

## Catalogue of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) for PhD courses

The PhD programme is a three-year research programme aiming to train PhD students at an international level to undertake research, development and teaching assignments in the private and public sectors, for which a broad knowledge of research is required. The PhD programme mainly comprises active research training under supervision.<sup>1</sup>

### About PhD courses

PhD students are required to complete courses corresponding to approx. 30 ECTS which shall be set up in accordance with internal rules laid down by the university.

The purpose of PhD courses offered by JurForsk is to enhance the general research skills of PhD students, and should therefore not be focused on narrow substantive legal issues, but rather on methodological and theoretical issues that may be of broader relevance. Courses offered need not necessarily target all PhD students and may selectively focus on methodological and theoretical issues relevant to a selected group of research issues that are central to carrying out legal research within the research centre that offers the course in question.

Further information about PhD courses, including formal requirements and inspiration for teaching and learning activities etc., is available on the JurForsk website: [www.jurforsk.dk](http://www.jurforsk.dk).

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) are statements, written from the students' perspective, indicating the level of understanding and performance they are expected to achieve as a result of engaging in the teaching and learning experience.<sup>2</sup>

To assist in developing PhD courses of a high standard, we have prepared the following list of possible learning outcomes for PhD courses aimed at legal PhD students. The list is intended to be exhaustive in the sense that the ILOs of a particular PhD course should be one or more of the ILOs mentioned in the list below.

#### 1) Research skills

The PhD student will be able

##### Research skills and techniques

- to demonstrate the ability to identify legal problems
- to demonstrate original and critical legal thinking
- to demonstrate the ability to develop theoretical legal concepts
- to demonstrate knowledge of recent scientific advances within a specific field of legal research
- to demonstrate an understanding of legal research methodologies and techniques
- to apply such methodologies and techniques within a specific field of research
- to identify and access relevant knowledge resources, including legal information systems

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<sup>1</sup> Sec. 1 of the Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities (the PhD order).

<sup>2</sup> See e.g. John Biggs and Catherine Tang, *Teaching for Quality Learning at University* (Third Edition 2007), p. 55.

- to critically evaluate the scientific value of information from different knowledge resources, including legal information systems
- to analyse and evaluate one's own scientific findings and those of others
- to demonstrate the ability to summarise, document, report and reflect on research results
- to demonstrate knowledge about research ethics
- to demonstrate a broad understanding of the various scientific and non-scientific approaches to legal analysis as well as an understanding of the role of these various approaches in legal research.
- to demonstrate an understanding of cross-disciplinary methodologies and techniques

#### Research management and funding

- to demonstrate an understanding of the processes for acquiring funding and evaluation of research
- to demonstrate an understanding of the process of academic or commercial use of research results
- to apply effective project management by setting specific research goals supported by milestones and activities
- to design and execute systems for the acquisition and collation of information through the effective use of appropriate resources,
- to use information technology for database management, recording and presenting information

## **2) Other (generic) skills**

The PhD student will be able

#### Communication skills

- to give clear and precise presentations, in writing or orally, in a style appropriate to the purpose
- to construct coherent arguments and articulate ideas clearly to a range of audiences, formally and informally through a variety of techniques
- to justify and defend research results in a constructive way at seminars, etc.
- to justify specific research projects to funding bodies
- to promote the public understanding of a specific field of research
- to effectively support the learning of others when involved in teaching

#### Networking and teamworking

- to develop and maintain networks with supervisors, colleagues and peers – both within the institution and the wider research community
- to understand one's behaviour and impact on others when working in teams
- to give and receive feedback
- to listen and respond perceptively to others

#### Personal effectiveness

- to demonstrate the ability and willingness to learn and acquire knowledge
- to demonstrate flexibility and open-mindedness
- to demonstrate self-awareness and the ability to identify own training needs
- to demonstrate self-discipline, motivation and thoroughness
- to recognise boundaries and draw upon/use sources of support as appropriate

- to show initiative, work independently and be self-reliant

**Sources used for inspiration:**

[www.plymouth.ac.uk/pages/view.asp?page=32219](http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/pages/view.asp?page=32219)