

# UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

of the  
UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ



83<sup>rd</sup> SPECIAL EDITION

---

Academic year 2022/23

Issued on 29 June 2023

Item 36.g

---

## Curriculum

### for the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences

Curriculum 2023

**Publication details:** Media owner, publisher and author: University of Graz, Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz. Place of publication and production: Graz.  
Address of the Editorial Department: Law and Organisation, Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz.  
E-mail: [mitteilungsblatt@uni-graz.at](mailto:mitteilungsblatt@uni-graz.at)  
Internet: <https://mitteilungsblatt.uni-graz.at/>

**Disclosure pursuant to Section 25 of the Media Act (MedienG)**

Media owner: University of Graz, Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz. Purpose of business: Fulfilment of the objectives, guiding principles and responsibilities pursuant to Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Federal Austrian Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Degree Courses (Universities Act 2002 - UG), Federal Law Gazette I No. 120/2002, in the latest applicable version.

Type and amount of equity holding: owned 100%.

Registered office: Universitätsplatz 3, 8010 Graz

Names of the authorised representatives of the media owner: Dr Peter Riedler, Univ.-Prof. Dr Joachim Reidl, Univ.-Prof. Dr Catherine Walter-Laager, Univ.-Prof. Dr Markus Fallenböck, LL.M., Univ.-Prof. Mireille van Poppel, PhD

Principle concept: Announcement of information pursuant to Section 20 (6) of the Universities Act (UG) in the latest applicable version.

# Curriculum for the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences



The legal basis for the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences lies in the Universities Act (UG) and the statutes of the University of Graz.

On 28 June 2023, the Senate issued the following curriculum for the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences in accordance with Section 25 (1) 10a Universities Act (UG).

## Table of contents

<b>Section 1: Subject, qualifications profile and relevance of the study programme</b> .....	<b>2</b>
(1) Subject of the study programme.....	2
(2) Qualifications profile and skills .....	2
(3) Demand for and relevance of the study programme for academia and the labour market.....	2
<b>Section 2: Admission</b> .....	<b>2</b>
(1) Admission criteria .....	2
(2) Supplementary examinations .....	3
(3) Qualitative admission conditions .....	3
(4) Language.....	3
(5) Selection Committee .....	3
(6) Application documents .....	4
<b>Section 3: Structure of the study programme</b> .....	<b>4</b>
(1) Duration and organisation .....	4
(2) Subject areas.....	4
(3) Modules and courses .....	5
<b>Section 4: Number of participants in courses and substitute academic achievements</b> .....	<b>6</b>
(1) Number of possible participants in courses and ranking criteria.....	6
(2a) Substitute academic achievement.....	6
(2b) Practical teaching experience as substitute achievement.....	6
(3) Language.....	7
<b>Section 5: Doctoral thesis</b> .....	<b>7</b>
(1) Requirements .....	7
(2) Cumulative doctoral thesis .....	7
(3) Doctoral thesis topic .....	8
(4) Supervision .....	8
(5) Assessment .....	9
<b>Section 6: Defence</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Section 7: Overall grade</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Section 8: University degree</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Section 9: Entry into force of the curriculum and transitional provisions</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Appendix I: Supervision agreement</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Supervision agreement for a doctoral thesis at the University of Graz within the framework of a doctoral programme .....	1

## **Section 1: Subject, qualifications profile and relevance of the study programme**

### **(1) Subject of the study programme**

The subject areas studied by the disciplines situated within the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences lie specifically at the boundaries between the natural and cultural worlds. For this reason, the faculty is home to research traditions in the natural, social, cultural sciences and the humanities and, in particular, to interdisciplinary approaches that combine these traditions.

The aim of the doctoral programme is to provide researchers with an outstanding education of an internationally recognised standard. In addition to receiving the academic foundation for their career, the researchers shall be trained to carry out independent research and shall, within the framework of their doctoral thesis, independently build on and substantially contribute to the current state of knowledge. The programme also qualifies graduates for practical work and professional leadership roles in areas where academic expertise in relevant subject areas and methodologies is required.

### **(2) Qualifications profile and skills**

Being geared towards producing an original piece of academic work, the doctoral programme requires the ability

- to turn topical questions in the discipline into research projects, as well as to answer them through autonomous research work;
- to engineer the necessary collaboration (which may be interdisciplinary) and the networking within the scientific community (e.g. participation in conferences) that will guarantee a link to current academic discourse;
- to critically analyse, evaluate and synthesise complex ideas in the relevant area of expertise and their relevance to historical and social trends.

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

The Doctoral Programme of Natural Science teaches and fosters a theoretical understanding and methodological skills in academic working in the field of the natural sciences. It focuses on animate and inanimate natural phenomena with the goal of describing, measuring and explaining such phenomena. The skills acquired are valued in research contexts in the natural sciences as well as for practical roles in a wide range of professional fields, depending on the respective doctoral school. Specific areas of focus include devising hypotheses, designing experiments, analytical and quantitative methods primarily in mathematics and physics, logical paradigms, modelling and simulation, computer-based data processing, and visual representation.

## **Section 2: Admission**

### **(1) Admission criteria**

The following prerequisites must be met for admission to the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences:

1. The completion of a master's programme worth at least 60 ECTS credit points or a diploma programme worth at least 240 ECTS credit points or another study programme of at least the same educational level at a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution in the area of the natural sciences or technical sciences or in a subject that is meaningfully relevant to the natural sciences disciplines situated at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences.

2. Fulfilment of the qualitative admission conditions as per (3),
3. evidence of the level of German or English required to successfully pursue the study programme.
4. If the prerequisites according to items 1 to 3 are not fulfilled and also cannot be achieved by completing supplementary examinations according to (2), no admission is possible.

## **(2) Supplementary examinations**

To compensate for significant subject matter differences as necessary for the doctoral thesis, supplementary examinations may be required.

## **(3) Qualitative admission conditions**

Admission to the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences is contingent on fulfilment of the following qualitative admission conditions: The fulfilment of the admission conditions will be evaluated by the selection committee of the respective doctoral school in the course of the admission process:

- The abstract (with indication of the preliminary topic of the planned doctoral thesis) corresponds to the academic standards and good scientific practice.
- Outstanding prior academic knowledge in the field of research.
- Preliminary time plan demonstrates realistic planning of the research project.
- The doctoral thesis project is meaningfully related to a discipline situated within the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences or can be assigned to a discipline of one of the doctoral schools named in the application for admission.

## **(4) Language**

Evidence of the level of German or English required to successfully pursue the study programme is required in order to be admitted to it. The form that this evidence is to take is to be stipulated in a set of regulations from the Rectorate.

## **(5) Selection Committee**

1. The Selection Committee consists of three persons. The (Vice) Dean of Studies responsible for the doctoral programme, the head of the doctoral school or their substitute and the proposed supervisor are all members of the Selection Committee. If one of these persons holds two of the listed roles, their substitute must participate in the Selection Committee as a replacement.
2. The Selection Committee evaluates the criteria according to (1) to (4) as to whether the applicant's prior studies are appropriate for the desired doctorate and the qualitative admission conditions are met and issues on this basis a majority decision as a recommendation to the Rectorate concerning the admission decision as well as any supplementary examinations to be completed by the applicant. If the doctoral thesis project requires the use of an institute's financial or material resources, the admission may only be recommended if the head of this institute has been informed and has not prohibited the project on the basis of a significant impairment of instruction and research at the institute. In the event that the admission application is rejected or the imposition of supplementary examinations is recommended, the Selection Committee must justify why the admission criteria were not (fully) met.

## (6) Application documents

The following application documents must be submitted by the applicant upon application for admission:

- Form: application for admission to the doctoral programme and acceptance to the doctoral school
- Academic curriculum vitae with documentation (completion certificates) of the completed prior studies / research and study focus
- Abstract of the doctoral thesis, including a preliminary time plan
- Signed supervision agreement
- List of required funds or material resources of an institute of the University of Graz, if necessary (e.g. laboratory needs)
- Documentation of any additional academic achievements and the required language skills

## Section 3: Structure of the study programme

### (1) Duration and organisation

The doctoral programme has a planned study time of six semesters and is organised into a curricular portion (modules), the doctoral thesis and the defence:

<b>Modules</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
Module A: Doctoral thesis subject	24
Module B: Scientific skills and specialisation	8
<i>Total</i>	32
<b>Doctoral thesis</b>	No ECTS
<b>Defence</b>	4

### (2) Subject areas

The subject areas in which a doctoral programme can be completed at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences are determined by the doctoral schools.

1. For the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences, a topic from the following subject areas may be selected:

- Geography and Regional Sciences
- Sports Science and Kinesiology
- Environmental Systems Sciences

2. Requirements concerning the selection and announcement of the subject area

The subject area to which the doctoral thesis is assigned must be stated upon submission (of the application for admission) by the doctoral researcher and must be approved by the head of the respective doctoral school.

### (3) Modules and courses

The following courses must be completed as a minimum in the curricular part of the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences:

	<b>ECTS</b>
<b>Module A: Doctoral thesis subject</b>	Total = 24
A1 Doctoral colloquium	at least 8
A2 Doctoral seminar	at least 8
A3 Research seminar	at least 4
A4 Courses corresponding to the doctoral thesis subject	max. 4
<b>Module B: Scientific skills and specialisation</b>	Total = 8
B1 Courses for broadening skills and specialisation	8
<b>Total of module A and module B</b>	<b>32</b>

a) **Module A: Doctoral thesis subject:** courses for the doctoral researcher from the range of natural sciences courses at the respective doctoral school in the field/sub-field to which the doctoral thesis topic belongs amounting to 24 ECTS credit points, of which at least 8 ECTS credit points from the doctoral colloquium, at least 8 ECTS credit points from the doctoral seminar and at least 4 ECTS credit points from the research seminar of this doctoral school. For the remaining 4 ECTS credit points, there is no restriction with regard to the course types.

b) **Module B: Scientific skills and specialisation:** courses to be chosen based on their links to the topic of the doctoral thesis, amounting to 8 ECTS credit points. These courses can be taken from the field of the respective doctoral programme, a closely related field/sub-field or from the fields of women's and gender studies, philosophy, the philosophy of science, communication science, organisational management or similar relevant fields as interdisciplinary education or interdisciplinary reflection.

Every doctoral researcher must attend in particular the doctoral courses at their doctoral school. If necessary, some of these courses can also be covered from the range of studies offered by another doctoral school at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences or at other faculties. Likewise, courses from other specialist departments and other universities or research institutions can be used to make up the requisite academic achievements if required, applying the recognition procedure.

It must be ensured that every doctoral researcher presents their doctoral thesis in public at least once within the framework of the doctoral colloquium or at conferences.

Students are encouraged to undertake dedicated study and research programmes at other Austrian and international education and research centres as well as study abroad periods in order to broaden their educational horizons.

In selection of the courses, it must be noted that courses also intended for bachelor's students or that are part of a bachelor's programme are not permitted. In addition, courses from the prior studies, on the basis of which the admission to the doctoral programme was granted according to Section 2 (1), are fundamentally excluded. The students are entitled to propose and/or submit for approval the doctoral thesis subject as well as the courses to be attended in modules A and B before attending the courses. The Dean of Studies shall decide on what courses are admissible.

## Section 4: Number of participants in courses and substitute academic achievements

### (1) Number of possible participants in courses and ranking criteria

1. The number of participants in the individual course types may be limited for pedagogic/didactic reasons and space limitations, based on the available equipment or for safety reasons:

Course type	Number of participants
Seminar (German abbreviation: SE)	15
Research seminar (German abbreviation: PV)	10
Doctoral colloquium (German abbreviation: DQ)	15

2. If the stipulated maximum number of participants is exceeded, students shall be admitted to the courses in accordance with the criteria for the ranking method of the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences as set out in the Senate directive on allocating places in courses with a limited number of participants, as amended.
3. In addition to the electronic course registration, students must be present at the first course unit / introductory meeting for the course, where the final allocation of course places and assignment of the students to the individual parallel groups shall take place. Students who miss this session without being excused shall be ranked after the students in attendance.

### (2) Substitute academic achievements

1. Course attendance can be replaced by academic achievements or practical teaching experience in the amount of at most 12 ECTS credit points after consulting with the supervisor of the doctoral thesis and with the approval of the head of the doctoral school.
2. However, the courses stipulated in Section 3 (2) of the type doctoral colloquium (A1), doctoral seminar (A2) and research seminar (A3) may not be replaced.
3. If a doctoral thesis is submitted cumulatively, portions of the doctoral thesis published in a scientific journal or a collected volume or accepted for publication may not be utilised as substitute achievements for courses.

#### (2a) Substitute academic achievement

Substitute academic achievements include:

- a. papers or poster sessions presented at an academic conference.
- b. articles published or accepted for publication in a scientific journal or a collected volume. Publication of a master's or diploma thesis does not count as a substitute academic achievement.
- c. participation in a research-oriented methodological workshop (e.g. the Graz Center of Empirical Research)
- d. participation in the summer or winter school

The point value and the maximum total extent of substitutable ECTS credit points (assigned ECTS credit points) for the respective substitute academic achievements (paper presentation, poster presentation, article, etc.) shall be decided by the responsible doctoral school.

#### (2b) Practical teaching experience as substitute achievement

Acquiring qualifications in academic teaching is considered desirable in the interests of a well-rounded education. Doctoral researchers are able and expected to get involved to a meaningful extent in university teaching in the course of their doctoral programme. Independent provision of instruction in the amount of 2 week-hours can be counted as a substitute achievement amounting to a maximum of 4 ECTS.

### **(3) Language**

As an element of international experience, at least a portion of the range of courses in the curriculum should, where possible, be offered and examined in English. Not all courses or supplementary examinations in all subject areas can be offered both in German and in English. Information on which subject areas of the doctoral schools of the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences are offered in which language must be published on the website of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences and made available to the applicants by the supervisor in the course of the admission process.

## **Section 5: Doctoral thesis**

### **(1) Requirements**

A doctoral thesis must be written. Through their doctoral thesis, the student is required to demonstrate – above and beyond what is required of a master's thesis / diploma thesis – that they have acquired the ability to solve problems facing current scientific research independently and have arrived at new findings. The doctoral thesis represents a self-contained, original piece of academic work that was produced and written by the student themselves.

The doctoral thesis can also be written on the basis of work that has already been published or approved for publication as a cumulative doctoral thesis.

The doctoral thesis must include the new academic findings generated from the work carried out by the doctoral researcher and must present these findings in the context of the latest academic research in the relevant subject area. The investigations performed must be documented, and the findings must be presented in a clear and transparent manner. The style adopted by the doctoral thesis must comply with the standards customary in the subject area. In the case of research collaborations, the contribution made by the doctoral researcher themselves must be clearly demarcated, and each doctoral researcher involved must write their own doctoral thesis.

### **(2) Cumulative doctoral thesis**

In the case of a cumulative doctoral thesis, the relevant publications must be embedded in an introduction to the research question and a summary of the results obtained, making it sufficiently clear how the findings in the thesis are relevant in the context of the field of research in question and how they are to be classified within it. The following are to be regarded as criteria for any publication-based doctoral thesis:

1. In principle, a cumulative doctoral thesis pursues the same goal as a monograph, specifically: demonstrating the ability to independently investigate scientific questions. For this reason, a cumulative doctoral thesis consists of a series of thematically related scientific publications that represent the independent, original work of the doctoral researcher. An introductory section must also be composed that describes the problem, the research objectives of the work, the scientific relevance of the topic, the current state of knowledge and the methodological approaches. Following on the publications, a summary of the most important findings must be created along with an explanation of the conclusions.
2. A cumulative doctoral thesis must be based on at least three publications. Two publications must already be accepted for publication; however, one of these may be accepted pending minor revision. The doctoral researcher must be listed as first author on one of the two aforementioned publications. The third publication may be an article contributed to a book or collected volume, a publication in a journal or a conference article (full paper). The third publication must at least be accepted for evaluation. The publication of the master's thesis or diploma thesis cannot be used as one of the three aforementioned publications.



3. Two of the three publications must be published in ISI journals (International Scientific Indexing) or in other publication platforms considered equivalent by the respective doctoral school. The doctoral school may explicitly rule out specific journals. These rules must be published as a guideline by the respective doctoral school. In the event of changes to this guideline, the students must be given the option of switching to the most recent version.
4. In the case of co-authorship, the doctoral researcher must contribute the predominant amount (at least 60%) of at least one of the publications and at least a significant amount (at least 20%) of the others. The amounts contributed by the doctoral researcher to the respective publications must be indicated by the candidate themselves and confirmed by the co-authors. The percentage figures must be disclosed to the reviewers.
5. Methods, measurement arrangements, evaluations, solution methods, etc. that are not included or listed in the publications must be described in sufficient detail in the descriptive part of a publication-based doctoral thesis, e.g. as appendices.

### **(3) Doctoral thesis topic**

1. The topic of the doctoral thesis must fall within the subject focus areas of the doctoral schools of the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences and must be announced in the course of the admission process.
2. A subsequent change to the doctoral thesis topic is possible up until the point when the doctoral thesis is submitted. The Dean of Studies shall decide whether the subsequent change of the doctoral thesis topic goes beyond a minor change of topic. In this case, the planned change to the doctoral thesis topic must be announced to the Selection Committee in writing along with the reasons for the change, and the change to the doctoral thesis topic is permitted only with the approval of the Selection Committee.

### **(4) Supervision**

1. Only persons who have fulfilled the prerequisites according to Section 39 of the statutory part of the study regulations (Satzungsteil Studienrechtliche Bestimmungen) of the University of Graz may serve as a supervisor.
2. A first supervisor and a second supervisor must be named. The doctoral researcher has the right to propose these persons.
3. In particular, the supervisors are responsible for guiding the doctoral researcher towards independent academic activity that will generate new findings. The doctoral schools each create their own quality standards for the supervision.
4. The Dean of Studies can also assign a mentor based on a suggestion by the student. The mentor supports the doctoral researcher and the supervisor in terms of ensuring sufficient education and effective supervision and monitors the progress of the doctoral thesis project. A mentor must have obtained a doctorate.
5. The first supervisor must be a member of the University of Graz staff. The remaining supervisors may come from other universities or from institutes deemed equivalent to a university.
6. The first supervisor must be selected from the subject area of the doctoral thesis and announced in the course of the admission process. All other supervisors may belong to different subject areas.

## **(5) Assessment**

1. The completed doctoral thesis must be submitted to the Dean of Studies. They must appoint – at the suggestion of the doctoral researcher – two reviewers who satisfy the requirements according to Section 39 of the statutory part of the study regulations (Satzungsteil Studienrechtliche Bestimmungen). The first supervisors are fundamentally not permitted as reviewers. An exception can be made at the suggestion of the doctoral school and with the approval of the Dean of Studies.
2. One reviewer should – where possible – also come from another university or an institution deemed equivalent to a university. Not all reviewers of the doctoral thesis may be active at the same institute. The subject focus of the reviewers should be in line with the interdisciplinarity of the research question. As well as their specialist expertise, particular attention must also be paid to their impartiality when selecting reviewers.
3. All reviewers must each independently author an assessment covering the entire doctoral thesis. The acceptance of one or more publications in peer-reviewed journals shall not prejudice the decision of the reviewers.

## **Section 6: Defence**

- (1) The doctoral programme is concluded with the defence. The defence is an oral committee examination that lasts up to 90 minutes in total.
- (2) The student is entitled to request a defence from the Dean of Studies if the following prerequisites are met:
  - 1.) The curricular portion of the doctoral programme has been successfully completed.
  - 2.) The doctoral thesis has received a positive assessment.
- (3) The defence is a public presentation and defence of the doctoral thesis, taking account of the reviewers' comments, as part of a general discussion. 30 of which are earmarked for the presentation of the doctoral thesis.
- (4) The examination committee must be assembled by the Dean of Studies at the suggestion of the doctoral researcher.

The examination committee for the defence consists of three persons. One reviewer as well as the first supervisor are always part of the committee. Other reviewers as well as the second supervisor do not need to be members of the examination committee. All examiners on the examination committee must hold an authorisation to teach in the subject area of the doctoral thesis or in a related and relevant subject.

## **Section 7: Overall grade**

- (1) An overall grade must be awarded for the doctoral programme. This is determined based on:
  1. the grade obtained from the arithmetic mean of the assessments of the modules in the curricular portion as per Section 3,
  2. the grade obtained from the arithmetic mean of the assessments of the doctoral thesis, and
  3. the grade obtained on the defence.
- (2) The overall grade must be "passed" if each of the three individual grades is positive; otherwise, it must be "failed". It must be "passed with distinction" if the doctoral thesis was graded as "very good" (1), at least two of the grades are "very good" (1) and the third grade is no lower than "good" (2).

## **Section 8: University degree**

Graduates from the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences are awarded the university degree of “Doctor of Natural Sciences”, abbreviated to “Dr. rer. nat.”.

## **Section 9: Entry into force of the curriculum and transitional provisions**

This curriculum enters into force on 1 October 2023. (Curriculum 2023)

Students of the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences who are following the “2016” curriculum when this curriculum enters into force on 1 October 2023 are entitled to complete their studies in accordance with the provisions of the 2016 curriculum, provided they do so within eight semesters. If they have not completed the study programme by 30 September 2027, they must be switched to the curriculum for the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences in the version valid at the time. Students following the previous curriculum are entitled to switch to the current one at any time during the admission period.

The Chair of the Senate:  
Niemann

## **Appendix I: Supervision agreement**



**Supervision agreement for a doctoral thesis at the University of  
Graz within the framework of a doctoral programme**

**[Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of  
Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences]**

This supervision agreement must be filled out for the admission application and signed by the applicant as well as the supervisors and enclosed with the application documents. It is concluded pending admission to the doctoral programme and enters into force as of the time of admission.

First supervisor	
Second supervisor	
Mentor (optional)	
Applicant	
Registration number*	
E-mail address and tel. no. of the applicant	
Doctoral school	
Planned completion of the doctoral thesis [month/year]	

\* If available, otherwise provide the applicant's date of birth

(Working) title/topic of the doctoral thesis:
---

**With this supervision agreement, the supervisors undertake the following:**

- to supervise the doctoral thesis project upon admission to the doctoral programme.
- to work together with the doctoral researcher in creating a time plan for the individual phases of the work up until conclusion of the doctoral thesis.
- to be available to the doctoral researcher for at least two supervisory meetings per semester and to confirm such meetings as having taken place with their signature (a list is enclosed).
- to confirm the documentation of the supervisory meetings compiled by the doctoral researcher or to clarify the content of such documentation with the doctoral researcher as necessary.
- to refer to compliance with the criteria of good scientific practice within the subject matter context.
- to regularly provide constructive feedback on the condition of the doctoral thesis work.
- to support the doctoral researcher in modification of the original research concept if it is determined over the course of the work that the originally planned form of the project is not feasible.
- to provide the doctoral researcher with corresponding information on calls for papers and academic events as well as to facilitate contacts with academic colleagues in the subject-relevant disciplines.
- to support the doctoral researcher in public presentation of the doctoral thesis or individual research findings.
- to give the doctoral researcher an opportunity before submission of the doctoral thesis to discuss the doctoral thesis with regard to possible improvements and necessary adaptations.
- to support doctoral researchers in publication of the doctoral thesis or parts of the doctoral thesis in the form of articles/papers.
- to inform the doctoral researcher about university and non-university career options and directly assist those doctoral researchers who wish to continue working in research.

**With this supervision agreement, the supervised doctoral researcher undertakes the following:**

- to work together with the supervisors in creating a time plan for the individual phases of the work up until conclusion of the doctoral thesis.
- to strive for completion of the doctoral thesis by the date specified on page 1.
- to participate in at least two supervisory meetings per semester and to confirm the holding of such supervisory meetings with their signature.
- to document the content of and agreements resulting from the supervisory meetings and to have this confirmed or, if necessary, clarified by the supervisor.
- to keep the supervisors informed of the progress of the doctoral thesis within the framework of the supervisory meetings, in particular with regard to delays or interruptions.
- to inform the supervisors of the interruption of the doctoral thesis project or the abandonment of the topic.
- to comply with the criteria of good scientific practice within the subject matter context.
- to publicly present the doctoral thesis or individual research results, if possible.



## Dissolution of the supervision agreement

Up until submission of the doctoral thesis, it is possible to dissolve the supervision agreement by mutual agreement at any time. In the event of serious violations of the obligations stipulated in the supervision agreement, the head of the respective doctoral school or the responsible Dean of Studies may be contacted.

.....

*Date, signature of first supervisor*

.....

*Date, signature of applicant*

.....

*Date, signature of second supervisor*



**Dates of the supervisory discussions on the doctoral thesis for the doctoral programme [Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences] at the University of Graz**

First supervisor:	
Second supervisor:	
Doctoral researcher:	

Date	Signature of supervisor	Signature of doctoral researcher