



Doctor of Philosophy in Private Law Guideline Handbook

College of Law - University of Bahrain

2025-2026

Doctor of Philosophy in Private Law

1: Program Overview

The Doctoral program is a specialized academic program consisting of in-depth legal studies. It follows the Master's Degree in Law and grants the researcher who fulfills the graduation requirements a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Private Law.

2: Program Objectives

The program aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Providing the local and regional community with specialized legal professionals equipped with outstanding legal expertise and competencies in the field of specialization, qualified to occupy various legal positions.
2. Enabling graduates to utilize solid scientific research skills and develop innovative solutions to contemporary legal issues and challenges.
3. Equipping graduates with skills in analysis, interpretation, reasoning, deduction, legal criticism, and advanced intellectual expertise in all branches of specialization.
4. Publishing specialized and comparative legal studies and research across various branches of private law to enrich legal knowledge.
5. Creating a suitable educational environment for creativity and innovation in different branches of private law, while fostering leadership and decision-making skills among graduates.

3: Program Intended Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing the program's requirements, graduates will be able to:

1. Explain with high efficiency the principles, theories, and key concepts related to branches of private law.
2. Write original and in-depth academic research using refined legal language that contributes to solving contemporary legal issues within the field of specialization.
3. Evaluate legal texts, judicial rulings, and jurisprudential opinions relevant to the area of specialization to contribute to the development of legal rules.
4. Use databases, information technology, research skills, and cognitive and professional abilities to generate new qualitative knowledge in private law.
5. Propose creative and innovative solutions to emerging challenges and issues related to branches of private law.

4: Admission Requirements

1. The applicant must have a Bachelor's degree in Law from the University of Bahrain or any recognized university with a cumulative GPA of no less than 2.00 out of 4.00 or its equivalent in other grading systems.
2. The applicant must hold a Master's degree in private Law or its equivalent from the University of Bahrain or another university recognized by

relevant authorities, with a cumulative GPA of no less than 3.00 out of 4.00 or its equivalent in other grading systems.

3. The applicant must attach the required documents for admission to postgraduate programs as indicated on the university's website (Steps for Graduate Studies Application).

<https://www.uob.edu.bh/admission-requirements/?lang=ar>

5: Degree Requirements

1. Successfully complete all program hours (75 credit hours).
2. Achieve a cumulative GPA of no less than 3.00 out of 4.00.
3. Pass the dissertation course with a successful grade (80 or above).

6: Program Duration

The program lasts 3.5 years, with students able to complete graduation requirements within a period ranging from 7 to 12 semesters.

7: Study Language

The language of instruction for the Ph.D. in private Law program is Arabic, with some courses taught in English.

8: Career Opportunities and Graduate Destination

Graduates of the Ph.D. program in Private Law can pursue various legal careers, including:

1. A judge in civil, commercial and labor courts.
2. A legal advisor in governmental and private institutions such as commercial companies, financial institutions, transportation, shipping and insurance companies.
3. A legal researcher in governmental and professional institutions.
4. An assistant professor in the field of private law in faculties of law/law.
5. A lawyer.
6. An arbitrator in the field of commercial arbitration in commercial, economic and investment cases.

9: Program Credit Hours

The total number of credit hours for the Doctor of Philosophy in Private Law program is 75 credit hours, consisting of 24 credit hours distributed across 8 courses, with 3 credit hours for each course, in addition to 51 credit hours allocated for the doctoral thesis. The minimum academic load for a student in one semester shall be (3) courses (9 hours), and the maximum shall be (4) courses (12 hours). The student may also register for less than (3) courses in one semester only once during his study period.

10: Attendance and Teaching Pattern

The College follows a full-time, in-person attendance model, with lectures typically held in the evening from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM once a week for each course according to the study plan. The College also adopts an e-learning

policy as one of the essential tools supporting the teaching and learning process.

11: Examination and Grades Distribution

Students will undergo written and/or oral examinations, depending on the nature of each course, as determined by the department and College councils.

Course's grades are normally distributed as follows:

- Midterm written exam: 25%
- Oral exam: 25%
- Assignments and class participation: 10%
- Final written exam: 40%

The Academic Plan for the Program.

Program credit hours distribution according to the type of courses

Number	Course Type	Credit Hours	Number of Courses
1	University Requirement (UR)	-	
2	College Requirement (CR)	-	
3	Major Requirement (MR)	18	6
4	Major Elective (ME)	6	2
5	General Studies Elective (free elective)	-	
6	Minor (if available)	-	
7	Thesis Credit Hours	51	1
8	Total Credit (CRD)	75	9

Study Plan

Year 1 – Semester 1

#	Course Title	Course Code	Credit hours
1	Civil Law – in depth study	Law713	3-0-3
2	Jurisprudential Objectives in Islamic Law-in depth study	Law714	3-0-3
3	Law of Civil and Commercial Procedure- in depth study	Law715	3-0-3
4	Elective Course	Lawxxx	3-0-3

Year 1 – Semester 2

#	Course Title	Course Code	Credit hours
1	Contemporary Legal Research Issues	Law716	3-0-3
2	Commercial Law – in depth study (In English)	Law717	3-0-3
3	Private International Law – in depth study	Law718	3-0-3
4	Elective Course	Lawxxx	3-0-3

Year 2 – Semester 3

#	Course Title	Course Code	Credit hours
1	Thesis	Law 781	10

Year 2 - Semester 4

#	Course Title	Course Code	Credit hours
1	Thesis	Law 782	10

Year 3 - Semester 5

#	Course Title	Course Code	Credit hours
1	Thesis	Law 783	10

Year 3 - Semester 6

#	Course Title	Course Code	Credit hours
1	Thesis	Law 784	10

Year 4 - Semester 7

#	Course Title	Course Code	Credit hours
1	Thesis	Law 785	11

***Elective Courses**

#	Course Title	Course Code	Credit hours
1	Philosophy of Law	Law 750	3-0-3
2	Law of Electronic Commerce	Law 746	3-0-3
3	Communications & Technology Law	Law 747	3-0-3
4	Professional Responsibility	Law 748	3-0-3
5	Alternative Dispute Resolution – (In English)in depth study	Law 749	3-0-3
6	Technology Transfer Contracts	Law 762	3-0-3

Course Description

Major Courses

Course Code: LAW 713

Civil Law - In-depth Study

This course includes an in-depth analytical study of a specific topic in civil law. It covers theoretical knowledge, analysis of Bahraini civil law texts and comparative civil laws, examination of emerging practical issues derived from judicial rulings, and discussion of optimal solutions. The topics are presented interactively, encouraging student participation.

Students will also study general course requirements related to the field and will be assessed through an oral examination conducted by a committee.

Course Code: LAW714

**Jurisprudence of Interests in Islamic Law -
An In-Depth Study**

This course examines legislative interests as an essential discipline for the evolution of legal principles. It introduces students to the nature, importance, and relationship of this field with other legal disciplines, exploring its history in both Islamic and secular contexts, key terminology, and practical methodologies supporting legal reasoning and application. The topics are presented in interactive discussion seminars.

Students will also study general course requirements and will be assessed through an oral examination conducted by a committee.

Course Code: LAW 715 *Civil and Commercial Procedure Law - In-depth Study*

This course entails an in-depth analytical study of a selected topic within civil and commercial litigation law. It includes theoretical concepts, analysis of Bahraini procedural law and comparative laws, as well as the study of emerging practical issues derived from judicial rulings.

Students will also study general course requirements and will be assessed through an oral examination conducted by a committee.

Course Code: LAW 716 *Contemporary Legal Research Issues*

This course develops students' research skills by preparing sound legal research worthy of publication in peer-reviewed journals. Students will select contemporary legal topics and issues, define research problems, adopt appropriate methodologies, propose innovative legal solutions, present, and discuss them. The course involves an in-depth study of emerging and modern legal issues within the framework of private law.

Students will be assessed also through an oral examination conducted by a committee.

Course Code: LAW 717

Commercial Law – in depth study

This course includes a comparative analysis of Bahraini law and relevant comparative laws concerning a specific theme within the commercial sector. Examination and in-depth analysis of a contemporary legal issue arising from the chosen topic of study. Students should prepare and present a detailed analysis of a legal issue arising from the chosen theme , under supervision of the lecturer.

Students also, studies the general requirements of the course and is subject to evaluation through oral exam by a committee.

Course Code: LAW 718 **Private International Law - In-depth Study**

This course includes an advanced study of a specific topic in contemporary private international law. It focuses on specialization, depth, analysis, and practical application by analyzing legal texts, judicial rulings, and jurisprudential opinions, as well as addressing associated legal issues and proposing suitable legal solutions.

Students will also study general course requirements related to the field and will be assessed through an oral examination conducted by a committee.

Course Code: LAW 781

Thesis

This course aims to measure all program learning outcomes. Students must complete a doctoral thesis in either private law or public law, depending on their enrolled program. The research should follow established legal methodologies, utilizing recognized research tools in the field and adhering to the formal guidelines outlined in the university's thesis writing manual.

Elective Courses

Course Code: LAW 750

Philosophy of Law

This course provides an in-depth study of the philosophy of law, explaining its nature and significance, and its relationship to legal interpretation. It introduces students to various philosophical schools of thought that have addressed legal theory and their role in shaping legal thought throughout history. The course enables students to understand, analyze, critique, and develop existing legal systems.

Students will be assessed through both a written exam and an oral examination conducted by a committee.

Course Code: LAW 746

E-commerce Law

This course provides an advanced study and analysis of legal principles governing e-commerce at both the national and international levels. It examines legislative developments in this field, focusing on Bahraini and comparative legal frameworks. The study considers real-world legal challenges posed by e-commerce and explores possible legal solutions in national and comparative legislations. The course is conducted through interactive discussion sessions prepared by the student under the supervision of the course instructor, fostering critical and analytical thinking skills.

Students will also study general course requirements and will be assessed through an oral examination conducted by a committee.

Course Code: LAW 749 *Alternative Dispute Resolution – in depth study*

Analytical study delves into the complexities and effects of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), offering a profound exploration beyond the basic principles. The study contains an examination and in-depth analysis of a contemporary legal issue related to a certain type of ADR, such as Arbitration, Mediation, Dispute reviewing boards.....etc. Students should prepare and present a detailed analysis of a legal issue arising from the chosen theme, under supervision of the lecturer.

Students also studies the general requirements of the course and is subject to evaluation through oral exam by a committee.

Course Code: LAW 748 *Professional Responsibility*

This course examines civil liability for professionals such as doctors, lawyers, merchants, and manufacturers, along with the special legal provisions in national and comparative legislation aimed at protecting those who interact with them. The course considers these issues in light of scientific and technological advancements. Topics are presented in an interactive setting, emphasizing discussion and debate.

Students will also study general course requirements and will be assessed through an oral examination conducted by a committee.

Course Code: LAW 747 *Communications and Technology Law*

This course studies the principles and legal provisions governing telecommunications law in Bahrain and comparative jurisdictions. The course instructor selects a specific topic for in-depth analysis, such as the legal regulation of telecommunications companies, licensing and

frequency allocation, privacy rights and cybersecurity, and contractual obligations in telecommunications agreements.

The course aims to enhance students' critical and analytical thinking skills through interactive study, where students analyze, and present legal issues related to telecommunications under the guidance of the instructor.

Students will also study general course requirements and will be assessed through an oral examination conducted by a committee.

Course Code: Law 762

Technology Transfer Contracts

This course provides an advanced study of various types of technology transfer contracts, including contracts for the transfer of technical knowledge, technical assistance agreements, and newly developed transactions in this field. The course examines their characteristics, types, evolution, and the specific legal provisions governing international contracts. It also explores the role of national legislation in regulating these transactions.

Students will study general course requirements related to the field and will be assessed through an oral examination conducted by a committee.

For more information, please contact the Private Law Department at the following numbers:

17438744-17438255