

CURRICULUM
FOR THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC 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 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.

After completing the program, graduates have the skills needed to:

- Comprehensively understand and analyze social and economic sciences-related issues using appropriate methods
- Conduct methodologically sound academic work in their field
- Generate new scientific findings
- Reflect critically on their own scientific methods and performance
- Analyze academic contributions in their field critically
- Question methodological requirements and theoretical underpinnings of their field and use the understanding gained to further develop the subject
- Promote scientific progress in their field of expertise and strengthen links to other relevant subjects, and continuously develop their own skills and competences in the sense of lifelong learning within the relevant 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 Social and Economic Sciences is not permitted.

§ 3 Classification and Duration

The Doctoral Program in Social and Economic 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

The following courses and examinations must be completed in the Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences:

| <i>Course title</i> | <i>ECTS credits</i> | <i>Credit hours</i> | <i>Type of examination</i> |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>In Research Seminars in the main subject (8 ECTS credits)</i> | | | |
| Research Seminar in the main subject I | 2 | 2 | FS ¹ |
| Research Seminar in the main subject II | 2 | 2 | FS |
| Research Seminar in the main subject III | 2 | 2 | FS |
| Research Seminar in the main subject IV | 2 | 2 | FS |
| <i>In Theories of the Field in the main subject (6 ECTS credits)</i> | | | |
| Research Seminar Theories of the Field in the main subject | 6 | 2 | FS |
| <i>In Dissertation-Relevant Theories and Literature Review in the main subject <u>or</u> Theories of the Field in the secondary examination subject (6 ECTS credits)</i> | | | |
| Research Seminar: Dissertation-Relevant Theories and Literature Review in the main subject | 6 | 2 | FS |
| or | | | |
| Research Seminar: Theories of the Field in the secondary examination subject | 6 | 2 | FS |
| <i>In Philosophy of Science and Research Methods (23 ECTS credits)</i> | | | |
| Philosophy of Science | 6 | 2 | PI ² |
| Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Business Administration) | 6 | 2 | PI |
| or | | | |
| Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Economics) | 6 | 2 | PI |
| Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences II: Qualitative Paradigm | 6 | 2 | PI |
| Advanced Studies of Research Methods for Social and Economic Sciences | 4 | 2 | PI |

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|--|---|---|-----------------|
| Academic Writing | 1 | 2 | FS |
| <i>In Defensio Dissertationis (4 ECTS credits)</i> | | | |
| Defensio Dissertationis | 4 | - | FP ³ |

¹ FS - *Forschungsseminar*, research seminar

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

³ FP = *Fachprüfung*, a comprehensive subject examination

§ 6 Specific Requirements for Admission to Courses

(1) Students may only attend one Research Seminar as specified in § 5 per semester. In justifiable cases, especially in the event of time spent abroad, the academic director responsible for doctoral programs can approve attendance of more than one Research Seminar or of another, equivalent seminar per semester.

(2) The successful completion of 'Research Seminar in the main subject I,' 'Research Seminar in the main subject II,' 'Philosophy of Science,' 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Business Administration)' or 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Economics),' and 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences II: Qualitative Paradigm,' as well as a positive grade on the Research Proposal are prerequisites for admission to all courses in the subjects 'Theories of the Field' in the main subject and 'Dissertation-Relevant Theories and Literature Review' in the main subject or 'Theories of the Field' in the secondary examination subject.

(3) The successful completion of 'Research Seminar in the main subject I,' 'Research Seminar in the main subject II,' 'Philosophy of Science,' 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Business Administration)' or 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Economics),' and 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences II: Qualitative Paradigm,' is the prerequisite for admission to the course 'Advanced Studies of Research Methods for Social and Economic Sciences.'

§ 7 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.

§ 8 Dissertation

(1) Students in the Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences are required to write a dissertation as part of the program. The topic of the dissertation is to be chosen from one of the subjects listed under items a) to d) below. This subject is then also the student's main subject.

a) Business administration subjects:

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| International Business |
| Entrepreneurship and Innovation |
| Finance |
| Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) |
| Management |
| Marketing |
| Production Management and Operations |
| Accounting |
| Strategic Management |
| Transport and Logistics Management /Supply Chain Management |
| Information Systems and Information Business |
| Business Education and Educational Studies |

b) Economics subjects:

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| Empirical Economic Research |
| Economics |

c) Legal subjects:

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

d) Additional subjects:

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| Business Communication/Applied Linguistics |
| Business Mathematics/Statistics |
| Business Psychology |
| Ecological Economics |
| Economic and Social History |
| Economic Geography |
| Philosophy |
| Socioeconomics |
| Sociology/Political Sciences |

(2) If the main subject was not chosen from one of the subjects listed under (1) items a) or b), the academic director responsible for doctoral programs, providing that the subject chosen is closely related to the topic of the dissertation, shall determine a secondary examination subject from the subjects listed under (1) items a) or b).

(3) If the main subject is chosen from one of the subjects listed under (1) items a) or b), the academic director responsible for doctoral programs can name one of the subjects listed under (1) items c) or d) as a secondary subject, upon application by the student.

(4) If a secondary subject is determined, the course 'Research Seminar: Theories of the Field' in the secondary examination subject is compulsory; if no secondary subject has been determined, the course 'Research Seminar: Dissertation-Relevant Theories and Literature Review' in the main subject must be completed.

(5) If the main subject was chosen from one of the subjects listed under (1) item a), the course 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Business Administration)' is compulsory. If the main subject was chosen from one of the subjects listed under (1) item b), students must complete the course 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Economics)'. If the main subject was chosen from one of the subjects listed under (1) items c) or d) and a secondary subject in business administration has been determined, the course 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Business Administration)' is compulsory. Students with a secondary subject in economics are required to complete the course 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Economics)'.

§ 9 Defensio Dissertationis

(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.

§ 10 Completion of the Doctoral 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 Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences.

§ 11 Academic Degree

Graduates of the Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences will be awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Social and Economic Sciences", abbreviated as "Dr.rer.soc.oec."

§ 12 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.
- (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.

§ 13 Transitional provisions

- (1) 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.
- (2) Degree students who began their doctoral studies in Social and Economic 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.