



## Course program for the PhD School

The program is a mixture of compulsory and optional courses but are as a whole presented as a full program – the idea being to present PhD students with the right courses at the right time during their PhD studies, yet with enough flexibility to accommodate special needs in terms of substance as well as timing.

In the following outline, the courses are presented as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year courses respectively. This should not be read as a requirement to take the courses in that order nor should it be understood as excluding anyone from taking the courses when it fits into their specific PhD plan. It should rather be seen as an optional (but well thought out) structure, which can help to guide PhD students through the course program and to support learning the various academic skills at a relevant time throughout the three years of enrolment.

The overall aim of the course program is to:

- 1) offer easy access to relevant and high-quality PhD courses at the faculty;
- 2) build a shared culture of academic curiosity among the faculty's PhD students,
- 3) provide course offerings that allow PhD students to combine course work with productive thesis writing.

Each course is designed in a way that encourages PhD students to write text that they will be able to use in their final thesis. Courses will be structured around tasks and activities that aim to heighten student engagement with the individual course aims by showing how they support thesis work and/or career aims. All courses will seek to advance academic curiosity and critical thinking.

## Year 1

### Module 1A (September) COMPULSORY (1.5 ECTS):

#### Introduction course

Module 1A is in part co-organized with the PhD schools at the Faculty of Humanities, the Faculty of Theology, and the Faculty of Social Sciences. The first day of the course focuses on getting the PhD students ready to take on teaching, to introduce them to the basics of research practice and the need to carefully plan and manage their workload. It includes a presentation of PhD Planner and an introduction to the structure of the Faculty of Law as well as the PhD school and PhD Administration.

The aim of the second day of the course is to introduce PhD students to a number of basic concepts, principles and norms regarding responsible conduct in research. This will enable PhD students to understand and reflect on ethical issues and requirements according to their research.

Course responsible: [Rasmus Grønved Nielsen](#)

### Module 1B (December-April) COMP. (3 ECTS) & OPT. (2 ECTS):

#### Theory and Methodology in Law

The course aims at giving depth and breadth to PhD students thesis work by introducing PhD participants to theory and methods in law and helping them to operationalize the two in the context of their own projects. The course will not only help students to get an overview of theoretical and methodological approaches relevant to legal studies, but will also help them to understand the role of theory and method in science more generally and in legal science in particular.

The course will consist of a compulsory part which will comprise a two-day course on campus (for which participants will receive 3 ECTS) and an optional part which will comprise participation in one of the study groups (for which participants will receive 2 ECTS). Study groups will be organized around the subject matter and methodological approaches of the participants' PhD projects.

As an outcome of this course, PhD students will have drafted a text presenting their theoretical and methodological approach and argue for their choice. They will also present possible alternative approaches and argue for why they do not use these. These texts should ideally be worked into their theses.

Course responsible: [Zuzanna Godzimirska](#) & [Sune Klinge](#)

Module 1C (March) COMPULSORY (1 ECTS):

Roundtable presentation

This course is similar to the existing round table presentation except that it builds into the course that the PhD student should write up a state-of-the-art and present his/her “gap in the existing research” argument. The aim is also to present elements from Module B (see above) in the context of the PhD student’s overall research project.

See further description under section 3.2 in [Common rules and guidelines](#)

Module 1D (June) OPTIONAL (0,5 ECTS):

Writing techniques

Module 1D consists of a one-day writing workshop. It introduces PhD participants to specific writing techniques that ensure productive writing, offers them hands on experience and the opportunity to practice writing techniques on a specific part of their PhD thesis.

Course responsible: [Zuzanna Godzimirska](#)

## Year 2

This Module is designed to equip PhD students with the tools to navigate the complex terrain of contemporary academia and in fostering meaningful and effective contributions to their field of study and research environment.

### Module 2A (Fall) OPTIONAL (2,5 ECTS)

#### Prepared for Conferences

Module 2A comprises a five-week course for PhD scholars who wish to improve their performance at inter/national conferences: group workshops, individual consultation and individual study. In this course, students will learn to effectively communicate their research through written abstracts and spoken presentations. Participants will 1) draft and refine conference abstracts and proposals, utilizing rhetorical strategies and peer feedback, 2) practice delivering a memorable presentation, receive constructive feedback, and review recorded performances with a tutor, and 3) present revised versions of their talks and gain further audience feedback for continued improvement.

### Module 2B (December) COMPULSORY (1,5 ECTS):

#### Academic excellence, impact and citizenship

Module 2A introduces PhD participants to central components of academic research and citizenship as outlined in *inter alia* the [UCPH Criteria for recognizing merit](#).

The first part of the module will introduce students to criteria used to assess research quality, including the core concepts of 'excellence' and 'impact'. Experienced researchers will share their perspectives on how they perceive excellence and impact in legal science and how excellence and impact transpire into their own research. Against this background, PhD participants will be given an opportunity to articulate and discuss what these two concepts imply in the specific context of their individual PhD project.

The latter part of the module equips PhD students with tools for meaningful contributions to their research environment and reflect upon publication strategies. Considering the various roles academics undertake, such as peer reviewing, providing feedback on ongoing research, and serving as discussants on conference panels, the session addresses questions like: What defines a good peer reviewer? What are the best practices for effective discussion? How does one excel as a chair? Junior and senior scholars will share insights and strategies for navigating diverse academic roles, while also inviting PhD participants to contribute their perspectives.

Course responsible: [Rasmus Grønved Nielsen](#) & [Sune Klinge](#)

## Year 3

### Module 3A (September) OPTIONAL (1 ECTS):

#### External funding

PhD students who seek a career at the university after their PhD need to learn how to write good applications for external funding. In this course, PhD students get introduced to the Danish and European funding landscape: the various funding bodies and the various types of funding. They will learn about typical application text components such as “state-of-the-art”, “deliverables”, Gantt charts, etc. The course will also address application strategy, how to write to a non-legal academic audience and how to build funding experience. Participants will write a draft application during the course and will receive feedback.

Course responsible: [Zuzanna Godzimirska](#)

### Module 3B (September) OPTIONAL (0,5 ECTS):

#### Research communication to the public

The aim of the course is for PhD students to get training in research communication to the public. It will provide insight into journalistic approaches to research communication and prepare for interaction with public media. PhD students should submit a media article about their research for this course.

Course responsible: [Rasmus Grønved Nielsen](#) & [Sune Klinge](#)

### Module 3C (March) COMPULSORY (1 ECTS):

#### Pre-defense / Evaluation seminar

This Module aims at giving tailor-made feedback to the individual Phd student on his/her thesis manuscript and to support the final write up of the thesis.

See further description under section 3.2 in [Common rules and guidelines](#)