

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. 3/2019, 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 completion of the program, graduates should be able to:

- Comprehensively understand and analyze social and economic sciences-related issues using appropriate methods
- Conduct methodologically impeccable scientific research in their field
- Generate new scientific results
- Reflect critically on their own scientific methods and performance
- Analyze academic contributions in their field 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
- 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 in Social and Economic Sciences is the successful completion of a diploma or master's degree program or a *Fachhochschule* (university of applied sciences) diploma or master's degree program or an equivalent degree program, in a relevant discipline at a recognized post-secondary educational institution in Austria or abroad.

(2) In addition, candidates for the Doctoral Program in Social and Economic Sciences must meet the following qualitative admission criteria:

1. Appropriate 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 particular qualification for 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 respective field.
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 field, 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 per (1) above 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 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>prüfungsimmanent</i> , course with continuous assessment of student performance
VUE - <i>Vorlesungsübung</i> , lecture with interactive elements

§ 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
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 or 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
<i>or</i> 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
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	4	2	PI
Academic writing	1	2	FS
<i>In Defensio Dissertationis (4 ECTS credits)</i>			
Defensio Dissertationis	4	-	FP

§ 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 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.

§ 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 must also be the student’s main subject of concentration.

a) Business administration subjects:

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

b) Economics subjects:

Economics
Empirical Economic Research

c) Legal subjects:

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:

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. (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 (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)' is compulsory.

§ 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 3/13/2012 and approved by the Senate of the Vienna University of Economics and Business on 3/21/2012, shall take effect on 10/1/2012.

(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.

(7) The amendments of this regulation as amended by the WU Bulletin No. 40 of June 26, 2019, shall enter into force on October 1, 2019.

§ 13 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 the program 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.

(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. These students are entitled to change to the curriculum valid as of October 1, 2018 at any time.