



UiT Norges arktiske universitet

Programme description

PhD programme in Law

180 credits / Tromsø

This programme description was approved by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Law on 30 January 2012, last revised on 9 December 2020.



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 is candidates within the field of law wanting to qualify to conduct research of international quality and perform other types of work requiring a high level of scientific expertise and analytical thinking in accordance with sound scientific practice and established standards on research ethics.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite knowledge and recommended previous knowledge	Cand. jur. (master's degree) or a five-year integrated master's degree in law with good grades. The faculty may at its discretion approve other equivalent qualifications as a basis for admission. Moreover, the applicant must document sufficient potential for research.
Learning outcome descriptors	Through the required coursework and doctoral thesis, the PhD programme will enable candidates to conduct research in the field of law of a high international standard in 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 development work of a high international standard

	• carry out a complex scholarly research project in the research forefront 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 • contribute independently in complex, interdisciplinary assignments and projects • communicate research and development work through recognized national and international channels • participate in legal debates in international fora and contribute to the Norwegian public debate with research-based knowledge
Academic content and programme description	The PhD degree in Law is conferred on the basis of: 1. approved completion of the required coursework 2. an approved doctoral thesis 3. an approved trial lecture on an assigned topic 4. an approved public defence of the thesis (disputation) Structure of the required coursework The required coursework comprises of a compulsory part (20 credits) and an elective part (10 credits). The elective part may be adapted to the individual PhD student. The purpose of the required coursework is to further develop the scientific basis the PhD student has acquired through their master's degree in Law and to provide the PhD student with a solid academic basis for the work on their thesis. The required coursework is compulsory for all PhD students admitted to the PhD programme and must be implemented in line with the PhD student's approved schedule for the PhD programme, normally during the first two years of the programme. The doctoral thesis constitutes the largest part of the PhD programme and is an independent 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. Moreover,

the doctoral thesis must produce new knowledge in the field of law and be of such a scholarly level that it merits publication as part of the literature in the field of law.

The course descriptions for the various courses are available in UiT's online study catalogue: <https://uit.no/utdanning>.

[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
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
JUR-8002: Legal Theory and Legal Philosophy	4
JUR-8003: Legal Methods	6
JUR-8004: Writing a PhD Thesis in Law and Dissemination	3
JUR-8005: International Perspectives of the Law	3
GEN-8001: Take Control of your PhD Journey	2
JUR-8010: Article Writing	5
JUR-8011: International and subject-specific courses/seminars/activities	5

We recommend that the PhD students take the courses successively after admission to the programme and that they take the first courses in the order stipulated in the table above. Furthermore, we recommend taking the course JUR-8001 in the first semester.

	The midway evaluation, which is included in the course JUR-8004, shall be implemented at the midway point of the programme. We recommend taking periods of study/research abroad in the second or third year of the programme.
Teaching methods, learning methods and forms of assessment	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 high demands are placed on active participation, orally and in writing. The teaching methods in the courses are varied and include reading seminars, academic writing courses, project presentation, midway evaluation, academic supervision and article writing, in addition to elective seminars/conferences/activities, compulsory national seminars (DNDS) 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 academic analysis and reflection. Academic writing course Prior to the academic writing courses, the participants submit their own texts to be discussed at the course. The text may be an extract from the PhD thesis or a draft of an 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 legal texts, and an opportunity for the participants to receive feedback from someone other than their supervisor on aspects such as how their text works linguistically, structurally and methodically. The academic writing course is also intended to provide training in research dissemination and education through roles such as the introductory speaker/co-introductory speaker and author. The courses play an important part in promoting a good learning environment among the PhD students. Individual supervision of the work on the doctoral thesis The most important instruction in the PhD thesis seminar, JUR-8900, consists of individual supervision of the work on the doctoral thesis. The academic supervision constitutes 280 hours, which shall be distributed throughout the

	project period. A minimum of two supervisors must be appointed, including the main supervisor who shall 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 required coursework. 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 about the work on their thesis at an early stage of their doctoral period. They are also required to undergo a compulsory midway evaluation after approximately two years. The project presentation and midway evaluation are requirements of the course JUR-8004. Separate guidelines have been drawn up for the various teaching methods: Guidelines for reading seminar, academic writing course, project presentation and midway evaluation Examination and assessment The course GEN-8001 is assessed with a written examination, the grade for which is assessed as pass/fail. Passing the other courses in the required coursework requires active preparation for and participation in an academic writing course, reading seminars and other learning activities, as outlined in the course descriptions. In addition to passing all the courses in the required coursework, 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.
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 requiring a high degree of scientific expertise and analytical thinking. The competency to formulate research questions, plan and implement 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	The PhD programme is designed to qualify students for research activities of international quality and other types of work requiring a high level of scientific expertise and analytical thinking in accordance with sound scientific practice and established standards on research ethics.

	The nominal length of study of the PhD 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 and approved required coursework comprising 30 credits. To achieve the learning outcomes, the PhD students must expect a scope of work of 1,500-1,800 hours per year in line with ECTS (25-30 hours of student learning per credit).
Doctoral thesis	The doctoral thesis has a scope of 150 credits. It must be written in Norwegian/a Nordic language or English. Submission in any other language is not permitted without prior approval. The thesis may be submitted as a monograph with a recommended length of 250-400 pages (see “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 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. 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 held 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 PhD programme when they travel abroad. The period of study/research abroad must have a minimum duration of three consecutive months, a clear purpose and be of relevance for the thesis/learning outcome for the programme. The faculty also has the following arrangements to promote internationalisation: - The PhD students may choose to write their thesis in English and will have the opportunity to have an international/English-speaking supervisor and, in so doing, build an international network. - The required coursework includes a one-week study trip abroad with visits to international institutions. - In the elective part of the required coursework, the PhD students can choose to attend relevant conferences, courses and seminars of an international character.

	- All the courses included in the required coursework have parts of the syllabus material in English and the teaching may be in English.
Student exchange	In the course <i>JUR-8011 International and subject-specific courses/seminars/activities</i> , the PhD students can participate in elective subject-specific seminars (arranged by the faculty or other academic institutions), Nordic or international conferences, seminars or workshops (with international participants and lecturers, preferably abroad).
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 the programme board and has responsibility for the day-to-day operation.
Quality assurance	The faculty's quality work shall ensure high quality of the PhD programme in Law and contribute to dialogue and cooperation between the faculty and the PhD students. The PhD student and his/her academic supervisors 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 assessment interview 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 shall be evaluated. Such evaluation is undertaken by the students and the lecturers. 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 required coursework 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 in line with the other PhD students.
Other stipulations	Click here to view all the regulations and guidelines for the PhD programme in Law at the Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

