QUALIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME
"Application of computing in economy"

Educational and scientific degree:
DOCTOR

Field of higher education:
3. Social, Economic and Law Sciences

Mode of study:
FULL-TIME/UNSUPERVISED
Length of study: **3 year**
Mode of study:
PART-TIME/DISTANCE
Length of study: **4 years**
LANGUAGE: English

Professional field:
3.8. Economics

Document code:

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

1. General description of the Doctoral programme

The doctoral program aims to meet the growing need to raise the educational level in the area of information and communication technologies. It provides in-depth theoretical training; knowledge and skills to analyse, implement and maintain state-of-the-art high-tech IT solutions; developing research capabilities; as well as teaching activities oriented towards students and practitioners.

PhD students' training is aimed at acquiring lasting knowledge and skills related to conducting research on the organization, management and operation of IT in business, as a result of which they can perform analyses and identify problems and weaknesses, to offer concrete solutions for their overcoming, to professionally evaluate trends in the development of information and communication technologies and to implement and adapt these technologies in the corporate information infrastructure.

The doctoral program provides doctoral students with three years of full-time and four-year part-time studies to conduct qualitative research in various areas where they have interests such as e-business, information security and information protection, information infrastructure management, business intelligent systems, knowledge management, and more. The serious research of lecturers from the Department of Business Informatics contributes to the training and development of PhD students who are supported and involved in various joint research, publications and research projects.

The final stage of the training is the defence of a doctoral dissertation and the acquisition of the Doctor's educational qualification degree.

Graduates of the doctoral program have opportunities for realization as lecturers and researchers in the field of education and science as well as highly qualified IT specialists in public and state administration and corporate business.

2. Educational goals

The main goal of the doctoral program is to prepare graduate masters for academic career in the field of higher education. To achieve this goal PhD students are trained to carry out scientific research and to train students. The other goal of the PhD program is to prepare PhD students for business research, as well as for the key management positions in IT.

3. Organisation and length of study

The training organization provides PhD students with in-depth, highly specialized knowledge in a particular IT field such as: business information systems; e-business; security and protection of information; business intelligent analysis, and more. In addition, the training of PhD students is also characterized by:
• use of project principle;
• close cooperation with business practice;
• solving real problems;
• open nature, with the possibility of flexible and dynamic updating of the content of the topic developed in accordance with new phenomena in business technology;
• Forming lifelong learning habits.

The duration of PhD students in the program "Application of computing in economy" is 3 years for regular and independent training and 4 years for part-time training.

4. Knowledge

The knowledge that PhD students receive correspond with the requirements of business practice and the realities of the information society. They can be systematized in several main subject areas:

• building and maintaining corporate network architectures and technologies;
• design and implementation of modern business information systems;
• e-business solutions, e-commerce and e-learning;
• implementation and use of business information systems;
• organization and construction of modern information infrastructure;
• security and protection of information, etc.

In each of these directions, the research attitude is focused on the independent work of the doctoral student suggesting critical analysis and innovative ideas, a creative approach.

5. Skills

As a result of the serious theoretical knowledge and acquired practical skills, the graduates of the Doctoral Program "Application of computing in economy" will be able to formulate and implement ideas in the field of information technologies and will gain competencies and skills to:
• analyse a wide range of knowledge and understand the essential facts, concepts and principles related to the modern information technologies and the opportunities for their application in the business;
• identify and offer solutions to specific issues related to information security;
• apply theoretical knowledge, practical skills and tools to design, implement and evaluate the effect of different information technologies.

6. Competences

After completing the training in the Doctoral Program "Application of computing in economy", PhD students will acquire competencies in several fields.

6.1. Autonomy and responsibility

• Business process management capabilities for business IT management and IT teams management;
• Take responsibility for decision-making concerning the management of ICTs under the influence of difficult predictable factors;
• Demonstrate creativity, innovation and leadership in IT adoption, deployment and management;
• Assess the knowledge and skills of IT specialists and decide on the need for training to increase their team efficiency.

6.2. Learning competences

• Assess the need to improve their personal qualifications by judging their knowledge and skills by comparing them with the current trends in IT development and planning the need to expand and update their professional qualifications.

6.3. Communication and social competences

• Formulate and expose clear, understandable ideas, problems and solutions from the IT field to specialists in this field as well as to non-specialists;
• Evaluate and understand different topics based on methods for qualitative and quantitative descriptions and assessments;
• They have a broad personal view and show understanding and solidarity with others;
• Communicate freely and fully with colleagues and clients in English.

6.4. Professional competences

• Explore, collect, classify, assess and interpret IT data to solve specific tasks;

• Apply the acquired knowledge and skills in new or unknown conditions;

• They have the ability to analyze, not only in the field of IT but also in an interdisciplinary context;

• Use new strategic approaches; form and express an opinion on issues of public and ethical nature arising in the course of the work.

7. Brief profile of the academic staff

The lecturers engaged as PhD students' supervisors in the Doctoral Program "Application of computing in economy" are highly qualified and highly professional. There is a serious presence of professors among them, who have many years of experience and achievements in scientific leadership. The PhD students' tutors are academics with solid research in various fields, represented by numerous publications in the relevant field. They are actively involved in research projects, such as managers, coordinators or participants.

8. Professional realisation

The professional realization of the graduates can be accomplished in the following directions:

a) In the field of science and education, such as:

• lecturers at a university in disciplines related to informatics and information technologies;

• secondary school teachers in the disciplines "Informatics" and "Information technologies";

• in research institutes.

b) In the public and corporate sectors, such as:

• analytical software specialists;

• specialists and experts in the design and implementation of information systems;

• consultants in the field of information technology;

• database administrators and LANs;

• specialists in the management and servicing of computer tools and technologies;

• heads of information services units, etc.

9. Educational and scientific degree and professional qualification

PhD students who have completed their individual curriculum and successfully defended their dissertation receive PhD degree in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional filed 3.8. Economy.

Dean: Head of department:
        (Prof. Violeta Kraeva, PhD)   (Assoc. Prof. Veselin Popov, PhD)