

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
D. A. TSENOV ACADEMY OF ECONOMICS – SVISHTOV

**FACULTY “Management and
Marketing”**

DEPARTMENT “Strategic Planning”

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 **“PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION”**

Educational and scientific degree:

DOCTOR

Mode of study:

FULL-TIME/UNSUPERVISED

Length of study: **3 year**

Mode of study:

PART-TIME/DISTANCE

Length of study: **4 years**

LANGUAGE: English

Field of higher education:

3. Social, Economic and Law Sciences

Professional field:

(3.7. Administration and Management)

Document code:

UD-KH-D-3.7-PA-FMM-KSP-2018

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

1. General description of the Doctoral programme

The training in the Doctoral Program "Public Administration" at the "D. A. Tsenov" Academy of Economic (Department of Strategic Planning) is consistent with the normative base in the country and has been developed under the professional field 3.7. Administration and Management.

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

1. The needs of public sector of highly qualified specialists in the field of public administration, who can carry out independent research for the needs of practice. This need has become particularly noticeable in recent years - after the country became an EU member state.
2. Opportunities of the scientific staff of the Department of Strategic Planning, which has years of experience in conducting training at PhD and brings together leading lecturers and researchers with a solid scientific potential.
3. The need to prepare future scientists for the development of the human potential of the department, which has developed and implemented training programs at the Bachelor's and Master Degree in Public Administration.

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 objective of the PhD program is to build highly qualified scientists in the field of public administration who have excellent expert competence to solve complex theoretical and practical problems in accordance with the latest achievements related to the development of the public sector.

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 public sector.

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

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 "Public Administration" 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 "Public Administration" 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 "Public Administration" have the following competencies

6.1. Autonomy and responsibility

- create and interpret new knowledge in the field of Public Administration 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.

8. Professional realization

The level of preparation of PhD graduates can be seen as the basis for their successful realization in different fields of public administration at local, 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 public administration;
- researchers (post-doc) at university research centers and non-governmental organizations (think-tank organizations, economic research and forecasting agencies, etc.);
- senior officials in the EU administration.
- 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 Public Administration.

Dean:

(Prof. Violeta Kraeva, Ph.D)

Head of department:

(Prof. Margarita Bogdanova, PhD)