

CURRICULUM FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE 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. 177/2021, the following regulation is passed:

§ 1 Objectives

The Doctoral Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences is a degree program in social and economic sciences within the meaning of § 54 (1) of the Universities Act 2002 and is taught in German. If the research seminars in the selected main subject are offered in English, students also have the option of taking the degree program in English. The focus of the doctoral program is on developing students' ability to conduct independent academic research and on qualifying early-stage researchers in the field of economic and social sciences. Students conduct theoretical or applied social and/or economic research in compliance with the highest academic standards, and in doing so, they learn to express problems in formal terms, conduct research-based analyses, and develop solutions.

In the Doctoral Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences, students gain an in-depth, research-led understanding of the philosophy of science that underlies the theories/paradigms of their discipline and learn communication skills that enable them to participate in academic discourse. They learn to argue academically and to apply the appropriate theories. They develop and perfect the skills to apply and adapt or further develop survey and evaluation methods in an academically sound manner. They learn to generate new scientific results and implement academic publication strategies.

Skills in research methods, philosophy of science, and academic writing are taught in a research-based manner in doctoral-level courses. The research seminars focus on the dissertation and provide a platform for students to conduct their own research and present their research results.

Graduates of the doctoral degree program are qualified early-stage researchers and meet the requirements for an international academic career at universities and research institutes. Especially due to the high degree of independence and the ability to apply knowledge to completely new problems, they are also qualified for careers in the private, nonprofit, and public sectors.

Students of the Doctoral Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences acquire the following knowledge, skills, and competencies:

Discipline-specific knowledge:

- Students develop a broad, systematic, and critical understanding of the field of the social and economic sciences, as well as in-depth and up-to-date specialist knowledge and critical expertise in a particular aspect of the field

- They have the ability to analyze academic contributions in the relevant field critically
- They are able to recognize the need for acquiring further knowledge in their own subject area and to identify and make connections to related areas of research
- They have a general understanding of the philosophy of science

Synthesis and evaluation:

- Students can comprehensively understand and analyze issues related to the social and economic sciences using appropriate methods
- They can engage in academic analysis and synthesis, and can independently and critically examine and assess new and complex phenomena, issues, and situations
- They have the tools needed to make a significant contribution to the further development of academic knowledge in their field of research through their own research
- Students have learned to develop, adapt, and apply research methods to expand and redefine existing knowledge or solve problems in professional practice
- They are able to generate original knowledge and understanding to make a significant contribution to research in their discipline or to professional practice in the field
- They have the skills needed to engage in critical discussion, and to analyze and further develop academic theories

Research:

- Students can identify and formulate research questions critically, independently, innovatively, and with academic rigor
- They have the skills to plan and conduct research work using appropriate methods and within specified time frames
- They know how to plan and conduct substantial research projects with academic integrity, and then to reflect theoretically and academically on the processes involved
- Students have learned to reflect on the ethical and social implications of their research findings
- They have a deeper understanding of the possibilities and limitations of academic research, its role in society, and the responsibilities of the individual researcher

Communication:

- Students have the skills needed to write academic publications that meet the international quality standards of the relevant discipline
- They can present and discuss their research and findings competently in both national and international contexts and in dialog with the scientific community and with society in general
- They know how to make new knowledge and insights accessible and promote the learning of others in research, teaching, and other professional contexts

§ 2 Admission Requirements

(1) The prerequisite for admission to the Doctoral Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences is the completion of a previous degree within the meaning of § 64 of the Universities Act 2002.

(2) In addition, candidates for the Doctoral Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences 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 supervision agreement")

(4) Dual application of examinations to the Doctoral Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences through credit transfer of examinations completed in a previous degree program pursuant to (1) is not permissible.

§ 3 Program Duration

The Doctoral Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences is a three-year program.

§ 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.

Abbreviation key:

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>prüfungsimmanent</i> , course with continuous assessment of student performance
VUE – <i>Vorlesungsübung</i> , lecture with interactive elements

§ 5 Courses and Examinations

(1) The following courses and examinations must be completed in the Doctoral Degree 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 (36 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar in the Main Subject I	6	2	FS
Research Seminar in the Main Subject II	6	2	FS
Research Seminar in the Main Subject III	6	2	FS
Research Seminar in the Main Subject IV	6	2	FS
Research Seminar in the Main Subject V	6	2	FS
Research Seminar in the Main Subject VI	6	2	FS
<i>Or:</i>			
Research Seminar in the Secondary Subject	6	2	FS
<i>In Philosophy of Science and Research Methods (30 ECTS credits)</i>			
Philosophy of Science	6	2	PI
Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Business Administration)	6	2	PI
<i>Or:</i>			
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	6	2	PI
Academic Writing	6	2	FS
<i>In Defensio Dissertationis (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Defensio Dissertationis	6	-	FP

(2) If a secondary subject has been specified, the course 'Research Seminar in the Secondary Subject' is compulsory; if no secondary subject has been specified, the course 'Research Seminar in the Main Subject VI' must be completed.

§ 6 Specific Requirements for Admission to Courses

(1) 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 'Research Seminar in the Main Subject V' and 'Research Seminar in the Main Subject VI' or 'Research Seminar in the Secondary Subject.'

(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,' 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 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 (7), 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 Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences are required to write a dissertation as part of the program. The department's dissertation guidelines apply. The topic of the dissertation is to be chosen from one of the subjects listed under items a) to d) below. This subject must also be the student's main subject of concentration.

a) Business administration subjects:

International Business
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Finance
Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
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:

Empirical Economic Research
Economics

c) Legal subjects:

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

Tax Law
Criminal Law

d) Additional subjects:

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

(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 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), the course 'Research Methods of Social and Economic Sciences I: Quantitative Paradigm (Economics)' is compulsory. 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 their completed dissertation to the Doctoral Committee and respond to questions posed by members of the committee.

(2) The provisions in § 34 (7), 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 Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences.

§ 11 Academic Degree

Graduates of the Doctoral Degree 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 regulation shall enter into force on October 1, 2022.

(2) This regulation shall replace the regulation on a Curriculum for the Doctoral Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences, WU Bulletin no. 29 of March 28, 2007, last amended as by the regulation published in WU Bulletin no. 44 of June 30, 2021.

§ 13 Transitional Provisions

Degree program students who, at the time of entry into force of this regulation, have already begun the Doctoral Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences at WU pursuant to the regulation on a Curriculum for the Doctoral Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences, WU Bulletin no. 29 of March 28, 2007, as amended, shall be entitled to complete their studies by the end of the 2026 summer semester according to the regulation applicable on September 30, 2022. Students are entitled to change to the new curriculum during admission periods.