



## **Curriculum for the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Graz**

Please note: The English version of this document is a courtesy translation. Only the German version is legally binding.

The Doctoral Programme of Philosophy is legally based on the Universities Act (UG) and on the "Provisions under Study Law" of the Statutes of the University of Graz.

The following curriculum for the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities was approved by the Senate of the University of Graz in a meeting dated 28.06.2017 in accordance with § 25 para. 1 no. 10 Universities Act.

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## § 1 General information

The Doctoral Programme of Philosophy serves to educate young scientists to enable them to conduct qualified research and academic teaching in the humanities.

### (1) Subject of the study programme

The Doctoral Programme of Philosophy enables students with a master's degree (or equivalent degree) to conduct independent and innovative scientific work in the form of a doctoral thesis. In doing so, doctoral students are introduced to humanities research on an international level by independently obtaining new scientific knowledge.

### (2) Qualification profile and competences

Students of the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy acquire a high degree of qualification in the research areas of the humanities through their studies and in particular by writing a doctoral thesis. By addressing current scientific questions, doctoral students gain the ability to work independently and thus contribute to the progress of scientific findings on an international level. By regularly presenting and discussing the research results, important qualifications for the scientific, didactic and generally comprehensible communication of specialist knowledge are acquired, as these same abilities are also important for fields outside of research.

### (3) Necessity and relevance of the study programme for academia and the labour market

The graduates of the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy qualify as young scientists for university and non-university research and are thus able to contribute to the development of knowledge in society while reflecting on the interaction with society and the economy. The ability to communicate expertise and experience in project management are key skills for both within and outside of research activities.

## § 2 Admission requirements for the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy

(1) As a prerequisite for admission to the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Graz, students must provide proof of one of the following degrees obtained at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution:

- a. The completion of another subject-related diploma programme amounting to at least 300 ECTS credit points or an equivalent study programme at a domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution.
- b. The completion of another subject-related master's programme amounting to at least 60 ECTS credit points or an equivalent study programme at a domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution. The completed bachelor's and master's degree programmes together must comprise a total of 300 ECTS credits, or a total of 10 subject-relevant semesters, if no ECTS credit points are determined in the curriculum.
- c. Recommendations for exceptions to lit. a and b can be submitted to the Rectorate by the curricular committee.

(2) If the degrees are generally equivalent and only certain supplementary qualifications are required for full equivalence, additional courses and examinations may be prescribed in order to obtain full equivalence. These requirements must be fulfilled within the first two semesters.

(3) The Rectorate decides on admission to the doctoral programme.

(3a) For the admission of persons whose native language/previous educational language is not German, the applicable Rectorate's regulations relating to the admission of international students to degree programmes at the University of Graz must be consulted.

(3b) In the case of admission to the doctoral programme, proof of German language proficiency is not required if teaching and supervision are sufficiently offered in the respective foreign language and knowledge of the German language is not required for successful completion of the study.

(3c) For the admission to a doctoral programme held entirely in English, proof of proficiency must be submitted in accordance with the Rectorate's regulations relating to the admission of international students, regardless of the student's mother tongue.

### § 3 Duration of the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy

(1) The Doctoral Programme of Philosophy lasts 6 semesters.

(2) Notwithstanding the duration of the study programme referred to in para.1, the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy may be completed at any time, provided that all academic achievements required in the curriculum have been completed.

(3) Types of courses

The following types of courses are defined in the curriculum:

a. Doctoral colloquium (DQ): Doctoral colloquia aim to provide room for discussion on the scientific work to be produced.

b. Lecture (VO): Courses based on acquiring knowledge in lectures. Exams are one-off tests that can be either oral or written, or written and oral.

c. Course (KS): Courses in which content is elaborated jointly by students and teachers based on experience and applied practice.

d. Seminar (SE): Seminars are designed for academic discussion. Participants are required to contribute their own work. As a rule, participants are required to present a written paper at the end of a seminar.

e. Working group (AG): Working groups are intended for working on concrete research questions, methods and techniques together, and for introducing students to academic work in smaller groups.

f. Conversatorium (KV): This type of course is held in the form of discussions with and questions to the teachers.

g. Lecture combined with practice sessions (VU): Alongside conveying knowledge through lectures, these courses address tasks and seek appropriate solutions in accordance with the practical and professional targets of the study programmes.

h. Privatissima (PV) are special research seminars.

(4) Restricted admission to courses and ranking system

For pedagogical or didactic reasons, or for security reasons, the number of participants for the doctoral colloquium is limited to 20 students, and for the other courses, with the exception of the VO and VU,

to 24 students. The number of participants for a VU is limited to a maximum of 50 students, while a VO has no limit on the number of participants.

- a. If the specified maximum number of participants is exceeded, the students will be admitted to the courses according to the EVSO 2017 ranking procedure as defined in the senate's guide to the allocation of courses with a limited number of participants, as amended.
- b. In addition to the electronic course registration, students must be present in the first course unit/in the preliminary discussion of the course in which the final allocation takes place. Students who are absent without excuse will only be considered after all students present were placed.

## § 4 Registration for the doctoral programme

(1) After admission to the doctoral programme, the doctoral student must announce his/her doctoral thesis subject in writing to the dean of studies no later than two semesters after start of the doctoral programme.

(2) This announcement comprises:

- Working title of the planned doctoral thesis.
- Proposal of a first supervisor (optionally also a second supervisor), including the supervision agreement submitted. If there is a second supervisor, they must also sign the supervision agreement.
- Designation of the doctoral thesis subject.
- Proposal of a doctoral thesis topic by means of a written statement outlining the doctoral thesis project.

(3) The topic of the doctoral thesis must deal with a research question from the subject offered at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and, in agreement with the supervisor, must be chosen with due regard to a meaningful connection with the completed preparatory study.

(4) If the doctoral project requires the use of financial or physical resources of an academic unit, the project is only permissible if the head of this institute has been informed and does not prohibit the project due to a significant impairment of teaching and research operations.

## § 5 Structure and organisation of the study programme

(1) The Doctoral Programme of Philosophy consists of a required and an elective subject area.

(2) Required subject area (= doctoral thesis subject)

- a. The required subject area is the subject area to which the topic doctoral thesis is assigned.
- b. The required subject area for the doctoral programme must be chosen from the examination subjects offered at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

(3) The elective subject area is also part of the examination subject catalogue of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Exceptions require approval of the dean of studies.

## § 6 Modules and courses of the study programme

(1) As part of the Doctoral Programme in Philosophy, courses totalling 30 ECTS credit points from the required and elective subject area must be completed to the following minimum extent:

- a. Required subject area: courses allocated to the doctoral programme worth at least 16 ECTS credit points, to be selected from the types of courses listed under § 3 para. 4, at least one of which must be a doctoral colloquium.
- b. Elective subject area: courses allocated to the doctoral programme worth at least 8 ECTS credit points, to be selected from the types of courses listed under § 3 para. 4.
- c. Interdisciplinary courses are also suitable. Courses are considered "interdisciplinary" if they are taught by at least two teachers, of which at least one must be habilitated. The teachers have to represent at least two different subject areas within this course. The content of the course must always be defined as "interdisciplinary".
- d. Gender-specific topics are also suitable options for courses (§ 18 para. 1 of the Statute on the Equal Opportunities Promotion Programme for Women).
- e. If courses are offered exclusively for the specific doctoral programme, the ECTS credit points are distributed as follows:

Course type	ECTS	Course hours
DQ	6	2
SE	6	2
VO	4	2
KS	4	2
KV	4	2
AG	4	2
PV	4	2
VU	4	2

(2) With the exception of the doctoral colloquium, the courses mandated from the required/elective subject area under para. (1) may be substituted to a maximum of 12 ECTS credit points with scientific achievements if approval of the doctoral thesis supervisor is given. These academic achievements include:

- Lecture or poster presentation at an academic conference
- Contribution to an academic journal or collected edition. The publication of the master's or diploma thesis is excluded and does not count as an additional academic achievement.
- (Co-)Publication of a collected edition

(3) Further details of the doctoral colloquium

- a. Doctoral colloquia (DQ) are examination-related academic courses held in a conference format with participation of at least two habilitated persons for joint discussion of the work to be written on the basis of short presentations.
- b. The doctoral student must submit a written doctoral project of around 10 pages, which is then orally presented and defended as part of the doctoral colloquium. Written submission and oral presentation of the project are a mandatory part of the continuous assessment of a doctoral colloquium. The doctoral project must contain: A working title, disposition, research question(s), subject area(s)/material, theoretical considerations, method(s), short bibliography, goal(s) of knowledge.

## § 7 Doctoral thesis

(1) A doctoral thesis must be written in order to complete the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy. With the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student must show that she/he has acquired the ability to independently and innovatively solve problems in current academic research. The doctoral thesis must be an independent, original scientific paper that has been independently prepared and written by the doctoral candidate. This must be confirmed by the student in a preamble to the doctoral thesis. In principle, the doctoral thesis must be written in German, however, in consultation with the supervisor, it may also be written in another language that is suitable for the doctoral thesis subject in question.

(2) In their doctoral thesis, the doctoral student is required to set out and present new academic findings in the context of the current state of academic research in the relevant field. The conducted research must be documented, and the results presented in a comprehensible form. The style and layout of the doctoral thesis should follow the usual standards in the field. If the topic of a doctoral thesis is worked on by several students within the framework of cooperations or group work, the individual contribution of the respective doctoral candidate must be clearly differentiated.

(3) Supervision (first supervisor):

- a. One of the tasks of a supervisor is to lead the doctoral students to an independent scientific activity with new insights.
- b. If necessary, with the approval of the dean of studies, persons with a teaching qualification at another domestic or foreign university or research institution may also be consulted, provided that their teaching qualification is equivalent to a teaching qualification pursuant to § 28 para. 5 of the Provisions under Study Law and includes the subject area or sub-area to which the topic of the dissertation belongs.
- c. The first supervisor may be any lecturer from the University of Graz whose teaching qualification covers the area or sub-area to which the topic of the doctoral thesis corresponds. In exceptional cases, with the approval of the curricular commission and the dean of studies, a first supervisor may also be chosen from another university. In this case, a second supervisor must be a teacher from the University of Graz.

(4) Additional supervision:

The dean of studies may, at the request of the doctoral student, authorise another supervisor. The supervisor must have a teaching qualification and, if chosen for subject-related reasons, may also come from another subject area, or from another domestic or recognised foreign university or from equivalent institutions.

(5) It is possible to change the topic of the doctoral thesis and/or the supervisor until the doctoral thesis is been submitted. Any change requires acceptance of the dean of studies and must therefore be communicated to the dean of studies immediately in writing. Regardless of whether the change notification is accepted or rejected, both the student and the supervisors will be notified. At the request of the supervisor, the dean of studies may withdraw the subject from the student in case of a serious violation of the obligations stipulated in the supervision agreement.

(6) If an individual supervision contract with another university (Cotutelle) is concluded within the framework of existing university cooperations, the agreements stipulated therein shall apply with regard to supervision. When concluding the supervision contract, it must be ensured that the agreements laid out therein are in accordance with the statutes of the University of Graz and the curriculum of the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Graz.

(7) The publication of parts of the doctoral thesis in academic publications/collected editions is permissible even before the doctoral thesis has been evaluated. However, it is nonetheless required to submit the final overall doctoral thesis.

(8) The completed doctoral thesis must be submitted to the dean of studies. At the suggestion of the doctoral student, the dean of studies then appoints two evaluators with appropriate teaching qualifications or equal qualifications as well as the composition of the examining committee for the doctoral examination/thesis defence. As a rule, one of the evaluators is the first supervisor of the doctoral thesis. The doctoral student has the right to nominate evaluators. If necessary, one of the evaluators selected may have a teaching qualification from a subject area closely related to the doctoral thesis subject. The doctoral thesis must be assessed by the evaluators within a maximum period of four months in the form of a written, well-founded assessment report.

(9) The second assessment may also be written by persons with a teaching qualification from another subject area or from another domestic or recognised foreign university or universities of equal ranking. In particular, due to the interdisciplinary nature of the doctoral thesis, the dean of studies can ask for a third assessment in advance. The assessment reports are written independently from each other, and each report has equal weight in the assessment of the doctoral thesis.

(10) If the evaluators of the doctoral thesis come to different conclusions, the overall grade is to be the arithmetic mean of the individual grades, rounded to an integer. For round-off values larger than x.5, the grade is to be rounded up, and otherwise rounded down. In case of doubt, the dean of studies can request an additional third-party assessment. The assessment reports must be submitted to the doctoral candidate in writing.

(11) Upon successful graduation, the student must publish the positively assessed doctoral thesis by submitting it to both the University Library of the University of Graz and the Austrian National Library. It is recommended that the doctoral thesis be published in relevant journals with subject-relevant specialist publishers.

(12) Pursuant to § 86 para. 2 Universities Act, the doctoral student may apply for temporary exclusion of use of the doctoral thesis for a maximum of five years upon submission. The organisational unit responsible for study law must grant this application if the doctoral candidate makes it credible that important legal or economic interests of the author would be otherwise endangered.

## § 8 Examination regulations

(1) Course examinations:

- a. courses which do not involve continuous assessment (VO), examinations are one-off tests that can either be oral or written, or written and oral.
- b. course types DQ, KS, SE, AG, KV, VU and PV are continually assessed. They are successfully achieved in a process of continuous assessment as well as further assessment criteria which are announced by the course lecturer at the beginning of a course.

(2) Doctoral examination: General information

The doctoral examination is taken orally before an examination board and is worth 10 ECTS credit points.

a. Doctoral examination: Requirements and registration

The doctoral candidate may submit the registration for the doctoral examination with the dean of studies if the following prerequisites are met:

- the positive completion of all course examinations required in the curricular part of the doctoral programme
  - the provision of any supplementary qualifications, courses or examinations required for full equivalency and admission.
  - the positive assessment of the doctoral thesis.
- b. Examination subject of the doctoral examination is the subject area/part of the subject area to which the topic of the doctoral thesis belongs (mandatory subject).
- c. Along with the registration, the doctoral student is entitled to submit applications for nominating members of the examining committee and the examination day. These applications must be taken into consideration by the dean of studies as far as possible.

### (3) Doctoral examination: Examining committee

- a. For the doctoral examination, the dean of studies must appoint an examining committee comprised of three examiners as well as one person with teaching qualification as chairperson.
- b. The chairperson of the examining committee must ensure orderly conduct of the doctoral examination. The examination protocol includes the examination subject, the place and time of the examination, the names of the members of the examining committee, the name of the doctoral candidate, the questions and topics covered in the discussion as well as their respective assessments, in particular the reasons for any negative assessment and any special occurrences.
- c. The second evaluator as well as the second supervisor do not have to be members of the examining committee. In any case, the first evaluator and the first supervisor are members of the committee. The second evaluator as well as the second supervisor do not have to be members of the examining committee. In any case, the first evaluator and the first supervisor are members of the committee.
- d. If the first supervisor and the first evaluator are not the same person, the first supervisor must be a member of the examining committee
- e. All examiners of the examination committee must have a teaching qualification encompassing the respective subject area of the doctoral thesis, or for a relevant, related subject area of the doctoral thesis in accordance with § 26 para. 2 no. 3 of the Provisions under Study Law. If necessary, persons with a teaching qualification at another domestic or foreign university or research institution may also be consulted, provided that their teaching qualification is equivalent to a teaching qualification pursuant to § 26 para. 2 of the Provisions under Study Law.
- f. The composition of the examining committee and the appointment of the examiners must be communicated to the doctoral candidate no later than three weeks before the doctoral examination. The examination date must be announced at least two weeks in advance.

### (4) Doctoral examination: Structure of examination

The doctoral examination is an oral examination lasting a maximum of 90 minutes.

- a. The doctoral examination consists of two parts:
- Part 1 covers the thesis defence consisting of a public presentation and defence of the doctoral thesis taking into account the expert opinions provided by the evaluators in the context of a general discussion. This part lasts a maximum of 60 minutes. Of these 60 minutes, 30 minutes are allocated to the presentation of the doctoral thesis.
  - Part 2 consists of an oral scientific-specialist examination talk of all examiners with the candidate on problem questions of the subject in the context of the doctoral thesis topic. This part lasts a maximum of 30 minutes.
- b. The consultation and reconciliation of the doctoral examination result with regard to the two parts must take place in a private discussion between the members in accordance with the provisions of § 73 para. 1 and 2 Universities Act. Decisions of the examiners are made by a majority vote, whereby the chairperson has the same voting right as the other members but may be the last to vote. Abstention is not possible.

- c. If the examiners do not reach a unified decision on the assessment of the doctoral examination parts, the individual assessments proposed must be added up. The sum of the grades is then divided by their number and the result rounded to an integer. For round-off values larger than x.5, the grade is to be rounded up, and otherwise rounded down.
- d. Pursuant to § 73 para. 3 Universities Act, an overall assessment must be made of the doctoral examination. The overall assessment is to read "pass" if each of the two parts is positively assessed (part 1: thesis defence, part 2: oral examination), otherwise it is to read "fail". A doctoral student will "pass with distinction" if no grade is below a "good" (2) and at least half of all grades are "excellent" (1). The result of the examination must be announced immediately after the examination.

(5) For the repetition of examinations, § 38 of the Provisions under Study Law is to be applied.

(6) The recognition of courses and examinations takes place at the request of the student to the organisational unit responsible for matters of study law according to the guidelines of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) (§ 78 para. 1 Universities Act).

(7) Completion of studies and certificate of completion of studies

- a. The doctoral programme is completed once all required courses, the doctoral thesis and the doctoral examination have been assessed positively.
- b. After passing the doctoral examination, a certificate of completion of studies will be issued in which the grade of the doctoral thesis as well as the overall evaluation of the doctoral examination are to be certified.

Upon application, according to § 69 Universities Act, a leaving certificate is to be issued containing all examinations the student has taken throughout the study programme at the university as well as their assessments.

## § 9 Degree certificate

The academic degree "Doctor of Philosophy", "Doctor philosophiae" in Latin and abbreviated to "Dr. phil.", is awarded to the graduates of the doctoral programme.

## § 10 Legal validity

This curriculum shall come into effect on October 1, 2017 (Curriculum 2017W).

## § 11 Transitional regulations

(1) Students of the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy in version 02W with the programme code 092 are, acc. § 124 para. 15 Universities Act, entitled to complete their studies in the version 02W of the curriculum until November 30, 2017 according to the provisions of the curriculum. If the degree programme is not completed by November 30, 2017, students must complete their studies according to the curriculum for the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities with the programme code 796 500 in the currently valid version.



(2) Students of the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities studying in the curriculum version 11W as it comes into effect on October 1, 2017, are entitled to complete their studies according to the provisions of the curriculum in version 11W within 8 semesters. If the degree programme is not completed by September 30, 2001, doctoral students must then complete their studies according to the curriculum for the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities in its current version.

(3) Courses taken as part of the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy in version 02W or version 11W of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities must then be recognised by the responsible organisational unit for the Doctoral Programme of Philosophy of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities as amended in accordance with § 78 Universities Act, insofar as they are equivalent to the courses prescribed in the curriculum in § 6.

(4) Doctoral students studying in an expiring curriculum are always entitled to transfer over to the current curriculum.

The Chairperson of the Senate:  
Niemann