

## 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. 3/2019, the following regulation is passed:

#### § 1 Objectives

Building on the Master's Program in Business Law and on other master's 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's 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 methodological prerequisites and theoretical fundamentals of the subject matter and use the understanding thus acquired to further the development of the discipline
- Contribute to teams and actively take part in participatory problem-solving processes
- Continuously develop their own skills and competences in the interest of life-long learning

#### § 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) In addition, candidates for the Doctoral Program in Business Law must meet the following qualitative eligibility criteria:

1. Sufficient specialist and methodological knowledge with regard to the doctoral 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 referred to in (1) towards the Doctoral Program in Business Law is not permitted.

### **§ 3 Classification and Duration**

The three-year 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 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) 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
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) 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 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.

(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):

- Civil Law including Civil Procedure
- Austrian and European Public Law
- Tax Law
- Labor and Social Security Law
- Criminal Law
- 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**

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

## **§ 10 Effective Date**

(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 12/1/2010, shall take effect on 10/1/2011.

(5) The amendments of this Curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs dated 5/6/2014 and approved by the Senate of the Vienna University of Economics and Business on 5/21/2014, shall take effect on 10/1/2014.

(6) The amendments to this regulation as published in the WU Bulletin No. 40 of 6/27/2018 shall enter into force on 10/1/2018.

(7) 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 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 version of this curriculum valid on October 1, 2018 at any time.