

# Department of Law

## Strategy 2016-2020



# Vision, purpose, values and culture

## VISION

The Department of Law wants to have an impact on the development of the national juris-prudence and to impact international jurisprudence through research at a high academic level. Our aspiration is to contribute to shaping and improving the legal and commercial-legal competence profile.

## PURPOSE

We support the development of society and the business sector by ensuring and develop-ing the national jurisprudence and influencing international legislative development. The aim is to ensure the highest possible connection between research, education and communication. We are going to ensure new impulses for the development of our activities through contact with the outside world, including cooperation with the business sector.

The administrative staff at Department of Law will support the vision and the purpose by continuously developing the requested competencies.

## VALUES AND UNIFYING CULTURES

The activities of the Department of Law are rooted in the due process of law, other legal values and the rule of law.

Our values must serve as a common basis for collegial collaboration and reflect our image in the working day. The values support the purpose of our department and must be visible in the department's sub-strategies.

ALL WORK CONDUCTED AT THE DEPARTMENT MUST BE CHARACTERISED BY:

- » Ambitions - high quality and high level of professionalism
- » Common objectives - all employees at the department participate in implement-ing the vision of the department, and all are part of the department's successes
- » Diversity – academically the department covers a wide field, all competencies must be used, and varied contributions serve to ensure the best quality
- » Responsibility - the work is rooted in tradition and develops with the surrounding society at the same time

COLLEGIAL COLLABORATION MUST TAKE PLACE IN A UNIFYING AND ATTRACTIVE CULTURE WHICH IS PARTICULARLY CHARACTERISED BY:

- » Recognition - we respect each other's efforts and views
- » Openness - we openly discuss different views with each other
- » Professional knowledge and objectivity - we prioritise the professional element and stick to the point
- » Solidarity - we are accommodating and hospitable

## Overall strategy

### INTERNATIONALISATION

Law is increasingly affected by the standard-setting taking place at the regional and inter-national level through conventions or supranational cooperation, e.g. the EU. In order to support the challenges which this causes for teaching, research and talent development, we will strengthen and develop our international prospect.

We will work to be a preferred choice for international students and researchers, and an attractive partner for international educational and research environments. The academic staff must be in strong demand abroad.

### EDUCATION

We offer two forms of full-time education; both are deeply rooted in the research conducted at the department.

Our goal is to intensify the independent profiles of education. The degree programmes must ensure and develop competencies requested by national and international stake-holders within the legal, public administration, business and research sectors.

### RESEARCH

We must reinforce and improve the research within jurisprudence's traditional core sub-jects and be on the cutting edge of new legal challenges for society and the business community in general. The research must be both nationally and internationally oriented and include questions belonging under the legal subject areas as well questions requiring an effort across the subject areas.

### EXTERNAL FUNDING

We aim to strengthen funding for external research. This will improve the opportunities for the development of new research projects of great value to both basic research and applied research. Seeking external funding must be an overall departmental issue involving a wide circle of the department's researchers.

### TALENT DEVELOPMENT

We aim to intensify the development of talents at both Master's and PhD levels. We wish to recruit the best candidates for the PhD programme. The department's PhD programme will provide competencies requested by national and international research environments, authorities and private stakeholders.

### COLLABORATION WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR/ SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING

We intend to strengthen the collaboration and knowledge exchange with the business sector in general. Collaboration with the business sector must be part of education, re-search, talent development and further training at the department and contribute to the development of the business sector. The department's supplementary training will help ensuring the business sector an opportunity for lifelong learning.



## EDUCATION

### OVERALL GOAL

The aim of the Department of Law is to sharpen the independent profiles of the two forms of full-time education and develop these with a view to a continued fulfilment of societal needs.

### STRONG FULL-TIME EDUCATIONS WITH CLEAR ACADEMIC PROFILES

The law degree programme is a professional degree programme which is socially responsible for training candidates for a number of areas requiring a legal education. The programme is going to provide the students with a thorough knowledge of the key legal courses (including legal dogmatic courses in particular), legal method and jurisprudence. In addition, the law degree programme must make the students understand that law forms a coherent system based on common, basic principles and values. The Bachelor's degree programme must provide the students with a good grasp of the legal method through their work with the general parts of the legal dogmatic courses, whereas the Master's degree programme must develop the general understanding of the law and the legal method through specialisation within a number of specific branches of jurisprudence.

The commercial law degree programme (MSc in Business Administration and Commercial Law) will provide the students with academic knowledge and theoretic and methodical qualifications with which they will be able to identify, formulate and deal with business administration and commercial law issues. Working with the legal elements of the degree programme, the students will obtain proficiency in using the legal method and get an increased methodical understanding of the interaction between business administration and commercial law. The integration between business economics and the commercial law field must be sharpened in the business administration and commercial law degree programme, and the degree programme is going to be developed in close cooperation with the fields involved. The students' abilities to clarify their own profiles must be ensured by offering options throughout the entire degree programme.

### TEACHING

We want to maintain a strong research basis for the degree programmes and courses offered by the department. We will ensure that the individual courses are supported by an active senior researcher, and that student guidance, to the greatest extent possible, is handled by highly competent researchers at the department.

The course and programme portfolio aims to strengthen the talent development at Bachelor's degree level as well as Master's degree level. In addition, it must be ensured that graduates from Department of Law have the opportunity to develop practice-based competencies in order to meet the demands of the job market.

The teaching must be planned in order to strengthen the competencies which are part of the degree programmes' qualification descriptions. E-learning must be used extensively in areas where relevant and will support the students' learning process in the best possible way.

By implementing integrated courses and cross-curricular projects, the department aims to strengthen the students' abilities to carry out interdisciplinary work at the commercial law degree programme.

### RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND STUDY ENVIRONMENT

To increase the admission of talented students, we will carry out targeted recruitment. The degree programmes at the department must be made more visible to potential applicants through increased collaboration with the study preparatory educations. We must in particular focus our efforts on youth education programmes which contain legal elements.

The drop-out rates at the Bachelor's degree programmes must be reduced by prioritising the educational development of the courses with the highest drop-out rates. The guidance provided for "students at risk of dropping out" must be increased. We will expand and support social initiatives which are influential factors for the drop-out rate, and we will cooperate with student organisations to strengthen the study environment.

## RESEARCH

### OVERALL GOAL

Research taking place at the Department of Law must be of highest quality and have national and international impact. The research must be theoretically sound as well as practically relevant. The needs of practical legal life must be emphasised, but the jurisprudential research must also find new ways. The research environment at the department must be open and characterised by dialogue across the legal disciplines, and where relevant, also with other disciplines.

### COHERENCE BETWEEN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

As part of the university, the Department of Law is obliged by the University Act to conduct research and provide research-based education at the highest international level within its academic fields. Therefore, there must be coherence between the research conducted and the degree programmes offered by the department.

### FREEDOM OF RESEARCH AND ETHICS OF SCIENCE

There is freedom of research at the department, and the department protects the interests of the department and the individual's freedom of research and the ethics of science.

### RESEARCH AREAS AND RESEARCH QUALITY

The research at the department must cover all the main areas of jurisprudence, and it is an end in itself that we are able to conduct research at the highest level within all these areas.

### JURISPRUDENTIAL TRADITION AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Research at the Department of Law is characterised by comprehensive national publication in accordance with the jurisprudential tradition and roots in the needs of the practical legal life and problems as well as by significant international publication with the purpose of developing jurisprudence due to the requirements caused by increased international business relations.

Basically, jurisprudence is associated with a particular language – and after the appearance of the nation states – with a particular nation. Research into Danish legal relations is, therefore, fundamental to the department. As the legal regulation becomes increasingly international and supranational, an increased focus on the international dimensions of the regulation is required. We therefore wish to prioritise increased internationalisation in all areas, where relevant.

### PUBLICATION

We wish to publish our research in accordance with nationally and internationally recognised academic practice in the shape of journals, monographs and dissertations. In accordance with the tradition of jurisprudence and rooted in the needs of practical legal life, we want to retain and develop academic publication in national journals and books.

We want to increase the number of international publications in order to strengthen our impact and to be an attractive international partner.

### RESEARCH COLLABORATION

We support the establishment of national and international research groups and research centres in order to carry out major research projects.

In a number of national fields there is a long-standing tradition of Nordic collaboration which the department wishes to maintain and develop. Likewise we have a number of international cooperating partners, and we wish to maintain and expand this collaboration.

## EXTERNAL FUNDING

### OVERALL GOAL

Our goal is to increase the number and quality of applications for external research funding. Furthermore, we will focus on making external funding an integrated part of the re-search for a larger part of the researchers at the department.

### A MEANS FOR BETTER RESEARCH

External grants make it possible for the research environment of the department to develop new research projects and must be regarded as a means to increase the amount and raise the level of the research conducted at the department. External funding must furthermore be regarded as a natural and integral part of the day-to-day work and the re-search culture at the department, however, subject to an important balance between the personal initiative and the department's overall goals.

### EXTERNAL COLLABORATION ON RESEARCH FUNDING

We will particularly focus on the possibilities to attract research funds through cooperation with companies, government agencies and institutions. Not only will we focus on the large research applications but also on the fact that the researchers continue to obtain minor funds.

### A PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION

We wish to enhance the level of knowledge in order to raise external research funding. We will promote good administrative procedures and targeted support for the preparation of applications and increase our assistance in connection with the practical implementation and closing of externally funded research projects.

## TALENT DEVELOPMENT

### OVERALL GOAL

The Department of Law offers a PhD programme which meets international standards. Our aspiration is to recruit highly qualified candidates from Denmark and abroad for the programme. We prioritise PhD projects which are consistent with our other sub-strategies, including being on the cutting edge of legal challenges.

Our overall purpose is decisive for talent development and retention, and talent development is also essential for the department to be able to live up to its overall goal.

### RECRUITMENT

We will focus our efforts on increasing the number of qualified applicants from three groups of applicants: the department's own students, working lawyers and commercial lawyers as well as international applicants. This requires improved information to potential applicants and more talent programmes for the most talented Master's degree students.

We will improve the information about the PhD degree programme and clarify the importance of the broad research profile as well as the freedom of research as being a key value, also when it comes to choice of PhD projects.

### THE QUALITY OF THE PHD DEGREE PROGRAMME

The department will work on an ongoing basis to maintain and improve the quality of the PhD degree programme. This includes the framework for the degree programme (reception process, offices, availability of information, economic support of travel expenses etc.) as well as the content of it (the quality of the guidance, courses etc.).

### TALENT DEVELOPMENT AFTER OBTAINED PHD DEGREE

We aim to create a good framework for younger researchers, who are affiliated to the department, to qualify for permanent tenure as a researcher.

## COLLABORATION WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR/SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING

### OVERALL GOAL

Broadly speaking, we wish to strengthen our collaboration with the business sector, i.e. including the private and the public sector and other national and international actors.

Business co-operation must be included in all our core activities and contribute to increasing the quality of the degree programmes, research, talent development and knowledge sharing taking place at Department of Law.

### EDUCATION

We wish to strengthen the interaction between theory and practice through several practical training activities in collaboration with the business sector. An increased business co-operation as part of the degree programme will increase the students' insight into and understanding of the legal issues which they will meet in practice within different sectors. This will not only support the students' career choices, but also give the business sector insight into the students' competencies.

### RESEARCH

Increased collaboration with the business sector will ensure that the research conducted at Department of Law is abreast of new legal challenges for society and the business sector and is going to strengthen the interaction between theory and practice. Researchers must be ensured to receive practical knowledge, access to data and valuable feedback. It is furthermore our goal that the business sector is going to contribute more to large research projects and research collaborations, i.a. by external funding. Business co-operation can be established on an ad hoc basis or in the form of larger strategic partnerships.

### TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Strengthened collaboration with the business sector will provide PhD students with access to relevant knowledge and data and facilitate discussion. It is the aim to increase the visibility of the PhD students and give the business sector an improved insight into the PhD students' competencies and thereby create more career paths for the PhD students after finishing their degree programme.

### SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING

Through supplementary practical training activities within our research areas, we will contribute to knowledge sharing with and development of the business sector. We offer three professional Master's degree programmes (MEEL,

MDIS and the flexible Master's degree programme). We will also focus on improving the supply of income-generating activities.

Participation of researchers and practitioners in the supplementary training activities supports the link between theory and practice.



