Bocconi

PhD IN LEGAL STUDIES



Knowledge that matters.

The PhD in Legal Studies is a three-year program that forms first-class scholars; our PhD graduates have an excellent track record in securing both academic and non-academic positions, including in international organizations. The program offers courses aimed at strengthening research skills, including methodology, interdisciplinarity and the connection between law and economics.

During the first semester of the first year, students are required to attend curricular courses. Subsequently, students are required to work mainly on their dissertation and other complementary research activities. In order to develop their thesis, students are encouraged to spend at least one period of stay at international universities or institutions.

Our program provides a maximum of 8 three-year fellowships, which include tuition waiver, a generous stipend, and access to research funds. In addition, some tuition waivers are available. Starting from the second year of the program, students also have the opportunity to pursue salaried teaching and research assistantships.

The program is composed of two curricula: Business and Social Law and International and European Law, both taught entirely in English.

The Business and Social Law curriculum focuses on business law with an approach combining an interdisciplinary perspective, an international orientation and the analysis of the specific field of law chosen by each student (e.g. corporation, securities, competition, commercial contracts, bankruptcy, intellectual property rights, labor law, white collar crime). The study of law, economics and social sciences complements business and legal studies.

The International and European Law curriculum seeks to foster excellent research in any topic within those areas, including, but not limited to, public international law, private international law, European economic and trade law, comparative and European constitutional law and European social law.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1st YEAR

3 COMPULSORY COURSES COMMON TO BOTH CURRICULA:

- Research Strategies for Legal Scholars
- New Perspectives on Methodologies for Legal Sholarship
- Principles of Research Ethics (Self-managed online course)

2 COMPULSORY COURSES FOR EACH CURRICULUM:

Curriculum in International and European Law

- Topics in International and EU Law
- PhD seminars in international and EU Law

Curriculum in Business and Law

- Topics in Business Law
- PhD seminars in Business Law

2nd YEAR

PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH ETHICS (SELF-MANAGED ONLINE COURSE) (IF NOT TAKEN IN FIRST YEAR)

- Open Science for Researchers

PERIOD OF STAY ABROAD AND WRITING THE DISSERTATION

3rd YEAR

PRINCIPLES OF RESEARCH ETHICS (SELF-MANAGED ONLINE COURSE) (IF NOT TAKEN IN FIRST YEAR)

- Open Science for Researchers

COMPLETION OF DISSERTATION AND FINAL DEFENSE.



ADMISSIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Assessment is based on:

- Personal curriculum (mandatory):
- Research proposal (mandatory): detailed description of research proposal coherent with one of the curricular disciplinary fields;
- Reference letters: up to three reference letters uploaded by referees appointed in the online application procedure (not mandatory but highly recommended);
- Academic records (mandatory): transcript of exams and certification of undergraduate and graduate degrees awarded and final grade (if any); if the graduate program has not been completed, an enrollment document with the full study plan, the exams taken and the grades achieved;
- Statement of purpose (mandatory): short description (max 1200 words) of candidate's motivation for enrollment in the Bocconi PhD in Legal Studies and of their professional goals;
- Other relevant documents (maximum five): e.g. thesis abstract, publications, other programs attended, etc.

Complete information regarding deadlines, documents required, the online application process and financial support is available at www.unibocconi.eu/admissionphd. PhD students are required to take part in all the activities defined in the program structure, e.g. lectures and seminars, and pass the tests and exams planned for each year by the Faculty Board.

For more information about the program, the faculty and admission procedures, please feel free to contact phdadmission@unibocconi.it or visit our website www.unibocconi.eu/phdlegalstudies



PLACEMENT

The PhD program aims to prepare and foster student careers in academia, governments and international organizations and legal services.

In recent years, our students have been hired by prestigious schools and organizations including, among others: Amsterdam University, Ludwig Maximilan University, Munich; IE University, Madrid; Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) Law School, Sao Paulo; Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law; Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam; Università Cattolica di Milano; University of Warsaw; European University Institute; University "Magna Grecia"; Safra Center for Ethics, University of Tel Aviv; Legal Service of the Council of the European Union; the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA); the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment.

Bocconi University is part of CIVICA, the European University of Social Sciences a network of 10 European universities (Science Po, European University Institute, Hertie School, London School of Economics and Political Science, Stockholm School of Economics, Central European University, and SNSPA School of Governance, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, SGH Warsaw School of Economics,). Besides the courses offered by the Bocconi PhD in Legal Studies Program, including a joint course with LSE, students can choose from a rich portfolio of courses offered by our partners. PhD students are encouraged to take part in exchanges and activities (including targeted summer and winter schools) within the CIVICA network. Furthermore, Bocconi has several exchange programs with partners outside the CIVICA network.

"Candidates in the PhD program in Legal Studies join an excellent interdisciplinary school, as well as an international network where Bocconi is firmly established as a leading institution. They gain access to a wonderful group of fellow PhD students and young researchers and a high-quality and diverse faculty always accessible and ready to help. PhD candidates are lectured and mentored by outstanding professors with different backgrounds and affiliations from around the world. Moreover, from my perspective of an academic and a practicing lawyer, I consider the PhD program particularly appealing as the perfect path to pursue a career both in academia and practice – including the private and public sector and international institutions. The PhD program provides research and analytical skills that will be particularly valuable to future leaders, thinkers and decision-makers."

LAURA ZOBOLI 2018 PHD GRADUATE; ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EUROPEAN BUSINESS LAW, UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

"The doctoral program in Legal Studies provides the ideal opportunity to train and nurture curiosity in a stimulating cultural environment. One of its crucial strengths is the possibility of combining independent research activities with enthusiastic support from the faculty and staff.
More importantly, the study plan offers a solid multidisciplinary basis and encourages (and funds) visiting periods to internationally renowned universities and research institutes, along with the option of being involved in adrenalin-boosting teaching schemes in higher education.
I enjoyed the program, which enabled me to advance my legal intuition and develop a critical attitude towards concepts and ideas. I strongly recommend this experience since it has fueled my passion for socio-legal studies thanks to the efforts of the global and open Bocconi community."

ANTONIO ALOISI 2018 PHD GRADUATE; ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EUROPEAN LABOUR LAW, IE UNIVERSITY, MADRID



ABOUT BOCCONI

Founded in Milan in 1902, Bocconi University was the first Italian university to offer a degree in economics. Today, it is a leading European university for research and teaching, with a strong international outlook. Its academic activities span economics, management, finance, law, political science, data science and computer science, with a growing focus on artificial intelligence. Through rigorous research and innovative education, Bocconi advances knowledge and contributes to social and economic progress. Guided by the values of independence, integrity, openness and inclusion, it brings together talented students and scholars from around the world, preparing future researchers, professionals and leaders to address global challenges, and law, producing world leaders both in business and academia.

www.unibocconi.eu



ABOUT MILANO

Renowned as the Italian financial and industrial capital, Milan is also the historical cradle of art, design, fashion, gourmet cuisine, and... soccer. Currently a leading EU city, rich with professional and entertainment energy, Milan is certainly a great place to live.

www.unibocconi.eu/aboutmilan

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CONTACTS

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