

UBT LAW FACULTY

Research Strategic Plan 2021-2026

**Innovate in the legal research/Transform the
legal community**

Executive Summary

UBT Law Faculty is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary legal research Law Faculty, which research is in conformity with the main pillar of UBT, which is innovation. At UBT Law Faculty, innovation and application of knowledge in the legal field, as well as for the distinctive contribution of the Law Faculty to the legal community in Kosovo. The UBT Law faculty have research, scholarly, and creative expertise that extends to innovation and invention in legal research. UBT Law Faculty assists its staff, students, alumni, and stakeholders to innovate and apply innovative legal solutions to local, national, and global scales.

1. Participate in research projects with serious foreign and domestic research institutions; UBT Law Faculty working groups develop plans to pursue national and international research opportunities for the purpose of building distinctive strengths of UBT Law Faculty in research and scholarship with national and international significance.

2. Build Critical Mass in Research Areas through strengthening the contract research and consulting arm of the College: UBT Law Faculty shall nurture an “entrepreneurial” research culture, in which the academic staff are empowered and rewarded for pursuing contract research and develop consulting arm of the Law Faculty for national and international consultancy market.

3. Faculty Establish Research Fund of UBT Law Faculty from research grants, private sector and own funds: Increase the collaborations within the Faculty to establish a Research Fund from own sources, research grants, and private sector donations.

4. Emphasize Excellence of Research and Scholarly Activity both with Quantitative and Qualitative Metrics: Adopt the metrics that increase the reputational value of the research of Law Faculty and of other scholarly activities and integration of such metrics in development plans of staff.

5. Provide Organizational Support for Faculty Research and Scholarly Activities for the Faculty of Law through strengthening the Lead Scholar and Young Scholar Research Grants: Provide enhanced support for individual and group faculty research and other scholarly activities through Lead Scholar Research Grants and Young Scholar Research Grants;

6. Develop research projects in thematic areas developed in consultation with the industry: Facilitate cooperation with external stakeholders such as **Noteries, Private Enforcement, Judges, Prosecutors, and private sector** to leverage additional expertise and resources for UBT Law Faculty research projects and initiatives and

develop joint research projects in thematic areas that are of interest and funded by the industry.

7. Develop group research clusters for research cooperation of staff: The group research within the Law Faculty and across other faculties and departments is key to building the reputation as a comprehensive and interdisciplinary legal research center;

8. Build and Maintain Shared Research Facilities and Support Staff with other Faculties and institutes to enhance interdisciplinary legal research: Build a sustainable support system that shares information and staff across faculties and institutes to foster interdisciplinary research. Development of Journal of Social Sciences with the Faculty of Political Sciences of UBT is key to enhancing interdisciplinary legal research.

9. Engage Faculty: Establish an Advisory Committee within the Faculty that would oversee the process of enhancement of Law Faculty research and scholarship.

Research and Scholarly Activities of UBT Law Faculty as an interdisciplinary center of research

- Academic staff who are active in research and scholarly activity and bring scholar value to the UBT's mission and mission of the Law Faculty and teaching mission of Law Faculty shall give the Law Faculty students the opportunity to experience the processes of discovery, innovation, interpretation, and application of law and interdisciplinary facets of law.
- Students at Law Faculty of UBT are provided with an opportunity to engage in meaningful, authentic, and active learning through involvement in staff-led research and scholarship.
- UBT Law Faculty engages in interdisciplinary legal research for the purpose of impacting and stimulating the legal community as well as local and regional communities through economic impact by providing interdisciplinary legal solutions to various problems that boost economic growth and improve the quality of life for the affected communities
- UBT Law Faculty's reputation for research and scholarship significantly contributes to
 - How Law Faculty is perceived by potential students, staff candidates, colleagues at other research institutions, stakeholders, and various financing institutions;
 - How Law Faculty's graduates are perceived by prospective employers and others since research-led teaching is perceived as an asset and capability;
 - How Law Faculty is perceived by stakeholders, private sector, and public institutions who may support the Law School and its research activities.
- Institutions like Law Faculty of UBT are the most important change agents for advancing fundamental scientific and legal knowledge and interpretation through the combination of innovation and instruction that is at the heart of a interdisciplinary legal research Faculty.

A vision for research and scholarship at the Law Faculty

- The Law Faculty will become the main academic research partner in Kosovo and the region with regards to interdisciplinary legal research that intertwines law, technology, economy, and innovation.
- The Law Faculty will become the recognized leader for legal research.

- The Law Faculty will be nationally and regionally known for the extent to which (and how) it integrates its research and scholarship with its instruction.
- The Law Faculty will become a model for leveraging national and regional opportunities in research and scholarship in order to build a national and international academic reputation.
- The Law Faculty will nurture an “entrepreneurial” research culture, in which the academic staff are empowered and rewarded for innovation in how they construct and support their research and scholarship through which the Law Faculty is actively engaged in scholarly activities with the private sector, non-profit stakeholders, international donors, and governmental agencies.

Goals for Moving Toward the Realization of Our Vision:

- Increase research expenditures by leveraging from national research grants, contract research, and consulting services for the private sector and governmental and non-governmental actors
- Enhance the reputation for research and scholarship nationally and internationally;
 - Through Qualitative metrics developed for research as part of this plan, which shows high capability of the Law Faculty for research and scholarship.
- Assist legal community, private sector, and other stakeholders through sound advisory support that contributes to the improvement of rule of law in Kosovo, economic growth, technological advancement, and sustainable development.
 - One new master agreements for research partnership with stakeholders,

Actions for enhancing research and scholarship at Law Faculty

1. Participate in research projects with serious foreign and domestic research institutions; A systematic identification and development of interdisciplinary legal research and scholarship opportunities at UBT Law Faculty in cooperation with serious foreign and domestic institutions are fundamental to growing the UBT Law School's research potential and research enterprise that are key to branding the Law Faculty research capability as exemplary to external audiences in Kosovo and abroad. The research opportunities should be pursued in the following:

- Civil Law
- Commercial Law
- Constitutional and administrative law
- Criminal law
- International law
- EU law
- Environmental law
- Health and law
- Law and technology
- Intellectual property law and Economy
- Regulatory aspects of green economy
- Cybercrimes and information technology

Actions: The Law Faculty Research Council will facilitate working groups within the Faculty to develop plans for pursuing specific research opportunities. The Sub-Committee will coordinate planning for specific research opportunities to leverage synergies and resources across them, but the leadership of academic staff is key to successful pursuit of such research opportunities.

Timeline: The Research Council will organize a workshop on how to develop plans for pursuing research and scholarship opportunities in September 2021. Planning groups will work through the Fall 2021 semester, with another workshop in March 2022 to share plans across groups. Based on an evaluation of the specific plans and the availability of various kinds of support, the Research Council of the Law Faculty will coordinate resources to carry out some of those plans beginning in spring 2022, with an emphasis on applying in research projects and programs with serious foreign and domestic research institutions. The cycle will repeat itself every year.

Goals: The target will be to complete at least 5 plans in comprehensive and interdisciplinary research areas for the academic year 2022-2023.

Success in each specific research opportunity area will be measured by number of grant research proposals submitted and awarded. The target is to win 1 million EUR during 2021-2026.

2. Build Critical Mass in Research Areas through strengthening the contract research and consulting arm of the College: UBT Law Faculty shall nurture an “entrepreneurial” research culture, in which the academic staff are empowered and rewarded for pursuing contract research and develop consulting arm of the Law Faculty for national and international consultancy market. To achieve this, the Law Faculty must build a critical mass of academic staff who engage in collaborative and interdisciplinary activities in specific strategic areas of research. The strategic areas of research and consultancy areas shall be outlined. Further in each strategic area of research and consultancy the core faculty will be determined.

Actions: The following actions shall be performed to realize the goal:

- Adoption of empowerment framework of “entrepreneurial professors” that shall work under the Law Faculty umbrella in consultation with the Steering Board of UBT.
- External analysis of local and international contract research and consultancy market;
- Resource based analysis of research and consultancy resources and capabilities of Law Faculty academic staff;
- Determination of clusters and core faculty in each of the clusters for contract research and consultancy services;

Timeline: 2021-2026

Goals: 10 contract research and consulting services during 5 year period in total value of 500,000 EUR.

Success in each specific opportunity area will be measured by number of contract researches and consultancy services contracts.

3. Coordinate Across Disciplines and other Faculty Establish Research Fund of UBT Law Faculty from research grants, private sector and own funds: Increase the collaborations within the Faculty to establish a Research Fund from own sources, research grants, and private sector donations.

Actions: The following actions shall be undertaken:

- Establish a faculty-led working group to identify the sources of external funding;
- Cooperate with Financial Office and Steering Board of UBT to allocate own funds for interdisciplinary research together with other Faculties;
- Raise funds with the private sector, municipalities and foreign donors for community research;

Timeline: 2021-2026

Goals: Apply for research grants, raise funds with private sector and provide own funds in total value of 500,000 EUR

Success: Value of Research Fund of 500,000 EUR

4. Emphasize Excellence of Research and Scholarly Activity both with Quantitative and Qualitative Metrics: Adopt the metrics that increase the reputational value of the research of Law Faculty and of other scholarly activities and integration of such metrics in development plans of staff.

Actions: The Research Council of the Faculty will develop indicators and measures for quality and integration of research such as:

- Prestigious scientific awards and scholar fellowships
- Journals and publishing houses and their indexing
- Citation indices and impact factors
- Prominence of work in high-profile review articles
- Invited plenary talks at national and international conferences
- Prestigious venues for performances and exhibitions
- Extent to which undergraduate and graduate students are involved in faculty-led research projects, including contract research
- Mentoring graduate students in the context of ongoing research scholarship;
- Contributions to interdisciplinary research
- Contribution to the development of legal community

The quality indicators will be in conformity with the Regulation on Standards for Election into Higher Academic Titles of UBT, however, the Law Faculty is free to choose even higher standards as quality indicators.

The Research Council of UBT Law Faculty will find ways to increase recognition and incentives for staff accomplishments in research and scholarship.

The quality of research shall be also part of performance evaluations of staff and included in the staff retention policy.

Timeline: Develop indicators and measures by March 2022.

Goals: Achieve comparable research quality targets with those of renowned European and US Law Schools.

Success will be measured by annual prestigious awards, quality of publications, number of citations, h-index and i10-index, quality of monographies measured by the publishing

houses, quality of international conventions and conferences in the field of law and interdisciplinary legal fields.

5. Provide Organizational Support for Faculty Research and Scholarly Activities for the Faculty of Law through strengthening the Lead Scholar and Young Scholar Research Grants: Provide enhanced support for individual and group faculty research and other scholarly activities through Lead Scholar Research Grants and Young Scholar Research Grants;

Among those supports and resources are:

- Teaching load and teaching schedule flexibility for Lead Scholars
- Release time policies for Group Research Heads;
- Incentives for research productivity and prestigious accomplishments
- Quantitative design and analysis support (statistics, etc.) through the Directorate of Research of UBT;
- Travel support
- Policies that grow the number of postdocs and Young Scholars;
- Mentoring junior faculty and Young Scholars;
- Lead Scholar Research Grants from own and external funds;
- Young Scholar Research Grants from own and external funds;

Actions: The Research Council will work on policy changes to enhance the support for individual staff research. The Research Council of UBT Law Faculty will take the lead in advocating for these changes and resources (both internally and externally), with the assistance of academic staff. The Research Council will select upon carefully established research criteria the Lead Scholars of the Faculty and Young Scholars Faculty in order to benefit from the above mentioned policy benefits at Faculty level and UBT level and recommend to the Steering Council of UBT the necessary own funds for Lead Scholar and Young Scholar Grants.

Timeline: The policy changes shall be made by March 2022.

Goals: Explicitly set out the policies and resources needed for increasing faculty success in research and scholarship.

Success will be measured by policy changes and resources available for staff research success and Lead and Young Scholars Success.

6. Develop research projects in thematic areas developed in consultation with the industry: Facilitate cooperation with external stakeholders such as Noteries, Private Enforcement, Judges, Prosecutors, and private sector to leverage additional expertise and resources for UBT Law Faculty research projects and initiatives and

develop joint research projects in thematic areas that are of interest and funded by the industry.

Actions: Form a working group that will liaise with the external stakeholders and private sector for developing joint research grant proposals and establishing joint research initiatives that are of benefit for the stakeholders involved. The Working Group with the external stakeholders will (a) identify a funding model to maintain and enhance joint research infrastructure and initiatives, (b) establish joint thematic areas and problem statements that are of benefit for the industry and c) appoint shared resources and infrastructure to apply for research funds and grants nationally and internationally.

Timeline: Working group will be appointed in March 2022 and will develop at least one research project grant annually.

Goals: One joint research grant or initiative per annum.

Success Number of successful research initiatives and values in EUR.

7. Develop group research clusters for research cooperation of staff: The group research within the Law Faculty and across other faculties and departments is key to building the reputation as a comprehensive and interdisciplinary legal research center;

Actions: The following actions shall be undertaken:

- Conduct careful analysis of global literature to establish the newest scientific trends in legal and interdisciplinary fields and conduct group research;
- Research clusters established in new thematic areas that are in compliance with newest trends in the global literature;
- Develop quantity criteria for group research;

Timeline: March 2022 for analysis, research clusters and research groups;

Goals: 10 group researches per annum;

Success: 85 % of the planned goal realized;

8. Build and Maintain Shared Research Facilities and Support Staff with other Faculties and institutes to enhance interdisciplinary legal research: Build a sustainable support system that shares information and staff across faculties and institutes to foster interdisciplinary research. Development of Journal of Social Sciences with the Faculty of Political Sciences of UBT is key to enhancing interdisciplinary legal research.

Actions: The following actions shall be undertaken:

- Establish Joint Working Groups to share resources with other Faculties, especially with Faculty of Political Sciences;
- Develop a plan for establishment of Journal of Social Sciences with the Scientific Committee, editorial Board, editors, peer reviewers, and path to indexing;

Timeline: March 2022 for a Plan

Goals: 2 volumes per year;

Success: Indexing in EBSCO;

9. Engage Faculty: Establish an Advisory Committee within the Faculty that would oversee the process of enhancement of Law Faculty research and scholarship.

Actions: In consultation with the Faculty Council, establish a Faculty Advisory Committee to involve faculty in working groups and other planning efforts about research opportunities, decision-making, and successes in research and scholarship.

Timeline: March 2022

Goals: Create a Faculty Advisory Committee that has meaningful engagement with the research Council of the Law Faculty and Directorate of Research of UBT, including responsibilities for specific tasks and areas.

Success will be evidenced by increased faculty research and scholarship performance.