

CURRICULUM

FOR THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN BUSINESS LAW



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

Building on the Master Program in Business Law and on other master or diploma (Magister) programs in the legal sciences offered at other universities, the Doctoral Program in Business Law provides a specialized, academically-oriented education with a particular focus on the writing of a dissertation in business law.

The doctoral program is intended to further develop students' ability to undertake independent scientific work, and promote the training and career promotion of junior academic staff (§ 51(2) line 12 of the Universities Act 2002).

To this end, the Doctoral Program in Business Law provides the professional qualifications for

- academic staff at universities
- graduates of the Master Program in Business Law who wish to improve and advance their theoretical and academic profile and gain qualifications for top management positions with important strategic responsibilities

After completing the Doctoral Program in Business Law, graduates will be able to

- comprehend and analyze legal issues comprehensively, particularly legal issues pertaining to business and economics, using appropriate methods;
- make academic contributions independently and present them appropriately to a given target group;
- understand current papers in the legal sciences and discuss them critically;
- critically question the subject's methodological requirements and theoretical foundations, thus using the knowledge gained to contribute to the further development of the field;
- work in teams and participate actively in problem solving processes;
- continually develop personal skills and competence in the sense of life-long learning within the scientific community.

§ 2 Admission requirements

(1) The prerequisite for admission to the Doctoral 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 Doctoral Program in Business Law is not permitted.

§ 3 Classification and Duration

The Doctoral Program in Business Law is a degree program in law studies within the meaning of § 54 (1) of the 2002 University Act.

§ 4 Types of Examinations

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

§ 5 Courses

(1) Students in the Doctoral Program in Business Law must complete the following courses:

<i>Course title</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>	<i>Credit hours</i>	<i>Type of examination</i>
<i>In the dissertation subject (12 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar in the dissertation subject I	6	2	FS ¹
Research Seminar in the dissertation subject II	6	2	FS
<i>In a further legal subject (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar in a further legal subject	6	2	FS
<i>In legal methodology (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar on legal methodology	6	2	FS
<i>In a further subject (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar in a further subject	6	2	FS
<i>In Defensio Dissertationis (4 ECTS credits)</i>			
Defensio Dissertationis	4		FP ²

¹ FS - *Forschungsseminar*, research seminar

² FP = *Fachprüfung*, a comprehensive subject examination

- (2) The Research Seminar in a further legal subject pursuant to (1) above is to be chosen from the subjects or 'Civil Law including Civil Procedure,' 'Austrian and European Public Law,' 'Tax Law,' 'Labor and Social Security Law,' 'Criminal Law,' or 'European and International law.' The subject of the dissertation may not be selected again.
- (3) The Research Seminar in a further subject pursuant to (1) above is to be chosen from a subject in law or social and economic sciences. The subject of the dissertation may not be selected again.
- (4) Students in the Doctoral Program in Business Law must announce the subjects they have chosen when they announce the topic selected for their 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. 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.

(2) 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 Doctoral Program in Business Law are required to write a dissertation. The topic must be selected from one of the following subjects (dissertation subject):

- a) Civil Law including Civil Procedure
- b) Austrian and European Public Law
- c) Tax Law
- d) Labor and Social Security Law
- e) Criminal Law
- f) European and International law

(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 Doctoral Program

After successful completion of all required courses and examinations pursuant to §5 and the dissertation, the doctoral candidate shall be issued a certificate confirming that he/she has successfully completed the Doctoral Program in Business Law.

§ 9 Academic Degree

Female graduates of the doctoral program will be awarded the academic degree Doctor of Law (*Doktor/in der Rechtswissenschaften*), abbreviated as "*Dr.iur.*"

§ 10 Entry into Force

- (1) This Curriculum will enter into force on October 1, 2009.
- (2) This Curriculum shall replace the curriculum for the Doctoral Program in Business Law pursuant to the resolutions of the Committee for Academic Programs dated June 6, 2005, November 17, 2005 and April 26, 2007, and approved by the Senate of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business on June 8, 2005, November 23, 2005 and May 2, 2007.
- (3) Degree program students who had already begun their studies at the time of entry into force of this curriculum for the Doctoral Program in Business Law, pursuant to the resolutions of the Committee for Academic Programs dated June 6, 2005, November 17, 2005, and April 26, 2007, approved by the Senate on June 8, 2005, November 23, 2005 and May 2, 2007, are entitled to complete their studies under the provisions of the curriculum valid on September 30, 2009 by September 30, 2017. If a student fails to complete his/her studies within that period, the student will be subject to the new curriculum for the remainder of his/her studies. In addition, the students are entitled to voluntarily transfer to the new curriculum at any time.
- (4) The amendments of this Curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs dated November 18, 2010 and approved by the Senate of the Vienna University of Economics and Business on December 1, 2010, shall take effect on October 1, 2011.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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 doctoral studies in Business Law 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.

