

PhD Position in Sociology of Authoritarian Law – Politics of Anti-Corruption

Turība University, Faculty of Law

Description of the workplace

Project description

This project investigates how international anti-corruption frameworks are interpreted and applied in Central Asia's authoritarian legal systems. The research will unpack how global norms - rooted in Western legal traditions - are adapted, contested, or resisted by domestic institutions shaped by collectivist values and legal nihilism. The doctoral candidate will engage in fieldwork examining the implementation and local meaning of anti-corruption practices and agencies.

To read more about the SOCIAL project please see [HERE](#)

Tasks and responsibilities

As a doctoral student, you will be admitted to doctoral studies of public law and employed at Turība University.

You will:

- Conduct independent research within the scope of the project.
- Participate in training events, workshops, and conferences organized by the SOCIAL Doctoral Network.
- Undertake fieldwork in Central Asia and two mandatory secondments (one academic, one non-academic) abroad
- Collaborate with international supervisors and peers.
- Contribute to Faculty activities, including teaching and seminars.

Doctoral Programme of Law

The doctoral program in law science provides an opportunity to acquire in-depth competencies necessary for independent research work and its completion with original and empirically proven results. Graduates of the program can become law researchers who are focused on the European market and ready to compete internationally.

Within the framework of the doctoral study program, it is possible to improve the ability to analyze problems in the theory of law, sociology and the history of law, to solve topical issues in the selected

fields of law, to implement and develop bachelor and master study programs, as well as to develop skills in academic work and study scientific research methods.

The working language is English. The doctoral program in law science comprises 180 ECTS (equivalent to three years of full-time study).

More information about the doctoral program in law science is available at:

<https://www.turiba.lv/en/admission/study-programs/doctoral-studies/law-science>

General Requirements

- Excellent ability to express yourself in spoken and written English.
- Strong motivation and ability to work independently under pressure.
- Good collaboration and communication skills.

During the admission process, the applicant's research proposal on the topicality of his / her doctoral thesis (focus on the topic "The Politics of fight against corruption: examine local adoption and manipulation of international anti-corruption standards") and the relevance of the previously acquired master's or professional master's diploma to the field of law is evaluated. The research proposal, as well as previous theses and published material in Law are important documents for assessing this ability.

Applicant is required to provide one of the English language certificates mentioned within the admission information. If the applicant does not have any of the respective English language certificates, however the medium of instruction of his/her master studies was English, he/she will receive a link to Turība University on-line English test after the registration.

Information on the admission process and rules can be found in the section "Admission" (<https://www.turiba.lv/en/admission/admission>)

Specific Requirements

- A completed degree at the master level in Law.
- Doctoral candidates cannot have been awarded a doctoral degree and/or completed more than four years of full-time equivalent research experience.
- In line with the eligibility criteria and on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Networks programme, doctoral candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (i.e. work, studies) in the hosting country for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date. For further information on eligibility criteria and on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Networks in general, please refer to: [Doctoral Networks - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#).

Merits

- Knowledge of public law, legal theory, legal sociology, criminology, public governance and rule of law mechanism in authoritarian regimes.
- Experience with qualitative research methods and fieldwork.
- Self-motivated, perseverant, strong communication and writing skills.
- Collaborative and independent working style.
- Knowledge of Central Asian socio-legal, public governance and political contexts is an asset.

What We Offer

- 36-month full-time EU MSCA employment contract
- Competitive monthly living, mobility, and family allowances
- Joint supervision and inter-sectoral placements
- Comprehensive training in research methods, ethics, Open Science, transferable skills
- Career guidance and enhanced employability

Application procedure

1. First application step is to fill the Application form on www.turiba.lv (You will find application here: <https://www.turiba.lv/en/admission/study-programs/doctoral-studies/law-science>)

Before starting the on-line application procedure, please, prepare the following documents:

- A motivation letter in English (max 1,000 words), including a brief presentation of yourself and your qualifications, as well as a short description of why you are interested in the doctoral program in Law at Turība University, PhD Position in Sociology of Authoritarian Law – DC4 Politics of Anti-Corruption.
- A copy of the Master's degree certificate with a transcript in the original language and an official translation to English or Russian.
- Research proposal for doctoral thesis on the topic "The Politics of fight against corruption: examining local adoption and manipulation of international anti-corruption standards". The proposal should be no more than 13,000 characters (including spaces and references) and written in English. Please ensure that your proposed research aligns closely with the focus of the PhD project, Sociology of Authoritarian Law – Politics of Anti-Corruption. A research proposal must include annotation, the relevance of the research, research problems and their description, the aim and tasks of the research, the hypothesis of the research, analysis of the main sources used in the research, expected scientific and practical results.

- Motivation letter and Research proposal should be combined in one pdf document and submitted together under section “Research proposal”.
- English language certificate - if you have such certificate (please see below on the Accepted ones).
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) in English demonstrating eligibility for doctoral studies in Law. Please include in CV Names and contact details of two referees.
- A copy of the passport.
- One photo.

2. The applicants will be assessed based on the above general and specific requirements, and top-ranked candidates will be invited for an interview.

3. The applicants are requested to pass online interview on Cisco Webex platform and the education document copies are submitted for the verification. Applicants will be required to pass video online interview on Cisco Webex platform. During the interview, excellent ability to express oneself in speech and writing is of great importance. As doctoral studies in Law are highly demanding, the candidate must be strongly motivated.

A writing sample (e.g., a master’s thesis or a published paper) demonstrating the applicant’s research and writing skills, as well as any other supporting documents, may be requested from the applicant after the interview.

4. After positive online interview, applicants’ education document copies will be submitted to the Academic Information Centre for verification. This procedure can take up to 4 weeks.

5. Applicants will be requested to send notarized copies of all your education documents (secondary education, Bachelor’s and Master’s degree certificates with transcripts) via courier service or the regular mail to the Turība University.

6. After we have received an approval of your education documents from the Academic Information Centre, applicant will be required to send all the notarized education document copies to the University. Afterwards a study agreement will be prepared and sent to the applicant. The agreement will have to be signed and couriered back to the University.

*We require minimum score of 60% for the last obtained applicable education.

**We accept following certificates with minimum score mentioned in the brackets:

IELTS – (5.5 score)

TOEFL IBT – (72 points)

TOEFL PBT – (513 points)

TOEIC – (605 points)

FCE (First Certificate in English) – (160 points)

CAE (Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English) – (160 points)

CPE (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English) – (160 points)

Cambridge English: Business Vantage (BEC Vantage) – (160 points)

Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE A) – (51 points)

Cambridge English Linguaskill – (160 points)

Duolingo* (100 points)

Employment Type

The position is full-time (100%) for three years, starting in September 2026. You are required to work on-site in Riga, Latvia.

Additional Information

For questions about the recruitment process, please contact the International Office international@turiba.lv.

For questions about the doctoral program of law and specific position, please contact Professor Raimundas Kalesnykas raimundas.kalesnykas@turiba.lv.

For questions regarding the PhD project, please contact Kristīne Neimane at kristine.neimane@turiba.lv or Agnese Pilāne at agnese.pilane@turiba.lv.