

The English version of the curriculum for the „Doctor of Philosophy programme Psychology“ 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 3 April 2009, issue 52, No. 230.

Decision of the Curriculum Committee of the Faculty of Psychology and Sport Science on 16.03.2009, approved by Senate Decree on 24.03.2009:

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. 87/2007 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 Psychology** at the Faculty of Psychology and Sport Science of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification Profile and Study Objectives

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy programme Psychology belongs to the group of studies in the natural sciences.
- (2) Graduates have a systematic understanding of their research discipline and the methods employed by research in this field. They possess excellent knowledge of the pertinent literature. Through their submission of an original piece of scientific work, graduates of this programme have made their own contribution to research which widens boundaries of knowledge and conforms to the evaluation standards of national and international experts. They identify scientific questions and independently subject them to critical analysis. Graduates develop and synthesize new complex ideas or methods in an independent manner. They are capable of independently designing and carrying out significant research projects with scientific integrity; they are qualified junior scientists. Graduates are able to advance the societal, scientific and/or cultural progress of a knowledge-based society in an academic or non-academic environment. Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Psychology are qualified to organize scientific forums, to discuss findings from their special areas with colleagues, students as well as experts and to present and explain these findings to an academic as well as an interested non-academic audience. They are able to look beyond the boundaries of their own discipline and integrate into inter-disciplinary scientific discourse. The acquired key qualifications / generic skills qualify the graduates to adapt their expertise to fast-changing requirements. Graduates are able to work on special psychological issues according to international standards in a scientifically sound way.

The following knowledge aspects and skills are of central importance:

1. Knowledge and understanding

Excellent knowledge for successful work on the dissertation topic in the relevant scientific discipline; outstanding detailed knowledge in the special area relevant for the dissertation and of the pertinent current literature;

2. Method competences

In order to work on the dissertation topic, students have the competence and scientific integrity to plan and carry out scientific research and interpret research results by means of important psychological research methods; innovation skills for developing specific scientific but also practical core competences; independence and scientific integrity when acquiring, critically reflecting on, and interpreting national and international scientific literature;

3. Communicative skills

The focus is on the competence to successfully and independently present scientific concepts and research results (generated by the student and other researchers) and discuss them with peers, laypeople and/or an expert audience, taking into account basic didactic concepts.

4. Competences for a career as a scientist:

Competence to write a scientific work/publication; first-class knowledge of methods for the collection, synthesis and analysis of scientific data (especially by means of statistical or qualitative methods of analysis); competence to create an application for research funding and knowledge of pertinent national/international research funding organizations; independent planning and organization of workshops and scientific events, understanding and critical awareness of ethically significant problem areas in the research discipline, for example data collection and data protection, danger of abuse and limitations of the results obtained or methods developed, plagiarism, clinical studies, etc.; meta-cognitive knowledge of rules, standards and processes;

- (3) Doctoral or research projects can develop into programmes that are subsidized by an acknowledged national or international research funding institution and whose project leader is the main supervisor.

§ 2 Length and scope

The Doctor of Philosophy programme Psychology takes three years (six semesters), which 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 completion of relevant diploma or Magister programmes at a university of applied science or completion of 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 the completion of
1. the Diploma Programme Psychology at the University of Innsbruck
 2. the Master Programme Psychology at the University of Innsbruck.

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

(1) **Lectures** (VO) are courses where subject matter is conveyed mostly by the lecturers in the form of presentations.

(2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:

1. **Seminars** (SE) aim at intensive scientific work and critical reflection on specific psychological issues; the objective is to promote scientific cooperation and to utilize synergies. Maximum number of participants: 15
2. **Project seminars** (PO) are courses where students – in self-organized workshops and/or project meetings and/or seminar units - present specific content and discuss it with the course participants; in the process, they receive didactic guidance from the lecturer. Maximum number of participants: 25
3. **Conversation classes** (KO) focus on student reports about the progress of the research project; together with the supervisor(s), they intensively reflect on critical areas and specific questions they have encountered. Maximum number of participants: 5

§ 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 modules

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

1	Mandatory Module: Generic Skills	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, equal to 10 ECTS credits have to be completed. One course has to be chosen from the field of "Equality and Gender". Additionally, courses are offered which develop didactic skills and competences for subsequent knowledge transfer of the subject. Suitable options are marked in the course catalog. Courses on the following subjects are especially recommended: project management, presentation techniques, gender competence, quality assurance and control, ethical principles, societal and cultural principles, and time management	-	10
	Total	-	10
	Learning objectives of the module: After the successful completion of this module, students command advanced theoretical and practical knowledge, skills and competencies in selected disciplines, as well as methods and general skills which put them in a position to pursue independent scientific work and help them succeed in their future careers.		
	Admission requirements: none		

2	Mandatory Module: Interdisciplinary Research Workshop I	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a	PO Presentation of the Dissertation Project	2	3
b	KO Analysis of Research Results I	2	2
c	SE Analysis of Research Results II	2	2
	Total	6	7
<p>Learning objectives of the module: After successful completion of this module, students are able to develop and present scientifically sound concepts and analyze their data critically. Didactic and communicative skills are trained by the presentation of the research project to colleagues, and the ensuing discussion(s).</p>			
Admission requirements: none			

3	Mandatory Module: Interdisciplinary Research Workshop II	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a	KO Discussion of Current Research Results I	3	3
b	PO Discussion of Current Research Results II	3	3
	Total	6	6
<p>Learning objectives of the module: After the successful completion of this module, students are able to design and present scientifically sound concepts. On a high level of methodical competence, they critically analyze, interpret and evaluate data gathered by means of the current state of research. They are also able to generate and develop their own research strategies and concepts. By presenting the research project to and discussing it with colleagues, students test and consolidate their didactic and communicative competences.</p>			
Admission requirements: none			

4	Mandatory Module: Methodology	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a	SE Methodology	2	5
b	KO Methodology	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning objectives of the module: After the successful completion of this module, students possess in-depth knowledge of scientific research methods and can critically reflect on them in relation to those approaches in the theory of science relevant for the history and current state of psychology. Additionally, students are familiar with the elaborate methods of data collection and data analysis in psychology that are characteristic of current research. They have very good methodical competences and are able to apply them to the solution of central questions in research and/or occupational practice.</p>			
Admission requirements: none			

5	Mandatory Module: Presentation of own Research Results I	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	Presentation of the student's research results in the form of a: - (oral) presentation at a national or international conference (7 ECTS credits) or - workshop at a national or international conference (7 ECTS credits) or - presentation of two posters (3.5 ECTS credits each) at national or international conferences	-	7
	Total	-	7
	Learning objectives of the module: After the completion of this module students have the high level of methodical competence that allows them to present to, critically reflect on and discuss their subject-specific knowledge with scientific experts and/or an interested lay audience. Students are able to present difficult content within a limited timeframe and in a clearly understandable manner.		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of Mandatory Modules 2 and 3		

6	Mandatory Module: Presentation of own Research Results II	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	Students are required to publish the results of their scientific work in a reviewed journal or an equivalent form of publication (e.g. peer-reviewed scientific edited volume). The publication in question may not be a part of the "monograph or cumulative dissertation".	-	15
	Total	-	15
	Learning objectives of the module: After the successful completing of this module, students are able to formulate their research results on a high level of method competence, to discuss them critically, and to present them in a clearly understandable manner. Students know the rules of scientific work and apply them on a high level.		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of Mandatory Modules 2 and 3		

7	Mandatory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	Final oral dissertation defense before an examination board	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning objectives of the module: Presentation, reflection on, and analysis of the dissertation results in the overall context of the doctoral programme; the focus is on summarizing and explaining 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		

§ 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Psychology, 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 way.
- (2) The dissertation can consist of articles that are related in terms of subject matter or methods. In this case, a minimum of three scientific articles in peer-reviewed scientific publications must be submitted. The student must be the first author of at least two of these articles, and all three articles must already have been accepted for publication. In addition to publications in scientific journals, one of these publications can also have been accepted by an equivalent form of publication, e.g. a peer-reviewed subject-specific edited volume. Additionally, the student has to write an extensive summary of the subject area, the methods employed, and the results he/she has obtained; in doing so, the student must refer to the articles included in the dissertation. Furthermore, a summary of the scientific work must be discussed with reference to the current state of research in the area of the dissertation topic, and a preview has to be given of the future scientific and methodical development of the research topic.
- (3) The dissertation topic has to be chosen from one or more of the following fields: general psychology, methodology of psychology, developmental psychology, personality psychology and differential psychology, social psychology, biological psychology, applied psychology, clinical psychology, diagnostics, or psychopathology.
- (4) If the articles were written by several authors, the student's own contribution must be shown clearly and added to the dissertation.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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. A prospectus comprising several pages must be submitted, including the dissertation plan based on the current state of research of the chosen topic area. 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, and 4 is based on course examinations.
- (2) Lectures are evaluated by means of a written or oral exam about the content of the course.
- (3) The evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment is based on the student's regular written, oral and/or practical/experimental contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation criteria before the course starts. For the evaluation of project seminars a performance report must be submitted by the student.

- (4) Mandatory Modules 5 and 6 are evaluated by the main supervisor on the basis of a performance report to be submitted 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 three examiners.

§ 9 Academic degree

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Psychology 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:
Ass.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Hotter

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