

**Criteria for the study of law (Ph.D) at the
Reykjavík University School of Law**

May 2014

Criteria for the study of law

Ph.D. (level 3, stage 1)

Following completion of a doctorate degree in law (Ph.D.), the following criteria should have been met, in addition to the criteria met at earlier stages.

Knowledge

Degree holders possess specialised knowledge within the field of law.

This entails that holders:

- possess extensive and comprehensive understanding of main legal theories, principles, the concept of law, and the latest findings and scholarly contribution;
- have contributed to the generation of new knowledge and its interpretation with research or other acknowledged scholarly activities that measure up to peer reviews and critique;
- have contributed important innovation in the form of new knowledge, innovative utilisation or interpretation of existing knowledge;
- demonstrate their awareness of science ethics and that they have formed a considered opinion regarding their own research and that of others, based on their own ethical consciousness;
- possess extensive expertise in a specific area of law which they have acquired through their own research.
- possess the professional and methodological foundation for addressing new and complex challenges in the field of law, taking account of relevant legal sources, requirements for scientific method, ethical values, and social impact;
- have an understanding that their field of study and their research within that field is of moral and social relevance;
 - will understand that they are required to observe ethical principles in all aspects of their work;
 - will have an understanding of the social influence of their field of study and the various resolutions of issues and their responsibility with respect to their research and work;
 - will have an understanding and knowledge of the interaction and integration between law and other academic disciplines.

Skills

Degree holders can apply specialised methods and procedures of a specific area of law.

This entails that holders:

- can conceptualise and implement extensive research that expand and/or redefine the existing methodology of law;
- can explore or develop projects that tackle new challenges and subjects within law;
- have full command over basic skills, methods, material and sources connected to law;
- can apply critical analysis, evaluation and integration to new and complex projects;
- can apply general and specialised research tools and research technology in a practical manner;
- can use software to support and enhance work in law;

- can evaluate statistical and graphical information in a critical manner
- have carried out innovative research or developed methods that add to or widen the existing scope of knowledge in law;
- demonstrate creativity in developing and applying new knowledge, understanding and methods
- have adopted a critical stand towards knowledge;
- have presented a scientific dissertation that is suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed publication at a national or international level;
- have significant experience in legal methodology, so as to enable them to resolve complex professional and methodological issues;
- make use of their knowledge of ethics, in particular the ethics of science, as regards the delimitation, planning and presentation of projects and findings.

Competences

Degree holders can apply their knowledge and skills in their profession and/or further study.

This entails that holders:

- can assume full responsibility for their own projects and for the work of others;
- can demonstrate independence and initiative in their professional and scientific work;
- can effectively communicate to their peers, other scholars and the general public about their field of expertise;
- can participate in critical debate, initiate and lead theoretical discourse;
- can promote innovation and entrepreneurship in their field of study.