

# **CURRICULUM**

## **for the PhD Program in**

### **Economics and Social Sciences**

#### **at WU Vienna University of Economics and Business**

On March 21, 2012, pursuant to the Federal Act on the Organization of the Universities and their Studies, the Universities Act 2002 (*Universitätsgesetz 2002*) as published in the Federal Law Gazette (*Bundesgesetzblatt, BGBl*) I no. 120/2002 as amended, the Senate of the Vienna University of Economics and Business approved the following resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs dated January 17, 2012, on the curriculum for the PhD Program in Economics and Social Sciences.

### **§ 1 Objectives**

The PhD Program in Economics 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 Economics 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 Economics 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**

The prerequisite for admission to the PhD Program is the successful completion of a first-degree or master program in a relevant field, a pertinent program at a university of applied sciences (*Fachhochschule*) pursuant to § 5(3) of the law governing universities of applied sciences, the University of Applied Sciences Studies Act (*Fachhochschul-Studiengesetz, FHStG*) as amended, or of another, equivalent program at a recognized post-secondary educational institution in Austria or abroad.

### § 3 Classification, Duration and Structure

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

(2) Requirements for graduation from the three-year (six-semester) program include the preparation of a dissertation, attendance of courses and the successful completion of examinations worth 84 ECTS credits.

(3) Language of instruction in the PhD Program in Economics and Social Sciences is German.

### §4 Dissertation

(1) In his/her dissertation, a student is to demonstrate that he/she has acquired the ability to deal with scientific problems independently.

(2) The topic of the dissertation is to be chosen from one of the subjects named in this Curriculum. The supervisor must either be habilitated or appointed to a professorship for the subject chosen as the dissertation subject.

(3) The student is entitled to select a topic from a number of suggestions made by the available supervisors or to propose a topic him/herself. Multiple-paper dissertations are permissible.

(4) Announcement of the topic and the supervisor as well as the appointment of the assessors of the dissertation are governed by §§ 33 and 34 of the Bylaws of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business.

(5) Prior to submitting the final, bound dissertation, a student must defend the preliminary final version of his/her dissertation before a Doctoral Committee in the course of a *Defensio Dissertationis*, which is to be held as a subject examination.

(6) The provisions on the assessment of the dissertation are given in § 34 of the Bylaws of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business.

### § 5 Courses and Examinations

(1) The types of examinations named in this Curriculum are defined in the Examination Regulations of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business. This Curriculum, together with the Exam Regulations, forms a curriculum pursuant to § 25(1) item 10 of the Universities Act 2002.

(2) During the PhD Program in Economics and Social Sciences, students are required to complete the following courses and examinations:

<i>Subject/Course title</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Credit hours</i>	<i>Type of examination</i>
<i>In Academic Writing (min. 6 ECTS credits) to be chosen from the following:</i>			
Academic Writing I	6	2	PI*
Academic Writing II	6	2	PI
Academic Writing III	6	2	PI

<i>In Research Methods (min. 6 ECTS)</i> <i>to be chosen from the following:</i>			
Research Methods I	6	2	PI
Research Methods II	6	2	PI
Research Methods III	6	2	PI
<i>In Methodology and Theory (min. 6 ECTS credits)</i> <i>to be chosen from the following:</i>			
Methodology and Theory I	6	2	PI
Methodology and Theory II	6	2	PI
Methodology and Theory III	6	2	PI
<i>In Interdisciplinary Research Seminar (min. 6 ECTS)</i> <i>to be chosen from the following:</i>			
Interdisciplinary Research Seminar I	6	2	PI
Interdisciplinary Research Seminar II	6	2	PI
<i>In Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse (min. 12 ECTS credits)</i> <i>to be chosen from the following:</i>			
Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse I	6	2	PI
Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse II	6	2	PI
Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse III	6	2	PI
Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse IV	6	2	PI
Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse V	6	2	PI
Research Seminar - Participating in Scientific Discourse VI	6	2	PI
<i>In Electives (6 ECTS):</i>			
Elective I	3	2	PI
Elective II	3	2	PI
<i>In Research Proposal (6 ECTS)</i>			
Research proposal	6		FP**
<i>In Defensio Dissertationis (6 ECTS):</i>			
Defensio dissertationis	6		FP

\* PI = *prüfungsimmanent*, course with continuous assessment of student performance

\*\* FP = *Fachprüfung*, a comprehensive subject examination

(3) In addition, 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.

(4) Electives are not to be taken at WU, but at another post-secondary 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. Electives are assessed on a "pass/fail" basis ("*mit Erfolg teilgenommen/ohne Erfolg teilgenommen*").

(5) Courses taken at WU in the course of the PhD Program in Economics and Social Sciences must be worth a total of at least 42 ECTS.

## **§ 6 Detailed Provisions on Continuous Assessment Courses (PI)**

Continuous assessment courses (PI) are intended to advance students' knowledge in dissertation-related fields and to support the development of their dissertation research. Once a year, the individual student and his or her supervisor shall conclude a formal Dissertation Agreement to determine which courses the student is required to take.

## **§ 7 Detailed Provisions on Subject Examinations (FP)**

(1) The Research Proposal shall present the topic of the work, the current state of research in the field, the research question, basic methodological and theoretical principles of the project, methods to be applied, 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 topic or of the supervisor and/or assessors of the dissertation, a new Research Proposal shall be published.

(3) After expiration of the one-month period, the Research Proposal is given to the members of the Doctoral Committee (see [9] below) for assessment. Prior to the assessment of the Research Proposal, at the request of at least one member of the Doctoral Committee, the formal (in particular the linguistic) quality of the Research Proposal shall be reviewed with regard to fulfillment of minimum standards. If the expert opinion to be obtained by the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs is negative, the research proposal must be revised and resubmitted for assessment.

(4) The Research Proposal is considered to be accepted if at least three members of the Doctoral Committee have given a positive assessment, otherwise it will be considered to be rejected. The Research Proposal is graded as a subject examination on a pass/fail basis (*mit Erfolg teilgenommen/ohne Erfolg teilgenommen*)

(5) Each member of the Doctoral Committee will include constructive suggestions for the further development of the dissertation in his/her assessment of the Research Proposal, and in the case of a negative assessment, suggestions regarding the improvements required in order to obtain a positive assessment.

(6) After successful completion of all the examinations required by this Curriculum, the candidate must defend his or her dissertation in a public, oral subject examination, the *Defensio Dissertationis*. This examination will be held no sooner than one full year after the acceptance of the Research Proposal. The *Defensio Dissertationis* will be assessed by the Doctoral Committee (see [9] below). Upon submission of the preliminary final version of the dissertation, the composition of the Doctoral Committee is to be reviewed and may be changed on that occasion, after a hearing with the supervisor and/or the student.

(7) Prior to the *Defensio Dissertationis*, at the request of at least one member of the Doctoral Committee, the formal (in particular linguistic) quality of the preliminary final version of the dissertation shall be reviewed with regard to fulfillment of minimum standards. If the expert opinion obtained by the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs is negative, the preliminary final version of the dissertation must be revised and resubmitted for assessment. The *Defensio Dissertationis* may only take place after submission of the revised version of the dissertation. The Doctoral Committee shall consider the fact that a revision was necessary when making their assessment in the course of the *Defensio Dissertationis*.

(8) In order to calculate the grade of the *Defensio Dissertationis*, the proposed grades are added, the sum is divided by the number of members of the Doctoral Committee and the result is then rounded to a whole number. A result in which the decimal is higher than .5 shall be rounded to the next higher whole number. If more than one member of the Doctoral Committee gives the *Defensio Dissertationis* a failing grade, the entire assessment will be negative.

(9) The Doctoral Committee is composed of four members: the two assessors (in the case of the Research Proposal, the intended assessors), and two members from the field of the habilitated faculty members and/or qualified professors proposed by the Department Chair of the department to which the topic of the dissertation is allocated, and appointed by the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs.

### **§ 8 Dissertation Agreement**

(1) At the beginning of the first semester, a Dissertation Agreement shall be concluded between the supervisor and the student. The Dissertation Agreement shall include:

- (a) A preliminary plan of the course of the program, a schedule, and the intended specializations within the program, according to the available choices under § 5 (3)
- (b) A binding agreement on the courses to be completed in the next academic year
- (c) A specification of what is expected of the student and the supervisor over the course of the next academic year
- (d) The date when the next Dissertation Agreement shall be concluded

(2) Based on the Dissertation Agreement pursuant to (1) above, the student shall prepare an annual progress report. This report shall include the most important results of the previous academic year and the steps planned for the following academic year. The student and the supervisor will then meet to write up the individual Dissertation Agreement for the following academic year.

(3) The Academic Director for the PhD Program in Economics and Social Sciences shall be informed of the results of this meeting. He or she shall also be informed of the contents of the Dissertation Agreement in a timely manner.

### **§ 9 Completion of the PhD Program**

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

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

### **§ 10 Effective Date**

This Curriculum shall enter into force on October 1, 2012.

**Annex:** Subjects allocated to the PhD Program in Economics and Social Sciences (in alphabetical order)

Accounting
Austrian and European Public Law
Business Communication in Romance Languages (French, Italian, Spanish)
Business Communication in Slavic Languages (Russian, Czech)
Business Education
Civil Law including Civil Procedure
Controlling
Criminal Law
Econometrics
Economic and Social History
Economic Geography
Economic Policy
Economic Theory
Economics of Social Policy
Education
Empirical Economic Research
English Business Communication
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Environmental Economics
European law
Finance
Geoinformatics
Information Business
Information Systems
International Business
International Marketing and Management
Labor and Social Security Law
Management
Marketing
Mathematics
Organization
Philosophy
Production Management and Operations
Project Management
Public Management
Public Sector Economics
Regional Economics
Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
Sociology
Statistics
Strategic Management
Supply Chain Management
Tax Law
Technology and Product Management
Tourism and Leisure Studies
Transport and Logistics Management