

## REVIEW

### **of the educational and research training program for the "PhD in Law" at the postgraduate school of the Scientific Research Institute of State Building and Local Government of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine**

The peer-reviewed educational and scientific program for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Law at the Scientific Research Institute of State Building and Local Government of the National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine is a set of documents that complies with the legislative requirements of Ukraine in the field of education and demonstrates substantial improvement since the previous evaluation.

The purpose of the Doctor of Philosophy in Law program is to develop general and professional competencies to ensure the training of highly qualified personnel for research and analytical work, scientific consulting, and scientific and pedagogical activities. Achieving this goal involves the postgraduate student attaining the following program outcomes:

- Possession of advanced conceptual and methodological knowledge in the field of research and/or professional activities of an interdisciplinary nature.
- Development and implementation of projects, including original research, which allow for a re-evaluation of established perspectives on solving specific problems and the proposal of new approaches.
- Demonstration of the ability to critically analyze, evaluate, and synthesize new and complex ideas.
- Communication in a dialogic mode with the broader scientific community and the public, including international audiences, in a specific field of scientific and/or professional activity.
- Leadership and the ability to work effectively as part of a team in the implementation of collective research projects.
- Social responsibility for the outcomes of strategic decision-making.
- Capacity for self-development and lifelong learning, responsibility for teaching others, etc.

Analyzing the program and engaging with Ukrainian colleagues involved in its implementation, it can be stated that the program not only corresponds to the dynamic changes in the modern world, characterized by globalization and regional integration processes, but also adequately responds to the challenges posed by the Russian aggression against Ukraine since 2022. This significantly impacts the prospects for the development of legal science, particularly constitutional law and national security law. There is currently an urgent need for the active development of academic research, publication activity, and the training of experts and consultants required by higher education institutions, research institutes, state and local government bodies, foundations, and public organizations.

One of the key objectives of the updated educational and research program is to develop postgraduate students' ability to initiate innovative interdisciplinary projects and participate in their implementation. Concurrently, the program clearly

aligns with the subject area of the specialty defined for it and legislative requirements, possessing a clear structure and a systematic, coherent approach.

From this perspective, the content of the Doctor of Philosophy program in Law corresponds to the subject area of the specialty and the legislative requirements regarding the academic workload for the appropriate level of higher education. The program is characterized by a clear structure and the implementation of a systematic approach to its construction. The educational components included in the "Law" program constitute a logical, interconnected system, the volume of which in ECTS credits corresponds to the actual workload of the applicants. This facilitates the achievement of the stated goals and program learning outcomes.

An analysis of the content of the program allows for the assertion that its structure provides postgraduate students with the opportunity to choose an individual educational trajectory, and also ensures the necessary practical training to acquire the requisite competencies and social skills for future professional activity. Particular emphasis should be placed on the in-depth approach to the study of European Union law, which not only meets contemporary demands but also cultivates in students a profound understanding of the fundamental principles and operational mechanisms of the European legal system, which is crucial for Ukraine's strategic development.

A particularly noteworthy strength of this doctoral program lies in its evident success in cultivating a dynamic research environment that rigorously prepares candidates for the complexities of the contemporary legal landscape. The curriculum is adeptly designed to foster advanced critical thinking and analytical skills, encouraging postgraduate students to engage deeply with multifaceted legal questions. This approach is especially valuable in developing a sophisticated understanding of how national legal frameworks intersect with and are shaped by broader international and European legal paradigms, equipping graduates with the intellectual agility essential for impactful contributions to legal scholarship and practice.

In conclusion, the program unequivocally meets the highest standards for such academic endeavors. It offers a comprehensive approach to cultivating the qualifications of future scholars and has commendably adapted to contemporary challenges. Notably, the recent and discernible strengthening of the Institute's collaboration with international partners has further enriched the program, particularly enhancing opportunities for postgraduate students' research projects. Therefore, this program is strongly recommended for continued successful implementation, and further deepening these international academic ties will undoubtedly continue to yield significant benefits.

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