



Caucasus University
Caucasus School of Law (CSL)

Program Title	Law
Program Title in the English Language	Law
Academic Higher Education Stage	PhD
Type of the Academic Program	Regulated
Language of Instruction	The language of instruction in the educational program is English
Qualification to be Awarded, Code	
Georgian:	სამართლის დოქტორი (06)
English:	Doctor of Law (06)
Date of the Approval of the Program	Approved by the University President Executive Order N01/05-111 of August 7, 2009
Date of the Program Renewal	Approved by the University President Executive Order N01/01-22 of September 27, 2018

The Program Supervisor/supervisors

For full information see. Program Supervisors CVs

Doctor of Law, Associated Professor Vakhtang Zaalishvili

Program volume in credits

The Doctoral Educational Program includes 180 ECTS credits, the first year - 60 ECTS, second year and third year 120 ECTS credits. Consequently, the duration of the PhD program is 3 years.

The academic year is based on a semester principle. The first (fall) and second (spring) semester includes 20 calendar weeks each. The academic year is planned for 40 weeks.

1 ECTS credit equals to 25 Credit hours (Including lecture, consultation with the supervisor, doctoral coordinator, etc.), as well as for independent work (review of special scientific literature, substantiating the theme's relevance, theoretical and/or formation of the problematic tasks empirical research, assisting, reviewing, etc.).

The Doctoral Program consists of a study and research component and culminates with fulfillment and defense of the dissertation work.

60 ECTS credits are allocated to the training component and 120 ECTS credits - research component from the total volume of the Doctoral Education Program.

During an academic year any student can accumulate more or less than 60 ECTS credits.

After completion of PhD (6 semesters), academic indebted doctorate students have the right to continue studying for no more than 4 semesters to complete the educational program.

Components of the doctoral program	
Learning component	60 ECTS credit
Learning Component	
First thematic seminar	20 ECTS credit
Second thematic seminar	20 ECTS credit
Legal research methods (mandatory)	5 ECTS credit
Innovational methods of teaching (mandatory)	5 ECTS credit
Philosophy of law (optional)	5 ECTS credit
Academic writing for lawyers (optional)	5 ECTS credit
Being a professor's assistant	5 ECTS credit
Enhancement of legal research methods (optional)	5 ECTS credit
Research component	120 ECTS credit

Research component	
Writing and defending a dissertation	120 ECTS credits
Note	
<p>The individual plan of the PhD student of Law is drawn by the PhD student himself/herself in agreement with the supervisor (co-supervisor). The plan includes: CV data of the student and the scientific advisor, the title of the dissertation, any requirements beyond the required credits and the schedule of completing the dissertation.</p>	
Pre-conditions for enrolment in the program	
<p>Any candidate with LLM degree or any other equivalent degree meeting the requirements and the minimum standards set forth by CSL for PhD degree prescribed in details in the Charter of CSL Doctorate and Dissertation Board is entitled for admission to the Program. The Academic Educational Program in Law and the Charter of Doctorate and the Dissertation Board are accessible for any interested person.</p> <p>Of all preconditions for admission to the program is having B2 level Certificate of the English language. In the case of absence of such a certificate, the University shall hold an internal test for determining the language level. Candidate having LLB or LLM degrees obtained abroad (in the English language) are considered to have the appropriate knowledge of the language.</p> <p>Any graduates of the programs of the appropriate profile as well as students using mobility opportunities registered in other PhD programs in Georgia or abroad or any other students with equivalent degrees are entitled to enroll in the PhD program of Caucasus School of Law.</p>	

Qualification of the PhD Program

The goal of the Program

The goal of the Doctorate Program is:
to prepare a new generation of researchers for faculty to facilitate the development of the field through theoretical, practical or empirical research;
Promote development of the competencies required for research and teaching in the PhD students in accordance with the National Qualification Framework.
The program is focused on developing and deepening legal analysis, interdisciplinary, social and critical approaches; implementation of research-oriented teaching;
Providing local and international labor markets with loyal, competitive, morally sound legal professionals dedicated to the ideals of democracy.
Allow students to develop skills needed for deep scientific comprehension of legal issues through renewing and applying knowledge at-hand;
Create works having practical and/or theoretical values;
Facilitating to renewal of knowledge through dynamic communication with scientific and academic communities;
Allowing PhD students to deepen their self-organizing skills and skills to independently plan and conduct research.

Learning Outcomes of the PhD Program

The graduates of the PhD program shall have the knowledge based on comprehension of peculiarities of national and international legal systems and competence of carrying out productive research.

After completion of the program, the Program graduates will have **general and field** competencies.

After completion of the program, the Program graduates will have **general** competencies:

- Skills to conduct scientific-theoretical and practical research by applying modern methodologies;
- Skills to conduct scientific research based on the most up-to-date sources and generate new ideas and develop new processes through the newest knowledge;
- Skills to independently conduct scientific work;
- Skills to expand the existing knowledge;
- Skills to apply innovative methods as well as skills to independently plan, conduct and supervise innovative research; skills to generate new ideas;
- Skills to present the outcomes of scientific-research papers and research;
- Skills to retrieve and analyze information from various sources;
- Skills of critical reasoning and self-criticism;
- Skills to motivate members of civil society and concentrate on their general findings;
- Skills to create and evaluate educational programs, scientific-legal projects.

After completion of the program, the Program graduates will have **field** competencies.

Knowledge and understanding – the PhD student will have knowledge of:

- New scientific views in the field and any corresponding sub-field of Law and modern methodological and conceptual approaches needed for solving the field issues;
- Knowledge based on the most up-to-date achievements, which allows to expand the existing knowledge through innovative methods (meeting the standards of peer-reviewed publications);
- Comprehending the renewed boundaries of knowledge through critical comprehension and partial evaluation of the existing knowledge;
- Special methods (theoretical and research) of the field or subfield of Law as well as of interdisciplinary field, which will ensure his/her successful career in Law;
- Law as a heteronomous order and issues of necessity of its existence, philosophical categories and their relation with Law;
- Newest methods and techniques of teaching and learning;
- Aspects and dynamics of research (including legal research), methods of applied and fundamental research, comparative research methods, types of sociological research and their importance for dissertation research.

Applying knowledge in practice – the PhD student will:

- Investigate legislative changes, court practice and scientific novelties and develop appropriate recommendations;
- Preparing a scientific paper in accordance with the international standards;
- Applying the newest methods in practice;
- Organize interdisciplinary scientific research and fruitful professional career;
- Analyze complex legal work and make a conclusion;
- Making scientific and argumentative judgment about legal regulations of global and national challenges as well as about philosophical models, fundamental concepts and theories;
- Develop and implement new courses and textbooks and modern educational methods;
- Making contribution to university education and science through teaching and research;
- Structure academically scientific research, logical reasoning and generalize scientific research findings.

Skills to make judgment – the PhD student will:

- Identify and analyze legal problems, arrive at and justify correct and efficient decisions independently;
- Critically analyze, synthesize and scientifically evaluate new, complex and controversial ideas and approaches;
- Evaluate and correct efficiency of research methods through critical analysis and develop new methods;
- Analyze and evaluate educational peculiarities of an academic group and make a right decision from the educational perspective.

Communication Skills – the PhD student will:

- Present his/her research findings orally and in writing to the academic and scientific community, including in English, German or French languages ;
- Participate in science debates, comprehend a different opinion and justify his/her opinion while analyzing a particular case;
- Retrieve all the sources for making a decision on a legal problem, structure legal information off any complexity in an appropriate format, present it to an addressee orally and/or in writing, including in an European language;
- Publish a scientific work in a peer-reviewed journal adhering to scientific standards;

Skills to learn – the PhD Student will:

- Acquire new knowledge through re-thinking and re-evaluating of the existing knowledge;

- Observe new scientific achievements, develop new scientific ideas and/or opinions;
- Constructively defend his/her opinion about controversial issues;
- Communicate with academic groups, drawing up syllabi in a language comprehensible for students and present it to the academic group, communicate on pressing teaching issues and participate in university management.

Values:

- After successful completion of the program the student will fully comprehend the necessity of lawfulness, justice, personal freedom, equality and democracy for proper functioning of the society; the basic principles of social state and will be ready to contribute to their implementation in reality.

Subject code	Learning and research components	Learning Plan						ECTS credit
		I §.		II §.		III §.		
		I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester	I semester	II semester	
	Learning component							
NSEM 7120	First thematic seminar	20						20
NLRM 7120	Legal research methods (mandatory)	5						5
NSRK 7120	Culture of scientific writing methods for lawyers (optional)	5						5
NIDS 7120	Philosophy of law (optional)	5						
NSEM 7221	Second thematic seminar		20					20
NSIM 7220	Innovative methods of teaching (mandatory)		5					5
NPRA 7220	Being a professor's assistant (optional)		5					5
NLRM 7220	Enhancement of legal research methods (optional)		5					5
	Research components							
NRES 7320	Writing and defending a dissertation							120
ECTS credits	In a semester	30	30					180
	In a course	60				120		180

Note:

- a) During the first semester, a doctorate student has to present his/her first seminar work, pass one mandatory subject as well as one optional subject out of the two offered. The same procedure applies to the second semester.
- b) The doctoral program of law, considering the study component, includes the mandatory preparation and defense of two thematic seminars.
- c) The prerequisite for the defense of the dissertation is: having published no less than two seminar articles in international peer-reviewed journals (one of them published abroad), which have to describe the results of the research made for this dissertation topic as well as an abstract written by adhering to the established standards.
- d) Having taken part in a scientific conference is an added necessary requirement for the research component; the failure of meeting the requirement is regarded an obstacle circumstance for the defense.
- e) The academic regulations connected to the program are stated and specified in the *Regulations of Caucasus University School of Law Doctoral Studies and Dissertation Board* approved by the President of Caucasus University.