

# Artistic Research PhD Programme

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## Curriculum

Duration: 6 Semesters

**Doctor of Philosophy in Art**

Programme Number: 794 950

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

Approved by the Senate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna  
on 25 June 2015.  
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## **§1. Preamble**

The Artistic Research Doctor of Philosophy - doctoral degree programme at the University of Applied Arts Vienna represents a postgraduate study programme in the field of art, in which independent artistic research is generated to contribute to the development and appreciation of the arts. The focus of the programme is on artistic work, which is regarded as the basis of knowledge production.

The Artistic Research Doctor of Philosophy - doctoral degree programme is governed by topics and practices of artistic research. Reflecting upon the specific methods and production processes on use of the own artistic project represents a significant part to be incorporated in the research work. As a matter of principle, research in the sense of comprehensive knowledge production is defined as open to any outcome.

## **§2. Qualification Profile**

The study programme will enable graduates to accomplish independent artistic research achievements at the level of international standards, as well as to take on coordinating and leading roles.

The doctoral studies offer artists the opportunity to generate fresh knowledge regarding specific issues in the arts, to contextualize their artistic research and to adequately communicate the insights gained. They possess the abilities required to successfully hold their ground in both national and international artistic environments.

## **§3. Admittance to the Doctoral Programme**

(1) In addition to evidence of a general university entrance qualification pursuant to § 64 para. 4 of the Universities Act<sup>1</sup>, prerequisite for admittance to this doctoral programme is to pass the admittance selection process based on the rectorate's regulation pursuant to § 71e para. 4 Universities Act<sup>2</sup>.

## **§4. Classification and Structure of the Doctoral Programme**

(1) In accordance with §54 para. 1 of the Universities Act, the doctoral programme is assigned to the group of "Art Studies".

(2) The duration of the Artistic Research Doctor of Philosophy-doctoral studies is scheduled for six semesters.

(3) The doctoral programme consists of course attendances and a dissertation in the form of an artistic research thesis.

(4) The study programme is available in English language only.

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<sup>1</sup> evidence of a general university entrance qualification as required for admission to the doctoral studies is deemed to have been submitted by providing evidence of a completed, subject-relevant diploma or master programme at a university or college of higher education (pursuant to §5 para. 3 Fachhochschule Studies Act), or other studies of equal value at a recognized domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution. If basic equal value is evident and only individual supplements are missing to constitute full equal value, the rectorate is entitled to make recognition of full equal value dependent on examinations, which are to be passed during the course of the appropriate doctoral studies.

<sup>2</sup> The appropriate rectorate's regulation stipulates further prerequisites for admission, namely to present evidence of a qualified artistic career after studying, which is to also show subject-related abilities of analytical and independent thinking; to present a portfolio of artistic works; to present a written exposé outlining the intended artistic research, its context, methodology and project goal; to present a time and contents schedule; as well as positive completion of the admission selection process. The regulation defines the type of examination committee: The committee consists of members of teaching staff holding *venia docendi* for an artistic teaching subject, they evaluate the portfolios and exposés presented and decide on applicants' admittance.

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## **§5. Academic Performance**

(1) To successfully complete the study programme, the doctoral students have to produce exam achievements amounting from 36 to 38 ECTS, plus prepare an artistic research thesis.

(2) The mandatory exam achievements consist of:

- a) Completing courses regarding theory and practice of artistic research amounting to 4 ECTS (recommended at the beginning of the programme).
- b) Once every semester, attending a colloquium of mutual exchange in which the doctoral students provide information on the current stage of their research work based on the PhD programme. This amounts to 1 ECTS per semester, 6 ECTS in total.
- c) Attending an annual, public colloquium in which the progress of the research project is presented and to which at least one external expert is invited. This represents 4 ECTS, amounting to 12 ECTS in total.
- d) Completing additional courses as stipulated by the PhD programme coordinator in concurrence with the doctoral student's tutor; to the extent of at least 2 ECTS and at most 4 ECTS.
- e) Completing privatissima or doctoral seminars offered by the doctoral student's individual tutor; amounting to 12 ECTS in total.

## **§6. Concluding Artistic Research Thesis**

(1) A thesis in form of an artistic research project is to be produced, respectively a thesis in form of a number of artistic projects connected to each other as far as the research issue is concerned (artistic complex of work, groups of work).

The research outcome is to be documented in a suitable manner; it is to be contextualized and reflected upon. The conclusions of the artistic research are to be communicated in comprehensible form.

(2) The thesis consists of an artistic work, as well as a presentation – in the meaning of a reflexive documentation – of the insights gained.

(3) The doctoral student is given advice and support by a tutor holding an artistic *venia docendi*.

## **§7. Examination Regulations**

### **(1) Course examinations**

Course examinations will be carried out as written or oral exams by the teaching staff members in charge of the courses. Examination contents, methods and assessment criteria are to be announced in a suitable manner prior to the start of each semester.

### **(2) Colloquia**

The assessment of colloquia is to be worded as "mit Erfolg teilgenommen" (successfully completed /pass) or "ohne Erfolg teilgenommen" (unsuccessfully completed /fail).

### **(3) Doctoral viva**

The doctoral viva consists of:

- completion of the courses regarding theory and practice of artistic research
- completion of both internal and public colloquia
- thesis and *defensio*: within the framework of an oral examination (*defensio*), PhD candidates will introduce themselves and present their thesis in form of a lecture. The thesis will subsequently be discussed with the members of the examination board.

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## **§8. Academic Degree**

After successful completion of the doctoral viva, candidates will be awarded the academic title of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).