

# Doctoral degree programme

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## Curriculum

Duration: 6 Semesters

### **Philosophy**

Programme Number: 792

### **Technical Sciences**

Programme Number: 786

### **Natural Sciences**

Programme Number: 791

*This is the English translation of the original German version. Only the latter is legally binding.*

#### **Version: Winter Semester 2020/21**

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## Preamble

The goal of this doctoral degree programme at the University of Applied Arts Vienna is to contribute to the advancement of sciences through guided but ultimately independent research in the fields of Philosophy, Technical Sciences, and Natural Sciences.

Students of the doctoral degree programme acquire the ability to solve complex scientific problems in basic and applied research on a high international level in accordance with recognized scientific standards. Furthermore, the doctoral degree programme serves to promote and support young scientific talents.

This curriculum applies to the following doctoral studies at the University: the doctoral programme of Philosophy, the doctoral programme of Technical Sciences, as well as the doctoral programme of Natural Sciences.

## §1. Qualification profile

Graduates of the scientific doctoral degree programme are able to conduct innovative research, both independently or as part of a team, and to assume coordinating and leadership roles.

Graduates of the scientific doctoral degree programme are to be able to research autonomously, develop projects and criticise in a well-founded manner the methods and developmental logics of the sciences. They should not only produce ideas for others but should also use their ability of reflection to veer off pre-determined tracks. They should be able to navigate with confidence in the field of their dissertation.

Graduates will mainly find occupation in discipline-specific scientific areas of work and may choose from a spectrum of scientific, art-critical, curatorial, artistic, or journalistic careers.

## §2. Admission to the programme

Pursuant to § 63 of the University Act 2002 (UG), admission to the doctoral degree programme is granted by the rectorate. In addition to a completed diploma or master degree programme or, alternatively, the completion of a course of studies of equal value at a recognized domestic or foreign post-secondary education institution – all of which must refer to an appropriate field of studies – the professional career to date and any non-formal and informal qualifications acquired beyond the completed studies may be taken into account in the application decision.

## §3. Content and structure

### (1) Duration of studies

The duration of the doctoral degree programme amounts to six semesters. If relevant work toward the dissertation has already been done prior to the start of the doctoral degree programme, this factor is to be documented in the dissertation agreement. In such circumstances an application may be submitted to the Dean of Studies to reduce the duration of studies to four semesters.

### (2) Academic degree

After accomplishing all of the required academic achievements, the graduates of the doctoral programme of Philosophy will be awarded the academic degree „Doktorin / Doktor der Philosophie (Dr.phil.)“, the graduates of the doctoral programme of Technical Sciences will be awarded the academic degree „Doktorin / Doktor der technischen Wissenschaften (Dr.techn.)“ and the graduates of the doctoral programme of Natural Sciences will be awarded the academic degree „Doktorin / Doktor der Naturwissenschaften (Dr.rer.nat.)“.

### (3) Academic achievements

In addition to producing a scientific dissertation, the students must complete teaching courses to the extent of max. 24 ECTS. Details of the required courses will be defined in the framework of the dissertation agreement.

#### **(4) Presentations**

During the course of studies two presentations will be due:

Prior to the dissertation agreement, the intended dissertation is to be presented during the course of the first two semesters in form of an exposé and brief presentation. (cf. §5)

In addition, a public interim presentation of the preliminary research results is recommended, in the presence of the first doctoral supervisor and if possible the second supervisor plus external respondents. This presentation may also take place within an inter-university symposium of postgraduate students. The objective of the interim presentation is to show the research progress. Doctoral supervisors and respondents are urged to critique the work constructively and potentially recommend measures of quality assurance.

#### **§4. Dissertation**

(1) The dissertation is a written scientific work that has been independently drafted by the student. It either deals with a topic on a theoretical level or it describes and interprets empirically/experimentally obtained knowledge.

(2) In the dissertation, the scientific knowledge gained in the work is to be explained and placed in relation to the current state of scientific research in the respective field. The dissertation must include evidence regarding knowledge of relevant literature on the subject and common academic working methods.

The conducted research and applied methods are to be documented, and the results are to be clearly structured and presented in a comprehensible way. The extent of the dissertation should be in line with the common standards of the respective field.

(3) Cumulative dissertations are only permissible if they have been expressly stipulated in the dissertation agreement or added to the agreement in writing at a later date. The mandatory directives regarding cumulative dissertations as stated in appendix 1 are to be observed in all cases.

#### **§5. Dissertation agreement and doctoral supervision**

(1) Pursuant to the statute of the Angewandte (cf. the study law section, § 11), supervision of a dissertation is the responsibility of persons holding the appropriate authorization to teach (*venia docendi*) and subject-related competence. The supervisor's task is to guide the doctoral candidate to an independent, methodologically sound scientific way of working that arrives at new findings.

(2) In case of a dissertation with interdisciplinary direction (cf. dissertation agreement), the appointment of two doctoral supervisors is mandatory. The second supervisor may be in-house or external and will usually also act as the second examiner (cf. § 6 para. 3). It is generally recommended to appoint a second supervisor in any case.

(3) Formal supervision of the dissertation begins after the dissertation agreement between student and supervisor has been concluded. The agreement is based on an exposé and a short presentation held before a scientific advisory board appointed by the authorized representative of the rectorate, who would act on advice from the supervisor (if already available). The supervisor requested by the student will also be part of the advisory board (cf. § 6 para. 1) and this board will pass a recommendation regarding the conclusion of the dissertation agreement.

The dissertation agreement is to be concluded by the end of the second semester of studies and must contain:

1. Working title of the intended dissertation.
2. Language in which the dissertation will be written.
3. Course examinations to be passed during the doctoral programme to the extent of max. 24 ECTS. Attending *privatissima* or, alternatively, seminars for doctoral candidates amounting to 8 ECTS are compulsory in any case.
4. Allocating the intended dissertation to its specialist field to determine a suitable doctoral supervision and
5. Documentation of any work done prior to the start of the doctoral studies if such work may later form part of the dissertation.

(4) In case of a student not providing evidence of achievements accomplished during the course of three semesters, the student's agreement with the supervisor may be severed the Vice- Rector for Research and

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Diversity after consultation with the supervisor. On severance of the student-supervisor agreement, the comments of the student concerned are to be taken into consideration.

## **§6. Examination regulations**

### **(1) Assessing the feasibility of the intended dissertation**

Based on the scientific quality of both exposé and the short presentation and taking into account the recommendation of the scientific advisory board, the supervisor will determine by the end of the second study semester whether the dissertation is feasible in its presented form. If this is the case, the supervisor and the student concerned will conclude a dissertation agreement (cf. § 5 para. 3). The agreement becomes effective once it is accepted by the authorized representative of the rectorate. Any amendment during the course of studies requires mutual consent.

### **(2) Course examinations**

Privatissima or, courses for doctoral candidates can only be completed after the dissertation agreement has been concluded. No more than one privatissimum or course for doctoral candidates may be completed prior to the conclusion of the dissertation agreement.

### **(3) Doctoral examination (Rigorosum)**

1. The Rigorosum encompasses the successful completion of all courses, the positive assessment of the dissertation and the oral defence of the dissertation (Defensio) in front of an examination board.

2. Prerequisite for admission to the Defensio is:

- The positive completion of the courses defined in the dissertation agreement
- The positive assessment<sup>1</sup> of the dissertation

3. Those university teachers who were appointed as supervisor/s and external evaluator will be members of the examination board assessing<sup>2</sup> the Defensio. In justified cases a substitute is possible. An additional person is to be appointed as chairperson.

## **§7. Entry into force and interim provisions**

(1) This curriculum is effective as of 1 October 2018.

(2) All students who started their study course prior to the winter semester 2018/19 are exempt from the regulations under § 3 para. 4, § 5 para. 3, as well as § 6 para. 1. For such students, all other regulations referring to the dissertation agreement are to be applied in accordance with the meaning of the previous version of the curriculum (e.g. a list of the courses to be completed instead of the relevant sub-item of the dissertation agreement).

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<sup>1</sup> regarding assessment of the dissertation see § 11 of the statute, study law section.

<sup>2</sup> regarding board examination assessments see § 8 of the statute, study law section.

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**Appendix 1:**

In principle, cumulative dissertations are permissible provided they were expressly stipulated in the dissertation agreement, or agreed to in writing at a later date, such as during the course of an interim presentation (see §3, para. 1-3). The following prerequisites apply to cumulative dissertations in any case:

(a) The cumulative dissertation must contain at least three published or accepted scientific publications in recognized scientific journals or books with scientific editing in the sense of a peer review or equivalent procedure. Other publications, which do not meet these criteria, may also be included depending on their scientific quality and suitability of content. However, the cumulative dissertation as a whole must be equivalent to the extent and scientific contribution of a monographic dissertation.

(b) All contributions may have been produced in conjunction with co-authors, whose declaration of consent regarding the use of the texts must be attached. Should two of the contributions have more than three co-authors, this will increase the minimum requirement to a total of four contributions to be accepted for publishing in the cumulative dissertation.

(c) A comprehensive discussion in respect of the central issues of the research work is an essential part of a cumulative dissertation. Usually, this discussion will cover at least 40 pages within the framework of the introduction, in which the topic of the dissertation will be outlined, argued and put into critical context to the current state of research in the chosen subject area. Further elements are a critical presentation of the selected research and theoretical approach and critique of methodology, as well as a summary of the enclosed publications stating how their content is connected and how they contribute to the current scientific knowledge in the relevant discipline.

(d) All publications and manuscripts that form part of the dissertation must be listed quoting the names of authors, title, editing status and stating the doctoral candidate's own contribution to the text in question. The main contribution in creating the publication must come from the doctoral candidate.

(e) Published papers require a complete bibliographical reference of the publication.

(f) In case of manuscripts that have been accepted for publishing, the date of the acceptance confirmation is to be stated.