

PhD in Public Law

Programme Details

Final Qualification

PhD in Public 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 Public Law programme aims to provide the Bahraini and Gulf market with specialised academic competencies and researchers at various levels in the field of advanced legal studies in public law. The programme seeks to equip graduates with critical and detailed legal knowledge in areas of public law, develop their intellectual skills to enable analysis, legal reasoning, inference, and derivation of rulings in complex legal situations, in addition to developing their capacity to follow scientific research methodologies and approaches, fostering creativity, critical self-study, and the analysis of criminal, international, administrative, and constitutional law issues.

The programme was designed in collaboration with the International Islamic Sciences University – Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to serve the needs of the labour market and address the technological developments and legal challenges in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the 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 public 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 public 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 public law.
4. Prepare graduates capable of conducting comparative specialised legal research and studies in public 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 areas of public law.
6. Consolidate leadership and decision-making skills among graduates.

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Enquiry



The first university in the Kingdom of Bahrain achieved the global accreditation from the British Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)



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Ranked 30th in the QS World University Rankings 2026



Ranked 613 in the QS World University Rankings 2026



Ranked 301+ Worldwide in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings

Career Paths

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

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	PPL741	Advanced Studies in Administrative Law	---	10	12	3
3	PPL731	Advanced Studies in Criminal Law	---	10	12	3
Year 1 – Second Semester						
1	PRL713	Advanced Studies in Criminal Procedure Law	---	10	12	3
2	PRL723	Advanced Studies in Administrative Disputes	---	10	12	3
3	PRL730	Advanced Studies in Constitutional Law	---	10	12	3
Year 2 – First Semester						
1	PPL702	Preparatory Course for Doctoral Dissertation	---	10	12	3
2	PPL761	Advanced Studies in Public International Law	---	10	12	3
3	-	Elective Course	---	10	12	3
Year 2 – Second Semester						
1	PPL703	Advanced Studies in Selected Issues of Public Law	PPL702	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	PPL733	Advanced Studies in Cybercrime Law	---	10	12	3
2	PPL734	Advanced Studies in offenses against the security of the State	---	10	12	3
3	PPL763	Advanced Studies in International Environmental Law	---	10	12	3
4	PPL762	Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law	---	10	12	3
5	PPL743	Advanced Studies in a Public Office	---	10	12	3
6	PPL752	Advanced Studies in Constitutional Judiciary	---	10	12	3
7	PPL704	Advanced Studies in Media Legislation	---	10	12	3
8	PPL771	Advanced Studies in Public Finance and Tax Legislation	---	10	12	3

Course Description

PRL 701 Research Seminar in Comparative Law

General programme: concept, origins, importance, fields, methods, conditions and applications of comparative law; classification of comparative legal families and criteria; comparison of different judicial systems. Specific programme: a comparative advanced study of a contemporary legal system of practical and academic significance (e.g. the Islamic inheritance system vs. English law; freedom of contract in European laws; the historical origins of property law in Roman law) or any other topic approved by the Faculty Council.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 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. The student is considered successful upon acceptance of the proposal and successful public defence.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 703 In-Depth Studies in Advanced Issues in Public Law

Familiarises students with various research approaches and models in public law, provides a comprehensive overview of current research in faculty specialisations, develops skills in preparing systematic literature reviews, and serves as a platform for faculty to present current research projects. Used to apply scientific methodology to one or more contemporary public law topics to reach adequate legal solutions and innovative approaches.

Prerequisite: PPL 702

PPL 731 Advanced Studies in Criminal Law

General rules and the theory of criminal liability in Bahraini and comparative criminal law; crimes committed by artificial intelligence entities and the scope of criminal responsibility for such acts. Specific: an in-depth study of criminal participation (theory of the moral perpetrator, role of the instigator and accomplice and their relationship to the principal offender) or any other topic approved by the Faculty Council.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 741 Advanced Studies in Administrative Law

General rules of administrative law. Specific: a partial advanced study of an administrative law topic with philosophical comparative analysis (administrative decisions, administrative contracts, administrative police, newly developed principles such as legal certainty), all through comparative study in Bahraini and comparative law.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 751 Advanced Studies in Constitutional Law

General: the nature of constitutional law and contemporary constitutional systems. Specific: topics such as constitutional amendment and judicial review of amendments; legislative authority composition and competences; executive authority composition and competences; parliamentary dissolution; electoral guarantees; or parliamentary immunity in comparative constitutional systems.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description

PPL 761 Advanced Studies in Public International Law

General: sources of Public International Law and its principles under the UN Charter. Specific: the state in international law, the evolution of sovereignty rules and the principle of use of force in public international law, through comparative study.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 732 Advanced Studies in Criminal Procedure Law

General: procedural rules governing the criminal case through all stages; the theory of nullity in criminal proceedings; general principles of fair trial; and alternatives to pretrial detention. Specific: an in-depth study of newly introduced mechanisms for terminating criminal action, assessing their advantages, disadvantages and ability to limit punitive inflation.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 742 Advanced Studies in Administrative Disputes

General: the nature of public administration disputes, methods of settlement, and administrative litigation in annulment and compensation (jurisdiction, procedures and judgments). Specific: a specific topic studied in depth and analytically, such as no-fault administrative liability and its applications in administrative judiciary.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 733 Advanced Studies in Information Technology Crimes

Covers legal protection of critical national infrastructure from cyber incidents (preventive measures and criminal prosecution), legal protection of digital personal data, an in-depth study of protections under Bahrain's IT Crimes Law and comparative laws, and protection of children from sexual exploitation and the electronic evidence chain.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 734 Advanced Studies in Crimes against State Security

General: the nature of crimes against state security (internal and external) and their general provisions. Specific: the legal structure of crimes against the state, guarantees for the accused, and an in-depth study of counter-terrorism legislation.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 763 Advanced Studies in International Environmental Law

Covers advanced topics in the development of international environmental law, its founding principles and analysis of international environmental treaties. Specific: an in-depth study of international liability in the field of environmental protection.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 762 Advanced Studies in International Humanitarian Law

Covers the origins, philosophy and major sources of IHL (Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols); fundamental principles, legal nature and sources; relationship with international human rights law; and newly protected categories, international penalties for violations and enforcement mechanisms.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description

PPL 743 Advanced Studies in Public Service Law

Covers the evolution of the public service, the organisations and bodies overseeing it, the scope of human resources management, job grades, appointment, rights and duties, conduct rules, performance management, disciplinary procedures, and termination of public employment. Specific: an in-depth study of disciplinary liability (nature, the disciplinary action, investigation, trial procedures, sanctions and guarantees of a fair trial).

Prerequisite: None

PPL 752 Advanced Studies in Constitutional Judiciary

Covers the jurisdiction of constitutional courts in comparative systems, political and judicial review of constitutionality, and topics such as the standing requirement, treaty review, review of legislative omission, review of constitutional amendments, the constitutional court's role in interpreting constitutional provisions and ensuring legal certainty, and the effects and authority of constitutional court judgments.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 704 Advanced Studies in Media Legislation

Introduces insurance services and their marketing concept, compares capitalist and socialist economic systems, covers the concept of social solidarity from an economic perspective, studies the banking system, and covers the philosophy, objectives and types of insurance (commercial, cooperative, social, takaful, reinsurance), insurance management principles, risk management analysis and comparative strategies.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 771 Advanced Studies in Public Finance and Tax Legislation

Covers procedures for filing and auditing tax returns, the competent courts for tax disputes, tax administration powers, judicial oversight and litigation procedures at first instance, appellate and cassation levels. Specific: an in-depth study of a tax law topic such as evidence before the tax judiciary, assessment, taxpayer rights or tax equity.

Prerequisite: None

PPL 799 Doctoral Dissertation

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

Prerequisite: 27 Credit Hours