

CURRICULUM

for the PhD Program in

Economic and Social Sciences



Pursuant to § 25 (1) item 10 of the Universities Act 2002 (*Universitätsgesetz 2002*), Federal Law Gazette (*Bundesgesetzblatt*, BGBl.) I No. 120/2002, last amended by the federal act promulgated in Federal Law Gazette I No. 3/2019, the following regulation is passed:

§ 1 Objectives

The PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences teaches students the skills and abilities to comprehend complex economic and social-science related issues by means of scientific methods and models, and to perform their own research. Graduates of the PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences have obtained a comprehensive academic qualification and a profound understanding of theory and methodology, allowing them to reflect critically on the academic work of others as well as on their own academic approach and performance.

The PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences is aimed at students who intend to pursue an academic career and/or wish to obtain the academic qualifications to do so. Students of the PhD program in Economics and Social Sciences are therefore intensively involved in the academic discourse of the supervising academic units.

After completion of the program, graduates should be able to:

- Conduct methodologically impeccable scientific research in their field
- Generate new scientific results
- Reflect critically upon their own scientific methods and performance
- Analyze academic contributions in their field critically
- Contribute to scientific progress in their field and to encourage its interconnection with other, relevant disciplines

§ 2 Admission Requirements

(1) The prerequisite for admission to the Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences is the successful completion of a diploma or master's degree program or a *Fachhochschule* (university of applied sciences) diploma or master's degree program or an equivalent degree program, in a relevant discipline at a recognized post-secondary educational institution in Austria or abroad.

(2) In addition, candidates for the PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences must meet the following qualitative eligibility criteria:

1. Sufficient specialist and methodological knowledge with regard to the PhD program in question and the intended subject area of the dissertation

2. The motivation and academic potential needed for the realization of the planned academic work and compatibility of the project with a current research area of WU

(3) In order to assess these criteria, candidates must include the following documents with their application:

1. Curriculum vitae (including a list of any publications or other research activities that may indicate a particular qualification with regard to the intended dissertation project)
2. Description of the dissertation project with details of the intended research area, the methodological approach, and how the candidate plans to integrate the project into WU's research in the field of the dissertation
3. Confirmation by a WU faculty member authorized to supervise dissertations, stating that the project described pursuant to item 2 above is suitable dissertation topic and that it is compatible with a current WU research area in the faculty member's subject area, and that he or she would therefore be willing to supervise the work ("provisional confirmation of supervision")

(4) Dual application of examinations through credit transfer of examination grades from a program in a relevant discipline as per (1) above towards the PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences is not permitted.

§ 3 Classification and Duration

The PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences is a three-year degree program in social and economic sciences within the meaning of § 54 (1) of the Universities Act 2002.

§ 4 Types of Examinations

The examination types indicated in this curriculum are defined in the examination regulations of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business). This curriculum, together with the examination regulations, forms a curriculum pursuant to § 25 (1) item 10 of the Universities Act 2002.

<i>Abbreviation key:</i>
AG - <i>Arbeitsgemeinschaft</i> , workshop-type course
FP - <i>Fachprüfung</i> , subject examination
FS - <i>Forschungsseminar</i> , research seminar
LVP - <i>Lehrveranstaltungsprüfung</i> , course examination
MP - <i>Modulprüfung</i> , module examination
PI - <i>prüfungsimmant</i> , course with continuous assessment of student performance
VUE - <i>Vorlesungsübung</i> , lecture with interactive elements

§ 5 Courses and Examinations

(1) During the PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences, students are required to complete the following courses:

<i>Subject/Course title</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>	<i>Credit hours</i>	<i>Type of examination</i>
<i>In Academic Writing (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Academic writing	6	2	FS
<i>In Research Methods (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Methods	6	2	PI
<i>In Methodology and Theory (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Methodology and Theory	6	2	PI
<i>In Interdisciplinary Research Seminar (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Interdisciplinary Research Seminar	6	2	FS
<i>In Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse (12 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse I	6	2	FS
Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse II	6	2	FS
<i>In Electives (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Elective I	3	2	AG
Elective II	3	2	AG
<i>In Defensio Dissertationis (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Defensio Dissertationis	6		FP

(2) Students must complete a further 30 ECTS credits in courses of their choice, selected from the subjects 'Academic Writing,' 'Research Methods,' 'Methodology and Theory,' 'Interdisciplinary Research Seminar,' and 'Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse.'

(3) Electives are not to be taken at WU, but at another educational institution in Austria or abroad. Courses selected must be on the doctoral level and be in a subject relevant to the topic of the student's dissertation.

§ 6 Research Proposal

(1) The Research Proposal should include the topic of the work, the current state of research in the field, the research question, the basic methodological and theoretical approaches of the dissertation, and the work's expected contribution to the development of the dissertation field.

(2) The Research Proposal will be posted on the intranet of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business for a period of one month. In the event of a change of the student's main supervisor, a new Research Proposal must be published.

(3) The provisions in § 34 (6), final sentence, of the By Laws of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business apply mutatis mutandis to the assessment of the Research Proposal. Each member of the supervisory team shall combine their assessment with

constructive suggestions for the further development of the dissertation, and in the event of a negative assessment, suggestions for the improvements necessary to achieve a passing grade.

§ 7 Dissertation and *Defensio Dissertationis*

(1) In the PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences, students shall write a dissertation in the form of one or several academic papers. The topic of the dissertation is to be chosen from one of the following subjects:

Labor and Social Security Law
International Business
Ecological Economics
Empirical Economic Research
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
European and International law
Finance
Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
Management
Marketing
Austrian and European Public Law
Philosophy
Civil Law including Civil Procedure
Production Management and Operations
Accounting
Sociology/Political Sciences
Socioeconomics
Tax Law
Criminal Law
Strategic Management
Transport and Logistics Management /Supply Chain Management
Economics
Economic and Social History
Economic Geography
Information Systems and Information Business
Business Communication/Applied Linguistics
Mathematics in Economics and Business
Business Education and Educational Studies
Business Psychology

(2) The successful completion of all courses specified in § 5 and a positive grade on the Research Proposal are prerequisites for admission to the *Defensio Dissertationis*. During the *Defensio Dissertationis*, the student shall present his or her dissertation to the Doctoral Committee and respond to questions posed by members of the Committee.

(3) The provisions in § 34 (6), final sentence, of the By Laws of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business apply mutatis mutandis to calculating the assessment of the *Defensio Dissertationis*.

§ 8 Completion of the PhD Program

(1) After a student has successfully completed all required courses and examinations pursuant to § 5 and the dissertation, a certificate will be issued evidencing the successful completion of the PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences.

(2) If a student has completed a block of related courses in "Economics" or "Mathematics in Economics and Business" pursuant to the Annex worth at least 60 ECTS credits, the graduation certificate shall include the addition "Economics" or "Mathematics in Economics and Business."

§ 9 Academic Degree

Graduates of the PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences will be awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy," abbreviated as "PhD."

§ 10 Effective Date

(1) This curriculum shall take effect on October 1, 2012.

(2) The amendments to this curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs dated May 6, 2014, approved by the Senate on May 21, 2014, shall enter into force on October 1, 2014.

(3) The amendments to this regulation as published in the WU Bulletin No. 40 of June 27, 2018 shall enter into force on October 1, 2018.

(4) The amendments to this regulation as published in the WU Bulletin No. 40 of June 26, 2019 shall enter into force on October 1, 2019.

§ 11 Transitional provisions

Degree students who began the PhD Program in Economic and Social Sciences before the 2018 summer semester shall be entitled to complete their studies according to the curriculum applicable on September 30, 2018, with the exception of the amendments in § 5. Students are entitled to change to the version of this curriculum valid on October 1, 2018 at any time.

Annex

1. Blocks of related courses in "Economics" pursuant to § 8 (2):

Courses in the following subjects specified in § 5 (1) are to be completed in the field of "Economics:"

- Academic writing
- Research Methods
- Methodology and Theory
- Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse

The courses specified in § 5 (2) must also be completed in the field of "Economics."

The specific courses to be completed in "Economics" will be determined in the dissertation agreement on a yearly basis.

2 Blocks of related courses in "Mathematics in Economics and Business" pursuant to § 8 (2):

Courses in the following subjects specified in § 5 (1) are to be completed in "Mathematics in Economics and Business:"

- Academic writing
- Research Methods
- Methodology and Theory
- Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse

The courses specified in § 5 (2) must also be completed in the field of "Mathematics in Economics and Business."

The specific courses to be completed in "Mathematics in Economics and Business" will be determined in the dissertation agreement on a yearly basis.