



## **FACT SHEET**

### **PhD Law and Politics at the University of Graz**

The PhD Law and Politics is a three year (six semesters, 180 ECTS) English-taught doctoral programme at the Faculty of Law, University of Graz. The PhD Law and Politics was designed for young researchers with different academic backgrounds seeking an international and interdisciplinary full-time PhD programme. In order to ensure a high quality, the admission has been limited to ten PhD candidates per year.

#### **Why PhD Law and Politics in Graz?**

Grasping the complex interactions between law and politics is an essential part of the development of theories and methods in both fields. In order to aid progress in fundamental and applied research, the doctoral programme “PhD Law and Politics” combines research and teaching in legal and political sciences in an interdisciplinary way. In addition to its focus on the intersections between Legal and Political Science, the programme includes perspectives from the Humanities, Economics, and the Social Sciences. The programme aims to provide young researchers with an excellent scientific education according to international standards. Active participation in courses on methodology will familiarise students with the international state of the art of legal and political research and enable them to make a substantive contribution to both disciplines. Students receive an interdisciplinary and comparative education to provide them with the necessary skills to answer intersecting questions, which require both legal and political perspectives. Moreover, the development of critical and analytical skills will prepare students to formulate recommendations for the improvement of public policies. The comprehensive set of knowledge and skills acquired within the programme will put students in a perfect position to solve complex societal problems. Graduates of the doctoral programme “PhD Law and Politics” will therefore be excellently qualified for future careers in universities and research institutions, as well as scientifically oriented positions in legal or political consultancy, public administration, international organisations, or in the private sector.

#### **CURRICULUM**

The study programme firstly started in the autumn of 2016. Prof. Dr. Florian Bieber was appointed as the scientific director and head of the selection committee. For admission to the programme, applicants need to hold a Master's degree in Law or Political Science. Graduates holding a Master's degree in the Humanities or other Social Sciences may also apply if the Master has a sufficient connection to Law or Political Science.

## Dissertation

PhD candidates have to write a dissertation within the study programme. Topics can be chosen from a wide range of research fields, not only from Law and Political Science, but also from other areas such as Economics, Sociology, History, Philosophy, European Studies or Cultural Studies. Due to the interdisciplinary approach of the study programme, each topic has to be sufficiently related to either Law or Political Science to be accepted. Two professors will supervise the dissertation.

Research fields:

Law: especially Constitutional Law, General Theory of State, Administrative Law and Public Administration, Legal Theory, Legal Sociology, Legal Philosophy, Public International Law, European Law, Business Law, Legal History.

Political Science: especially Political Theory, Political Systems, Comparative Government, International Relations, Public Management.

Economics: especially National Economy, Regional Economy, Political Economy, International Management.

Sociology: especially Macrosociology, Microsociology, Sociological Theory; Empirical Social Research.

History: especially Contemporary History.

Philosophy, European Studies, Human Rights Studies, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Religious Studies and Anthropology.

## Courses

Compulsory Courses	30 ECTS
3 Seminars "Theory and Methodology"	15 ECTS
3 Doctoral Colloquia (DQ)	15 ECTS
Teaching	10 ECTS
First Defence	10 ECTS
Doctoral Thesis	120 ECTS
Final Defence	10 ECTS
<b>In total</b>	<b>180 ECTS</b>

The study programme "PhD Law and Politics" consists of three seminars and three Doctoral

Colloquia. During the first two semesters students have to attend three seminars focusing on methodological and theoretical perspectives in Law and Political Science. Seminar 1 and 2 usually take place in the winter term and seminar 3 in the summer term.

Seminars:

1. Theories and Methods in Law
2. Theories and Methods in Political Science
3. Interdisciplinary Specialization in Methods of Law and Political Science

PhD candidates have to attend at least three Doctoral Colloquia, which deal with methodological, theoretical and empirical discussions of their research. The participation in three Doctoral Colloquia is mandatory, but it is recommended to take part every semester during the doctoral programme. Doctoral Colloquia can be chosen from any faculty at the University of Graz contingent on availability, suiting the doctoral thesis and being taught in English.

### **First Defence**

At the end of the first term students have to complete a first defence. The defence is an oral board examination, in which the dissertation project is being presented by the student (approx. 20 minutes) and subsequently discussed with the board.

The board consists of the programme director, the dean of studies and the two supervisors.

To register for the defence, students are expected to submit a research proposal (30.000-40.000 characters) including

1. Working title of the PhD thesis
2. Suggestion for a primary and a secondary supervisor
3. Nomination of thesis' disciplinary background (Law or Political Science)
4. Research proposal
5. Supervision acceptance by suggested primary and a secondary supervisor

The research proposal has to include

1. Description of research project
2. Methodological framework
3. Expected scientific results and contribution
4. Results of preliminary literature review
5. Time plan for thesis completion

### **Teaching**

Each PhD candidate is required to teach a seminar or contribute to a seminar on the topic of the dissertation. The minimum teaching load is 2 contact hours (2 x 45 min) for the entire doctoral programme.

## ADMISSION

Admission to the study programme “PhD Law and Politics” is limited to a maximum of ten students per year. The admission process is based on special regulation of the University of Graz (MB 30b of 27.4.2016).

Applicants need to hand in a complete set of the following documents:

1. The application form for the admission to the selection process.  
The form is available via email upon request ([dario.brentin@uni-graz.at](mailto:dario.brentin@uni-graz.at)).
2. The application form for admission to a doctoral programme.

Form in German:

[https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/Studienabteilung/Formulare/Antrag\\_zur\\_Master-\\_bzw.\\_Doktoratszulassung\\_neuDE.pdf](https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/Studienabteilung/Formulare/Antrag_zur_Master-_bzw._Doktoratszulassung_neuDE.pdf)

Form in English:

[https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/Studienabteilung/Formulare/Antrag\\_zur\\_Master-\\_bzw.\\_Doktoratszulassung\\_neuEN.pdf](https://static.uni-graz.at/fileadmin/Studienabteilung/Formulare/Antrag_zur_Master-_bzw._Doktoratszulassung_neuEN.pdf)

3. University degree diploma(s) and evidence of all accomplished university programmes (Diploma/Bachelor's/Master's certificate, graduation certificate) and a transcript of records (with ECTS or contact hours per semester).
4. A letter of motivation (in English, max. two pages).
5. A short description of the intended topic of the dissertation (in English, max. two pages).
6. A curriculum vitae (in English, max. three pages).
7. Proof of sufficient knowledge of English:
  - TOEFL iBT (min. 87 pt)
  - IELTS (min. 6.0)
  - Cambridge Proficiency English CPE (Level C)
  - Cambridge Advanced English CPE (Level B)

Applicants who have attended an English speaking High School or have been studying an English-taught programme for at least two years don't have to give proof of their English knowledge.

8. Secondary School Leaving Certificate.
9. Evidence of Admission (only applicants who do not possess the citizenship of an EU/EEA member state or have a status equivalency. The confirmation has to be for the same Doctorate and semester/academic year, in which admission is sought, at a recognized university in the country where the Master/ Diploma degree was issued).

For further information please see: <https://studienabteilung.uni-graz.at/en/international-students/documents/evidence-of-admission/>

All documents have to be provided in German or English. If the original document has not been issued in either language, a translation into German or English is mandatory.

For further information please see: <https://studienabteilung.uni-graz.at/en/international-students/documents/translation/>

Once students are successfully admitted to the programme, the registration process with the University of Graz starts. The registration process applies another set of important deadlines and requires some additional documents to the admission process. For further information please see: <https://studienabteilung.uni-graz.at/en/studying/studies/doctoral-programmes/> International students and Austrian citizens who have acquired a degree abroad should also consult the information about the legal requirements for their documents to be accepted by the University of Graz: <https://studienabteilung.uni-graz.at/en/international-students/admission-guide/>

## **TUITION FEE**

For EU citizens no tuition fees will be charged as long as students do not exceed the programme's normal duration of six semesters plus an additional two semesters, i.e. eight semesters in total. Afterwards students have to pay a tuition fee of 363,30 € per semester. Students from non-EU countries will be charged a tuition fee of 745,42 € per semester unless other regulations exist (the Austrian government grants exceptions for certain countries). A small obligatory membership fee (19,20 € per semester) for the Austrian Students Union is collected from all students. For further information please see <https://studienabteilung.uni-graz.at/en/tuition-fee/>

### **Contact:**

Dario Brentin  
Centre for Southeast European Studies  
University of Graz  
Schubertstrasse 21/1, 8010 Graz  
+43/316/380-6819  
[phd.law-politics@uni-graz.at](mailto:phd.law-politics@uni-graz.at)  
<http://rewi.uni-graz.at/phdlawpolitics>