

CURRICULUM

for the PhD Program in Economics 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. 129/2017, the following regulation is passed:

§ 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

(1) The prerequisite for admission to the PhD Program is the successful completion of a diploma or master's program in a relevant field, a diploma or master's program in a relevant field at a university of applied sciences (*Fachhochschule*), or of another, equivalent program at a recognized post-secondary educational institution in Austria or abroad.

(2) Dual application of examinations through credit transfer of examination grades from a program in a relevant discipline as referred to in (1) towards the PhD Program in Economics and Social Sciences is not permitted.

§ 3 Classification and Duration

The PhD Program in Economics 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 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.

§ 5 Courses and Examinations

(1) During the PhD Program in Economics 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 ¹
<i>In Research Methods (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Methods	6	2	PI ²
<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 ³
Elective II	3	2	AG
<i>In Defensio Dissertationis (6 ECTS credits):</i>			
Defensio dissertationis	6		FP ⁴

¹ FS - *Forschungsseminar*, research seminar

² PI = *prüfungsimmanent*, course with continuous assessment of student performance

³ AG - *Arbeitsgemeinschaft*, workshop-type course

⁴ FP = *Fachprüfung*, a comprehensive subject examination

(2) 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 - Participating in Scientific Discourse.'

(3) 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.

§ 6 Research Proposal

(1) The Research Proposal should include the topic, the state of the art of the research field, the research question, and basic information on the theoretical and methodological approach to be taken in the dissertation.

(2) The Research Proposal will be published and remain online on the WU intranet 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) Students in the PhD Program in Economics and Social Sciences are required to write a dissertation in the form of one or more academic papers. The topic of the dissertation must be chosen from one of the following topics:

Accounting
Austrian and European Public Law
Business Communication/Applied Linguistics
Business Education and Educational Studies
Business Mathematics/Statistics
Business Psychology
Civil Law including Civil Procedure
Criminal Law
Ecological Economics
Economic and Social History
Economic Geography
Economics
Empirical Economic Research
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
European and International Law
Finance
Information Systems and Information Business
International Business
Labor and Social Security Law

Management
Marketing
Philosophy
Production Management and Operations
Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME)
Socioeconomics
Sociology/Political Sciences
Strategic Management
Tax Law
Transport and Logistics Management /Supply Chain Management

(1) 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.

(2) 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

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 Economics and Social Sciences.

§ 9 Academic Degree

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

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

(2) The amendments of this Curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs dated May 6, 2014 and approved by the Senate of the Vienna University of Economics and Business on May 21, 2014, shall take effect 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.

§ 11 Transitional provisions

Degree students who began their PhD studies in Economics 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 curriculum valid as of October 1, 2018 at any time.

