

## Types of scientific theses

(in European countries with highly developed legal systems)

	<b>classical doctoral thesis</b>	<b>advanced doctoral thesis</b> (only in some countries)	<b>habilitation thesis</b> (only in some countries)
<b>kind of subject</b>	<i>special subject</i> : limited range of problems within a well-defined field or sub-field of law (and, may be, touching other fields of law)	<i>broad subject</i> : complex range of problems covering a whole field of law (and, usually, broadly touching other fields of law)	<i>general subject</i> : a whole field of law (including a complex range of problems) with all or most of its relations to other fields of law
<b>degree of thoroughness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Perfect understanding of the special subject and providing perfect solutions for a limited number of problems</li> <li>2. <i>Advanced understanding</i> of the relevant field(s) of law</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Perfect understanding of and new basic approach</i> to the whole relevant field of law (including its relations to other fields of law)</li> <li>2. Providing perfect solutions for <i>most</i> classical problems in the whole relevant field of law</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Perfect understanding</i> of the whole relevant field of law (and, usually, of all the neighbouring fields of law), <i>based on a perfectly-founded new basic approach</i></li> <li>2. Providing perfect solutions for <i>all</i> classical problems in the relevant field of law (and essential parts of neighbouring fields of law)</li> </ol>
<b>common size</b>	200 - 350 pages	300 - 700 pages	400 - 800 pages
<b>common time frame</b>	2,5 - 3 years (30 - 40 hours/week)	4 - 5 years (30 - 40 hours/week)	6 years (30 - 40 hours/week)
<b>reasonable time for studies abroad</b>	≈ 2 - 3 weeks (if well-prepared)	≈ ½ - 1 year	≈ 1 - 1 ½ years
<b>how to deal with controversial very fundamental theories</b>	present and discuss them shortly, then take your own decision and justify it shortly (you do not have to re-invent your field of law...)	present and discuss them comprehensively, then take your decision and justify it with very thorough reasons (you <i>should</i> re-invent your field of law...)	present and discuss them absolutely comprehensively, then take your decision and justify it with absolutely thorough, unassailable reasons (you <i>do</i> have to re-invent your field of law...)

Note: In countries, which are developing their legal system, a light version of the advanced doctoral thesis will often be appropriated. However, it will be much shorter and there will be less time and resources available.