

The English version of the curriculum for the „Doctoral programme Catholic Theology“ is not legally binding and is for informational purposes only. The legal basis is regulated in the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin on 22 April 2009, issue 68, No. 260.

Decision of the Curriculum Committee of the Faculty of Catholic Theology on 24.03.2009, approved by Senate Decree on 16.04.2009:

On the basis of § 25 para. 1 no. 10 University Organisation Act 2002, BGBl. I (Federal Law Gazette) No. 120, most recently amended by Federal Law BGBl. I (Federal Law Gazette) No. 134/2008 and § 32 Section "Regulations of Study Law", republished in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 3 February 2006, Issue 16, No. 90, most recently amended by the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 7 May 2008, Issue 42, No. 272, the following is decreed<sup>1</sup>:

## Curriculum for the **Doctoral programme Catholic Theology** at the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Innsbruck

### **§ 1 Qualification profile and programme objectives**

- (1) The Doctoral programme Catholic Theology belongs to the group of theological studies.
- (2) The Doctoral programme Catholic Theology enables graduates to pursue independent, creative scientific work, which is documented by the dissertation as an independent piece of research achievement. It qualifies graduates to teach at universities and other academic institutions and forms highly qualified scientists for academic careers or important positions in church and society. It promotes advanced competence in the history and theory of science with respect to the chosen theological subjects and enhances the students' political sensitivity for the role and significance of theology in ecclesial, academic and social contexts.

The programme is integrated into the faculty research centers or other research projects so that it leads to professional reflection on current questions of theology, carried out in interdisciplinary cooperation with different fields of theology and in dialog with other sciences.

The Doctoral programme Catholic Theology aims at achieving the following key qualifications:

- competence to conduct independent theological research;
- specialized knowledge in the field of the dissertation and one additional subject;
- integration of this knowledge into the overall context of theology and knowledge of its relevance for this context;
- independent development of theological concepts and hypotheses;

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<sup>1</sup> The inner structure of the programme corresponds to the ecclesiastical laws and the pertinent decree of accommodation for Catholic-theological faculties in Austria.

- competence in the theory and didactics of science in order to theoretically reflect on one's knowledge and to successfully convey it in different contexts;
- skills of self-organized learning, of professional discussion on expert level, and of interdisciplinary dialog;
- competence to present one's research results and knowledge in academic and non-academic contexts;
- competence to reflect on the relevance of the academic theological discourse for the life of church and society – and vice versa;
- development of an academic theological capability of discernment through the integration of the knowledge gained into one's personality.

## § 2 Length and scope

The duration of Doctoral programme Catholic Theology is three years (six semesters); this equals 180 ECTS credits.

## § 3 Admission

- (1) Valid proof of the necessary academic level for admission to the doctoral programme must be provided. This includes proof of completion of relevant diploma programmes or completion of other equivalent studies at an accredited Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution. If equivalency is given in principle but a few elements are missing for full equivalency, the rector's office is entitled to condition the determination of equivalency on passing certain examinations to be taken in the course of the doctoral programme.
- (2) Relevant studies include in any case the Diploma Programme in Catholic Theology completed at the University of Innsbruck.

## § 4 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

- (1) **Lectures (VO)** are courses which convey content in the form of presentations.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
  1. **Seminars (SE)** focus on a thematically limited subject area and emphasize academic work in communication and cooperation. The maximum number of participants is 20.
  2. **Research seminars (FO)** focus on the joint elaboration of an academic topic, on academic discussion, and on cooperation in the group - with special consideration of the current research literature. The maximum number of participants is 18.
  3. **Cooperative seminars (SK)** are interdisciplinary courses whose special characteristic is that they are taught in cooperation by a minimum of two instructors from different subject areas. The maximum number of participants is 18.

## § 5 Procedure for the allotment of places in courses with a limited number of participants

Students whose study time will be prolonged if they are not admitted are to be given priority.

## § 6 Modules

(1) The following modules – equal to 60 ECTS credits – are mandatory:

1	<b>Mandatory module: Specialization in the Subject of the Doctoral Thesis I</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a	SE Seminar I from the Dissertation Area	2	4
a	SE Seminar II from the Dissertation Area	2	4
a	SE Seminar III from the Dissertation Area	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
	The courses provide special knowledge in the field of the dissertation. Thematic interconnections above and beyond individual questions and topics are taken into consideration.		
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Highly specialized knowledge in the field of the dissertation and at the intersection with other contexts and areas that transcend the scope of individual projects.		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none		

2	<b>Mandatory Module: Theory of Knowledge and Sciences and Didactics of Sciences</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a	<b>VO Theory of Sciences I</b> General theory of science and its history under special consideration of the theologian's needs; critical reflection on the student's own work; gender aspects in theology.	3	5
b	<b>VO Theory of Sciences II</b> Questions of normativity in science and the relationship of church and theology; theological sources (loci); theology of inspiration; theological models and their critical reflection; gender aspects in theological studies	2	4
c	<b>SK Didactics of Sciences</b> Attitudes and methods of scientific and academic didactics with respect to teaching and transferring theological knowledge; gender questions in teaching theology; monitored and documented work on a project as described in Mandatory Module 4; the type of documentation will be determined and communicated by the lecturer.	2	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Highly specialized knowledge in modern theory of science and its history; student competence to critically analyze their own scientific work and place it in an academic context, and especially to recognize uncritical applications of models and methods from other areas of science. Excellent knowledge of central conflicts in the history of theology and of systematically central questions in the theory of science of theology; students possess the competence to critically evaluate different theological models and to reflect on their own basic theological options. Pertaining didactic knowledge and competence to teach and learn in		

	academic institutions and to present research results to an (expert) public; long-term commitment to develop new ideas in the context of learning and giving presentations.
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none

3	<b>Mandatory Module: Supervision of Scientific Projects</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	<b>SK Mentoring of Scientific Projects</b> Mentoring of a presentation project selected in Mandatory Module 4	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	2	4
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Monitored planning and evaluation of a selected presentation project; profound knowledge in the areas of research communication and management, development of analytical and evaluative competences with respect to the presentation of the student's own research results and those of others; advancement of self-assessment and self-evaluation competences in connection with promoting scientific and professional integrity		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> positive completion of Mandatory Module 2		

4	<b>Mandatory Module: Specialization in the Subject of the Doctoral Thesis II</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	Students independently carry out presentation projects to be chosen in coordination with the team of supervisors	-	6
	Eligible project types:  Active participation in conferences / symposia / special work groups (in the context of the faculty, research centers, research platforms, public relations at the university, pertinent international events), e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• thematic and organizational co-operation in planning and conducting scientific forums or forums that focus on knowledge transfer (2 ECTS credits)</li> <li>• making a contribution, e.g. a 30-minute presentation (4 ECTS credits)</li> <li>• posters (2 ECTS credits)</li> </ul> Publication with a length of at least 2,500 words in a publication with (potential) ISSN or ISBN registration (4 ECTS credits) e.g. in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• subject-specific journals</li> <li>• edited volumes</li> </ul> Teaching Practice, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• co-operation in planning and teaching courses, if the dissertation belongs to the respective subject area (4 ECTS credits)</li> <li>• thematic and organizational assistance in planning and guiding excursions (4 ECTS credits)</li> </ul>	-	

	Self-organized learning, such as • cooperation in planning and organizing alumni conferences / doctoral symposia (4 ECTS credits) • cooperation in international research networks (2 ECTS credits)		
	<b>Total</b>		6
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Students acquire profound knowledge in the dissertation area by independently planning and evaluating scientific projects which prepare them for teaching at theological universities and colleges, seminaries, theological study facilities, for the management of church institutions, and for knowledge transfer to the public; students enhance their competence to analyze and critically evaluate the presentation of their own scientific achievements and those of others with the objective to develop independence and innovation skills		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> positive completion of Mandatory Module 2		

5	<b>Mandatory Module: Specialization in the Immediate Subject of the Doctoral Thesis</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a	<b>FO Research Seminar</b> Joint work on a scientific topic to achieve specialized knowledge in the core area of the dissertation, with special consideration of current research literature	2	5
b	<b>FO Research Seminar: Discussion of the Student's Own Research Results</b> Discussion of the student's own research results from the core area of the dissertation; positioning the results on an intradisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary level	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	4	10
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Knowledge in state-of-the-art research: ability to – individually and jointly – advance the development of central questions in the core area of the dissertation, to jointly study current research literature, to present and discuss research results, and to network with other projects on the highest level		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none		

6	<b>Mandatory Module: Extension in a Further Subject</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a	<b>SE Seminar I on One Additional Subject</b>	2	4
b	<b>SE Seminar II on One Additional Subject</b>	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	4	8
	The courses focus on specialized knowledge in one additional subject and thus ensure that professional theological competence is broadened beyond the dissertation topic.		
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Highly specialized knowledge of the state of research in one additional subject of the doctoral programme; expanding intersecting knowledge on a high, subject-specific level		

	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none		
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7	<b>Mandatory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	Final oral dissertation defense before an examination board	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	-	5
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Qualification to present, reflect on, and analyze the results of the dissertation in the overall context of the doctoral programme; to summarize and explain the results of the research project, to present the gain of knowledge for the discipline; to demonstrate evaluation and methodical competences, as well as to present on an outstanding scientific level		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> positive evaluation of Mandatory Modules 1-6 and the dissertation		

## § 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the Doctoral programme Catholic Theology, a dissertation has to be written, which equals 120 ECTS credits. The dissertation is an academic thesis which – in contrast to a diploma or master thesis – serves to prove the student's ability to cope with scientific questions in an independent way.
- (2) The dissertation agreement defines the subject area from which the dissertation topic is to be chosen, the dissertation topic, and one more subject area. Subject areas are: Philosophy, Old Testament studies, New Testament studies, Church History and Patrology, Dogmatic Theology, Ecumenical Theology, Fundamental Theology, Religious Studies, Moral Theology, Christian Social Ethics, Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, Pastoral Theology, Canon Law, Catechetics and Religious Pedagogy.
- (3) The student has to propose a team of supervisors, consisting of at least two people (dissertation committee), and to nominate one of them as the main supervisor. It is permissible to also propose supervisors (with the exception of the main supervisor) from subject-related fields.
- (4) Prior to beginning the work, the student has to communicate the dissertation topic and names of the supervisors in writing to the Director of Studies. Topic and supervisors are considered as accepted, unless the Director of Studies vetoes them by means of a decree within one month after the receipt of the proposal.

## § 8 Examination regulations

- (1) The evaluation of Mandatory Modules 1 - 3 and 5 - 6 is based on course examinations.
- (2) Lectures are evaluated by means of a single exam at the end of the course. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods (oral and/or written) before the course starts.

- (3) The evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment is based on the student's regular, written and/or oral contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria before the course starts.
- (4) Mandatory Module 4 is evaluated by the main supervisor on the basis of a performance report written by the student. A positive grade has to read "participated with success"; a negative grade has to read "participated without success".
- (5) The evaluation of Mandatory Module 7 - "Doctoral Thesis Defense" - is based on an oral exam taken before an examination board consisting of at least three examiners.

## **§ 9 Academic degree**

Graduates of the Doctoral programme Catholic Theology are awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Theology" or "Dr. theol.", in brief.

## **§ 10 Implementation**

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2009.

For the Curriculum Committee:  
Univ.-Prof. DDr. Gerhard Leibold

For the Senate:  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ivo Hajnal