

The English version of the curriculum for the „Doctor of Philosophy programme Political Science“ 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 24 February 2009, issue 29, No. 151.

Decision of the Curriculum Committee of the School of Political Science and Sociology on 20.01.2009, approved by Senate Decree on 5 Feb. 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:

Curriculum for the
Doctor of Philosophy programme Political Science
at the School of Political Science and Sociology of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification Profile

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy programme Political Science belongs to the group of studies in the social and economic sciences.
- (2) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Political Science mostly conduct theoretical and empirical research in political science and integrate their findings into the national and international research process by means of publications. Graduates of this programme are able to teach in the field of political science and to advance the development of theoretical and empirical research methods.
- (3) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Political Science will pursue careers, among others, at universities, in research institutions, and in other post-secondary educational institutions. They are capable of working in managerial positions in research institutions of national, transnational, and international organizations, with governmental and non-governmental interest groups, and for political institutions and the media.
- (4) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Political Science possess the competences and knowledge to write scientific contributions according to international research standards and to integrate them into the international research process, especially through their dissertation as independent research work. They are in a position to develop research projects independently and creatively, to successfully submit them to national and international research funding institutions, and to carry them out. Within their special field, they are able to communicate with the scientific community, to present their own research results in society, and to work on and discuss issues in an inter-disciplinary manner.

§ 2 Length and scope

The Doctor of Philosophy programme Political Science takes 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 or master programmes, of relevant diploma or Magister programmes at a university of applied sciences or other equivalent studies at an accredited Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution. If equivalency is given in principle, and only a few elements are missing for full equivalency, the rector's office is entitled to combine the determination of equivalency with the obligation to pass certain examinations in the course of the doctoral programme.
- (2) Relevant studies are in any case
 - 1: the Diploma Programme in Political Science at the University of Innsbruck,
 - 2: the Master Programme "European Politics and Society" at the University of Innsbruck.

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

- (1) **Lectures with integrated practical and discussion parts (VU)** are courses with continuous performance assessment. These courses may comprise excursions. Their objective is to convey, develop, and present new scientific knowledge. Maximum number of participants: 20
- (2) **Seminars (SE)** are courses with continuous performance assessment. They serve to present, discuss, and reflect on the respective dissertation topic. Maximum number of participants: 20

§ 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 Mandatory and elective modules

- (1) The following modules – equal to 50 ECTS credits – are mandatory:

1	Mandatory Module: PhD Project	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a	SE Dissertation Colloquium 1	2	2
b	SE Dissertation Colloquium 2	2	2
c	SE Dissertation Colloquium	2	2
	Total	6	6
	Learning objectives of the module: The objective of this module is for students and dissertation supervisors to guide the dissertation projects from the first project idea to confrontation with the current state of scientific discussion and the reflection on suitable theoretical approaches and methods. After the successful completion of this module, students are capable of assessing their own research project critically and structuring it clearly. At the same time, students train skills in communicating research questions and results appropriately.		
	Admission requirements: none		

2	Mandatory Module: Methods of Social Research and Statistics	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VU Statistics	2	4
b.	VU Methods of Empirical Social Research	4	6
	Total	6	10
<p>Learning objectives of the module: Having completed this module, students are acquainted with the specific research methods traditionally employed in qualitative and quantitative research. They are aware of their strengths and weaknesses and are able to understand and critically assess empirical evidence produced by means of these methods. Moreover, they are capable of planning, carrying out, and evaluating studies according to scientific standards.</p>			
Admission requirements: none			

3	Mandatory Module: Generic Skills	Sem. hrs	ECTS credits
a.	As defined in the dissertation agreement, courses equal to 15 ECTS credits have to be completed. One course must be taken from the field of "Equality and Gender". Suitable options are marked in the course catalog. Courses are offered which develop didactic skills, competences for subsequent knowledge transfer within the field including the use of new media, insight into research ethics, and which promote inter-disciplinary thinking.	-	15
	Total	-	15
<p>Learning objectives of the module: After the successful completion of this module, students have advanced theoretical and practical knowledge, skills and competences in selected disciplines, as well as methods and general skills which empower them to pursue independent scientific activities and help them succeed in their future careers.</p>			
Admission requirements: none			

4	Mandatory Module: Presentation of own Research Results	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	Presentation of the student's own research results in the form of an accepted or already accomplished publication in a (reviewed) journal or the presentation of the student's research results at a scientific conference in the field of the social sciences.	-	14
	Total	-	14
<p>Learning objectives of the module: After the completion of this module, students are able to present research results in national or international forums, to analyze and critically assess their own research performance and that of others, and to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of their own research. Students acquire didactic skills which enable them to clearly present their research results to experts and to explain complicated correlations in a clearly understandable manner.</p>			
Admission requirements: none			

5	Mandatory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	Final oral dissertation defense in front of an examination board	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning objectives of the module: Presentation, reflection on, and analysis of dissertation results in the overall context of the doctoral programme; the focus is on summarizing and explaining the results of the research project, on presenting the increase in knowledge for the discipline, on demonstrating evaluation and method competences, as well as on presenting the results.		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of all other modules and positive evaluation of the dissertation		

(2) 2 elective modules, equal to 20 ECTS credits, must be completed:

1	Elective Module: Political Theories	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VU Political Theories and History of Ideas	4	10
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives of the module: Having completed this module, students are acquainted with the more recent theory discussion in the field of political theory and history of ideas and are able to read and critically assess scientific publications employing these approaches. They can relate this to their research project und integrate relevant insights into their work.		
	Admission requirements: none		

2	Elective Module: Comparative Politics	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VU Comparative Politics	4	10
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives of the module: After completing this module, students are acquainted with the more recent theory discussion in the field of comparative government and are able to read and critically assess scientific publications employing these approaches. They can relate this to their research project und integrate relevant insights into their work.		
	Admission requirements: none		

3	Elective Module: International Relations and Processes of Intergration	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a.	VU International Relations and Processes of Intergration	4	10
	Total	4	10
Learning objectives of the module: After completing this module, students are acquainted with the more recent theory discussion in the field of international relations and integration processes and can read and critically assess scientific publications employing these approaches. They can relate this to their research project und integrate relevant insights into their work.			
Admission requirements: none			

§ 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the doctoral programme, a dissertation has to be written, which equals 120 ECTS credits. The dissertation is a piece of scientific work which – in contrast to a diploma or master thesis – serves to prove the student's ability to cope with scientific questions in an independent manner.
- (2) The dissertation topic is to be chosen from the field of political science.
- (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 supervisor mainly responsible. It is permissible to propose supervisors (with the exception of the main supervisor) from subject-related fields. In justifiable exceptional cases it is possible for students to propose only one supervisor.
- (4) The student has to communicate the dissertation topic and the names of the supervisors in writing to the Director of Studies prior to beginning the work. Topic and supervisors are considered as accepted, if the Director of Studies does not veto 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, 2, 3, as well as Elective Modules 1, 2 and 3 (courses with continuous performance assessment) is based on the student's regular written and oral contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate the evaluation criteria before the course starts.
- (2) 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".
- (3) The evaluation of Module 5 " Doctoral Thesis Defense " is based on an oral exam taken before an examination board consisting of three examiners.

§ 9 Academic degree

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Political Science are awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" or "PhD", in brief.

§ 10 Implementation

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2009.

For the Curriculum Committee:
Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gerhard Mangott

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