



**Founding Declaration**  
of the  
**Doctoral School of Humanities Research**  
of the Faculty of Humanities

in accordance with § 15 University of Graz organisation plan

### Preamble

The Doctoral School of Humanities Research at the Faculty of Humanities is designed as an initiative to promote a culture of supervision and support with regard to doctoral projects in the humanities. Thus, its establishment creates an institutional framework for quality assurance. Within this Doctoral School framework, doctoral students and their supervisor(s) discuss objectives, principles or guidelines and possible implementation formats for the supervision of doctoral theses to ensure a transparent process that is put into practice across disciplines.

In addition to individual supervision, that continues to be at the heart of the Faculty of Humanities, doctoral students benefit from the fact that a community of researchers is available as discussion partners and, if necessary, as mentors. On the one hand, this institutional framework of a faculty benefits greatly from existing individual supervision services. On the other hand, interdisciplinary exchange of experience (e.g. potentially enhancing international appeal and expanding the perspective of a humanities doctoral programme) and interdisciplinary cooperation offer a real opportunity and an incentive to further improve the quality of doctoral supervision. This desire and direction also correspond to the intentions behind all doctoral programmes established at the University of Graz.

In its efforts to achieve this goal, the Doctoral School of Humanities Research takes into account the fact that the success of young researchers and scientists greatly contributes to communicating and publicising the academic achievements and dynamic nature of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Graz, both locally and globally.

### 1) Subject of the Doctoral School

#### § 1 Establishment and purpose of the Doctoral School of Humanities Research

(1) The Rectorate establishes the Doctoral School of Humanities Research as a centre of the Faculty of Humanities in accordance with § 15 of the University of Graz organisation plan. The

Doctoral School of Humanities Research in its entirety is subject to all internal university regulations and guidelines.

(2) In the organisation and implementation of all doctoral programmes established at the Faculty of Humanities, the Doctoral School of Humanities Research is responsible for the tasks outlined below unless another Doctoral School is responsible.

## II) Legal Basis, Organisation and Objectives of the Doctoral School

### § 2 Members of the Doctoral School

(1) The Doctoral School of Humanities Research comprises: a) all employees of the Faculty of Humanities who have a subject-relevant “*venia docendi*” teaching qualification (that is, professors and other habilitated staff) or with whom a Qualification Agreement was concluded following a selection procedure in accordance with § 99 (5) Universities Act 2002 (UG) and who also correspond to the eligible supervisors; and b) all students who have been admitted to a doctoral programme established at the Faculty of Humanities (for which no other Doctoral School is responsible).

(2) Employees are appointed to the Doctoral School by the dean of the Faculty of Humanities in agreement with the relevant individuals. The dean of studies and the head of the academic unit must be consulted on this appointment. Appointed employees remain assigned to their respective academic units at the University of Graz within the scope of their official research and teaching duties. When admitting students to the doctoral programme, the Rectorate also manages their admission as members of the Doctoral School.

(3) Employees or individuals with a “*venia docendi*” teaching qualification at another domestic or recognised foreign university in accordance with § 39 (5) Excerpt of Statutes: Provisions under the Law Regulating University Studies are co-opted into the Doctoral School by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities in agreement with the relevant individuals. The dean of studies and the head of the academic unit must be consulted on this appointment. The co-optation ends once the doctoral student has completed their doctoral project or deregistered from the doctoral programme, or if the doctoral student otherwise terminates the doctoral programme prematurely.

### § 3 Organisation and management of the Doctoral School

(1) The Doctoral School of Humanities Research is subordinate to the dean of the Faculty of Humanities in accordance with § 15 (1) of the University of Graz organisation plan.

(2) The Rectorate authorises a head of the Doctoral School and a deputy to represent the Doctoral School. The vice dean responsible for research at the Faculty of Humanities acts as the head of the Doctoral School, while the dean of studies at the Faculty of Humanities acts as the deputy. Both are appointed by the Rectorate for the duration of their term of office.

(3) The management of the Doctoral School is responsible for ensuring the organisation and

performance of the objectives of the Doctoral School in accordance with § 4.

#### § 4 Objectives of the Doctoral School

(1) The Doctoral School of Humanities Research is responsible for the supervision and training of students admitted to the Faculty of Humanities in accordance with § 2 (1) b. All activities of the Doctoral School must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the relevant curricula in accordance with § 1 (2) and in compliance and in coordination with the agendas of the organ of the law regulating university studies.

(2) Every member of the Doctoral School in accordance with § 2 (1) a must regularly, and at least once a year, present evidence of the progress made in each doctoral project supervised by him/her in an appropriate manner (e.g. through presentations by doctoral students in the doctoral colloquiums). This must be communicated to the management of the Doctoral School in writing.

(3) Regarding the planning of courses, the Doctoral School must submit proposals to the curricular committee responsible for the respective doctoral programme in order to ensure that the admitted doctoral students can complete the courses mandated in their doctoral programme within the planned duration of studies. To this end, the Doctoral School can submit proposals for planned courses, regardless of the formal responsibilities of other offices or organisational units dealing with the subject matter in question and taking into account the doctoral students' subject-specific courses and supplementary subjects.

When planning and holding courses, additional curricular requirements must be taken into account if necessary, as they may be mandated as part of the admission process.

(4) The management of the Doctoral School must report annually to the Rectorate and the dean on the previous academic year.

### III) Resource Allocation and Evaluation

#### § 5 Resource allocation

The resources required to operate the Doctoral School of Humanities Research are covered by the budget of the Faculty of Humanities. The dean has control over these resources in agreement with the head of the Doctoral School.

#### § 6 Evaluation

The Doctoral School is subject to the quality management guidelines of the University of Graz. An evaluation must be conducted after three years. If the quality of the Doctoral School is evaluated negatively, the management of the Doctoral School must discuss the continued existence of the Doctoral School and make a proposal to the Rectorate on how to continue its operation.

#### IV) Entry into force

The establishment of the Doctoral School of Humanities Research was decided by the Rectorate on [XX MONTH 202X] and comes into force on the day following the publication of this founding declaration in the university gazette.

The Rector: