

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

PhD programme in Law

180 credits

Tromsø

This programme description was approved by the Programme Board for the PhD programme in Law on 30 October 2018 pursuant to Section 3 of the PhD regulations.

This programme description is published pursuant to Section 3 of the Regulations concerning the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway (UiT) and was adopted by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law on 30 January 2012. It replaces the "Supplementary regulations concerning the PhD programme at the Faculty of Law" adopted by the Faculty Board on 19 December 2005 and last revised on 22 February 2010. This programme description was last amended by the Faculty Board on 1 June 2015.

Name of programme of study	Bokmål: Ph.d.-program i rettsvitenskap Nynorsk: Ph.d.-program i rettsvitskap English: PhD programme in Law
Degree attained	Philosophiae doctor in Law
Target group	The target group for the PhD programme in Law is (national and international) jurists interested in a research career or other professions for which a high degree of academic expertise and analytical skill is required.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite knowledge and recommended previous knowledge	The applicant must have a cand. jur. (master's degree) or an integrated master's degree (five years) with good grades. The faculty may at their discretion approve other qualifications (minimum 300 credits) for admission where these are equivalent. Any such qualifications must be of a nature qualifying for implementation of the doctoral project. Moreover, to be admitted to the PhD programme, the applicant must document sufficient potential for research. Supplementary guidelines for admission to the PhD programme at the Faculty of Law
Academic content and programme description	The PhD in Law is conferred based on: 1. Approved completion of the instruction component 2. Approved scientific thesis 3. Approved trial lecture on a given topic 4. Satisfactory public defence of the thesis (disputation) Structure of the instruction component The instruction component of the PhD programme in Law consists of six courses totalling 30 credits. The purpose of the instruction component is to further develop the scientific basis the PhD student has acquired through the master's degree in Law and to provide the PhD Student with a solid academic basis for the work on their thesis. The instruction component is compulsory for all doctoral fellows admitted to the PhD programme and must be implemented in line with the doctoral fellow's approved schedule for the PhD programme (cf. Section 6 of the PhD regulations), normally during the first two years of the programme. The instruction component consists of the following compulsory courses: JUR-8001: Rettsvitenskapens svenneprøve, rolle og etikk (instruction in Norwegian) or JUR-8008: Examination of the Role and Ethics of the Law. Introduction to the Scandinavian model. (instruction in English) JUR-8002: Philosophy of Science of Law JUR-8003: Methodology of Law JUR-8004: PhD Thesis in Law – Academic Writing and Communication JUR-8005: International perspectives of Law

JUR-8006: Searching for sources, national and international conferences and network building

JUR-8001/JUR-8008 introduces the PhD programme and is in two parts. The first part about the examination of the law deals with the quality requirements for attaining the PhD in Law, including matters related to method, supervision and practical information about the organisation of the programme. The other part of the course focuses on the role and ethics of a researcher in the field of law.

JUR-8002 addresses relevant and general topics and issues related to science and law.

JUR-8003 deals with various traditional and relevant law and interdisciplinary models.

JUR-8004 deals with the generally accepted starting points and ideals for the design of legal texts. The course also provides guidance on how researchers can communicate their research to a larger audience, including through the media. A compulsory midway evaluation forms part of this course. The course also includes article writing, participation in an academic writing course presenting one's project and participating in other students' project presentations.

JUR-8005 addresses the international perspectives of law. The course deals especially with the development of European Union Law and human rights. The significance of internationalisation for Norwegian law is also addressed. Moreover, the course includes a study trip to relevant international legal institutions.

JUR-8006 addresses current and universal Norwegian, Nordic and international law topics and issues. The course also contains topics and issues of direct/indirect relevance for the individual candidate's doctoral project. The course is divided into three parts and includes participation in the national seminar for doctoral candidates in law, participation in elective subject-specific and Nordic/international conferences and a course on searching for sources of international literature.

Course descriptions for the individual courses have been drawn up and these are published on UiT's website.

The main part of the PhD programme is the independent work on a thesis in law, as described in the course JUR-8900. The course description for the doctoral thesis is published on the UiT website.

The doctoral thesis is the main work that forms the basis of assessment for the PhD degree. The doctoral thesis should deal with a topic in the field of law and be based on knowledge acquired through other courses in the PhD programme. The doctoral thesis should produce new knowledge in the field

	of law be of such a scholarly level that it justifies publication as part of the law literature. For supplementary descriptions of the required level, see ‘The level of doctoral degrees in law at the Faculty of Law, University of Tromsø’		
Table: Structure of the programme of study	Course	Credits	Duration (number of semesters):
	JUR-8001: Rettsvitenskapens svenneprøve, rolle og etikk (instruction in Norwegian) or JUR-8008: Examination of the Role and Ethics of the Law. Introduction to the Scandinavian model. (instruction in English)	2	One semester. This course is held once every autumn semester.
	JUR-8002: Philosophy of Science of Law	6	One semester. This course is held once every autumn semester.
	JUR-8003: Methodology of Law	6	One semester. This course is held once every spring semester.
	JUR-8004: PhD Thesis in Law – Academic Writing and Communication	6	The various parts of the course are normally implemented over four semesters.
	JUR-8005: International perspectives of Law	4	One semester. This course is held once every second spring semester.
	JUR-8006: Searching for sources, national and international conferences and network building	6	The various parts of the course are normally implemented over four semesters.
	It is recommended to take the courses consecutively after admission to the programme. It can be advantageous to take the course JUR-8001/JUR-8008 first, and JUR-8002 before JUR-8003, but this is not compulsory. The midway evaluation included in the course JUR-8004 takes place half way through the programme. It is recommended to take periods of study/research abroad in the second or third year of the programme.		
Learning outcome descriptors in accordance with the	Through the instruction component and doctoral thesis, the PhD will enable candidates to conduct legal research of a high international standard in		

Norwegian Qualifications Framework for Higher Education	accordance with recognised scientific and ethical principles. During the programme, the PhD student will attain the following learning outcomes: Knowledge After successful completion of the PhD in Law, the candidate: • is in the forefront of knowledge within his/her area of law and masters the field's philosophy of science and methods, as well as has knowledge of interdisciplinary methods • can evaluate the expediency and application of different methods in research and scholarly development projects and can place his/her own research within a larger academic and research context • can contribute to the development of new knowledge, new theories, methods, interpretations and forms of documentation in the field of law Skills After successful completion of the PhD in Law, the candidate can: • formulate problems, plan and carry out research and scholarly and/or artistic development work of a high international standard • carry out a complex scholarly research project within the research front of law • challenge established knowledge and practice in the field of law • participate in scholarly discussions and give constructive feedback on academic work General competence After successful completion of the PhD in Law, the candidate can: • identify and reflect on relevant ethical issues and carry out his/her research with a high level of scholarly integrity • manage complex interdisciplinary assignments and projects • communicate research and development work through recognized Norwegian and international channels • participate in debates and discussions in the field in Norwegian and international forums
Relevance of the programme of study	The PhD programme is designed to qualify students for research activity at a high academic level and for other types of work in which a high degree of academic expertise and analytical skill is required. The competency to formulate problems, plan and carry out a research project is relevant for legal/jurist positions at the courts, in administration, the business community, the profession of lawyers, Police and the prosecuting authority. A candidate who has attained the PhD in Law is a specialist in their field and is also qualified for numerous other professions and duties in the private and public sector in Norway and internationally.
Workload and learning activities	The doctoral degree programme is designed to qualify students for research activities of international standard and for other types of work for which a high level of academic expertise and analytical skill is required, according to the canons of scientific and scholarly practise and ethical standards. This is stipulated in the regulations for the degree of PhD at UiT (Regulations)

	<u>concerning the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)</u>). The nominal length of study of the doctoral degree programme is three years of full-time study (180 credits). The programme consists of an independent piece of research with a scope of 150 credits an approved instruction component with a scope of 30 credits. To achieve the learning outcomes, the PhD students must expect a scope of work of 1500-1800 hours per year in line with ECTS (25-30 hours of student learning per credit). The faculty and the PhD students cooperate to create a good academic and social learning environment. The students shall acquire knowledge through their own activities and strict demands are placed on active participation, orally and in writing. The teaching methods in the instruction component are varied and cover: reading courses, academic writing courses, a course on searching for sources, project presentation, midway evaluation, academic supervision and article writing, in addition to elective seminars/conferences, compulsory national seminars and a study trip abroad including a preparatory reading seminar. Reading seminar The instruction is mostly in groups and as reading seminars. Prior to the reading seminar each participant/PhD student is given responsibility for reading one or more articles from the course literature, which they then present to the group. The seminar forms the basis for debate on the topic of the course or related topics, and thus broadens the participants' academic knowledge within the field of law. The reading seminars are also intended to provide training in critical scientific analysis and reflection. Academic writing course Prior to the academic writing courses, the participants submit their own texts in advance to be discussed at the course. The text may be an extract from the PhD thesis or a draft article. The texts are distributed among the participants and each participant is responsible for introducing and providing feedback on some of the other participants' texts. Such academic writing courses are offered in both Norwegian and English. The purpose of the academic writing courses is to provide knowledge about the formal requirements for law, and an opportunity for the participants to receive feedback from people other than their academic supervisor on aspects such as how their text works linguistically, structurally and methodically. The writing course is also intended to provide training in research dissemination, academic presentation and education through roles such as the introductory speaker/co-introductory speaker and author. Moreover, the courses play an important part in promoting a good learning environment among the PhD students. Academic supervision/teaching method for the doctoral thesis The most important instruction in the doctoral thesis course, JUR-8900, consists of individual academic supervision of the work on their thesis. The
--	--

	academic supervision constitutes 280 hours, which should be distributed throughout the project period. A minimum of two academic supervisors must be appointed, including the main supervisor who should normally be employed at the faculty. It is also intended that the PhD students raise research topics/problems from their doctoral thesis in the teaching of the various courses in the instruction component. The purpose of this is to closely link the theoretical instruction to the work on their doctoral thesis. Moreover, the PhD students are required to hold a project presentation at an early stage of their doctoral period and to undergo a compulsory midway evaluation after approximately two years. The project presentation and midway evaluation are coursework requirements of the course JUR-8004. Separate guidelines have been drawn up for the various teaching methods: Guidelines for reading seminars Guidelines for academic writing courses Guidelines for project presentations Guidelines for midway evaluations
Examination and assessment	There are no examinations for the compulsory courses that are included in the instruction component. The form of assessment for the courses in the instruction component is active preparation and participation in the academic writing course and reading seminars. To obtain approval of the instruction component, the PhD students must – in addition to gaining approval for the all the courses – submit an article that has been published/is suitable for publication. Moreover, the PhD students must submit and gain approval for a statement in which they reflect on the learning outcomes for the courses they have completed and the significance of these for the work on their doctoral thesis.
Doctoral thesis	The doctoral thesis has a scope of 150 credits. The doctoral thesis must be written in Norwegian/a Nordic language or English. Submission in any other language is not permitted without prior approval. The doctoral thesis may be submitted as a monograph with a recommended length of 250-400 pages (see page 4 of The level of doctoral degrees in law at the Faculty of Law, University of Tromsø) or a collection of several smaller research papers – an anthology. Anthology-based theses, like monographs, must be an individual work, in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the PhD regulations. The form of assessment for doctoral theses is a written report from the evaluation committee. The recommendation must specify whether the thesis is worthy of public defence for the PhD or if it should not be approved. The committee may recommend that the faculty permit minor revisions before the final recommendation is made, cf. Section 31 of the PhD regulations.

Language of instruction and examination	The language of instruction is in the main Norwegian, but English in certain courses. This is stipulated in the relevant course description. Courses that have Norwegian as the language of instruction may be implemented in English if the composition of and consideration to the student group require this.
Internationalisation	The faculty aims to offer an international-oriented PhD programme. The faculty encourages and facilitates the research fellows having an exchange abroad during their research fellowship. To be eligible to apply for funding for the exchange abroad, the research fellows must be in their second or third year of the project when they travel abroad. The period of study/research abroad must have a minimum duration of three months, a clear purpose and be of relevance for the doctoral thesis/provide a learning outcome for the programme of study. The faculty also has the following arrangements to promote internationalisation: - The PhD students may choose to write their doctoral thesis in English and will have the opportunity to have an international/English-speaking supervisor and, in so doing, build an international network. - The course JUR-8005 includes a one-week study trip abroad with visits to international institutions. - A requirement of the course JUR-8006 is that at least one of the elective conference days must be of an international character. - All the courses included in the instruction component have parts of the syllabus material in English and the teaching is often in English.
Administrative and academic responsibility	The Faculty of Law has the administrative responsibility for the PhD programme in Law. The Faculty Board at the Faculty of Law has the overarching responsibility for the PhD programme for Law, while the faculty's Research Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operation.
Quality assurance	The faculty's quality assurance system shall ensure high quality of the PhD programme in Law and contribute to dialogue and cooperation between the faculty and the PhD students. The doctoral fellow and his/her academic supervisor(s) shall submit written reports on an annual basis to the faculty outlining the progress of the project. Such reports shall be submitted on the specified form drawn up by the Research Committee. Using such progress reports as a basis, the research fellow shall have an annual performance appraisal with the Vice Dean for Research. This shall facilitate transparency, good communication and follow-up of the annual progress reporting. The Vice-Dean for Research invites the PhD students to a dialogue meeting each semester. During this meeting, the PhD students will be informed about relevant matters and will be given the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions about the PhD programme.

	All courses and seminars arranged as part of the PhD programme will be evaluated. Such evaluation is undertaken by the students and the teachers. The report on evaluation of teaching is reviewed during the meeting of the Research Committee each semester. External PhD students External PhD students receive an invitation to participate in the dialogue meeting with the Vice-Dean for Research each semester. The same requirement concerning compulsory participation in courses to gain approval for the instruction component applies for the external PhD students. The requirements concerning participation at other students' project presentations and participation on the joint study trip abroad contribute to the external PhD students being taken care of and becoming an active part of the student environment. The progress reports from the external PhD students and their supervisors will be read and evaluated by the Vice-Dean for Research on the same level as the other PhD students.
Other provisions	Regulations for the PhD programme in Law at the Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway: Regulations concerning the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway (UiT) Supplementary guidelines to the PhD regulations Procedures for quality assurance of the PhD programme in Law The level of doctoral degrees in law at the Faculty of Law, University of Tromsø Guidelines for academic writing courses Guidelines for reading seminars Guidelines for midway evaluations Guidelines for project presentations For a complete overview of all the regulations and guidelines, please click here to visit the website of the Faculty of Law.