

Curriculum for Doctorate Studies in the Natural Sciences (Dr. rer. nat.), Social Sciences and Economics (Dr. rer. soc. oec), and Technical Sciences (Dr. techn.) at Vienna University of Technology.

According to Section 54 UG 2002 and within the framework of the governing version of the University Act (UG 2002) as well as in accordance with the subsection of the University Matriculation Law statutory provisions (*Studienrechtliche Bestimmungen der Satzung*) of the Vienna University of Technology Charter, the following curriculum is established:

Section 1 (§1) Educational Goals and Qualification Requirements

The goal of the doctoral program at Vienna University of Technology is to give the students the ability to contribute to the advancement of science and technology through independent creative research within {natural sciences// social sciences and economics//technical sciences}. In the course of the doctoral studies, doctoral students will acquire the ability to solve complex problems in basic and applied research at a high international level according to recognised academic standards.

Moreover, the doctoral program promotes researchers at an early stage of their career. The graduates of the doctoral programme will be able to undertake innovative research both individually and in teams and to take on coordinating and leading functions.

Section 2 (§2) Admission

Admission requirements for the doctoral program of the Vienna University of Technology is the completion of a relevant Diplom, master's degree, or educational degree at the Vienna University of Technology, or the completion of such degree, equivalent in terms of content and duration to that of the Vienna University of Technology, at an accredited domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution. In accord with Section 5 Paragraph 3 FHStG (§5, Abs. 3, *Fachhochschulstudienengesetz*) and upon the completion of a relevant Diplom or master's degree at a University of Applied Sciences (*Fachhochschule*), admission to the doctoral program can be granted.

In the event of an admission to the doctoral program on the basis of the completion of a relevant degree at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution, or on the basis of a relevant Diplom or master's degree from an University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule), the Vice Rector for Academics, either by consultation or by suggestion of the responsible Dean of Studies, may require the completion of coursework to satisfy the requirements for entrance into the desired doctoral program. The selection of these courses must occur before the beginning of the doctoral studies and is a prerequisite to the admission decision.

Section 3 (§3) Duration and Scope of the Program

- (1) The doctoral program involves a total requirement of 180 ECTS credits and the standard duration of three (3) years.

- (2) The doctoral program involves the completion of coursework towards deepening the scientific knowledge of the doctoral student, the writing of a doctoral thesis, and the defence of the doctoral thesis.
- (3) Towards the deepening of the scientific knowledge of the doctoral student, 18 ECTS credits of coursework must be completed.
- (4) The doctoral thesis and the defence thereof correspond to the remaining 162 ECTS credits.

Regarding point (1), the doctoral program is not required to extend to three (3) years as a mandatory duration. With a yearly workload of 60 ECTS credits, the length of the doctoral program would correspond to three (3) years (3 x 60 = 180 ECTS credits; see Section 4, Paragraph 1, Line 1 of the University Matriculation Law statutory provisions (§4, Abs. 1, Z. 1, Studienrechtliche Bestimmungen der Satzung) of the Vienna University of Technology Charter).

Section 4 (§4) Coursework for Scientific Depth

- (1) The coursework selected as per Section 3 (§3) must be thematically related to the doctoral thesis.
- (2) The selection of coursework should occur at the beginning of the doctoral studies in consultation with the doctoral student's research supervisor and requires the approval of the person or persons responsible for the programme (in general the Dean of Studies). Changes to the course selection can be approved before submission to the oral examination, through application by the doctoral student in consultation with his or her research supervisor and the person or persons responsible for the program (Dean of Studies).

Only after the selection and approval of coursework as per Section 3 (§3) can examinations be recognised by the responsible Dean of Studies.

Achievements in the area of publications, which are not a part of the doctoral thesis or of scientific presentations and scientific conferences, can only be evaluated within the framework of a suitable academic coursework environment. The recognition of scientific achievements at non-university research institutions as per Section 78, Subsection 3 (§78(3)) UG 2002 shall remain unaffected.

Section 5 (§5) Doctoral Thesis

- (1) The topic of the doctoral thesis must belong to a discipline represented at Vienna University of Technology.
- (2) The choice of the topic of the doctoral thesis, as well as of the research supervisor, in accordance with Section 23, Paragraph 3 of the University Matriculation Law statutory provisions (§23, Abs. 6, Studienrechtliche Bestimmungen der Satzung) of the Vienna University of Technology Charter, must be approved by the person or persons responsible for the programme (Dean of Studies). This approval should be obtained before the development of a topic for the doctoral thesis.

- (3) A doctoral thesis is an independent scientific study
- (4) The doctoral thesis is to be delivered, as a final, written report, to the responsible academic administration office for evaluation.
- (5) If possible, one of the two referees of the doctoral thesis should be a professor at the Vienna University of Technology, and the other should be a member of a different faculty or university, or of an external research institution. In the event of an interdisciplinary doctoral thesis topic, referees from each of the involved disciplines should be chosen.

Regarding (2), both the research topic and the research supervisor can be changed during the doctoral studies with the approval of the Dean of Studies in consultation with the doctoral student and the research supervisor. However, the candidate must at all times have a person appointed as a supervisor.

Regarding (4), in accordance with Section 23, Paragraph 7 of the University Matriculation Law statutory provisions (§23, Abs. 7, Studienrechtliche Bestimmungen der Satzung), the complete doctoral thesis must be submitted to the responsible Dean of Studies.

Regarding (5), the responsible Dean of Studies shall deliver the doctoral thesis to two (2) university teachers with suitable qualifications, as per Section 23, Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the University Matriculation Law statutory provisions (§23, Abs. 4 und 5, Studienrechtliche Bestimmungen der Satzung). These referees are required to evaluate the doctoral thesis within four (4) months.

Section 6 (§6) Oral Defence – *Rigorosum*

- (1) Requirements for the admission to the oral defence are:
 - a. the successful completion of all prerequisite coursework for the admission to the doctoral program;
 - b. the successful completion of the coursework for scientific depth; and
 - c. the positive evaluation of the doctoral thesis by the referees.
- (2) The oral defence of the doctoral thesis is a public examination before a commission. The defence of the doctoral thesis includes a scientific presentation of the contents and research results of the doctoral thesis by the candidate, as well as a discussion and interrogation of contents and research results of the doctoral thesis and thematically related scientific topics.
- (3) The examining committee of the oral defence consists of three (3) to five (5) members, who are appointed according to Section 13, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the University Matriculation Law statutory provisions (§13, Abs. 1 und 2 Studienrechtliche Bestimmungen der Satzung) of the Vienna University of Technology Charter. The research supervisor of the doctoral thesis is required to be a member of the examining committee. If possible, both referees of the doctoral thesis should be members of the examining committee. If possible, at least one (1) member of the examining committee should come from a different university as the research supervisor, preferably from abroad.

Section 7 (§7) Examination Regulations

- (1) The grade of the written doctoral thesis shall be determined by both referees, in accordance with Section 23, Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the University Matriculation Law statutory provisions (§9, Abs. 8 und 9, *Studienrechtliche Bestimmungen der Satzung*) of the Vienna University of Technology Charter.
- (2) The grade of the oral defence of the doctoral thesis shall be determined by the examining committee.
- (3) The overall grade, as per Section 73, Paragraph 3 (§73, Abs. 3) UG 2002, results from the grade of the doctoral thesis and that of the oral defence.

Section 8 (§8) Academic Degree Granted

Upon completion of all the requirements, the candidate will be granted the academic degree {"Doktor der Naturwissenschaften," abbreviated "Dr. rer. nat."/ "Doktor der Sozial- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften," abbreviated "Dr. rer. soc. oec."/ "Doktor der Technischen Wissenschaften," abbreviated "Dr. techn."}.

(Remark: Only the German version of the Curriculum is legally binding; the English version is for information purposes only)