Doing a PhD at the University of Vienna

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Agenda

• General information
• Admission
• Supervision
• Exposé
• Public presentation
• Achievements
• Support
• Funding possibilities
What does it mean doing a PhD?

- To make an original contribution to the state of the art
- To be trained as independent researcher
- To independently plan and conduct a scientific project
- Additional achievements: seminars, workshops, conference presentations, ...
- Minimum duration of study: 3 Years
What does it mean doing a PhD?
Admission

- Possible all year round (exception: Economics)
- Online via U:Space
- Formal requirements: relevant master’s/diploma degree
- Qualitative evaluation by the director of the doctoral study program

http://doktorat.univie.ac.at/doktoratsstudien/
Admission

• **Required documents:**
  ◦ Description of the intended doctoral project
  ◦ Letter of motivation
  ◦ Curriculum vitae
  ◦ Indication of Willingness to Supervise a Doctoral/PhD Candidate
  ◦ Optional: Proof of language competence

• If you have a degree from another university, additionally
  ◦ Your bachelor and master/diploma certificates

Please find all information here: [http://doktorat.univie.ac.at/doktoratsstudien/](http://doktorat.univie.ac.at/doktoratsstudien/)
Vienna Doctoral Schools

- Advanced Research School in Law and Jurisprudence
- Vienna Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies
- Vienna Doctoral School in Philosophy
- Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences
- Vienna Doctoral School Computer Science
- Vienna Doctoral School in Physics
- Vienna Doctoral School in Chemistry
- Vienna International School in Earth and Space Sciences
- Vienna School of Mathematics | Joint Doctoral School mit der TU Wien
- Doctoral School Microbiology and Environmental Science
- Vienna School of Ecology and Evolution
- Vienna Doctoral School of Pharmaceutical and Nutritional Sciences
- Vienna BioCenter PhD Program, joint doctoral school of the University of Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna
- Vienna Doctoral School in Cognition, Behavior, and Neuroscience - from Biology to Psychology and the Humanities (CoBeNe)

Why doing a PhD at the University of Vienna?
Listen to VR Jean-Robert Tyran
Supervision

• Who can act as supervisor?
  ◦ All academics with Habilitation
  ◦ Doctoral candidates need at least one supervisor from the University of Vienna.
  ◦ There is the possibility to have a supervisory team

• How to find a supervisor
  ◦ Search at department/faculty websites
  ◦ Search in u:cris (Research platform of the University of Vienna)
Dissertation process at a glance

Entry Phase
- Find a topic
- Find a supervisor
- Admission
- Prepare research proposal
- Public Presentation

Research Phase
- Submit Doctoral Thesis Agreement
- Annual Progress reports
- Conduct research
- Participate in Seminars/Workshops/Conferences

Final Phase
- Submission and Evaluation of Thesis
- Public Defense

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The research proposal (Exposé)

• The exposé is an important planning tool
• A first draft helps to find a supervisor
• The research proposal is the basis for the public presentation and approval of the topic
• **Format:** approx.: 10 pages
• **Content:**
  ◦ Description of the topic,
  ◦ Outline of research questions
  ◦ Description of the chosen research methods,
  ◦ Overview of relevant literature
  ◦ Time- and workplan
Public Presentation of research proposal

• Prerequisite for the approval of the dissertation topic
• Is mandatory and serves the purpose of quality assurance
• Doctoral advisory boards provide feedback on the dissertation topic
• Supports networking of doctoral candidates
• Registration for public presentation: in the StudyServiceCenter

More information on registration: [http://doktorat.univie.ac.at](http://doktorat.univie.ac.at) and at your StudienServiceCenter
Doctoral Thesis Agreement

- Serves to record the collaboration between the doctoral student and the supervisor,
- Serves the planning & concretization of the required achievements, (seminars, conferences, summer schools, etc.)
- It is supplemented by annual progress reports
Curriculum & Achievements

- The scope of performance (number of ECTS credits) is regulated in the curriculum.
- Seminars, courses, etc. can usually only be taken after the topic has been approved and the dissertation agreement has been concluded.
- The director of the study program decides on “recognition" for achievements.

Read your curriculum!
https://doktorat.univie.ac.at/doktoratsstudien
Where to find support?

• At your faculty/department
  ◦ Supervisors
  ◦ Director of the doctoral study programme
  ◦ Colleagues/Pees

• Your doctoral school

• Your scientific community

• Your StudyServiceCenter (for all administrative purpose)
Center for Doctoral Studies – Offers & Services

- Info sessions, Consultation, newsletter
- Workshops in transferable skills
- Afternoon Talks
- Welcome Days for new doctoral candidates
- Support of writing groups
- Wellbeing support
- ….
Funding

- Full funding
- Funding for mobility

Overview of funding possibilities and useful links at:
https://doktorat.univie.ac.at/finanzierung-fuer-doktorandinnen
Full funding

- Supervisor (e.g. within a project)
- Open positions at the doctoral school
- Research assistant (prae doc position) at the University of Vienna (vacancies via Jobcenter)
- Fellowships (e.g. doc fellowship of the Austrian Academy of Science)
Doc fellowship of the Austrian Academy of Science

- Competition of Diplom or Master’s degrees no more than two years ago
- Length of Fellowship: 24 / 30 / 36 months
- Submission deadlines: 3 times a year
- Selection procedure takes approx. five to six months

Preparation Workshops: June 2022
All information about the fellowship: https://stipendien.oeaw.ac.at/en/stipendien/doc
Funding possibilities for mobility

• Marietta Blau fellowship (OEAD)
• Erasmus (Student Mobility | Uni Wien)
• Short term grants abroad (KWA)
Twenty things I wish I’d known when I started my PhD

1. **Maintain a healthy work–life balance** by finding a routine that works for you.

2. Discuss **expectations with your supervisor**. Everyone works differently. Make sure you know your needs and communicate them to your supervisor early on, so you can work productively together.

3. Invest time in **literature reviews**. These reviews, both before and after data collection, help you to develop your research aims and conclusions.

4. **Decide on your goals early**. Goals can change later, but a clear plan will help you to maintain focus.

5. “I don’t need to write that down, I’ll remember it” is the biggest lie you can tell yourself! **Write down everything you do** — even if it doesn’t work. This includes meeting notes, method details, code annotations, among other things.

6. **Never struggle on your own**. Talk to other students and have frank discussions with your supervisor. There’s no shame in asking for help. You are not alone.

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*Lucy Taylor, Twenty things I wish I’d known when I started my PhD*: Nature, International Journal of Science, Career Column, November 2018
Contact

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