods. C. Responsibility and Autonomy Upon completion of the Doctoral Educational Programme in Law, the graduate: Engages in research and/or teaching activities grounded in academic and professional integrity. Develops and produces new knowledge aimed at advancing the field of law, including participation in legislative processes and the refinement of jurisprudence, thereby contributing to the development of the individual, society, and the state. Promotes democratization and internationalization within the discipline and, where applicable, presents Georgia's scientific achievements and innovations at regional and international levels.	
Employment Opportunities	By agreement with a doctoral graduate, Caucasus University concludes a two-year employment agreement for the performance of teaching activities. In addition, the graduate may successfully carry out teaching, scientific-research, expert/professional activities at another higher education institution, in the public or private sector, in any

	organisation/institution, or in international or national projects where a Doctor of Law degree is required.
Opportunities for Further Study	Any relevant sectoral/educational institution, taking into account the principle of lifelong learning.
Doctoral Student Assessment System	
Assessment of the Learning Component Assessment of the doctoral student's learning component is carried out in accordance with Order No. 3 of 5 January 2007 of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia on the Approval of the Rule for Calculating Credits for Higher Education Programmes and in compliance with the University's internal regulations. Of the maximum 100 points available for a learning component, the aggregate share of interim assessments is 70 points and the final examination is 30 points. ➤ A minimum competency threshold is established for both interim and final assessment. ➤ The doctoral student must accumulate at least 59% of the 70 interim-assessment points in order to obtain the right to take the final examination. ➤ The final examination is deemed passed if the doctoral student obtains 60% or more of the 30 points. If less than 60% is obtained in the final assessment, the final examination is not deemed passed. ➤ The doctoral student is entitled to take an additional examination only if the total interim-assessment score accumulated before the final examination is at least 42 points. ➤ The doctoral student is entitled to take an additional final examination within the period established by the administration, which shall be scheduled no earlier than 5 days after publication of the final-examination results. ➤ Credit is awarded to the doctoral student on the basis of the final grade, which consists of the sum of the points obtained in the interim and final assessments. ➤ A higher minimum competency threshold for interim and/or final assessment may be established by the syllabus of the relevant learning component. The assessment system provides for: five types of positive grade: (A) Excellent — 91–100 points; (B) Very Good — 81–90 points; (C) Good — 71–80 points; (D) Satisfactory — 61–70 points; (E) Sufficient — 51–60 points. two types of negative grade: (FX) Fail — 41–50 points, meaning that the doctoral student needs to do more work to pass and is permitted to take an additional examination once after independent study; (F) Fail — 40 points or less, meaning that the work carried out by the doctoral student is insufficient and the course must be retaken. The doctoral student is entitled to retake the final examination within the period established by the administration, but no earlier than 5 days after publication of the final-examination results. The grade obtained by the doctoral student at the additional examination is not added to the points obtained in the final assessment. The grade obtained at the additional examination constitutes the final assessment and is reflected in the final grade for the learning component of the educational programme.	
Assessment of the Doctoral Dissertation The doctoral dissertation is assessed through a unified 100-point system comprising assessment of the dissertation by the reviewers and assessment of the public defence by the Defence Committee. The reviewers assess the doctoral dissertation with a maximum of 30 points. The reviewers' assessment score is the arithmetic mean of the scores awarded by them. The Defence Committee assesses the public defence of the doctoral dissertation with a maximum of 70 points. The public-defence assessment score is the arithmetic mean of the scores awarded by the Committee members.	

The unified final assessment of the doctoral dissertation is obtained by adding the average score of the reviewers' assessments and the average score awarded by the Defence Committee for the public defence.

The doctoral dissertation assessment system comprises the following grades:

- Excellent (summa cum laude) — 91–100 points;
- Very Good (magna cum laude) — 81–90 points;
- Good (cum laude) — 71–80 points;
- Average (bene) — 61–70 points;
- Satisfactory (rite) — 51–60 points;
- Unsatisfactory (insufficiens) — 41–50 points;
- Completely Unsatisfactory (sub omni canone) — 40 points or less.

Detailed rules and procedures relating to assessment and review of the doctoral dissertation, the public defence, resubmission and the award of the academic degree of Doctor shall be determined by the Regulations of Doctoral Studies and the Dissertation Council of Caucasus University School of Law.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The teaching and learning methods used in the Doctoral Programme correspond to the research and academic nature of the Programme, the doctoral student's individual research interests, and the Programme objectives and learning outcomes. Their application ensures the development of the doctoral student's ability to create new knowledge, plan and conduct independent scientific research, critically evaluate legal sources, communicate academically and teach in higher education.

The following teaching and learning methods are used within the learning and scientific-research components of the Programme:

Interactive lecture and explanation — consideration of theoretical and methodological issues through practical examples, questions and answers, and active participation of doctoral students;

Independent and research-based learning — defining the research problem, objective, research questions or hypothesis, developing the research design, selecting the appropriate methodology and conducting independent scientific research;

Work with scientific and legal sources — searching for, critically evaluating, comparing, analysing, synthesising and systematising Georgian and foreign scientific literature, doctrinal approaches, normative material and case law;

Problem-, case- and project-based learning — researching current legal problems and practical cases, considering different approaches to their scientific resolution, and developing research or learning projects;

Thematic and research seminar — discussion of independently produced research results, substantiation of a scientific position and improvement of the paper on the basis of comments received;

Discussion, academic debate and scientific controversy — critical discussion of different scientific positions, reasoned argument, defence of one's own position and response to differing views in compliance with academic ethics;

Academic writing — preparation of a thematic seminar paper, analytical paper, research project, scientific publication and doctoral dissertation in compliance with the requirements of scientific writing, citation of sources and academic integrity;

Presentation and public defence — structured presentation of the research problem, methodology, scientific novelty, principal findings, conclusions and recommendations before a professional audience, answering questions and substantiating the scientific position;

Individual consultation and formative feedback — provision by the supervisor of consultations and recommendations on research planning, methodology, selection of sources, argumentation and the structure of the paper;

Observation-based and supervised practical learning — within Professor Assistantship, observation of the teaching process, participation under the supervisor's oversight in planning and conducting a seminar, and development of learning and assessment tasks and the corresponding assessment criteria;

Reflective learning — critical assessment of the research and teaching activities performed, the methods used and the results obtained, and improvement of activities on the basis of feedback received;

Learning through electronic and digital resources — purposeful, ethical and responsible use of scientific databases, electronic library resources and relevant digital technologies.

The selection of specific methods and activities is determined by the objectives, content and learning outcomes of the relevant learning or scientific-research component and is specified in the relevant syllabus. The combination of methods used ensures

achievement of the learning outcomes defined by the Programme, including development of the doctoral student's research autonomy, critical and creative thinking, academic communication, teaching competence and professional responsibility.

Curriculum

Course Code	Course / Research Component	Academic Year,						
		I		II		III		
		I Semester	II Semester	I Semester	II Semester	I Semester	II Semester	ECTS Credits
NSEM 7120	First Thematic Seminar	20						20
NLRD 7120	Legal Research Methods and Dissertation Preparation Standards	10						10
NSEM 7221	Second Thematic Seminar		20					20
NSIM 7220	Innovative Teaching Methods		5					5
NPRA 7220	Professor Assistantship		5					5
	Research Component							
NRES 7320	Preparation and Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation			X				

Note:

a) Learning Component of the Doctoral Programme

Within the Doctoral Educational Programme, the doctoral student is required to complete:

two thematic seminars — 20 ECTS credits each, which are publicly defended before the relevant committee;

three compulsory courses:

- “Legal Research Methods and Dissertation Preparation Standards” — 10 ECTS;
- “Innovative Teaching Methods” — 5 ECTS;
- “Professor Assistantship” — 5 ECTS.

b) Scientific-Research Component

Upon completion of the learning component, the doctoral student registers for the scientific-research component, which continues for at least two years and includes conducting doctoral research, preparing the doctoral dissertation and its public defence.

In the first semester following registration for the scientific-research component, the doctoral student must submit the title of the dissertation topic to the School Dissertation Council for approval.

Before submitting the doctoral dissertation for the award of an academic degree, the doctoral student must, in the relevant field of research:

have published at least two scientific articles;
have participated in at least one scientific conference with a paper related to the doctoral research topic.

c) Requirements for Scientific Publications and Conference Participation

Both scientific articles must be published in an international scientific journal or conference proceedings. The relevant publication must have an ISSN or ISBN, an international editorial board/committee and international distribution. Both articles must substantively relate to the doctoral research topic and reflect the principal results obtained through the research.

A paper published in conference proceedings shall be counted as a scientific article only if it constitutes a full scientific paper, has undergone peer review and is published in a publication meeting the requirements established by the Regulations.

At least one of the two scientific articles must be published in a peer-reviewed journal included in a foreign international index relevant to the field.

A scientific article must be published in Georgian and English. This requirement does not mean that the same article must be published in two different scientific publications. Publication in Georgian and English may be in bilingual form within one scientific publication or in accordance with the procedure established by the relevant publication. If the doctoral student publishes an article in a foreign journal, they are exempt from the obligation to publish a Georgian version of that article.

A scientific article shall be deemed published if it appears in a printed or electronic issue of the relevant scientific publication or is posted on the publication's official website as a final electronic publication or in "online first" form.

Participation in a scientific conference with a paper is a requirement independent of publication of the two scientific articles. The conference paper must relate to the doctoral research topic, and participation in the conference with a paper does not replace the obligation to publish two scientific articles.

d) Individual Research Plan and Reporting

In the first semester following registration for the scientific-research component, the doctoral student prepares an individual research plan in agreement with the scientific supervisor/co-supervisor.

The individual research plan must include:

- details of the doctoral student and scientific supervisor/co-supervisor;
- the doctoral dissertation topic and research objective;
- the research question and/or principal research tasks;
- the proposed structure of the doctoral dissertation;
- the research methodology;
- a schedule for the principal stages of doctoral research and completion of work on the doctoral dissertation;
- a plan and schedule for preparation and publication of two scientific articles;
- a plan and schedule for participation in a scientific conference with a paper;
- other relevant information arising from the specific nature of the research.

Following registration for the scientific-research component, at the end of each semester the doctoral student submits a semester report on scientific-research activities in the form established by the Regulations.

The semester report must include the written formative assessment and feedback of the scientific supervisor/co-supervisor. The semester report signed by the doctoral student and the written formative assessment of the scientific supervisor/co-supervisor included therein shall be submitted to the Head of the Doctoral Programme and the Administrative Director and retained in the doctoral student's personal file.

e) Prerequisites for Admission to the Doctoral Dissertation Defence

For admission to the doctoral dissertation defence, the doctoral student must have completed:

- the learning components defined by the Doctoral Programme;
- the principal stages defined by the individual research plan;
- the requirement to publish two scientific articles;
- the requirement to participate with a paper in at least one scientific conference;
- the requirements for submitting semester reports and undergoing periodic formative assessments of research progress;
- the requirements of academic integrity and research ethics.

f) Additional Regulations

Academic, administrative and procedural matters related to doctoral studies shall be determined by the “Regulations of Doctoral Studies and the Dissertation Council of Caucasus University School of Law”.