

Curriculum für das Doktoratsstudium der Naturwissenschaften sowie für das PhD-Studium der Naturwissenschaften aus dem Bereich der Lebenswissenschaften

English translation: Curriculum of the Doctoral Programme in the Natural Sciences and of the PhD Programme in the Natural Sciences in the field of Life Sciences

Status as of June 2018

University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 11 May 2009, 22nd edition, number 170

1st (minor) amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 27 June 2012, 37th edition, number 277

Typing error corrections: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 8 October 2012, 1st edition, number 5

2nd (minor) amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 29 March 2017, 21nd edition, number 88

3rd amendment University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 25 June 2018, 34th edition, number 169

§ 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The doctoral programme and the PhD programme in Life Sciences at the University of Vienna serves to prepare doctoral candidates for scientific work in their field of doctoral research. It provides an academic education of international standard.

(2) Graduates of the doctoral programme and the PhD programme in Life Sciences at the University of Vienna are able to conduct independent research of international standard in their respective field of expertise.

§ 2 Scope of application and entry requirements

(1) This Curriculum applies to students who would like to pursue a doctoral programme or PhD programme in Life Sciences and intend to write a doctoral thesis in a field of doctoral research that corresponds to one of the diploma or master's programmes in this field or to subject didactics of a relevant teacher education programme.

(2) Doctoral candidates can write a doctoral thesis in the following fields:

- Biology
- Nutritional sciences
- Molecular biology
- Pharmacy

(3) In addition to the general prerequisites specified in the 2002 Universities Act, requirements for admission to the doctoral programme and the PhD programme in Life Sciences are

- a. the completion of an eligible diploma or master's programme,
- b. the completion of an eligible diploma or master's programme at a university of applied sciences based on section 6, para. 4 of the University of Applied Sciences Studies Act, or
- c. the completion of an equivalent degree programme at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution.

(4) If the qualification is basically equivalent and only certain supplementary qualifications are required to recognise equivalence, the Rectorate is entitled to recognise equivalence subject to examinations the candidate has to pass during the respective doctoral programme.

§ 3 Qualitative entry requirements

(1) Applicants for the doctoral programme and the PhD programme in Life Sciences have to undergo a special admission procedure that assesses whether the applicant fulfils all the qualitative admission requirements.

(2) The assessment of the applicants' qualifications is based on the following criteria:

- a) Adequate subject-specific and methodological expertise with regard to the intended doctoral programme and the intended field of doctoral research
- b) Motivation and academic potential to undertake the intended academic work, and compatibility of the intended doctoral project with a current research area at the University

(3) For the assessment of these criteria, applicants must provide the following application documents:

1. Curriculum vitae including a list of publications and evidence of previous professional experience, e.g. research activities, provided that this is a special qualification required for the intended doctoral project.
2. Letter of motivation describing the applicant's personal eligibility for a doctoral programme at the University of Vienna.
3. Description of the intended doctoral project and the planned link to research at the University of Vienna in the intended field of doctoral research.
4. Written indication by a member of the Faculty/Centre who is allowed to supervise a doctoral thesis which states their willingness to supervise the doctoral project in question according to stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies. This indication does not replace the supervisor's official confirmation of supervision or the approval of the topic by the competent body responsible for study matters. If the applicant can demonstrate a compelling reason, the applicant does not have to submit such an indication.

(4) The competent body responsible for study matters may issue guidelines for the presentation of the documents described in para. 3. These guidelines have to be published in due time on its website.

(5) If the written documents are insufficient for reaching a positive or negative decision on the fulfilment of the qualitative admission requirements, the competent body responsible for study matters may interview the applicant. The use of video conferencing systems and similar communication media is permissible, subject to the verification of the applicant's identity without any doubt. The procedure and results of the interview have to be recorded in summary minutes.

§ 4 Duration and scope

The degree programme duration is 3 years.

§ 5 Structure of the doctoral programme

(1) During the doctoral programme, doctoral candidates with biology or molecular biology as their field of doctoral research are required to complete courses (with continuous and non-continuous assessment) as well as academic activities in relation to their doctoral project (e.g.

attending workshops, holding presentations at international conferences, handling subject-related aspects in the organisation of academic events, academic practical courses, teaching, etc.) comprising 30 ECTS credits. Doctoral candidates with nutritional sciences and pharmacy as their field of doctoral research have to complete achievements comprising 20 ECTS credits.

(2) Moreover, to complete the degree programme, candidates are required to submit the application for approval of the intended doctoral project to the competent body responsible for study matters, give the public presentation of the intended doctoral project at the Faculty, obtain the approval of the doctoral thesis agreement and adherence with its terms and submit the related progress reports, write and complete the doctoral thesis and receive a positive grade, and complete a public defence. The stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

(3) The exact specification of courses that have to be completed by the doctoral candidate as well as all details about the writing and supervision of the doctoral thesis are recorded in the doctoral thesis agreement.

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

(1) The doctoral candidate has to submit an application for approval of the intended doctoral project within the first year of doctoral studies to the competent body responsible for study matters in the form of a written research proposal and has to present the intended doctoral project in a public presentation at the Faculty. For the research proposal, the competent body responsible for study matters can issue formal specifications the doctoral candidates have to meet.

(2) For the submission and approval of the intended doctoral project and the public presentation at the Faculty, the stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

§ 7 Doctoral thesis agreement

For the doctoral thesis agreement, the stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

§ 8 Doctoral thesis

(1) Doctoral candidates have to write a doctoral thesis, which serves to demonstrate the candidate's ability to master scientific topics independently.

(2) The completed doctoral thesis has to be submitted to the Studienpräses for assessment. According to the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies, the Studienpräses will forward the thesis to at least two suitable assessors qualified in the respective subject. The appointment of a supervisor as an assessor is admissible in justified cases. In this case, an external person qualified in the respective subject has to additionally assess the thesis. In any case, every supervisor of a doctoral thesis is entitled to present a statement on the thesis of which the assessor has to be notified. The assessment has to be made within a maximum period of four months.

(3) If two assessors have been consulted and one of them decides to fail the doctoral thesis, the competent body responsible for study matters has to consult another assessor.

(4) If two or three assessors have been consulted and two of them decide to fail the doctoral thesis, the final result is fail.

§ 9 Public defence

Provided that all achievements specified in section 5, para. 1 have been completed and the doctoral thesis has been positively assessed, the doctoral candidate has to pass a final oral examination (public defence) in front of an examination committee. This single examination consists of the presentation and defence of the scientific work by the doctoral candidate and an examination by an examination committee. This examination includes the doctoral thesis topic and related subject areas.

§ 10 Grading

For grading, the stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

§ 11 Course classification

(1) All courses with non-continuous assessment have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Lecture (Vorlesung, VO), non-continuous assessment (npi): Lectures aim to present topics, subjects and methods of the degree programmes in Biology, Nutritional Sciences, Molecular Biology and Pharmacy, taking into account different academic doctrines. The lecture is completed with an oral or written examination.

The lecturers present the contents in the form of presentations. At the end of the semester, the doctoral candidates' performance is assessed in a written or oral examination.

(2) All courses with continuous assessment (pi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses: Seminars (Seminar, SE), introductory seminars (Proseminar, PS), project practical courses (Projektpraktikum, PP), excursions (Exkursion, EX), practical courses (Praktikum, PR), exercises (Übung, UE): These courses serve the academic discussion and the acquisition of techniques and methods used to address academic issues and to solve specific questions in the field. Course participants are assessed on the basis of multiple practical, written or oral assignments during and at the end of the course.

§ 12 Courses with a limited number of participants and registration procedures

Modalities concerning the registration for courses and examinations as well as the allotment of spots in the courses are governed by the stipulations of the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

§ 13 Examination regulations

(1) Proof of performance in courses

The lecturer of a course is responsible for making the necessary announcements according to the stipulations of the Statutes.

(2) Content of examinations

The examination content relevant to preparing and holding examinations must be in line with the required number of ECTS credits.

(3) Examination procedure

The examination procedure is subject to the provisions in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(4) No double recognition and no dual use

Courses taken and examinations passed in the master's or diploma programme, which constitute an entry requirement for the doctoral programme, cannot be recognised again in the doctoral programme.

§ 14 Academic degree

(1) Graduates of the doctoral programme, admitted to the programme in accordance with section 2, are awarded either the academic degree “Doktor/Doktorin der Naturwissenschaften”, abbreviated as “Dr.rer.nat.”, or “Doctor of Philosophy”, abbreviated as “PhD”, depending on their field of doctoral research.

(2) Graduates in the fields of doctoral research of nutritional sciences and pharmacy are awarded the academic degree “Dr.rer.nat.”; graduates in the fields of doctoral research of biology and molecular biology are awarded the academic degree “PhD”.

§ 15 Entry into force

(1) This Curriculum enters into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2009.

(2) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 27 June 2012, number 277, edition 37 enter into force on 1 October 2012.

(3) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 29 March 2017, number 88, edition 21 enter into force on 1 October 2012.

(4) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of XY, number XY, edition XY, enter into force on 1 October 2018 and apply to admissions as of the winter semester of 2018/19. Notwithstanding section 5, para. 1, the number of ECTS credits to be obtained according to the doctoral thesis agreement remains valid after this amendment to the Curriculum entered into force and still applies to doctoral candidates who started the doctoral programme and have already concluded a doctoral thesis agreement prior to this amendment to the Curriculum.

§ 16 Transitional provisions

(1) This Curriculum applies to all students who commence their degree programme as of the winter semester of 2009/10.

(2) If, at a later stage of the degree programme, courses are no longer offered which were compulsory under the original curricula, the competent body responsible for study matters decides ex officio (equivalence regulation) or at the request of the doctoral candidate which courses and examinations have to be completed instead.

(3) Doctoral candidates enrolled in the doctoral programme in Natural Sciences 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.

(4) Doctoral candidates who already pursued a doctoral programme in the field of sport science prior to the date stated in section 15, para. 3 are entitled to complete their degree programme by 30 November 2020.

(5) The competent body responsible for study matters will be entitled to determine in general or on a case-by-case basis which of the courses taken and examinations passed will be recognised for this Curriculum.