



SELF-EVALUATION

concerning the operation of “Marton Géza” Doctoral School of Legal Studies (2014–2019)

1. The head of the Doctoral School

Education in the fields of law and political sciences started in 1914 at the Royal University of Debrecen, founded by an Act of Parliament two years earlier. After three and half decades of successful operation, the activities of the Faculty (which was then called the Faculty of Law and Public Administration Science) was suspended in 1949. Efforts to revive legal education from this state of suspension started in the early years of the 1990s, eventually leading to a result in 1996. In that year, education in law was restarted at “Kossuth Lajos” University, initially in the framework of an institute. In 2000, the University of Debrecen was created as a result of the integration of several institutes of higher education, and the Faculty of Law, as the 11th faculty of that new university was formed in 2003. From this point forward, the leadership of the university and the faculty made efforts to start doctoral education as well, which efforts became successful at the second attempt, in 2006.

“Marton Géza” Doctoral School of Legal Studies of the University of Debrecen was accredited by MAB by way of its resolution no. 2006/4/VI/3. There is one doctoral programme operating in the framework of the doctoral school under the title *Changes of State and Law in Central and Eastern Europe*.

The doctoral programme was started in September 2006. The head of the doctoral programme and the doctoral school was initially Dr. Tamás Horváth M. (DSc, university professor); from 1 March 2009, the head of the programme and the doctoral school was Dr. Béla Szabó (DSc, university professor). Between 2015 and 2017, the head of the doctoral school was once again Dr. Tamás Horváth M. (DSc, university professor). Since 2017, the head of the Doctoral School has been Dr. József Szabadfalvi (DSc, university professor).

Out of respect for the legal traditions in Debrecen, on 1 September 2011, our doctoral school took the name of Géza Marton (1880-1957), a lawyer in Debrecen and a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, an earlier professor of the University of Debrecen, whose areas of research included, in addition to the general questions of Roman law and civil law, also certain issues of criminal law and delictual liability, as well as the training of lawyers and educational reform.

The aim of our doctoral school is not only to ensure the education of the next generation of academics in the areas of law and political science, but (in our correspondence programme and in the framework of individual preparation) we also provide an opportunity for practising professionals to engage in PhD studies and to obtain doctoral degrees. In recent years, a number of practising judges, prosecutors, experts in the field of public administration, as well as lawyer trainees also successfully pursued studies in our doctoral school.



2. The personnel background of the doctoral school

When the doctoral school was founded, a difficult task was to create a personnel base of proper quality, including the winning of a prestigious professor to serve as the head of the doctoral school. After the difficulties of the initial years, the operation of the doctoral school has stabilised: from the start of the 2014/15 academic year (from 1 September 2014), the number of core faculty members increased to 13, including 2 professors holding DSc titles. Currently, the number of core faculty members is 11, of which the head of the doctoral school has a DSc title, and the procedure for conferring the title of Doctor of the Academy will also be started soon in the case of Prof. László Fodor. Of the current core members, 7 are university professors and 4 are habilitated associate professors. (Two of the associate professors, Elek Balázs and László Pribula are expected to receive their appointments as professors on 1 September 2019.) The age distribution of our core members can be regarded as satisfactory: we have only one core member over the age of 60 (Prof. György Csécsy), who can be taken into consideration, from the point of view of accreditation, as a core member until 2022.

Table 1

The founding members of the doctoral school in 2006

name	year of birth	academic degree /title	employment status	position
Dr. György Csécsy	1952	CSc	primary employment	university professor (habil.)
Dr. Iván Zoltán Dénes	1946	DSc	primary employment	university professor
Dr. Tamás Horváth M.	1960	DSc	primary employment	university professor (habil.)
Dr. Tamás Sárközy	1940	DSc	adjunct professor	university professor
Dr. József Szabadfalvi	1961	CSc	primary employment	university professor (habil.)
Dr. Béla Szabó	1962	CSc	primary employment	university professor (habil.)
Dr. Ernő Várnay	1951	CSc	primary employment	university professor (habil.)

Three of the founding members held the title of Doctor of the Academy, two of them were internal founding members. In addition to the three Doctors of the Academy, there were four more university professors among the founding members, and all of them were habilitated professors. Also all of them had prior experiences of teaching and serving as dissertation supervisors in other doctoral schools.



Table 2

The current core members of the doctoral school

name	year of birth	academic degree /title	employment status	position	number of graduated students
Dr. István Balázs	1956	CSc	primary employment	university professor	2
Dr. Judit Balogh	1972	PhD	primary employment	habilitated associate professor	2
Dr. Mátyás Bencze	1973	PhD	primary employment	university professor	1.5
Dr. György Csécsy	1952	CSc	primary employment	university professor	5
Dr. Balázs Elek	1973	PhD	primary employment	habilitated associate professor	2
Dr. Tamás Fézer	1980	PhD	primary employment	habilitated associate professor	1.5
Dr. László Fodor	1972	PhD	primary employment	university professor (DSc procedure to start soon)	5
Dr. László Pribula	1974	PhD	primary employment	habilitated associate professor	1
Dr. József Szabadfalvi	1961	DSc	primary employment	university professor	1.5
Dr. Béla Szabó	1962	CSc	primary employment	university professor	7
Dr. Veronika Szikora	1971	PhD	primary employment	university professor	2

Table 3

Currently pending doctoral acts of students of core members

core member	doctoral candidate	expected date of degree awarding	doctoral school of defence
Dr. Judit Balogh	Dr. Zsanett Kun-Szabó	2020 (before closed debate)	"Marton Géza" Doctoral School
Dr. Tamás Fézer	Dr. Éva Dóra Fazekas	2020 (before closed debate)	"Marton Géza" Doctoral School
Dr. László Pribula	Dr. István Bereczki	2020 (2020 (before closed debate, comprehensive examination scheduled))	"Marton Géza" Doctoral School



Dr. László Pribula	Dr. Tamás Molnár	2019 (after closed debate, comprehensive examination passed, successful public debate on 28 March 2019)	“Marton Géza” Doctoral School
Dr. Veronika Szikora	Zsolt Fegyveresi	2020 (before closed debate, comprehensive examination passed)	“Marton Géza” Doctoral School

3. The introduction of the head of the doctoral school

The first head of the doctoral school from the date of foundation until 1 March 2009 was Dr. Tamás Horváth M. (1960), DSc, university professor, whose narrower areas of specialization include administration, public management, as well as financial law. He was followed by Dr. Béla Szabó (1962), CSc, university professor, whose chief area of research encompass the disciplines of legal history and Roman law. From 2015 until 28 February 2017, once again Dr. Tamás Horváth M. DSc university professor served as the head of the doctoral school.

The current head of the doctoral school, since 1 March 2017, is Dr. József Szabadfalvi (1961), DSc, university professor, whose areas of specialization are legal philosophy, theory of state, and the history of legal philosophical thinking. He obtained his title of Doctor of the Academy (DSc) in 2016, by defending his dissertation titled “*An Attempt at Creating the New Hungarian Legal Philosophy’ in the First Half of the 20th Century*”. He has served as a dissertation supervisor for 2.5 doctoral students, 1.5 of which have already obtained their PhD degrees. The number of publications Professor Szabadfalvi has in research and academic journals is currently 235. The number of independent references to his publications is 718. (Hirsch index: 10)

From his scientific and academic service activities, it should be highlighted that in two cycles between 2005 and 2011, he was a member of the National Credit Council, and between 2005 and 2009, and then between 2013 and 2015, he was a member of the “Legal and Political Science” jury. From 2011 he was an external member of the Doctoral Council of the University of Miskolc, and from 2013, an external member of the Habilitation Committee of the University of Miskolc. From 2014 he was a member of the Social Sciences Habilitation Committee at the University of Debrecen, and from 2015 a member of the Social Sciences Doctoral Committee at the University of Debrecen. In 2015, he was elected a member of the Social Sciences and Humanities College of the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund (earlier called the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund, OTKA) for a term of three years. He has been an elected member of the Legal and Political Science Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 2015, now in the second term. He has been the president of the Council of “Marton Géza” Doctoral School of Legal Studies since 2017. In addition, he is also a member of the editorial board and advisory committee of numerous Hungarian and foreign academic journals.

He spent a total of eight months as a researcher at Planck-Institut für Europäische Rechtsgeschichte in Frankfurt am Main, at the Faculty of Law of Universitet van Amsterdam, and at the Law School of the University of Warwick. He has participated in numerous Hungarian



and international research projects, as a head of research or a participating researcher. From among the latter, special mention should be made of the project titled “Der wissenschaftliche Nachlaß von Felix Somló” Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) (project number: 42717920).

4. The internal organization of the doctoral school; the place of the doctoral school in the organization of the institution

Formally, the “Marton Géza” Doctoral School of Legal Studies is an organizationally separate unit from the Faculty, engaged in providing education preparing for obtaining an academic degree. Since 2017, the head of the doctoral school has been Dr. József Szabadfalvi, DSc, university professor; the head of the programme has been Dr. Béla Szabó DSc, university professor; while the secretary of the programme has been Dr. Márton Leó Zaccaria, PhD, assistant professor.

The president of the council of “Marton Géza” Doctoral School of Legal Studies is the head of the doctoral school, while its additional nine members are elected from among the core members of the doctoral school for three years, in such a way that six of the nine members shall be from among the core members approved by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (MAB), and another three from among the dissertation supervisors of the doctoral school. Core members of the doctoral school who are not members of the council of the doctoral school, as well as the dean of the Faculty of Law and the secretary of the doctoral school (in case they are not members of the council) may also participate at the meetings of the council of the doctoral school with the right of consultation.

The members of the council of the “Marton Géza” Doctoral School of Legal Studies from 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2020:

- Prof. Dr. József Szabadfalvi, University professor, president of the council of the doctoral school (core member)
- Prof. Dr. Béla Szabó, university professor, head of the programme of the doctoral school (core member)
- Prof. Dr. István Balázs, university professor (core member)
- Prof. Dr. Mátyás Bencze, university professor (core member)
- Prof. Dr. György Csécsy, university professor (core member)
- Prof. Dr. László Fodor, university professor (core member)
- Prof. Dr. Veronika Szikora, university professor (core member)
- Dr. Judit Balogh, habilitated associate professor (core member)
- Dr. Tamás Fézer, habilitated associate professor (core member)
- Prof. Dr. Tamás Horváth M., university professor (non-core member, dissertation supervisor)

The Doctoral Council of Social Sciences includes two doctoral schools of the University of Debrecen (“Ihrig Károly” Doctoral School of Management and Business and “Marton Géza” Doctoral School of Legal Studies). The decision concerning the composition of the Doctoral Council of Social Sciences is made by the Doctoral and Habilitation Council of the University, on



the basis of the recommendations of the doctoral schools. The principal tasks of the Doctoral Council of Social Sciences:

- decision on the distribution of the scholarship places between the doctoral schools;
- decision on the admission of students to the doctoral school and on the dissertation supervisors of the admitted doctoral students;
- decision on the approval of a change in the person of the dissertation supervisor, the appointment of a new dissertation supervisor;
- decision on the approval of applications for the interruption of studies;
- decision in questions concerning the degree awarding procedure and the individual procedural acts, with the exception of the actual awarding and the nostrification of doctoral degrees (the launching of the procedure, appointment of the comprehensive examinations and defence committees);
- decision on inclusion in the list of dissertation supervisors;
- providing its opinion on issues concerning the closing the degree awarding procedure and the actual awarding and the nostrification of doctoral degrees;
- providing its opinion on applications for the appointment of dissertation co-supervisors;
- providing its opinions on the revocation of doctoral degrees.

The "Marton Géza" Doctoral School of Legal Studies represents itself in the 13-member Doctoral School of Social Sciences with the following members (between 2018 and 2022):

- Prof. Dr. József Szabadfalvi DSc, university professor, head of the doctoral school (*ex officio* member)
- Prof. Dr. Béla Szabó DSc, university professor
- Prof. Dr. Mátyás Bencze PhD, university professor
- Prof. Dr. Veronika Szikora PhD, university professor
- Prof. Dr. Erika Jámborné Róth PhD, university professor (University of Miskolc), external member
- Prof. Dr. István Stipta CSc, university ("Károli Gáspár" University of the Reformed Church), external member,
- Prof. Dr. István Szabó PhD, university ("Pázmány Péter" Catholic University), external member.

5. The structure of the programme of the doctoral school

The fundamental proportions of coursework, teaching and research duties is determined for the doctoral school in the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Debrecen. Based on the above, the largest part of the performance expressed in academic credits must be obtained by the doctoral student through research activities.

The organized coursework conducted in the doctoral school has a dual aim: the extension of the knowledge of students in terms of research methodology in the field of legal and political science, as well as the extension and deepening of professional knowledge in the field or subject of the dissertation and related fields. The forms of education in the doctoral programme are aligned to these complex objectives as follows:

- The extension of the knowledge of students in terms of research methodology in the field of legal and political science is primarily served by completing the *required* subjects;



- The obtaining of contextual knowledge contributing to the preparation of the dissertation, in term, is facilitated by the completion of *optional* doctoral subjects.

The sample curriculum and the list of subjects in the doctoral programme are included in a separate document ("educational plan").

6. The programme of the Doctoral School

The title of the programme of the doctoral school is *Changes of State and Law in Central and Eastern Europe*. The starting point of the changes examined is the change in the political system and the switch to market economy. The formation of the system of democratic institutions is built upon the historical traditions, while in the practical implementation, a number of restricting circumstances must be reckoned with, in connection with the solidification of the modern structures. If only for this reason, normativism is certainly an obsolete approach. Our aim is, therefore, a relatively complex application of the social science based approaches to topics in the field of legal and political sciences.

Another important factor of the changes is joining to various international integrations, from among which the most important is the accession of Hungary to the European Union. Legal harmonization, and subsequently the application and enforcement of Community law is a challenge of fundamental significance from the point of view of the entire legal system. Further tasks of integration other than the European Union also constitute important motivations in terms of a need for the reinterpretation of the functions of public law and the public sector.

In addition to integration, also important aspects are the following of the models and model changes of developed and transforming nations. We strive to use the comparative method in case of all topics researched at the Doctoral School. Integration aside, the European examples are important and culture-specific, and cannot be separated from the effects of the given social developments. The state reforms and regulatory practices of Central and Eastern European countries are often affected by their decisions concerning the following of existing examples.

We address the rule of historical factors in the social development of our regions also separately and from various points of view. The typical processes of political and legal history provide important points of departure for the interpretations of contemporary directions of development. The driving forces are not necessarily identical in the changes of the two subsystems. In case of legal and other social systems of norm, the question of reviving and adapting shared traditions arises. In the context of statehood, it is rather the mechanisms of autonomies and systems of relationships supported by safeguards that give rise to recognizable patterns in the diversity of the processes of change today.

In case of both the courses and the thematic nodes, we aim to shed light on such comprehensive phenomena that influence our perception of the state and law, as well as their social role. These include, for example, the increase in the significance of patterns of objective liability, and the pushing of the culpability principle to the background to a certain extent. With respect to the roles of the state, we could emphasize the extended interpretation of constitutionality, the



possibility to reconcile the rule of law with the requirements of effectiveness, the acceptance of the multisectoral solutions of community roles and the extension of their forms.

When it comes to Central and Eastern Europe, the obtaining and substantial processing of the necessary comparative knowledge often poses a problem even today. In the framework of our programme, we strive to ensure that suitable and up-to-date information and comparative materials should be available also in this respect. When faced with various advanced models, we examine the adaptation mechanisms of regulating and organizing the public tasks.

The chosen programme also has a practical significance to the extent that the role of the University of Debrecen will, in all likelihood, increase after the further expansion of the European Union. With the accession of Romania, the possibilities opened for the more direct passing on of the experiences of adaptation, as well as for various further forms of national and multiethnic integration. In the view of academic orientation, we consider the shaping of the doctoral programme's targeted interest in this direction as a field for laying down the groundworks, the success of which effort is shown by the fact that there are applicants for the programme also from the cities of Oradea and Cluj-Napoca in Romania.

7. Quality assurance

From the very beginning, the heads, faculty members and dissertation supervisors of the doctoral school have considered high professional quality to be of utmost significance, and in the interest of the above, the issue of quality assurance was devoted particular attention. The joint realization of the principles laid down in the quality assurance plan of the doctoral school contributes to the continuous increasing of the professional quality of the academic and teaching work, as well as the improvement of professional coherence.

7.1. Earlier doctoral scholarships and prizes

We can evaluate as proof of quality in the Doctoral School that our students regularly perform well in the scholarship applications of the National Excellence Programme. A total of 5 students were recipients of the “Apáczai Csere János” Doctoral Students’ Scholarship (Annamária Csilla Gyüre, Alexandra Pető, Andrea Noémi Tóth, Márton Leó Zaccaria, Nikolett Zoványi), with another 4 students receiving the “Jedlik Ányos” Doctoral Students’ Scholarship (Zsuzsanna Balla, Zsolt Hajnal, László Papp, Éva Török) in 2013-2014. Furthermore, one of our students who received the doctoral degree (Attila Barta) was awarded the Zoltán Magyar Postdoctoral Scholarship. So far, 5 of our PhD students received the Gold Medal for Research Publications of the Year at the Centre of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of the University of Debrecen (Angéla Juhász-Tóth in 2008, Attila Barta in 2009, Emese Szilágyi in 2011, Éva Török in 2012, and Nikolett Zoványi in 2013).

7.2. Current recognitions of doctoral students and their involvement in grant applications

We find it important that, in addition to the recognitions listed above, our PhD students successfully applied for grants, also of different nature. The results indicate that the recognitions thus earned are not occasional, since the grant application activities of our doctoral students and



doctoral candidates is continuous, which also reflects faithfully on the outstanding quality of the programme, as well as on the high-level, but achievable expectations towards those in the PhD programme.

In the framework of additional grant application activities, we can recount the following results:

- Mária Bagossy won the first place in the “Mailáth György” Scientific Grant Application in 2018.
- the New National Excellence Scholarship was awarded, in the doctoral candidate category, to Adnrienn Kovácsné Becánics and Éva Balogh in 2017, and to Katalin Bagdi and Zsanett Kun-Szabó in 2018, and in the doctoral student category to Erika Bihari, Angéla Gábri and Brigitta Gyurkó in 2018;
- in 2017 and then also in 2018, our doctoral school received funding from the grant of the Ministry of Justice aimed at the improvement of the quality of legal education, providing sources from which we could significantly contribute to the costs of our students’ participation at conferences in Hungary and abroad, as well as their publication activities through providing financial support for the writing of manuscripts and publishing studies, as well as facilitating the participation at conferences in Hungary and abroad;
- also supporting our students in academic mobility were the EFOP (Human Resource Development Operational Programme) grants, for which 3-4 students apply successfully in each semester since 2017, primarily supporting their participation at conferences in Hungary and abroad.

The detailed description of our quality assurance system can be found in the quality assurance plan of the doctoral school.

8. The international relations of the doctoral school

The international relations of the doctoral school build upon the exchange programmes of the university and its Faculty of Law, as well as on the contacts established and forming in the course of joint projects with international partners, as related to the chosen profile.

Our doctoral school helps and finances our students’ studies and research abroad by way of providing professional and financial support. Doctoral students regularly read papers at conferences abroad, participate in short-term study trips or Erasmus+ programmes. In the framework of the above, Dr. Katalin Bagdi pursued doctoral studies at the Universität Trier in the spring semester of the 2014-15 academic year, while in 2012, Dr. Ágnes Kovács, our doctoral candidate, was working on her PhD dissertation as a visiting research fellow at the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg.

In the framework of our doctoral school, American lecturers in the Senior Lawyers Program regularly give presentations in Debrecen: in the autumn semester of the 2013/14 academic year, Prof. Robert Heidt (Indiana University), and in the spring semester, Prof. Charles Brown (University of Georgia). Without any claim to completeness, also giving lectures in our doctoral school in recent years were Hon. Judge Frank LaBuda (New York State Supreme Court Justice), Prof. Lucy McNeece (University of Connecticut, CT), Prof. Jeffrey A. Aiken (University of Milwaukee, WI), Prof. Dr. Monica Schlachter (Universität Trier), Prof. Dr. Anton Jaspers



(Universiteit Utrecht), Prof. Dr. Frans Pennings (Universiteit Utrecht), PD Thomas Henne LL.M (Goethe Universitaet, Frankfurt am Main), Ina Hundhammer-Schrögel (Fachhochschule für Verwaltung und Rechtspflege in Bayern, Hof), Prof. Heiner Lück (Universitaet Halle), Prof. Dr. William Slomanson (Thomas Jefferson Law School, San Diego), Prof. Dr. Aaron Schwabach (Thomas Jefferson Law School, San Diego), Prof. Dr. Robert E. Lutz (Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles), Prof. Dr. Beryl ter Haar (Universiteit Leiden), Prof. Dr. Damien Scalia (Université libre de Bruxelles), and most recently Prof. Dr. Zhou Zenije (Beijing Normal University).

9. The results of the doctoral school so far

In the framework of our doctoral school, until the end of the 2018/19 academic year (during thirteen years), a total of 36 PhD degrees have been issued to students who obtained their absolutoriums (pre-degree certificates on the completion of coursework) in our doctoral school. As of 1 April 2019, an additional 9 persons in our doctoral school have started the procedure for receiving their doctoral degrees, all of whom also obtained their absolutoriums in our doctoral school. Among the procedures for receiving the doctoral degrees, from students enrolled from September 2016, we only take those into consideration who have obtained their absolutoriums by now, and their closed debate has been scheduled (currently this means one person), despite the fact that with registration for the complex examination, the procedure for receiving the doctoral degree also starts automatically. In 2018, a total of 18 students registered for the complex examination, and all examinations were successful (1 person who completed the programme by way of individual preparation took the examination in 2018). In 2019 there were 16 students applied to take the complex examination.

Year	Credits registered for	Credits completed	Degree awarded
2006	11	-	-
2007	6	-	-
2008	6	-	-
2009	14	6	1
2010	15	4	-
2011	8	5	2
2012	16	7	1
2013	16	9	5
2014	20	7	5
2015	13	17	5
2016	23	13	4
2017	20	14	8
2018	25	13	4
2018 (until 1 April)	1	1	1
Total	194	94	36



In the framework of our doctoral school, 12 more PhD degrees were awarded where the doctoral candidate obtained his or her absolutorium in another doctoral school of law (5 persons), or participated in individual preparation in the “Marton Géza” Doctoral School of Legal Studies (7 persons), and in an additional 3 cases we nostrified PhD degrees received abroad.

The quantifiable results of the doctoral school on the basis of the above as of the end of the 2018/2019 (i.e. excluding those starting their studies in the 2019/2020 academic year):

- total number of students admitted: 194 (of which 47 are also students currently; while the total number of those who requested the cancellation of their student status before completing their studies, did not enrol or did not obtain their absolutoriums: 41 persons);
- number of students who obtained their absolutoriums: 94;
- total number of PhD degrees awarded: 51 (of which our own doctoral student: 36, obtained their absolutorium somewhere else: 4, individual preparation: 8, nostrified: 3). From the 48 degrees excluding those nostrified, 33 were summa cum laude, 13 cum laude and 1 rite.

An overview of the results of our doctoral school so far reveals the following tendencies:

- there is a tendency of gradual increase in the number of dissertations defended where the student obtained his or her absolutorium in our doctoral school (12 until 2014, and an additional 25 until 1 April 2019), which is primarily due to the fact that, as our experience shows, a period of 5-6 years is necessary in the field of legal and political sciences to write a good quality dissertation and to complete the degree awarding procedure, and the PhD programme only started in our doctoral school in the 2006/2007 academic year; at the same time, an acceleration is likely to be continuous, since in the 2+2-year system that started in September 2016, this period is expected to be reduced to 4-5 years;
- in the period ending on 1 April 2019, the majority of our students who completed their coursework (94 persons) obtained their absolutoriums, in which fact a major role is played by the PhD research forum organized at the end of each semester, where doctoral students and their dissertation supervisors can be faced with, in a personalized way, where the students stand in the process, and what additional requirements they still need to satisfy;
- since 2006, a total of 41 persons requested the cancellation of their student status in the doctoral school, which number also includes students who were admitted but did not enrol and did not obtain an absolutorium (approximately 21% of all students admitted); however 5 of them were students in the first year of the PhD programme in 2006, in the case of whom the likely reason of their dropping out was related to the fact that they were not (could not be) precisely aware of the requirements of the PhD programme in law. Those who since requested the cancellation of their student status generally did so after one or maximum two semesters, typically for work or family-related reasons. A further reason for dropping out and requesting passive semesters, as well as for leaving the full-time programme, is also the fact that the duration of the full-time PhD programme cannot be (or only in a limited way) counted toward the three-year period of legal practice necessary for starting their three-part professional examinations in law.

Thanks to the gradually increasing number of degrees earned, our doctoral school has grown from one of the smallest at the University of Debrecen into a medium-sized doctoral school,



thanks to which the number of PhD students who can be admitted with a state-financed scholarship increased from 2-3 students/year to 7 students/year.

The most important data on the total of 51 PhD degrees awarded in our doctoral school is shown in the following table.

name of the candidate	title	dissertation supervisor	opponents	approved composition	qualification
2008					
Dr. Márton Varju	-	-	-	-	nostrification
Dr. György Nádas	Basic questions of labour law relations of teachers and researchers employed in higher education	Prof. Dr. Tamás Prugberger	Prof. Dr. György Kiss (PTE), Prof. Dr. István Polónyi (DE)	3 external, 4 internal members	summa cum laude
2009					
Dr. Flóra Kisé Fazekas	On the approach of the Hungarian Constitutional Court to the primacy of European Community law in the light of the approach prevalent in the constitutional courts of other member states	Prof. Dr. Ernő Várnay	Prof. Dr. Imre Vörös (KRE ÁJK), Dr. Erzsébet Szalayné Sándor (PTE ÁJK)	4 external, 3 internal members	cum laude
Dr. Jenő Lóránt Szmodis	On certain questions of ontological approach of the law	Prof. Dr. József Szabadfalvi	Prof. Dr. Antal Visegrády (PTE ÁJK), Dr. Zoltán Nagy (SZTE ÁJTK)	5 external, 2 internal members	cum laude
Dr. György Tibor Lupkovics	The retaliation following the revolution of 1956 – A legal historical analysis of the court trial of László Szilágyi of Nyíregyháza and his accomplices	Prof. Dr. Béla Szabó, Dr. Éva Ständeisky	Prof. Dr. Barna Mezey (ELTE), Dr. Stefano Bottoni, research fellow (University of Bologna)	4 external, 3 internal members	cum laude
2010					
Dr. Viktória Linder	Personnel policy – human resource strategy in public administration	Prof. Dr. Lajos Lőrincz, Dr. György Gajduschek	Dr. István Balázs (DE), Dr. Zoltán Hazafi (Prime Minister's Office)	4 external, 3 internal members	summa cum laude
2011					
Dr. András Helmeczi	The establishment and the corporate legal status of limited partnerships in Germany in the 19th and 20th centuries	Dr. Veronika Szikora	Dr. Tekla Papp (SZTE), Dr. István Sándor (KRE)	4 external, 3 internal	cum laude



Viktor Ivanovics Coklán	-	-	-	-	nostrification
Dr. Anna Nyilas	The simplification and acceleration of civil procedures in European legal systems with special reference to small claims procedures	Dr. Tamás Gyekiczky	Dr. Mátyás Kapa (BKF), Dr. András Osztoivits (KRE)	5 external, 2 internal	cum laude
Dr. László Fázsi	Substitute private prosecution in the Hungarian Code of Criminal Procedure and in practice	Dr. Sándor Kardos	Dr. Endre Bócz (retired chief prosecutor), Dr. István Gál (PTE)	4 external, 3 internal	summa cum laude
2012					
Dr. Gyula Bíró	The regulation and investigation of transport-related crimes in Hungary, with special attention to prevention	Dr. Sándor Kardos	Prof. Dr. Géza Finszter (ELTE), Dr. Andrea Domokos (KRE)	4 external, 3 internal	cum laude
Dr. Sándor Fülöp	Environmental procedural law	Prof. Dr. László Fodor	Prof. Dr. Gyula Bándi (PPKE), Dr. Mihály Kurucz (ELTE)	4 external, 3 internal	cum laude
Dr. Zoltán Megyeri-Pálffi	Name and law: The development of the regulations concerning the use of names in Hungary	Dr. Judit Balogh	Prof. Dr. Mária Homoki-Nagy (SZTE), Dr. Judit Túriné Raátz (ELTE BTK), Prof. Dr. László Kiss (PTE)	6 external, 2 internal (8 members)	cum laude
2013					
Dr. Attila Barta	The status and transformation of territorial state administrative organizations in Hungary	Dr. István Balázs	Dr. Katalin Szamel (MTA JTI), Dr. Ildikó Vadál (PTE)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Éva Török	General questions of contract formation	Prof. Dr. György Csécsy	Prof. Dr. Gábor Török (NKE), Dr. Tekla Papp (SZTE)	4 external, 3 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Imre Péter Andorkó	The civil and constitutional law aspects of expropriations	Prof. Dr. György Csécsy	Prof. Dr. Barnabás Lenkovics (SZE), Dr. János Vass (ELTE)	4 external, 3 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. István Serák	-	-	-	-	nostrification



Dr. Zsolt Hajnal	Possible directions of a standardised European regulation of consumer rights	Dr. Tamás Fézer, Prof. Dr. Judit Fazekas	Dr. András Osztovits (KRE), Dr. Tekla Papp (SZTE)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Orsolya Bányai	Regulations concerning the reduction of energy consumption and promotion of renewable energy sources from the viewpoint of ecological sustainability	Prof. Dr. László Fodor	Prof. Dr. Gyula Bándi (PPKE), Dr. István Olajos (ME)	4 external, 3 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Ágnes Kovács	The role of constitutional courts in settling disputes involving fundamental rights	Dr. Mátyás Bencze	Prof. Dr. Péter Paczolay (SZTE), Prof. Dr. Miklós Szabó (ME)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
2014					
Dr. Pál Belényesi	The improvement of the regulation of water services in the light of certain provisions of the Water Framework Directive and the application of the “polluter pays” principle	Prof. Dr. László Fodor	Dr. Csongor István Nagy (SZTE), Dr. János Ede Szilágyi (ME)	4 external, 3 internal	cum laude
Dr. Zsuzsa Gyöngyvér Kovács	Involuntary treatment in a mental hospital from the point of view of criminal law	Prof. Dr. Béla Blaskó	Dr. József Gula (ME), Dr. Gábor Kovács (SZE)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Bernadett Szilágyi	Certain issues concerning the funding of churches	Prof. Dr. Tamás Horváth M.	Dr. Anna Halustyik (PPKE), Prof. Dr. Béla Szathmáry (SRTA)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Péter Máté Sipka	The collision of the changed employer’s liability with the regulation of the occupational health and safety and social security in Hungary	Dr. György Nádas	Prof. Dr. József Hajdú (SZTE), Dr. György Kenderes (ME)	5 external, 2 internal	cum laude
Dr. Nikolett Zoványi	Questions of liability in cases of travel contracts and passengers’ rights	Dr. Veronika Szikora	Dr. András Osztovits (KRE), Dr. Zoltán Angyal (ME)	4 external, 3 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Judit Zákány	Liability relations and possibilities of handling conflicts in the area of health care services in international comparison	Prof. Dr. György Csécsy	Dr. Éva Kereszty (SZTE), Dr. Tímea Barzó (ME)	4 external, 3 internal	summa cum laude



2015					
Dr. Krisztina Ficsor	The legal and political philosophical background of formalist judicial reasoning	Dr. Mátyás Bencze, Prof. Dr. Miklós Szabó	Prof. Dr. Zoltán Fleck (ELTE ÁJK), Prof. Dr. Péter Takács (SZE DF ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Angéla Juhász-Tóth	The Europeanization of the Hungarian National Assembly	Prof. Dr. Ernő Várnay	Dr. Enikő Győri (KKM), Dr. Ágoston Mohay (PTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Anita Krizsai	Regulation of organizing social services from the viewpoint of the tasks of public sector actors	Prof. Dr. Tamás Horváth M.	Dr. István Hoffman (ELTE ÁJK), Dr. Zoltán Józsa (SZTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	cum laude
Dr. Anikó Pallagi	Criminal law policy in the first years of the new century	Prof. Dr. Béla Blaskó	Dr. Ferenc Sántha (ME ÁJK), Prof. Dr. Mihály Tóth (PTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. László Papp	The development of Hungarian patent rights in view of the adjudication practices of the patent court	Dr. Judit Balogh	Prof. Dr. Mária Homoki-Nagy (SZTE), Dr. István Stipta (KRE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Márton Leó Zaccaria	The enforcement of equal treatment in the field of employment in Hungarian legal practice	Dr. György Nádas	Prof. Dr. Tamás Gyulavári (PPKE JÁK), Prof. Dr. György Kiss (NKE ÁKK, PTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
2016					
Zoltán Gyirán	Debt management and debt settlement in municipal finance	Prof. Dr. Tamás Horváth M.	Dr. István Hoffman (ELTE ÁJK), Dr. László Pardavi (SZE DF ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Sarolta Mádi	Practical and theoretical aspects of legal institutions of occupational health and safety with special attention to the employer's liability	Prof. Dr. Tamás Prugberger	Dr. Gyula Berke (PTE ÁJK), Dr. Attila Kun (KRE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	rite
Dr. Máté Sivadó	The present-day drug politics in Hungary and Europe with an outlook overseas	Prof. Dr. Béla Blaskó	Prof. Dr. Miklós Lévy (ELTE ÁJK), Prof. Dr. József Rácz (ELTE PPK)	5 external, 2 internal	cum laude



Dr. Andrea Noémi Tóth	The legal institution of restraining orders	Dr. Balázs Elek	Prof. Dr. The legal institution of restraining orders Erika Róth (ME ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Judit Varga M.	The changing role of public-private-partnerships (PPP) in public finance law	Prof. Dr. Tamás Horváth M.	Dr. Anna Halustyik (PPKE JÁK), Dr. Zoltán Józsa (SZTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
2017					
Dr. Péter Bordás	Intergovernmental versus distributive fiscal relations in the local government system	Prof. Dr. Tamás Horváth M.	Dr. Zoltán Józsa (SZTE ÁJK), Dr. Zoltán Nagy (ME ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Ágnes Bujdos	The analysis of the rules on transboundary water pollution	Prof. Dr. László Fodor	Dr. Gábor Kecskés (SZE DF ÁJK), Dr. Anikó Raisz (ME ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dodik Setiawan Nur Heriyanto	Scope and Effect of the Immunity Principles in International Private and Business Law	Dr. Tamás Fézer	Prof. Dr. Attila Menyhárd (ELTE ÁJK), Dr. Péter Mezei (SZTE ÁJK)	4 external, 3 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Gábor Mészáros	Emergencies and possible responses of states in constitutional democracies	Dr. Gábor Tóth	Dr. Péter Smuk (SZE DF ÁJK), Dr. Judit Tóth (SZTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Viktor Milanov	The international legal and political aspects of Macedonia's conflicts	Dr. Sándor Szemesi	Dr. Tamás Ádány (PPKE JÁK), Dr. Tamás Hoffmann (BCE TK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Ferenc Sipos	Labour-related sanctions in Hungarian criminal law	Dr. Sándor Madai	Dr. Anita Nagy (ME ÁJK), Prof. Dr. Mihály Tóth (PTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
János Székely	The metamorphosis of procedural institutions – The developmental peculiarities of the institutions of Hungarian and Romanian civil procedure from the fourth decade of the 20th century to today	Dr. László Pribula	Dr. Erika Herédi (SZE DF ÁJK), Dr. Sándor Udvary (KRE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Nikolett Talabos Lukács	The survival of the principle of <i>clausula rebus sic stantibus</i> , especially in the 20th-century development of Hungarian law	Prof. Dr. Béla Szabó	Kinga Bódiné Beliznai (ELTE ÁJK), Dr. Csabáné Herger (PTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	cum laude



2018					
Dr. Éva Balogh	The freedom of criticism of public persons – Interaction between the European Court of Human Rights and Constitutional Courts	Dr. Gábor Tóth	Prof. Dr. András László Pap (NKE RTK), Dr. András Polyák (PTE BTK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Annamária Csilla Gyüre	The legal framework of climate protection	Prof. Dr. László Fodor	Prof. Dr. Gyula Bándi (PPKE JÁK), Dr. István Olajos (ME ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	cum laude
Dr. Tamás Háger	The substantiatedness of the facts of the case in criminal action	Dr. Balázs Elek	Dr. Csaba Fenyvesi (PTE ÁJK), Prof. Dr. Erika Jámborné Róth (ME ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Livia Mária Horgos	The accomplishment of the constitutional content of ius puniendi	Prof. Dr. Béla Blaskó	Prof. Dr. Géza Finszter (NKE RTK), Prof. Dr. Mihály Tóth (PTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Huang Gui	On Life Imprisonment as the Alternative Punishment to the Death Penalty Specially Regarding to China	Dr. Sándor Madai	Prof. Dr. István László Gál (PTE ÁJK), Dr. Anita Nagy (ME ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude
Dr. Mariann Minkó-Miskovics	The presence of aggravating circumstances of “armed” and “with arms” in Hungarian, German and Austrian criminal law	Dr. Sándor Madai	Dr. Judit Jacsó (ME ÁJK), Prof. Dr. Mihály Tóth (PTE ÁJK)	5 external, 2 internal	summa cum laude

Since 2009, in the approved defence committees, external members independent from the University of Debrecen have been in the majority in all degree awarding procedures (in 2008, in the procedure of Dr. György Nádas, the chairperson of the committee was Prof. Dr. György Bazsa from the Faculty of Science and Technology, while one of the opponents was Prof. Dr. István Polónyi, from the Faculty of Economics of the University of Debrecen, and therefore neither of them belonged to the organization of the Faculty of Law; in addition, with two exceptions, none of the official referees were from the Faculty of Law of the University of Debrecen either, despite the fact that under the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Debrecen, one of the opponents may be “internal” members. The two exceptions:

- In the case of Dr. György Nádas (2008), one of the opponents was Prof. Dr. István Polónyi, researcher of higher education and professor at the Faculty of Economics, who was one of the most important experts of the topic of the dissertation.
- In the case of Viktória Linder (2010), the candidate obtained her absolutorium at the doctoral school of the Faculty of Law at Károli Gáspár University, which was then being closed, and she brought her dissertation over to the University of Debrecen (dissertation supervisor: Prof. Dr. Lajos Lőrincz, co-supervisor: Dr. György Gajduschek), and



therefore, the dissertation was essentially "independent" from the University of Debrecen, and this is why Dr. István Balázs, associate professor (Faculty of Law at the University of Debrecen) could be asked to serve as an opponent.

The full text of all dissertations are available in the Electronic Archive of the University of Debrecen (DEA), as well as in the database of the National Doctoral Council (doktori.hu).

10. Our events and publications

On 18 May 2018, we organized for the 15th time the Conference of Doctoral Students in Debrecen, which mainly targets the doctoral students and doctoral candidates in Easter Hungary (University of Miskolc, University of Szeged, University of Debrecen), but of course also welcomes students from the doctoral schools of other universities. A characteristic feature of our conference is that it is the emphasised task of the panel presiding over the sections, consisting of teachers and dissertation supervisors from the Faculties of Law from the three universities mentioned above, to help PhD students by way of providing substantial professional help for their further research. The prestige of our conference is well indicated by the fact that each year, highly recognized professionals accept our invitation to give the plenary lecture at the opening of the conference. Without any claim for completeness, we have heard papers presented in the framework of our conference by Barna Mezey (rector of the Eötvös Loránd University and president of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference), Péter Paczolay (the president of the Constitutional Court), András Sajó (judges at the European Court of Human Rights), László Trócsányi (minister of justice, university professor) and Lajos Vékás (member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, university professor). From 2010, the edited version of the papers presented at the conference also appear in print, in the sectional publication titled "Profectus in Litteris".

A total of 13 of the PhD dissertations defended in our doctoral school have been published so far as monographs.

- 2009. György Nádas: Basic questions of labour law relations of teachers and researchers employed in higher education (Lícium Art, Debrecen)
- 2011. Anna Nyilas: Simplification and acceleration of civil justice in Europe, with special reference to small claims procedures (LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken)
- 2013. Attila Barta: Territorial state administrative in Hungary (Gondolat, Budapest)
- 2013. Zoltán Megyeri-Pálffi: Name and law: The development of the regulations concerning the use of names in Hungary (Gondolat, Budapest)
- 2013. Éva Török: General questions of contract formation (HVG ORAC, Budapest)
- 2013. László Fázsi: Substitute private prosecution in the Hungarian Code of Criminal Procedure and in practice (Patrocínium – "Marton Géza" Doctoral School of Legal Studies, Budapest)
- 2015. Nikolett Zoványi: Questions of liability in cases of travel contracts and passengers' rights (HVG ORAC, Budapest)
- 2015. Krisztina Ficsor: Formalism in judicial practice: The theoretical background of formalist judicial reasoning (Gondolat, University of Debrecen, Faculty of Law, Budapest)



- 2015. László Papp Historical perspectives in patent protection Gondolat, Budapest
- 2015. Péter Sipka: The development of employers' liability in light of judicial practice (HVG ORAC, Budapest)
- 2015. Márton Leó Zaccaria: The enforcement of the principle of equal treatment in the area of employment law in the Hungarian legal practice (HVG ORAC, Budapest)
- 2018. Andrea Noémi Tóth: The legal institution of restraining orders (University of Debrecen, Faculty of Law, Debrecen)
- 2018. Judit Varga: The changing role of public-private-partnerships (PPP) in public finance law (University of Debrecen, Faculty of Law, Debrecen)
- 2019. Ferenc Sipos: Labour-related sanctions in Hungarian criminal law (HVG ORAC, Budapest)

11. C-SWOT analysis

External limitations, conditions	
<p>Our university has the widest spectrum of research and education in the country, which constitutes a significant force of stimulation in terms of the professional background and high quality it represents.</p> <p>It follows from the above that broad possibilities are available for interdisciplinary research.</p> <p>We operate as the only doctoral programme in the area of law in the North Great Plain region of Hungary.</p>	
Strengths	Weaknesses, areas to improve
<p>The firm element of requiring students to report on their research (the research forum), which has been established as the established practice at our doctoral school, helps students in their work and provides valuable feedback for them.</p> <p>The possible publication outlets available to doctoral students are good, thanks to the local conferences (e.g. the Conference of Doctoral Students in Debrecen) and publications (<i>Debreceni Jogi Műhely, Pro Futuro</i>).</p> <p>The publication activity of the students is quite strong in national comparison.</p> <p>We have an excellent library background; continuously developing base of specialist literature expanded by millions of Hungarian forints worth of materials annually, with particular attention to the needs of the doctoral</p>	<p>The number of university professors at the doctoral school who have a DSc title is still low.</p> <p>The financial opportunities of the doctoral school are limited in the long run, due to the treatment of social sciences as having only “secondary importance”, as well as because of the general situation of financing in higher education.</p> <p>The research topics chosen do not encompass a wide enough scope of legal scholarship.</p> <p>The level of activity of dissertation supervisors (amount of effort spent with doctoral students) is uneven.</p>



<p>programme (from Ministry of Justice, EFOP and own resources).</p> <p>The financial resources of the doctoral school are significantly improved by the regular support provided by the Ministry of Justice since 2017, the EFOP (Human Resource Development Operational Programme) research grant secured for the period of 2017 to 2022, as well as the subsidies received after the students in the English-language programme.</p> <p>We have the proper administrative background, and offer quick and flexible administrative processes from the admission up to the point of the doctoral degree being conferred.</p> <p>Cooperation between the Faculty of Law and the leadership of the Doctoral School is harmonious.</p>	
Opportunities for development	Threats
<p>The Hungarian and international academic relationships of the core members of the doctoral school constitute an excellent opportunity for the further development of international relations.</p> <p>There is a relatively significant pool of applicants to choose from, also including Hungarian-speaking applicants from outside of Hungary.</p> <p>The raising of the interest of participants of the English-language LLM programme in the doctoral programme could lead to a further increase in the number of applicants to the English-language programme.</p> <p>Increasing the number of university professors and teachers with DSc titles further.</p> <p>The involvement of younger dissertation supervisors and the provision of the next generation of new core members in the medium term.</p>	<p>The relative lack of value associated with a PhD degree in the legal community and in legal professions. The unsatisfactory method of not taking the length of time spent in the PhD programme into consideration for the required length of practice before taking the professional examinations.</p> <p>A significant decrease in the attractiveness, as well as the saturation of academic careers, and as a result, the decrease of interest on the side of our best students toward doctoral education. This problem may subsequently be made even more acute by the planned significant increase of the number of full-time doctoral students from 2019.</p> <p>The problems associated with the correspondence doctoral programme: requests for passive semesters or altogether dropping out from the programme for work-related reasons is relatively frequent.</p>



**DEBRECENI
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Increasing the number of defended PhD dissertations that appear as monographs, if necessary, with financial support by the doctoral school.	Undermotivation on the part of the students as far as travelling abroad and participating at conferences is concerned.
Motivating our students to participate at conferences abroad, in case the Doctoral School is able to provide support for this.	



DECLARATION

on the availability of doctoral dissertations
in case of a doctoral school operating for more than six years

The undersigned Dr. József Szabadfalvi, I hereby declare that the dissertations defended at the “Marton Géza” Doctoral School of Legal Studies are available, beginning from 2007, in one copy in the Kassai Street unit of the University and National Library of the University of Debrecen, and in the doktori.hu database, for each defence, the links pointing to the full text of the dissertations and to the doctoral theses in the Electronic Archive of the University of Debrecen can also be found.

[stamped:]

University of Debrecen
Faculty of Law
“Marton Géza” Doctoral School

[signed:]

Prof. Dr. József Szabadfalvi
professor
head of the doctoral school

Debrecen, 25 March 2019