

I endorse:

RECTOR:

(Assoc. Prof. Ivan Marchevski, Ph.D.)

Approved by Academic Council with Decisions No. 3/31.01.2018

Approved by Faculty Council with Decision No. 5/24.01.2018

Approved by Department Council with Decision No. 7/22.01.2018

QUALIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

“PLANNING”

Educational and scientific degree:

DOCTOR

Field of higher education:

3. Social, Economic and Law Sciences

Mode of study:

FULL-TIME/UNSUPERVISED

Professional field:

(3.8. Economics)

Length of study: **3 year**

Mode of study:

PART-TIME/DISTANCE

Document code:

UD-KH-D-3.8-P-FMM-KSP-2018

Length of study: **4 years**

LANGUAGE: English

Effective from: **2018/2019** academic year

1. General description of the Doctoral programme

The training in the Doctoral Program "Planning" at the "D. A. Tsenov" Academy of Economic is consistent with the normative base in the country.

The reasons for the development of the program are related to:

1. The needs of highly qualified specialists in the field of forecasting and planning, as well as in development of policies, programs and projects, especially after Bulgaria became an EU member state.
2. The need to prepare future scientists for the development of the department's human potential, observing the principle of continuity between the generations.
3. The achievements of the graduated PhD students who have a successful career in various fields of planning practice in the country and abroad and conduct research on the development of the forecasting and planning activities at company, regional, national and international level.
4. Opportunities of the scientific staff of the Department, which brings together leading specialists and researchers with solid scientific potential and publications on planning topics.

The Department of Strategic Planning was established in 1955 and for that period has developed and built traditions and continuously extends its experience in ex-ante, intermediate and ex-post evaluation of dissertation papers and in preparation for defense against expert staff. In this sense, the Department has established high standards and has developed a training culture at PhD degree. This is a guarantee for the qualitative preparation of the trained doctoral students.

2. Educational goals

The PhD program in Planning aims to build highly qualified scientists in the field of planning who have excellent expert competence to solve complex scientific and practical problems in accordance with the latest achievements in the field of planning and programming.

The tasks to be solved are expressed in:

- ensuring the interchangeability of the department's scientific staff;
- preparation of high-qualified specialists with analytical skills for research, management, consultancy and expert activity for different structures of the business sector.

The goals are adapted and harmonized with the dynamic development of applied science and business practice. The program is attractive for people who have already acquired a high level of qualification in the field and who wish to develop their skills through in-depth independent research in the field of planning.

3. Organisation and length of study

The training in the doctoral program is organized in three forms - full-time, part-time and unsupervised. The duration of the training is 3 years - for full-time and unsupervised form and 4 years - for part-time/distance training.

4. Knowledge

Doctoral students who have completed the PhD program "Planning" acquire knowledge related to:

- definition of the research design and the field of the study: scope, context, and significance of the research being conducted;
- stating the purpose of the work in the form of the research problem supported by a hypothesis or a set of questions
- explaining the methodological approach used to examine the research problem,
- developing an indicator frame, through which to prove or reject the research hypotheses;
- highlighting the potential outcomes the study can reveal, outlining the guidelines for the development of the problem and on this basis its possible solutions in the form of strategies, forecasts, scenarios, programs, recommendations, etc.

5. Skills

PhD students trained in the PhD program "Planning" acquire skills to plan and implement an independent empirical research. In particular, they have skills to:

- identifying a scientific problem;
- developing and implementing research approaches and methods to study the object of research;
- formulating a research thesis and supporting working hypotheses;
- verifying arguments to support or reject these hypotheses;
- collecting, systematizing, processing information applying to the subject of the analysis;
- interpreting the results obtained and building theoretically cognitive concepts, etc.
- application development (questionnaires, illustrative and experimental material: graphics, drawings, tables, etc.) and bibliography on the topic

6. Competences

PhD students trained in the PhD program "Planning" have the following competencies

6.1. Autonomy and responsibility

- create and interpret new knowledge in planning through own research or other scientific activity;

- through the new knowledge they have achieved, demonstrate the skills to broaden the range of the previously known field of science and consider the need for up-to-date publications;
- have the ability to self-assess the achievements of research work;
- have the ability to design, implement, and adapt a state-of-the-art research process

6.2. Learning competences

Trained PhD students demonstrate the capacity to systematically acquire and understand a significant amount of knowledge from state-of-the-art scientific or professional practice.

6.3. Communication and social competences

- PhD students have qualities and skills requiring high personal responsibility, self-initiative in complex and unpredictable circumstances, and in a professional environment;
- Demonstrate common capabilities to work out concepts, develop and implement projects to generate new knowledge, apply or understand the most advanced achievements, and adapt projects to unforeseen emerging circumstances;
- fully communicate with some of the most common European languages.

6.4. Professional competences

- Trained PhD students can apply different techniques in the research process and in performing of their academic studies;
- They evaluate information on complex planning issues, often in the absence of complete data; can present their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to professionals and non-specialists;
- They have the ability to continue research in the field of planning at increasingly complex levels, contributing to the development of new techniques, ideas or approaches.

7. Brief profile of the academic staff

PhD students under the PhD program are trained by teachers from the Department of Strategic Planning. Five of them are habilitated - two professors and three associate professors - PhD in economics.

8. Professional realization

The level of preparation of PhD graduates can be seen as the basis for their successful realization in different fields of science and planning at company, regional, national and international level. In particular, they can work and find self-fulfilment as:

- lecturers at higher education institutions in the country and abroad, teaching students in economics;
- researchers (post-doc) at university research centers and non-governmental organizations (think-tank organizations, economic research and forecasting agencies, etc.);
- Senior Chief Executive Officer, Chief Business Development Officer, etc.
- Servants in the administration of the Ministerial Council, in ministries, in decentralized and deconcentrated structures of the state administration in Bulgaria, regional administrations, municipalities.

9. Educational and scientific degree and professional qualification

Graduates of the Doctoral Program receive a PhD in Planning.

Dean:

(Prof. Violeta Kraeva, Ph.D)

Head of department:

(Prof. Margarita Bogdanova, Ph.D)