



UBT-FACULTY OF LAW

Research Strategic Plan 2026–2031

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1. Executive Summary

The Research Strategic Plan 2026–2031 of the UBT Faculty of Law outlines an ambitious and comprehensive framework for strengthening the Faculty's research capacity, academic excellence, and societal impact. It builds on the experience of the 2021–2026 research strategy and aligns fully with the mission of the institution, the mission of the Faculty of Law, and the mission of the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) program.

UBT, as an innovative 21st-century academic environment, is committed to fostering excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement. Its institutional mission emphasizes intellectual creativity, interdisciplinary collaboration, societal contribution, and the preparation of future leaders equipped with global perspectives and ethical responsibility. This institutional foundation provides a solid platform for advancing the research ambitions of the Faculty of Law.

In harmony with this institutional mission, the Faculty of Law is dedicated to educating qualified professionals who advance the rule of law, democratic governance, and sustainable socio-economic development. The Faculty promotes innovative teaching, impactful research, modern technological tools, and comparative and interdisciplinary approaches to legal studies. Its mission includes the cultivation of academic excellence, ethical professionalism, and a research culture that responds to evolving national, regional, and global challenges.

The mission of the LLB in Law program complements this vision by providing comprehensive legal education in core areas of private, public, criminal, commercial, constitutional, and international law. The program emphasizes legal analysis, professional skills, ethical reasoning, dispute resolution, research abilities, and openness to new ideas and interdisciplinary perspectives. These foundational competencies ensure that graduates are prepared to contribute meaningfully to the justice system, the private sector, public administration, and society at large.

Anchored in these interlinked missions, the Research Strategic Plan 2026–2031 aims to:

- elevate the Faculty of Law into a leading regional hub for interdisciplinary legal research that integrates law, technology, economy, governance, and innovation;
- promote high-quality, internationally recognized scientific output through support for publication in indexed (Scopus, WoS) journals, competitive research grants, and collaborative partnerships;
- strengthen evidence-based legal research that contributes to judicial reform, EU integration processes, public policy development, and socio-economic progress in Kosovo;
- expand the involvement of students in research and foster the growth of future legal scholars;
- stimulate cooperation with the justice sector, private industry, civil society, and international academic networks;
- enhance institutional visibility through conferences, academic journals, research clusters, and strategic internationalization.

Over the next five years, this Strategy provides a clear roadmap built upon eight strategic pillars: research excellence, internationalization, interdisciplinarity, funding and sustainability, researcher

development, industry engagement, digitalization, and research visibility. Each pillar includes measurable objectives, key actions, timelines, and performance indicators, ensuring that the Faculty continuously evolves, innovates, and strengthens its research profile.

By implementing this Strategy, the UBT Faculty of Law will further consolidate its role as a transformative academic institution one that not only generates knowledge, but also shapes public policy, drives legal innovation, and contributes directly to the rule of law and the long-term development of Kosovo and the wider region.

2. Institutional Context

The Research Strategic Plan 2026–2031 of the UBT Faculty of Law is developed within the broader institutional framework of the University for Business and Technology (UBT), an institution distinguished by its innovation-driven mission, interdisciplinary orientation, and strong commitment to societal development. The context in which the Faculty of Law operates is characterized by the following institutional, academic, and strategic elements.

UBT as a Research-Intensive and Innovation-Oriented Institution- UBT's institutional mission positions it as a dynamic 21st-century academic environment that emphasizes:

- excellence in teaching and research;
- intellectual creativity and critical thinking;
- collaborative governance involving students, academic staff, and administrators;
- community engagement and societal contribution;
- the development of professionals with global, interdisciplinary, and ethical competencies.

The Role of Research within UBT's Institutional Strategy- Research is a central pillar of UBT's strategic direction. The institution promotes:

- a culture of research engagement at all study levels;
- participation in international research networks and competitive grants;
- publication in indexed and peer-reviewed journals;
- interdisciplinary research clusters that join legal, technological, economic, and social sciences;
- capacity building for academic staff through training, conferences, and publications.

Position of the Faculty of Law within the UBT Ecosystem- The Faculty of Law plays a strategic role within UBT as one of the key units contributing to:

- the advancement of the rule of law in Kosovo;
- legal and policy reforms aligned with EU integration;
- justice sector modernization;
- development of legal professions and public administration;
- interdisciplinary legal-technological and legal-economic research.

Alignment with the Mission of the Faculty of Law- The mission of the Faculty of Law emphasizes:

- academic excellence in legal education;

- interdisciplinary and comparative approaches;
- ethical standards and professional responsibility;
- impactful research supporting societal development;
- the use of modern technologies and innovative teaching methods.

Research is not viewed merely as an academic requirement, but as a transformative tool that shapes public policy, judicial practice, economic development, and the legal profession in Kosovo. The Faculty's role extends beyond teaching into contributing evidence-based expertise to institutions, the private sector, civil society, and international actors.

Linkage to the Mission of the LLB Program- The LLB program provides a comprehensive foundation in core legal disciplines—private, public, criminal, commercial, and constitutional law—accompanied by:

- analytical and critical thinking skills;
- legal drafting and reasoning;
- advocacy and dispute resolution abilities;
- research competencies and methodological training;
- intercultural, comparative, and interdisciplinary perspectives.

These elements form the academic base on which research development is built, ensuring that research is integrated into teaching, student engagement, and professional formation.

National and Regional Context- The Faculty of Law operates within a dynamic national environment shaped by:

- ongoing justice sector reforms;
- Kosovo's EU integration processes;
- increasing demand for evidence-based policymaking;
- the need for modernization in legal education aligned with European standards;
- the digital transformation of the legal sector;
- regional cooperation in higher education and scientific development.

Kosovo's legal system is undergoing continuous transformation, and there is a growing need for high-quality legal research that informs courts, prosecutorial offices, ministries, regulatory authorities, and private sector actors. This creates a favourable setting for the Faculty to expand its research impact.

International Context- The global legal landscape is rapidly evolving due to:

- digitalization, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies;
- environmental and climate obligations;
- international trade and economic integration;
- cross-border regulatory harmonization within the EU acquis;
- human rights protection and constitutional justice trends.

These international developments demand new research competencies and provide numerous opportunities for partnerships, joint publications, and participation in competitive grants such as Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and IPA programs.

3. Mission and Vision for Research (2026–2031)

A. Mission for Research and Scholarly Activity (2026–2031)

- Academic staff of the Faculty of Law will actively engage in research and scholarly activities that contribute directly to the mission of UBT, the mission of the Faculty of Law, and the teaching mission of the Law programs, enabling students to experience the processes of discovery, innovation, interpretation, and application of law and its interdisciplinary dimensions.
- Students at the Faculty of Law will be provided with meaningful, authentic, and active learning opportunities through participation in staff-led research projects, scholarly inquiry, applied legal analysis, and interdisciplinary initiatives.
- The Faculty of Law will engage in interdisciplinary legal research that influences and stimulates the legal community and the broader society by offering innovative legal solutions that support economic development, technological advancement, democratic governance, and the rule of law.
- The reputation of the Faculty of Law in research and scholarship will contribute significantly to how it is perceived by potential students, prospective academic staff, partnering research institutions, stakeholders, and funding bodies, affirming its status as a center of excellence in legal scholarship.
- The Faculty of Law will continue to serve as an essential change agent in advancing legal and scientific knowledge, combining innovation, research, and instruction as core pillars of its identity as a comprehensive interdisciplinary research faculty.

B. A Vision for Research and Scholarship at the Faculty of Law (2026–2031)

- The Faculty of Law will become the primary academic research partner in Kosovo and the region for interdisciplinary legal research that integrates law, technology, economy, innovation, governance, and digital transformation.
- The Faculty of Law will become a recognized leader for advanced legal research at national, regional, and international levels, producing high-impact scholarship and publications in indexed and peer-reviewed journals.
- The Faculty of Law will be nationally and regionally known for the extent to which it integrates research and scholarship with instruction, ensuring research-led teaching across all programs.
- The Faculty of Law will become a model for leveraging national, regional, and international research opportunities to build a strong academic reputation through collaborative partnerships, competitive grants, and innovation-driven research initiatives.
- The Faculty of Law will cultivate an “entrepreneurial research culture” in which academic staff are empowered and rewarded for innovative research practices and for engaging with the private sector, public institutions, civil society, international donors, and regulatory bodies.

4. Strategic Goals (2026–2031)

Goal 1: Strengthen National and International Research Partnerships

Objectives:

- Establish at least 10 new research collaborations with universities and institutes.
- Participate annually in 3+ international competitive research calls (Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, IPA, international foundations).
- Increase participation in research networks (ENLR, EULawNet, ELI, etc.).

Actions:

- Create a *Partnership Development Working Group*.
- Identify priority partner institutions.
- Sign new Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for joint research.
- Encourage academic staff mobility and joint publications.

Goal 2: Increase Research Productivity, Quality, and Impact

Objectives:

- Publish annually at least 25 peer-reviewed scientific outputs, including Scopus/Web of Science papers.
- Increase citations and international visibility.
- Develop faculty-level metrics aligned with European standards.

Actions:

- Implement a *Research Quality Framework* aligned with EU and U.S. law school standards.
- Encourage publication in indexed journals.
- Introduce annual *Law Faculty Research Awards*.
- Include research performance in academic evaluations and promotions.

Goal 3: Expand Interdisciplinary Research and Research Clusters

Establish Research Clusters in the following areas:

1. Rule of Law & Justice Reform
2. Business, Commercial & Competition Law
3. Digital Law, Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence
4. Environmental, Climate & Energy Law
5. Criminal Justice, Forensics & Criminology
6. Human Rights, Constitutionalism & EU Integration

Objectives:

- Develop minimum 8 interdisciplinary research projects annually.
- Create an annual *Interdisciplinary Research Week*.

Goal 4: Build and Sustain a Faculty Research Fund**Objectives:**

- Generate at least **250,000** EUR in research funding from grants, contracts, and donors by 2031.

Actions:

- Allocate annual internal funds for research.
- Pursue grants with the private sector and municipalities.
- Establish scholarships for student researchers.
- Create a *Fundraising & Grants Office Liaison* within the Faculty.

Goal 5: Enhance Support for Researchers, Lead Scholars, and Young Scholars**Objectives:**

- Establish clear criteria for Lead Scholars and Young Scholars.
- Provide teaching load reduction for highly productive researchers.
- Provide annual internal grants for staff research.

Actions:

- Introduce mentorship programs for young faculty members.
- Support participation in global conferences.
- Increase the number of postdocs and research assistants.

Goal 6: Strengthen Collaboration with Legal Institutions and Industry**Stakeholders:**

- Judiciary, Prosecutorial Council, Notaries, Chambers of Advocates, Enforcement Agents, Private Sector, NGOs.

Objectives:

- Develop at least 1 joint thematic research project per year with justice institutions or industry.
- Produce applied research that influences policymaking.

Actions:

- Establish an *Industry Research Advisory Board*.
- Conduct joint workshops and roundtables.

- Develop legal-technological solutions (legaltech prototypes).

Goal 7: Advance Digital Transformation and Research Infrastructure

Objectives:

- Modernize digital research infrastructure, including databases, legal analytics tools, and AI-supported platforms.
- Ensure access to international scientific resources for all academic staff and students.
- Develop digital legal research methodologies (legal analytics, big data, e-discovery).

Actions:

- Invest in digital laboratories, legaltech tools, and online research platforms.
- Provide training in advanced digital research methods for staff and students.
- Establish a Digital Legal Research Lab within the Faculty of Law.
- Integrate AI-assisted tools for legal research, case analysis, and regulatory monitoring.

Goal 8: Strengthen International Visibility, Recognition, and Academic Presence

Objectives:

- Position the Faculty of Law as a regional hub for legal research by 2031.
- Organize at least one international scientific conference per year.
- Increase participation in international academic boards, research networks, and editorial boards.
- Ensure that at least 30% of the Faculty's publications are co-authored with international partners.

Actions:

- Develop an Internationalization Strategy for the Faculty of Law.
- Enhance visibility through international conferences, summer schools, and guest lectures.
- Encourage academic staff participation in European research associations (ELI, SLS, AALS, ICON-S).

5. Research Clusters & Priority Areas

As part of the Research Strategic Plan 2026–2031, the UBT Faculty of Law will strengthen and expand scientific research across a set of seven strategic research clusters. These clusters reflect global academic trends, Kosovo's legal and economic needs, EU integration priorities, and interdisciplinary opportunities within UBT.

Cluster 1: Rule of Law & Justice Reform

This cluster focuses on the functioning of democratic governance, institutional accountability, and reforms that strengthen the justice system.

Priority Subfields:

- Judicial efficiency and court administration
- Anti-corruption policies and integrity systems
- Human rights monitoring and enforcement mechanisms
- Police and penitentiary studies
- Access to justice and effective remedies
- Alternative dispute resolution (ADR)
- Public governance and administrative reform

Cluster 2: Business, Commercial & Competition Law

This cluster addresses modern economic regulation, market functioning, business transactions, and corporate governance.

Priority Subfields:

- State aid control and alignment with EU acquis
- Mergers & Acquisitions and market regulation
- Competition law and abuse of dominance
- Consumer protection and electronic commerce
- Corporate governance and compliance
- Banking, finance, and capital markets
- Commercial contracts and insurance law

Cluster 3: Digital Law & Innovation

This cluster explores the intersection of law and emerging technologies that shape the digital society.

Priority Subfields:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) regulation and algorithmic accountability
- Data Protection / GDPR compliance
- Digital market regulation (DMA), platform regulation
- Cybercrime and cybersecurity frameworks
- Blockchain, fintech, and smart contracts
- Digital evidence and its procedural implications
- LegalTech and innovation in legal practice

Cluster 4: Environmental & Energy Law

This cluster addresses environmental governance, climate action, and sustainable energy transitions.

Priority Subfields:

- Climate legislation and environmental compliance
- Circular economy and waste management
- Green transition and renewable energy law
- Environmental impact assessment (EIA)
- Biodiversity, land use, and natural resources
- Water law and food safety regulation

Cluster 5: Criminal Law, Criminology & Forensics

This cluster covers criminal law, crime prevention, forensic science, and justice system responses to crime.

Priority Subfields:

- Organized crime and trafficking
- Terrorism, radicalization, and cyber-enabled crime
- Victimology and restorative justice
- Juvenile justice and vulnerable groups
- Forensic science (digital, biological, trace evidence)
- Criminal procedure reforms

- Penology, re-socialization, and rehabilitation

Cluster 6: International & EU Law

This cluster supports Kosovo's EU integration processes and broader international legal developments.

Priority Subfields:

- EU acquis and legal harmonization
- International dispute resolution and arbitration
- Public international law and diplomacy
- Migration, asylum, and refugee law
- European human rights system (ECHR jurisprudence)
- International economic law and trade
- Transnational crime and international cooperation

Cluster 7: Civil Law & Private Law Studies

This cluster strengthens core legal fields that underpin private legal relations and civil justice, essential for both academic and professional formation.

A. Law of Obligations & Contracts

- General principles of obligations
- Contract formation, validity, interpretation
- Breach of contract and remedies
- Tort law / non-contractual liability
- Consumer contracts and unfair terms
- Digital contracts and cross-border transactions

B. Property Law & Succession Law

- Inheritance law and wills
- Co-ownership and division of property
- Property transfer and registration
- Limitations, servitudes, and usufruct
- Succession disputes and estate administration

C. Family Law

- Marriage, divorce, and matrimonial property regimes

- Parental responsibility and child protection
- Family mediation and alternative dispute resolution
- Adoption and custody procedures
- Domestic violence legal frameworks

D. Civil Procedure (optional addition if desired)

- Civil litigation and court efficiency
- Enforcement of civil judgments
- Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

6. SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Multidisciplinary institutional environment
- Motivated staff with growing research output
- Strong connections with legal community
- Established research culture through Lead/Young Scholar grants
- Digital infrastructure, research databases

Weaknesses

- Limited participation in large international grants
- Publications not yet consistently in indexed journals
- Limited number of postdocs and full-time researchers
- Overload with teaching responsibilities

Opportunities

- Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, IPA III funding
- EU integration reforms requiring legal research
- Digital transformation (AI in law, cyber law)
- Growing private sector demand for legal expertise
- International partnerships and joint degrees

Threats

- Competitive regional market
- Limited national research funding
- Potential staff turnover
- Emerging technological disruptions in the legal profession

7. Conclusion

The Research Strategic Plan 2026–2031 positions the UBT Faculty of Law as a forward-looking, innovation-driven, and academically rigorous institution committed to advancing legal scholarship and societal development. Building upon a strong institutional foundation, multidisciplinary resources, and an expanding research culture, the Faculty is well-placed to enhance its national and international impact.

Through its eight strategic goals, the Plan establishes a clear and actionable framework for strengthening research excellence, expanding interdisciplinary collaboration, increasing engagement with justice institutions and industry, and promoting international visibility. By developing research clusters, fostering partnerships, supporting academic staff and young scholars, and investing in digital transformation, the Faculty will significantly elevate the quality, relevance, and influence of its research output.

The successful implementation of this Strategy requires ongoing commitment, collaboration, and accountability among faculty, students, research staff, and institutional leadership. With these elements in place, the Faculty of Law will continue to act as a transformative force driving legal innovation, supporting evidence-based policymaking, contributing to the rule of law, and preparing the next generation of legal professionals and researchers who will shape the future of Kosovo and the wider region.