

Curriculum for the doctoral (PhD) programme in Natural Sciences/Social and Economic Sciences/Engineering Sciences at TU Wien

The following curriculum shall apply at TU Wien according to the Universities Act 2002 Federal Law Gazette I No. 120/2002 (UG) and the provisions of the Chapter Study Law of the TU Wien Statute for the doctoral (PhD) programme in Natural Sciences/Social and Economic Sciences/Engineering Sciences:

§1 Qualification profile

The core element of the doctoral (PhD) programmes at TU Wien is the creation of knowledge through independent research. The doctoral students are young researchers and an essential pillar of the research performance of the University. During their studies, they obtain a systematic knowledge of an area of expertise in combination with the skills and methods connected therewith as well as independent scientific problem-solving skills. The degree programme leads to a substantial research performance which fulfils high international standards.¹ The graduates are able to develop and carry out large research projects with scientific integrity. The graduates of the doctoral (PhD) programme at TU Wien are able to critically analyse, evaluate and summarise new and complex ideas in the areas of basic research and applied research and are able to promote the technical, social and cultural progress of a knowledge-based society. The development of interdisciplinary skills qualifies the graduates for future careers in coordinating and leading positions in the academic area as well as in the economic, industrial and administrative sectors.

¹ The degree programme therewith corresponds to level 8 of the European Qualification Framework for lifelong learning.

The stated goals of the degree programme are primarily achieved through autonomous and independent research work the result of which is the doctoral thesis. It demonstrates the ability to perform independent scientific research, the mastering of the scientific methods of the subject and the ability to solve scientific problems. At the same time, subject-specific knowledge is deepened and interdisciplinary skills are taught.

§2 Admission

The requirement for admission to the doctoral (PhD) programme at TU Wien is the completion of a relevant diploma, master's or teacher training programme offered at TU Wien or of a relevant degree programme of a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution whose contents and scope are equivalent to a diploma or master's programme at TU Wien. According to § 5 para 3 FHStG, the admission to the doctoral (PhD) programme can also be based on the completion of a relevant master's programme at a university of applied sciences.

If a student is admitted to the doctoral (PhD) programme based on the completion of a relevant degree programme at a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution or the completion of a relevant diploma or master's programme at a university of applied sciences, the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, possibly after consultation of or on a proposal from the governing body responsible for study matters may prescribe the completion of courses in order to establish the prerequisites for the realisation of the desired doctoral (PhD) programme. These courses are selected before the beginning of the doctoral (PhD) programme. The selection is part of the notice of admission. In order to take account of the aspect of the award of scholarships for outstanding students, an admission through the Rectorate according to UG 2002 §64 para. 4a is possible.

§3 Duration and scope of the degree programme

- (1) The doctoral (PhD) programme is designed for a standard period of study of three years.
- (2) The doctoral (PhD) programme comprises the completion of the courses based on the curricular part and the writing and defence of a doctoral thesis.

§4 Curricular part

(1) Within the context of the curricular part, courses amounting to 18 ECTS points shall be completed. It is also possible to obtain interdisciplinary qualifications. Concerning the participation in certain structured programmes (doctoral college), the Rectorate may issue deviating rules.

(2) The selection must be made at the beginning of the doctoral (PhD) programme in agreement with the supervisor of the doctoral thesis and must be authorised by the governing body responsible for study matters. A change of the selection upon request of the student in agreement with the supervisor can be authorised by the governing body responsible for study matters before the thesis is submitted for the doctoral examination.

(3) The curricular part serves the development of knowledge of the students' own area of expertise, also beyond the specific topic of the doctoral thesis. Furthermore, measures for the attainment of interdisciplinary qualifications offer the students the possibility to develop important skills for their career. Apart from participating in university courses, these skills can, for example, also be obtained by actively participating in Summer Schools, conferences or international workshops. The assessment must be related to a corresponding course.

Ad (3): Here, the creation of corresponding courses specially for doctoral students shall be aspired to.

§5 Doctoral thesis

(1) The topic of the doctoral thesis must be assignable to a subject offered at TU Wien.

(2) At the beginning of the thesis, the topic and the supervisor of the doctoral thesis must be communicated to the governing body responsible for study matters.

(3) A doctoral thesis is an independently written scientific/academic thesis.

(4) The doctoral thesis is the final written work and shall be submitted for assessment to the governing body responsible for study matters.

(5) One of the two assessors shall be a university teacher at TU Wien, the second should be part of another faculty, another university or an external research institute. If this is not possible, the body responsible for study matters can make a deviating decision. If the topic of the doctoral thesis is interdisciplinary, the assessors should represent the disciplines involved.

Ad (2): Both the topic (working title) and the supervisor can still be changed by the body responsible for study matters in agreement with the student and the supervisor during the writing of the doctoral thesis.

However, it must be guaranteed that there is a teacher responsible for the supervision of the doctoral thesis at any given time.

Ad (5): According to § 23 para. 4 and 5 of the provisions of the Chapter Study Law of the Statute, the governing body responsible for study matters shall submit the doctoral thesis to two qualified university teachers.

These teachers shall assess the doctoral thesis within a period of 4 months maximum.

§6 Doctoral examination

(1) The requirements for the admission to the doctoral examination are:

- a) the positive completion of the examinations of all courses required for the admission to the doctoral (PhD) programme;
- b) the completion of the curricular part
- c) the positive assessment of the doctoral thesis.

(2) The doctoral examination (defence of the doctoral thesis) is a public general examination before a committee. The defence of the doctoral thesis comprises a scientific presentation by the candidate on the contents and results of the doctoral thesis as well as a discussion and questioning on the contents and results of the doctoral thesis and the thematically related scientific environment.

(3) The examining committee of the doctoral examination consists of three to five members who are chosen according to §13, para. 2 and 3 of the provisions of the Chapter Study Law of the TU Wien Statute. The supervisor of the doctoral thesis shall generally be appointed as a member of the examining committee. If possible, the assessors shall be members of the examining committee. If possible, at least one member of the examining committee should be from another faculty or university (preferably from abroad) than the faculty or university of the supervisor.

§7 Examination regulations

(1) The grade of the doctoral thesis shall be determined by the two assessors according to §23 para. 8 and 9 of the provisions of the Chapter Study Law of the TU Wien Statute.

(2) The grade of the doctoral examination (the defence of the doctoral thesis) shall be determined by the examining committee of the doctoral examination.

(3) The overall grade according to §73 para. 3 UG 2002 results from the grade of the doctoral thesis and the grade of the doctoral examination (the defence of the doctoral thesis).

§8 Awarded academic degree

According to the degree programme they are enrolled in, the graduate is awarded the academic degree "Doctor of Natural Sciences", abbreviated "Dr.rer.nat."/"Doctor of Social and Economic Sciences", abbreviated "Dr.rer.soc.oec."/"Doctor of Engineering Sciences", abbreviated "Dr.techn". According to UG 2002 §88 para. 1, a gender-specific addition can be added to the university degree.

This translation of the curriculum is for your information only. The legally binding document is the German version of the curriculum in the University Gazette of TU Wien.