

CURRICULUM

FOR THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

AT WU VIENNA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

(as amended by the resolutions of the Committee for Academic Programs dated March 15, 2007, November 15, 2007, November 18, 2010, and March 13, 2012, approved by the Senate of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business on March 21, 2007, November 21, 2007, December 1, 2010, March 21, 2012, and May 21, 2014)

On March 21, 2007, the Senate of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business approved the following resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs dated March 15, 2007 on the Curriculum for the Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences, 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.

§ 1 Objectives

The Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences is intended to develop the student's ability to conduct independent research and to educate future generations of academic professionals. In the course of this program, theoretical or applied social and/or economic research will be carried out. Students will be introduced to the basics of the philosophy of science, theories/paradigms of their field, data sources and/or methods of collecting and analyzing data, research methods and publication strategies and will receive a research-oriented education.

§ 2 Admission Requirements

The prerequisite for admission to the Doctoral 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 Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences is a social and economic sciences degree program 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 57 ECTS credits.

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 dissertation topic shall be allocable to one of the subjects listed in the Annex. This subject must also be the student's main subject of concentration. The supervisor must either be habilitated or appointed to a professorship for the subject chosen as the dissertation subject (main 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. Available supervisors shall be announced on the department level.

(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) Upon application by a student, the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs may determine one of the subjects listed in the Annex as a secondary examination subject. If the main subject was not chosen from the field of business administration or economics (cf. Annex), the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs, providing that the subject chosen is closely related to the topic of the dissertation, shall determine a secondary examination subject from the fields of business administration or economics (cf. Annex).

(6) 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 (see § 5(2) letter n in conjunction with § 7(5)).

(7) 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) The following courses and examinations must be completed in the subjects of the Doctoral Program:

	<i>Course title</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Credit hours</i>	<i>Type of examination</i>
<i>Research seminars in the main subject</i>				
a	Research seminar in the main subject I	2	2	PI*
b	Research seminar in the main subject II	2	2	PI
c	Research seminar in the main subject III	2	2	PI
d	Research seminar in the main subject IV	2	2	PI
<i>"Theories of the field" in the main subject</i>				
e	Research seminar "Theories of the field" in the main subject	6	2	PI
<i>"Dissertation-relevant theories and literature review" in the main subject or "Theories of the field" in the secondary examination subject</i>				
f	Research seminar "Dissertation-relevant theories and literature review" in the main subject or "Theories of the field" in the secondary examination subject	6	2	PI

	field" in the secondary examination subject			
<i>Philosophy of science and research methods</i>				
g	Philosophy of science	6	2	PI
h	Research methods of social and economic sciences I: quantitative paradigm (business administration) or Research methods of social and economic sciences I: Quantitative paradigm (economics)	6	2	PI
i	Research methods of social and economic sciences II: Qualitative paradigm	6	2	PI
j	Advanced studies of research methods for social and economic sciences	4	2	PI
k	Academic writing	1	2	PI
<i>Research proposal</i>				
l	Research proposal	6	-	FP**
<i>Subject examination in the main subject</i>				
m	Subject examination in the main subject	4	-	FP
<i>Defensio dissertationis</i>				
n	Defensio dissertationis	4	-	FP

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

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

§ 6 Detailed Provisions on Continuous Assessment Courses (PI)

(1) Students may attend only one of the research seminars named in § 5(2) letters a through f per semester. One single course covering the research seminars may be offered, provided that the individual students' achievement records differ corresponding to the number of ECTS credits provided for the respective research seminar and depending on the students' progress in preparing their dissertations. In justified cases, in particular in the event that a student temporarily resides abroad, the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs may, upon request, grant a student permission to attend more than one research seminar in his/her main subject or another equivalent seminar per semester. The research seminars I to IV are assessed on a pass/fail basis (*mit Erfolg teilgenommen/ohne Erfolg teilgenommen*).

(2) The successful completion of the courses named in § 5(2) letters a, b, g h and i is the prerequisite for attendance of the courses named in § 5(2) letters e, f and j. In addition, the successful completion of the subject examination "Research Proposal" as specified in § 5(2) letter l is the prerequisite for attendance of the courses named in § 5(2) letters e and f.

(3) If a secondary examination subject has been determined, attendance of the research seminar named in § 5(2) letter f relevant to the secondary examination subject is compulsory. If no secondary examination subject has been determined, attendance of the research seminar in the main subject VI "Dissertation-relevant theories and literature review" is compulsory.

(4) If a subject relating to business administration is selected as the main subject, the continuous assessment course "Research methods of social and economic sciences I: quantitative paradigm (business administration)" must be completed. If a subject relating to economics is selected as the main subject, the continuous assessment course "Research methods of social and economic sciences I: quantitative paradigm (economics)" must be completed. If the main subject is a legal or another subject, the course to be selected depends on the secondary examination subject.

§ 7 Detailed Provisions on Subject Examinations (FP)

(1) Pursuant to § 5(2) letter l, the Research Proposal must include the topic, the state of the field, the research question and the principles of the methodological, theoretical and methodical procedures of 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 in the supervisor and/or assessors of the dissertation, a new research proposal shall be published.

(2) After expiration of the one-month period, the Research Proposal shall be submitted to the members of the Doctoral Committee for assessment (for details on the composition of the Doctoral Committee, see (9) below). 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.

(3) The Research Proposal is considered to be accepted (pass) if at least three members of the Doctoral Committee have given a positive assessment, otherwise it will be considered to be rejected (fail).

(4) 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.

(5) The subject examination in the main subject pursuant to § 5(2) letter m is an oral examination. The prerequisite for admission to the subject examination in the main subject is the successful completion of the required courses named in § 5(2) letters e, f and j, and a passing grade in the subject examination "Research Proposal" named in § 5(2) letter l.

(6) The *Defensio Dissertationis* named in § 5(2) letter n is an oral examination. It will be assessed by the Doctoral Committee (for details on the Doctoral Committee's composition see (9) below). The Committee has a quorum when at least three members are present. The prerequisites for admission to the *Defensio Dissertationis* are passing the subject examination in the main subject pursuant to § 5(2) letter m and the submission of a preliminary final version of the dissertation that is to form the basis of the *Defensio Dissertationis*. 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 to be 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 preliminary final 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 Academic Degrees

(1) Graduates of the Doctoral Program are those students who have met the criteria defined in §§ 4 through 7 of this Curriculum.

(2) Female graduates of the Doctoral Program will be awarded the academic degree "*Doktorin der Sozial- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften*", male graduates of the Doctoral Program will be awarded the academic degree "*Doktor der Sozial- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften*", in Latin both referred to as "Doctor rerum socialium oeconomicarumque", abbreviated as "Dr.rer.soc.oec."

§ 9 Effective Date

(1) This Curriculum shall enter into force on October 1, 2007.

(2) The amendments of this curriculum, as pursuant to a resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs dated November 15, 2007 and adopted by the Senate on November 21, 2007, shall take effect on the day following their publication in the bulletin (*Mitteilungsblatt*) of WU Vienna University of Economics and Business.

(3) 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.

(4) The amendments of this Curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Committee for Academic Programs dated March 13, 2012 and approved by the Senate of the Vienna University of Economics and Business on March 21, 2012, shall take effect on October 1, 2012.

(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.

§ 10 Transitional provisions

Pursuant to the Federal Act on University Studies (*Universitäts-Studiengesetz*, UniStG), Federal Law Gazette I No. 48/1997, degree students who, at the time of entry into force of this Curriculum, have already begun their doctoral studies in Social and Economic Sciences at WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, shall be entitled to complete their studies by September 30, 2017 according to the curriculum applicable on September 30,

2007. 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. 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. Students are entitled to change to the new curriculum at any time.

Annex: Classification of the Subjects of the Doctoral Program

Business Administration Subjects

International Business
Controlling
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Finance
Information Business
International Marketing and Management
Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
Management
Marketing
Organization
Production Management and Operations
Project Management
Public Management
Accounting
Strategic Management
Supply Chain Management
Tourism and Leisure Studies
Transport and Logistics Management
Information Systems
Business Education

Economics Subjects

Empirical Economic Research
Public Sector Economics
Econometrics
Economic Policy
Economic Theory

Law Subjects

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

Other Subjects

Education
English Business Communication
Geoinformatics
Mathematics
Philosophy
Regional and Environmental Management
Sociology
Statistics
Technology and Product Management

Economic and Social History
Economic Geography
Business Communication in Romance Languages (French, Italian, Spanish)
Business Communication in Slavic Languages (Russian, Czech)