

Curriculum of the Doctoral Programme in Social Sciences

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Curricula issued in the University Gazette.

§ 1 Qualification profile

The doctoral programme in the Social Sciences at the University of Vienna serves to prepare doctoral candidates for scientific work in the field of doctoral research as well as to educate and encourage early stage researchers. The study programme entails independent academic work in the field of the doctoral research. It provides a academic education of international standard and aims to enable graduates to conduct independent research of international standard in their respective field of expertise.

§ 2 Scope of application and admission requirements

(1) This curriculum applies to students intending to write a doctoral thesis in a field of doctoral research of the Social Sciences that corresponds to one of the bachelor's or diploma programmes the faculty for Social Sciences or which can be attributed to the Social Sciences. Social sciences entail the following fields: Geography ("Geographie"), Social and Cultural Anthropology ("Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie"), Nursing Science, Political Science ("Politikwissenschaft"), Communication Studies ("Publizistik- und Kommunikationswissenschaft"), Sociology ("Soziologie"), Sport Science ("Sportwissenschaft"), Psychology ("Psychologie") and Social Studies of Science ("Wissenschaftsforschung").

(2) Admission to the degree programme is based on the relevant provisions set out in the 2002 Universities Act as amended.

§ 3 Structure of the doctoral programme

- (1) The degree programme duration is 3 years.
- (2) The study programme begins with an entry phase which ends with the approval of the doctoral thesis agreement. The aim of this entry phase is the development of a research proposal and the preparation for the public presentation at the Faculty.
- (3) During the doctoral programme, doctoral candidates are required to complete following:

a) Examination credits: during the doctoral programme in the Social Sciences, doctoral candidates must complete achievements comprising 30 ECTS credits. At least 20 ECTS credits must be earned through courses, 15 of which must be earned in courses with continuous assessment of coursework. All achievements (e.g. attending scientific workshops, holding presentations at international conferences, handling academic aspects in the organization of academic events, scientific practical courses etc.) which are linked to the dissertation can be considered as relevant courses for the Curricula. The exact specifications of achievements, including ECTS credits and hours per week per semester, are recorded in the doctoral thesis agreement.

b) Submission of the application for approval of the intended doctoral project to the competent body responsible for study matters within the first year after admission (see § 4).

c) Public presentation of the intended doctoral project at the Faculty.

d) Submission of a periodical, but at least annual, progress report which is to be produced to the supervisor and to be commented on by him/her (the exact frequency of these reports must be recorded in the doctoral thesis agreement).

e) After completing the doctoral thesis agreement (see § 5), the doctoral thesis is to be written (see § 6).

f) When all achievements have been met the study programme is completed with a public defence (see § 7),

(4) Courses dedicated to the acquisition of transferable skills can already be attended in the entry phase of the doctorate in order to acquire necessary foundations for scientific and project-oriented work as well as to concretize the research proposal and draft an outline of the thesis. Any attendance during the entry phase of the study programme will be recognized in the text of the doctoral thesis agreement.

- (5) The doctoral programme can be conducted partially in a foreign language.

§ 4 Submission of the intended doctoral project and public presentation at the Faculty

(1) The doctoral candidate has to submit an application of the intended doctoral project together with a confirmation of supervision by the supervisor. This application has to include a research proposal, a time schedule, as well as a list of all necessary resources. In principle, the research proposal is approved by the competent body responsible for study matters, following a public presentation at the Faculty (§ 3, section 2 d). If the intended doctoral project is part of a research project which has already been approved externally in accordance with international standards, the competent body responsible for study matters may approve the doctoral project prior to the presentation at the Faculty. The approval of the intended doctoral project is, in any case, a prerequisite for signing a doctoral thesis agreement.

(2) Beyond and above the regulations set down in the Statutes, public presentations at the Faculty must be held at least twice every semester.

§ 5 Doctoral thesis agreement

(1) As set out in the Statutes, a doctoral thesis agreement has to be concluded between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate and approved by the competent body responsible for study matters. In addition to the regulations set down in the Statutes, the compatibility between the doctoral thesis agreement and any programme (e.g. IHS programmes) or work relevant to the doctoral thesis must be considered.

(2) Courses which were prescribed during admission to the doctoral programme cannot be recognized as achievements in the sense of § 3, section 3 of this Curriculum.

§ 6 Doctoral thesis

(1) Doctoral candidates have to write a doctoral thesis, which serves to demonstrate the candidate's ability to master scientific topics independently (§ 51, section 2, line 13 of the 2002 Universities Act). The doctoral thesis is expected to be of a quality that allows for publication, at least in parts, in accordance with the standards in the field of research.

(2) The publication of partial results of the doctoral project in scientific journals and their presentation at scientific conferences prior to the submission of the doctoral thesis is encouraged.

§ 7 Public defence

Provided that all requirements specified in § 3 have been met and the doctoral thesis has been positively assessed by the assessors, the doctoral candidate has to pass a final oral

examination (public defence) in front of an examination committee. This examination consists of the presentation and defence of the scientific work. The composition of the examination committee is set out in the provisions of the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

§ 8 Examination regulations

(1) All courses must be at a level of expertise and at a didactic level appropriate to a doctoral programme. All courses are to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

a) Lecture for doctoral candidates (“Vorlesung für DissertantInnen”, VO), with non-continuous assessment of coursework, max. 3 ECTS credits: these courses (including special lectures or “Spezialvorlesungen”). The contents are presented in lectures and offer a deepening insight into special subject areas and current issues of research in the social sciences. Lecture series or “Ringvorlesungen” comprise independent, but content-wise related lectures held by more than one researcher. These offer a deepening insight into a partial aspect of a topic or problem in the social sciences. At the end of the semester, knowledge of the content of the lecture is tested in an oral or written exam.

b) Seminar for doctoral candidates (“Seminar für DissertantInnen”, SE), involves continuous assessment of coursework, max. 7 ECTS credits: seminars offer research-oriented insight into a theoretical or methodological field.

c) Research colloquium for doctoral candidates (“Forschungskolloquien für DissertantInnen”, FK), involves continuous assessment of coursework and comprises max. 5 ECTS credits: research colloquia resemble seminars and serve to provide a focused engagement with one’s own doctoral thesis. If possible students should attend a colloquium held by their supervisor.

(2) The maximum number of participants in a course with continuous assessment of coursework is limited to 15. In well-grounded cases the competent body responsible for study matters may allow exceptions and decide on a different maximum number of participants.

(3) Registration procedure for courses with limited numbers of participants: if the number of registrations exceeds the maximum number of places available on a particular course, the following admission criteria apply:

a) Candidates who are required to attend the course according to their doctoral thesis agreement are given priority over those who are not.

b) Candidates whose registration for a course has already been turned down once, i.e. who were on the waiting list before, are given priority with their next registration for this course.

§ 9 Completion of the doctoral programme

(1) The doctoral programme is successfully completed if all requirements laid down in § 3, section 3 have been met.

(2) Graduates of the doctoral programme are awarded the degree “Doktor/in der Philosophie”, abbreviated as Dr. phil., pursuant to § 51, section 2, line 14 of the 2002 Universities Act.

§ 10 Entry into force and transitional arrangements

(1) This curriculum enters into force on 1 October, 2009.

(2) Doctoral candidates enrolled in the doctoral programme in Philosophy (“Doktoratsstudium der Philosophie”) prior to the entry into force of this Curriculum can voluntarily and at any time accept the provisions of this Curriculum by means of a simple statement. The competent body must decide either generally or in each individual case which courses completed and examinations passed can be recognised for this Curriculum.

(3) Doctoral candidates who pursue a degree programme which entered into force prior to this Curriculum are entitled to complete their degree programme by 30 November 2017. If, in the course of study, courses which were originally required in the degree programme are no longer be offered, the competent body specified in the organisational regulations of the University of Vienna must decide *ex officio* or at the request of the doctoral candidate which courses and examinations have to be completed and recognised instead and by issuing an official notice.

(4) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 25 June 2012, number 254, edition 36 entered into force as of 1 October 2012.

Appendix:

The doctoral thesis agreement includes:

1. The doctoral candidate’s name, student ID number, the date of birth;
2. The supervisors’ names;
3. The topic of the doctoral thesis;
4. The curriculum under which the doctoral candidate is studying;
5. The field of doctoral research to which the doctoral thesis pertains;

6. The research proposal, on which the approval is based;
7. The time schedule for the intended doctoral project.
8. The study achievements that need to be completed according to the curriculum;
9. Supervision specifications, in particular with regard to the frequency of feedback meetings between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate;
10. Declaration of commitment of the doctoral candidate to abide by to the rules and regulations of good scientific practice.