REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA D.A. TSENOV ACADEMY OF ECONOMICS – SVISHTOV	
FACULTY „INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE“	**DEPARTMENT „AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS“**

Approved by:
RECTOR:
(Prof. Mariyana Bozhinova, PhD)

Approved by the AC, Resolution № 5/02.03.2022
Approved by the FC, Protocol № 6/18.02.2022
Approved by the DC, Protocol № 13/10.02.2022

QUALIFICATION DESCRIPTION

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

„Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics)“

Educational and scientific degree: **Doctor**		Area of study: **3. Social, economic sciences and law**
Mode of study:	Length of study:	Field of study: **3.8. Economics**
Full-time/Unsupervised	**3 years**	
Part-time/Distance	**4 years**	Code of the document: **ED/QD-D-FT/PT/U/D-3/4-3.8-FIC-DAE-2022**
Language: **Bulgarian/English**		

1. General description of the doctoral programme

The specialty "Agricultural Economics" is accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA) for conducting training of PhD students in full-time, part-time and unsupervised form in the professional field 3.8. ECONOMICS in the doctoral programme ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT (AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS). The training in the doctoral programme is in accordance with level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the third cycle of Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and level 8 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The doctoral programme is focused on studying the issues of the Bulgarian agricultural sector in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union and the common European market, as well as seeking solutions to priority issues related to the economic crisis, high unemployment, low competitiveness of small agricultural farms on the domestic and foreign markets, lower labour productivity, higher production costs and instability in the quality of manufactured products.

The academic policy regarding the doctoral studies, the announcement and conducting of competition procedures, the determination of the topics of dissertations in scientific specialties is determined in accordance with:

- ✓ the approved state requirements;
- ✓ the defined priorities in the teaching and research policy of the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics, including the development of basic and applied research;
- ✓ the proposals of external institutions for the training of PhD students for their needs;
- ✓ offers for training and preparation for dissertation defence by foreign citizens.

The legality of the training for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" is ensured by the development of the educational documentation and the educational procedures in accordance with the state rules, norms and standards regarding:

- ✓ the legitimacy of the scientific specialties;
- ✓ the way of announcing the doctoral studies, conducting the competitive examinations, selection and admission of the candidates;
- ✓ the duration of the training in the various forms of doctoral studies;
- ✓ the technology of the training and its administrative service.

The control over the current conduct of the doctoral studies and the implementation of the individual work plans of the PhD students is exercised by the scientific supervisors, the department and faculty councils.

2. Learning objectives

In accordance with the needs of social and economic practice, the doctoral programme in the scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics)" aims to provide training for highly qualified specialists, researchers and experts in the field of economics, organisation and management of the agricultural sector, the transfer of science and knowledge, supporting the interaction and joint

functioning of the transforming economies of the countries inside and outside the European Union.

In the doctoral programme, the Department of Agricultural Economics sets learning, educational and research goals.

The learning goal in the training of PhD students is the training of experts in the agricultural sector, which is a serious and responsible challenge in terms the requirements of science and business practice.

The scientific research goal in the training of PhD students is the orientation towards theoretical and empirical research of significant and current issues of modern agribusiness both in Bulgaria, as part of the European Union, and in other countries.

The training of PhD students also has an *educational goal* – building skills for teamwork in the conditions and traditions of the D. A. Tsenov Academy of Economics as an academic structure.

3. Organisation and length of study

The curriculum of the doctoral programme "Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics)" contains compulsory and facultative activities. The compulsory ones cover: 1) educational activity; 2) scientific and educational activity; 3) preparation of a dissertation paper and an abstract; 4) teaching and expert activity. The educational activity includes two doctoral minimums, the first of which is in the discipline "Economics and Management of Agribusiness" and is mandatory. The second doctoral minimum is determined by a block of elective courses. The educational activity includes three obligatory educational disciplines, as well as obligatory attendance and participation in courses and scientific events. The concretization of the optional activities is in accordance with the developed individual curriculum of the PhD students.

The individual curriculum is prepared jointly by the PhD students and their supervisors. After discussion and acceptance by the department, the individual plan is approved by the faculty council no later than one month after the enrolment of the doctoral student. The control over the implementation of the individual plans is carried out by the supervisor, the department and the faculty council.

The D.A. Tsenov Academy of Economics provides access of the PhD students under the program to the specialized fund "PhD theses, Monographic works and Abstracts" at the Acad. Nikola Mihov Academic Library, as well as to the digital library (dlib.uni-svishtov.bg). PhD students in the program contribute to the National Strategy for Open Science. In the Bulgarian Portal for Open Science (www.bpos.bg), SA “D. A. Tsenov ” has leading positions in relation to all universities and scientific organisations. Since 2008 the Tsenov Academy of Economics publish an independent profiled scientific edition Yearly Almanac "Scientific Research of PhD Students" (https://almanahnid.uni-svishtov.bg/) and organize “PhD Student Scientific Session”. PhD students has a laboratory environment for research and access to specialized econometric tools and guides provided by project financing.

The duration of the doctoral programme “Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics)” is three years for full-time and unsupervised study mode and four years for part-time mode and distance learning. The doctoral program is offered in Bulgarian and English.

4. Knowledge

During the doctoral programme, the PhD students acquire theoretical and factual knowledge of modern scientific achievements and professional practice in the field of agribusiness on:

- ✓ current issues of modern organisational forms for production, processing and trade in agricultural products;
- ✓ innovative and perspective forms of agricultural production – organic production, non-traditional productions, ecological and sustainable forms of agriculture, etc.;
- ✓ effective functioning of agricultural enterprises in a real and competitive environment;
- ✓ modern forms and problems on the market for agricultural products;
- ✓ financial support for agriculture and rural development;
- ✓ localisation of investments in agriculture;
- ✓ agricultural policy at company, national and regional level.

PhD students use specialised and systematised knowledge to make critical analysis and to synthesise new ideas. They acquire knowledge of research methods in the field of agribusiness and the ability to expand and modify existing knowledge in the field, as well as its interactions with frontier scientific fields. Based on original and substantial scientific research, PhD students demonstrate and argue their research thesis not only in the field of agribusiness, but also in related scientific fields with high degree of complexity. The knowledge acquired by the doctoral students contributes to the implementation of original and substantiated research and their demonstration to a specialised audience. PhD students can apply for mobility for studies and traineeships

5. Skills

During the doctoral programme training, PhD students acquire cognitive skills, including the use of logical, intuitive and creative thinking, as well as skills for synthesising and evaluating the necessary information from various and correct sources, and when information is scarce – to extract it in a diffuse manner. They acquire skills for high personal responsibility, self-initiative, endurance, entrepreneurship, firmness, strictness, adaptability and intellectual flexibility in interpreting and creating new knowledge through own research and use of modern achievements of economic science and practice.

PhD students acquire skills to create and manage networks or teams, to allocate time and to manage human and financial resources, to solve complex problems through new technological methods and tools. They master methods and means for anticipating changes and issues, and skills to abstract from the environment and to think innovatively, to develop a rational plan for the implementation of new ideas, to acquire new qualities and skills, to anticipate technological and creative development.

PhD students acquire skills to solve and overcome critical research problems, to improve standard models and approaches, to develop innovative solutions by combining various original strategies and technologies and to manage failed attempts. The acquired skills help PhD students to prepare and present scientific reports, articles, abstracts, etc. in front of different audiences and use of modern means of communication.

6. Competences

6.1. Independence and responsibility

PhD students create and interpret new knowledge through their own research and other scientific activities. Through the acquired new knowledge, they demonstrate skills for expanding the scope of hitherto known scientific field and assess the need of up-to-date publications. They have the ability to self-assess the achievements of the research work and to compose, design, carry out and adapt a modern research process with scientific stability.

6.2. Learning competences

PhD students show capacity for systematic acquisition and understanding of a significant amount of knowledge from the latest scientific and practical achievements in the field of agricultural economics.

6.3. Communicative and social competences

PhD students demonstrate general abilities: to conceptualise, design and implement projects; to generate new knowledge and to adapt project design to unforeseen circumstances. They fully communicate in some of the most common European languages.

6.4. Professional competences

PhD students understand in detail the techniques applied to scientific research and complex academic research and have the ability to continue research in the field of agricultural economics at increasingly complex levels, contributing to the development of new techniques, ideas and approaches. They make informed judgments on complex issues in the field of agribusiness, often in the absence of complete data, and present their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to professionals and non-specialists. PhD students of the Department of Agricultural Economics have the opportunity to work on scientific-research projects with an applied focus in the field of doctoral studies.

7. Brief description of the academic staff

The Department of Agricultural Economics, as the training unit of the doctoral programme "Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics)" has a sufficient number of habilitated academic staff to conduct training in the scientific specialty in the following areas:

– eco-entrepreneurship, sustainable development and sustainable agriculture, organic farming – features, strategies, markets, for realisation, management of modern organic farming; barriers and opportunities for development of alternative types of tourism in Bulgaria – rural, agricultural and ecological tourism; problems of sustainable nature management and prospects for sustainable development of agribusiness; organisation and management of protected natural resources, etc.

– agrarian entrepreneurship – company strategies, innovations and logistics in agribusiness; localisation of investments in agriculture; investment projects in agribusiness; investment risk management; small and family business in rural areas, etc.

– agricultural policy – market and state regulation of agriculture; prices and pricing in the agricultural sector; markets for genetically modified organisms and food; simulation models in the agricultural sector, etc.

8. Professional realisation

The realisation of the doctoral graduates largely depends on the form of the doctoral programme. Successfully defended PhD students, a full-time form of education, are most often attracted to participate in competitions for lecturers. The educational and scientific degree "Doctor" provides higher pay in the structure of higher education, as well as in some sectors of public administration and the financial and credit system.

Part-time PhD students are usually agribusiness professionals who seek research opportunities to offer solutions to significant issues. For them, doctoral studies are a bridge between science and practice and evidence of qualification and prestige.

Unsupervised PhD students are most often already functioning lecturers, who through the defence of a doctorate have the opportunity for promotion to a scientific title and career growth.

9. Educational and scientific degree and professional qualification

After the completion of the doctoral programme and the successful defence of dissertation thesis, the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Economics" is awarded in the professional field "Economics and Management (Agricultural Economics)".

Dean: Head of Department:

(Assoc. Prof. Svetoslav Iliychovski, PhD) (Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD)

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CURRICULUM

Doctoral programme
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I. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

№	Type	Code	Subject/Activity	ECTS credits	Form of assessment
1	**R**	*Fundamental Courses (doctoral minimum I)*		25	exam
		FIC-DAE-D-101	1. Economics and management of agribusiness		
2	**E**	*Specialized Courses (doctoral minimum II)*		25	exam
		FIC-DAE-D-102	1. Agricultural policy		
		FIC-DAE-D-103	2. Sustainable development of agribusiness		
		FIC-DAE-D-104	3. Organization and management of agricultural markets		
		FIC-DAE-D-105	4. Organization and management of rural development		
		FIC-DAE-D-106	5. Family, small and entrepreneurial agribusiness		
			6. Subject related to the topic of the doctoral degree dissertation		
3	C	FIC-DSSL-D-901	Methodology of science and research	10	c.g.
4	C	FIC-DSSL-D-902	Academic writing and presentation methods	10	c.g.
5	C	FEA- DSAM-D-901	Methodology and methods of empirical research	10	c.g.
6	C		Attendance and participation in courses (seminars, doctoral degree tutorials), conferences and other training activities	5	IS report
			Total:	**85**	
7	F	FMM-DBI-D-901	Information technology	10	c.g.
8	F	FF-DFLT-D-901	English for doctoral degree students (B2)	10	c.g.
9	F	FF-DFLT-D-902	English for doctoral degree students (C1)	10	c.g.
10	F	A master or bachelor degree subject		According to the curriculum of the subject	exam
11	F	Participation in trainings related to the doctoral degree studies		5 for each training	certificate
12	F	Participation in mobility for training or practice purposes		30 for each mobility	Mobility protocol

II. SCIENTIFIC, RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ACTIVITY

№	Type	Subject/Activity	ECTS credits	Form of assessment
1	C	Publications regulated in group D, indicators 4 – 10 from RIDASRBA	30	IS report
		Total:	**30**	
2	F	Participation in science and research projects	10 per project	contract
3	F	Participation in mobility for research purposes	10 per mobility	Mobility protocol
4	F	Participation with science reports in scientific forums (national or international)	1 for each report	Participation certificate publication
5	F	Publications exceeding the standard of minimum required points regulated in RIDASRBA outside ch. II.1 and II.4	1 for each subchapter	publication

III. PREPARATION OF A DISSERTATION PAPER AND AN ABSTRACT

№	Type	Activity	ECTS credits	Form of assessment
1	C	Dissertation paper, including:	50	Science advisor and a DC protocol
1.1.		Theoretic and research work	10	science advisor
1.2.		Empirical and research work	10	science advisor
1.3.		Preparation of a chapter from the dissertation paper	20	science advisor
1.4.		Submission of a final version to the approval of the DC	10	a DC protocol
2	C	Preparation of an abstract and an original contribution declaration	10	a DC protocol
		Total:	**60**	

IV. TEACHING AND EXPERT ACTIVITY

№	Type	Subject/activity	ECTS credits	Form of assessment
1	E	Delivering a series of lectures and/or seminars according to the curriculum	5	Report from the SA visit
		Participation in expert and consultancy activity		Report by the SA; contract/reference
		Total:	**5**	
2	F	Delivering a series of lectures and/or seminars according to the curriculum	5 ECTS credits for 28 provisional classes	Remuneration form
3	F	Participation in expert and consultancy activity	2 ECTS credits per participation	report by the SA; contract/reference
4	F	Participation in mobility for teaching purposes	10 ECTS credits per mobility	certificate

BASIC COMPONENTS OF THE CURRICULUM

Activity	ECRS credits
COMPULSORY ACTIVITIES	
Educational activity	85
Scientific and educational activity	30
Preparation of a dissertation paper and an abstract	60
Teaching and expert activity	5
Total:	180
FACULTATIVE ACTIVITIES	
Educational activity	According to the IS of the doctoral student
Scientific and education activity	
Teaching and expert activity	

DEAN: (Assoc. Prof. Svetoslav Iliychovski, PhD)

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: (Assoc. Prof. Marina Nikolova, PhD)