

PhD in Private Law

Programme Details

Final Qualification

PhD in Private Law

Language of Study

Arabic

Mode of Study

Full Time

Programme Structure

Study Period

3 Years

Total Credit Hours

54 Credit Hours

Number of Courses

12 Courses+ Dissertation

Brief about the Programme

The PhD in Private Law programme aims to provide the Bahraini and Gulf market with specialised academic competencies qualified at all levels in the field of advanced legal studies in private law, by equipping graduates with in-depth theoretical and applied legal knowledge in private law across its various branches — including civil, commercial, industrial and commercial property, insurance contracts, banking law, enforcement law, and private international law.

The programme develops the intellectual skills that enable the graduate to critically analyse, reason, draw conclusions, and derive rulings in complex legal situations. It also seeks to develop the graduate's capabilities in following scientific research methodologies, tools, and ethics, and fostering a spirit of creativity to make a genuine contribution to the labour market that enables them to address new and emerging legal challenges across all fields. The programme structure was designed in collaboration with the International Islamic Sciences University – Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to serve the needs of the labour market and technological developments in the Kingdom of Bahrain and Gulf Cooperation Council states. The programme requires the preparation of a doctoral dissertation of 18 credit hours, with its subject linked to one of the areas of private law, and must include an original contribution to the field of science and knowledge, in accordance with the conditions set by the university's graduate studies regulations.

Aims of the Programme

1. Meet the needs of Bahraini and Gulf society by providing specialised graduates capable of working with high efficiency, to offer innovative solutions and research in the field of private law.
2. Ensure graduates acquire the advanced legal knowledge necessary to explain the legal relationship between the state and individuals in all fields, and consolidate the specialised scientific legal foundation.
3. Prepare graduates capable of using skills at a high level of specialisation in creativity, through developing the application of legal knowledge in the field of private law.
4. Prepare graduates capable of conducting comparative specialised legal research and studies in private law, in a manner that enriches legal knowledge to be employed in serving state institutions and its facilities.
5. Prepare legally specialised and academically and professionally qualified jurists, capable of transferring legal knowledge in all branches of private law.



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Enquiry

Career Paths

1. Judge
2. Lawyer
3. Specialised International Arbitrator
4. Specialised Legal Consultant
5. Legal Expert for Human Rights & International Organisations
6. Assistant University Professor
7. Legal Advisor in Finance, Banking & Insurance

Entry Requirements

1. The applicant must hold a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree or their equivalent from a university or college recognised in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
2. The applicant must hold a degree in the same specialisation as the doctoral programme or in a closely related field. If a candidate from a related field is admitted, they must complete a number of remedial courses approved by the University and specified by the relevant department.
3. The minimum requirement for admission is a Master's degree with a cumulative GPA of not less than 'Very Good' or its equivalent. If the GPA is below the required level, the case is referred to the Appeals Committee to consider the possibility of granting conditional admission and submitting the appropriate recommendation to the University Council.
4. The applicant must successfully pass a personal interview.
5. The applicant must pass the University's English language placement test, or provide a TOEFL certificate or equivalent with a score of not less than 450. Otherwise, the student must study and successfully complete an English course determined by the College during their first year. Students holding a degree from programmes taught in English are exempted from the English language requirement.



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Study Plan

Programme Study Plan						
No.	Course Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	ASU Credit	NQF Credit	NQF Level
Year 1 – First Semester						
1	PRL701	Research Seminar in Comparative Law	---	10	12	3
2	PRL714	Advanced Studies in Law of Evidence in Civil and Commercial	---	10	12	3
3	PRL720	Advanced Studies in Commercial Law	---	10	12	3
Year 1 – Second Semester						
1	PRL713	Advanced Studies in Real Rights	---	10	12	3
2	PRL723	Advanced Studies in Industrial and Commercial Property	---	10	12	3
3	PRL730	Advanced Studies in Civil and Commercial Procedural Law	---	10	12	3
Year 2 – First Semester						
1	702PRL	Preparatory Course for Doctoral Dissertation	---	10	12	3
2	PRL722	Advanced Studies in Electronic Commercial Contracts	---	10	12	3
3	--	Elective Course	---	10	12	3
Year 2 – Second Semester						
1	PRL703	Advanced Studies in Selected Issues of Private Law	702PRL	10	12	3
2	--	Elective Course	---	10	12	3
3	--	Elective Course	---	10	12	3
Year 3 – First Semester						
1	PRL799	Doctorate Dissertation	PRL701 / PRL702 / PRL703	10	36	9
Year 3 – Second Semester						
1	PRL799	Doctorate Dissertation	Doctorate Dissertation	10	36	9

Programme elective courses (9 Credit Hours)						
No.	Course Code	Course Title	Prerequisite	ASU Credit	NQF Credit	NQF Level
1	PRL711	Advanced Studies in Sources of Obligation	---	10	12	3
2	PRL712	Advanced Studies in Provisions of Obligation	---	10	12	3
3	PRL715	Advanced Studies in Insurance Contract	---	10	12	3
4	PRL716	Advanced Studies in Consumer Protection	---	10	12	3
5	PRL717	Advanced Studies in Private International Law	---	10	12	3
6	PRL721	Advanced Studies in Commercial Companies	---	10	12	3
7	PRL724	Advanced Studies in Investment Environment	---	10	12	3
8	PRL731	Advanced Studies in Commercial Arbitration	---	10	12	3
9	PRL732	Advanced Studies in Implementation Law	---	10	12	3

Course Description

PRL 701 Research Seminar in Comparative Law

General programme: the concept, origins, importance, fields, methods and conditions of comparative law; classification of comparative legal families; comparison between different judicial systems. Specific programme: an advanced comparative study of a contemporary legal system approved by the Faculty Council.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 702 Preparatory Course for Doctoral Dissertation

Aims to enable the student to prepare a doctoral dissertation proposal, present it to the competent committee and defend it in a public session. A student is considered successful upon the committee's acceptance of the proposal and successful completion of the public defence.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 703 In-Depth Studies in Advanced Issues in Private Law

Familiarises students with various research approaches and models in private law, provides a comprehensive overview of current research in the relevant specialisations, develops skills in preparing systematic literature reviews, and serves as a platform for faculty to present their research interests and current projects, guiding students toward appropriate doctoral research topics.

Prerequisite: PRL 702

PRL 713 Advanced Studies in Real Rights

General: types of real rights, ownership rights and the powers they confer, and causes of acquiring ownership in Bahraini and comparative law. Specific: an in-depth study of newly established guarantees under the Law on Securing Rights over Movable Assets (concept, subject matter, contract formation, effects between parties and against third parties).

Prerequisite: None

PRL 714 Advanced Studies in Evidence Law in Civil and Commercial Matters

General: the law of evidence in Bahraini and comparative law (nature of proof, schools of thought, substantive and procedural evidence rules, and types of evidence — writing, testimony, presumptions, confession, oath and expert opinion). Specific: evidence by electronic means and its evidentiary value.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 720 Advanced Studies in Commercial Law

General: commercial law (nature, theory of commercial acts, the merchant and the commercial establishment in Bahraini and comparative law). Specific: reorganisation and bankruptcy law (definition, characteristics, purpose, types, conditions and procedures for opening bankruptcy proceedings).

Prerequisite: None

PRL 722 Advanced Studies in Electronic Commercial Contracts

General: the concept, importance, forms and nature of electronic commercial contracts in Bahraini and comparative law. Specific: a comparative study of topics such as smart contracts (provisions, execution, disputes), electronic payment, and electronic dispute resolution.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description

PRL 723 Advanced Studies in Industrial and Commercial Property

General: definition, importance, types and legislative framework of industrial and commercial property rights in Bahrain and comparative law. Specific: an in-depth study of topics such as trademarks, patents, industrial designs, integrated circuit topographies, licensing agreements, compared with relevant international conventions.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 730 Advanced Studies in Civil and Commercial Procedure

General: the nature, sources and general rules of civil and commercial procedure; court composition; jurisdiction; and the theory of action in Bahraini and comparative law. Specific: an in-depth study of topics such as applications, defences, judgments and ordinary and extraordinary methods of challenge.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 711 Advanced Studies in Sources of Obligation

General: the philosophy of obligation in positive law, the personal and material theories of obligation, the jurisprudential basis of obligation in Islamic law, and the foundations of the Civil Code in Bahraini and comparative law. Specific: the concept of civil liability (contractual and tortious), manifestations of personal fault, corporate liability for harmful acts, liability for computer virus damage, the legal basis of supervisory and vicarious liability, and liability for mechanical devices.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 712 Advanced Studies in Rules of Obligation

General: execution of obligations (forms, extinction, assignment and protective actions). Specific: an in-depth study of obligations — conditions vs. terms (comparison of suspension and subsequent effects), alternative vs. optional obligations, joint creditor vs. joint debtor solidarity, and joint debt compared with creditor solidarity.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 715 Advanced Studies in Insurance Contract

General: insurance in Bahraini and comparative law — definition, types, general and specific rules for insurance against liability and life insurance. Specific: an in-depth study of a topic such as forfeiture of the insured's right and its conditions, or characteristics of life insurance such as the absence of an indemnity character.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 716 Advanced Studies in Consumer Protection

General: the philosophy of consumer protection in Bahraini and comparative law — definition of consumer, goods, services, supplier and advertiser, and the national consumer protection association. Specific: an in-depth study of a topic such as the consumer contract (parties, elements, formation, consumer rights, supplier obligations, joint liability, unfair terms) and consumer protection in the digital environment.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description

PRL 717 Advanced Studies in Private International Law

General: the nature, general rules and sources of Private International Law; general theory of conflict of laws; assignment rules for personal status, legal persons and international jurisdictional rules in Bahraini and comparative law. Specific: proof and interpretation of foreign law, rights of aliens, conflict of laws in commercial obligations, and conflict of nationalities.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 721 Advanced Studies in Commercial Companies

General: commercial companies law (nature, incorporation, types and management) in Bahraini and comparative law. Specific: a comparative study of public joint-stock companies and modern corporate governance mechanisms.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 724 Advanced Studies in the Investment Environment

General: legislation and agreements relating to the investment environment in Bahraini and comparative law — philosophy, impact on the national economy, investor incentives and guarantees, foreign direct and indirect investment, and the role of relevant bodies. Specific: a topic such as the legislative stability clause and dispute resolution in investment contracts.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 731 Advanced Studies in Commercial Arbitration

General: arbitration law (nature, arbitration agreement, proceedings, effects, award issuance, correction and nullity) in Bahraini and comparative law. Specific: international commercial arbitration under UNCITRAL, ICC Paris rules, applicable law (procedural and substantive), enforcement of foreign awards, electronic arbitration and emergency arbitration.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 732 Advanced Studies in Execution Law

General: execution law in civil and commercial matters (concept, types, enforcement orders, court judgments, parties, methods of compelling payment, and execution procedures against movables and immovables). Specific: an in-depth study of a topic such as challenging execution judge decisions, public auction of debtor assets and distribution of proceeds.

Prerequisite: None

PRL 799 Doctoral Dissertation

Designed to prepare the student to plan and execute a doctoral dissertation specialised in private law on an independent basis. The student uses highest-level critical evaluation skills to investigate a highly complex, unexpected problem and devise creative solutions, adopting a structured methodology, literature review and data analysis. The dissertation is subject to a public defence evaluated on written and oral presentations according to ASU's Dissertations Guide.

Prerequisite: 27 Credit Hours