REGBES: Regulation and Behavioural Studies – doctoral study programme

The doctoral study programme is realized by the Faculty of Social and Economic Studies at the J. E. Purkyne University in Ústí nad Labem (FSE UJEP), Czech Republic. The accreditation was granted for the period of 2020 – 2025, for full-time and part-time forms of study, while study is available in both Czech and English languages. The guarantor of the programme is professor Jirina Jilkova.

This economics focused programme is framed as a programme with a wider overlap. It is founded on the idea of using knowledge and methods of economics, with knowledge from political science, behavioural economics, administrative science, law and other related disciplines. The concept of the programme reflects modern trends of the development of economic sciences, economic policy and regulation including terminological basis in the documents of the OECD and EU.

The structure of the programme is based upon the accepted approaches in terms of economic and other societal scientific disciplines, which for an optimal formulation of regulative frameworks and conceptual policies (especially economic policy in this relation but even for example regional policy and other areas) emphasise the necessity of cognition of true behaviour, decision-making and the perception of individual actors.

The aim of the study programme is to prepare experts which have knowledge and are competent in critical analysis of the performance of economic policy and instruments of economic regulation in addition to consumer protection in relation to the current problems of society as well as for the creation of public policies.

Current theory and political practice show great **interest not only to the relationship of the state - market in this context but they have turned their interest towards the relationship of state – market – human behaviour (using knowledge from behavioural economics). Therefore, in this sense regulatory framework builds upon the search for instruments for public policy design** and forms the basis for formulating the following **partial aims of the study**:

- To acquire knowledge about theoretical basics, principles and instruments of economic policies, regulation and functioning of the state (governance) as well as the abilities of their critical analysis;

- To acquire knowledge in the field of experimental methods usable for learning about human behaviour and individuals' decision-making;

- To broaden one's knowledge about data basis usable for behaviour interpretation and shifting preferences of individual actors;

- To become familiar with the basic relations and topics of chosen areas of societal development, providing space for theoretical knowledge application;

- To develop the ability to analyse critically and ability to apply methodical instruments of behavioural economics including experiments to understand the behaviour of humans and organizations (behavioural insights);

- An analysis of the law and economic framework of regulations of the public sector, firms and consumers;

- To acquire knowledge about human behaviour (about ultimate and proximate reasons of behaviour, about the adaptive meaning of behaviour and about how it is formed by the external environment, as well as about social and other types of interactions) and the implementation of this knowledge by putting it into practical use in a manner that it shall help develop interactions among people on an individual, family, group or even society level and on an individual level and external environment which includes living and non-living components;

- To acquire (advanced) abilities in statistical and economic data analysis (qualitative, observatory and experimental);

- To acquire abilities for individual and team-based scientific research operations (drafts, realisation, publication of scientific studies).

In accordance with the choice of the focus of the doctoral dissertation, students have the opportunity to acquire a comprehensive overview about current problems and societal aims of regulation of chosen sectors and areas in terms of mandatorily optional courses. For dissertation topics and student involvement into research projects, we will be able to build upon the connection to long-term results and having a strong professional background in economic policy perspectives of climate protection, environmental and regional policies, which at present belong to intensively discussed topics from the perspective of designing and streamlining regulatory interventions.

During the study, students will have the opportunity to actively use the stationary and mobile behavioural labs at FSE UJEP, equipped with funds from the complementary project OP VVV CZ.02.1.01/0.0/0.0/16_017/0002689.

The study programme is built upon creative and active methods of education as well as interaction between students, supervisors and professors. The study is realized in the format of graduate school following upon the experience of academic partners from Germany and other countries. The aim of the study is also developing the interactive skills in research teams, which are to be supported by colloquiums, workshops and discussion groups. Students will be taught to present and defend their acquired knowledge as well as the results of their work. All students of the programme will have the opportunity to get involved in national and international research projects, where they will get to know not only the professional relations of the problematics but also the principles of managing projects as well as the management of knowledge.

The profile of the graduate is processed in accordance with national descriptors of the Czech qualifying framework of tertiary education. It includes key knowledge, skills and common competencies of the graduates.

During the programme, students will acquire knowledge about:

- Current economic theories, economic policies and regulations;

- Advanced statistical and econometric methods as well as methods of experimental economics;

- Deep knowledge of economic, social and other aspects of the chosen area tied to the topic of the dissertation.

Graduates will have the following skills:

- To be able to critically evaluate and develop theories while expanding knowledge in their chosen scientific disciplines;

- To propose and use competent analytical research methods;

- To implement acquired theoretical knowledge and skills in framing strategies as well as instruments of economic policy and regulation;

- To apply advanced qualitative and quantitative methods in researching societal phenomena and to publish acquired knowledge in professional peer-reviewed literature.

General qualifications will be focused on the ability to think critically and in broader context while keeping competences and specialisations in chosen disciplines. Special emphasis will be placed on developing skills in the management of research teams and projects including fundraising.

In the beginning of the study, in cooperation with the supervisor, every student sets their individual study plan (ISP) which has to be approved by the doctoral studies board.

The study plan is composed according to the student's needs and future plans. The credit system is based upon ECTS, in which 1 ECTS credit = 30 hours.

Courses consist of three groups: mandatory, mandatorily optional and optional. Mandatory courses are obligatory for all students of the study programme. The offered mandatorily optional courses are intended for choosing the profiling of the student and the focus of their dissertation work.

Mandatory courses – with 15 credits valuation

prof. Jílková (guarantor), doc. Vojáček, doc. Šťastný: Economics and Regulation

doc. Van Koten: Applied Economic Theory and Experiments

doc. Slavíková (guarantor), Dr. Žambochová: Scientific and Research Methods

Mandatorily optional courses – with 10 credits valuation, students can choose 2 courses

doc. Houdek: Behavioural economics

prof. Marek (guarantor), prof. Kluvánková: Global Changes and Strategic Management

doc. Koutský, doc. Raška: Human Behaviour and Decision-making from a Spatial Perspective

doc. van Koten: Computative Experiments in Experimental Economics

doc. Jozífková: Human Behaviour

doc. Potluka: Evaluation of State Interventions

prof. Škoda (guarantor), prof. Doulík: Neuropedagogy and Behavioural Sciences

Students can complete mandatorily optional courses of the doctoral study of their choice, in accordance with their profile and focus of their dissertation.

They can choose up to two additional optional courses of doctoral study according to their own choice at UJEP or another university in the Czech Republic or abroad which allows for the acquiring and developing knowledge and skills according to their focus as well as their own professional interest. This choice must be approved by the guarantor of the doctoral study and then by the doctoral studies board.

Up to 5 credits are awarded for every optional course.

The total number of credits in the individual study plan cannot exceed 75 credits. Changes in the individual study plan of the student have to be approved by the doctoral studies board.

An obligatory component of the doctoral study programme is attending studies in an academic institution abroad for a minimum length of one month or in another form of direct student participation with international cooperation, especially taking part in an international research project where the results are either published or presented in foreign countries. Students can also take part in an internship in the CzechGlobe (Global Change Research Institute of the Czech Academy of Science) or in the Centre of Central European Studies, which is a joint research facility of the Masaryk Institute, Archive of the Czech Academy of Sciences and CEVRO University. The doctoral study programme is realized in cooperation with CzechGlobe – Global Change Research Institute and CEVRO University

Conditions of accepting applicants for study are as follows:

- Having already obtained a master's degree in the Czech Republic or an equivalent master's degree in another country;
- Admission procedure requiring the submission of a dissertation project in English with a length of 3 – 6 standard pages and its discussion in English;
- Active knowledge of the English language is assumed.

Students who have a degree in some discipline other than an economics master's degree are required to include courses in economics in their individual study plan.

An important element of the programme is an innovative instrument – **policy lab** – this is a mean of research using experimental testing of the impacts of new regulatory interventions and policies.

Students of the REGBES doctoral programme can use the following **laboratory equipment**, which was acquired with funds from the project OP VVV CZ.02.1.01/0.0/0.0/16_017/0002689 project:

1.   Mobile Behavioural Laboratory

This lab is designed in the form of an atypical semitrailer truck. It consists of ten positions for participants and two posts for the researchers. The mobile lab will not only have classic computer equipment from the Experimental Economics lab but will be supplemented by an eye-tracking mobile set (eye-tracking glasses + 2 units of eye-trackers Tobii Pro X2-60) and behavioural devices next to every position (10 units of BrainFeedbackPro). With this system, a unique position for behavioural research is created, which allows to apply not only the most modern experimental methods in social science but also to monitor and measure various physical data (such as blood pressure, skin conductivity, eye movements, etc). The mobile lab will allow one to connect with a broad target group, which is difficult to reach. Additionally, the research can be focused on decision making and behaving in a specified location with specific restrictions, which cannot be achieved in stationary labs.

2.   Smart Public Administration Laboratory

This lab specializes in supporting work with "open data" and installation of systems enabling for the collection of data with large numbers of entries (big data). The lab uses cloud-based storage at UJEP University. Our eBeacon systems and wristbands enable the effective connection and transfer of information among academic workers as well as chosen target groups (students, representatives of public administration and those in the private sector). eBeacon technologies enable for the detection of all devices which are connected through the local wi-fi network to the inner space network and enables the user to transfer information quickly. It is possible to create your own data storage and share via the university cloud-based storage.

3.   Statistics Laboratory

This laboratory has above average software equipment in the following basic areas of mathematical and statistical research: mathematical computer programmes, statistical computer programmes, auxiliary instruments, simulation of the environment and "R programming" Server solution. An SAS system is used primarily when simulating the environment, which serves in companies as a database system and as an instrument for data analysis as well as in trade usage.

4.   Experimental Economics Laboratory

The Experimental Economics Laboratory has 18 computer stations, which along with 10 stations in the mobile laboratory make the largest experimental lab in the Czech Republic (28 stations). The laboratory is supplemented by eight sets of biofeedback devices NeXus32 with 24 monopolar EEG channels (DC-EEG and SCP), 4 bipolar channels for EMG, EKG or EOG, 3 breathing channels, BVP, SC/GSR and temperature in every combination, 1 digital channel for oxymetry and 1 channel for stimulation (ERP and EP). Furthermore, two Tobii pro X2-60

eye trackers are available. Connecting all of the devices together results in a unique experimental position, which is not available in any other workplace in the Czech Republic.

5.   Biofeedback laboratory

The equipment of this laboratory includes measuring instruments, "bataks", mindballs (mindball – multiplayer), neuroshooting and other portable measuring devices. Devices are connected to one another and create a fully functional unit, which consists of two main parts – devices for training and increasing the capacity of the brain as well as those devices focused on collecting and evaluating neurobiological reactions data. The aim of this laboratory is to expand the monitoring of participants not only in a static position but mainly when participating in several physical activities and in motion.