

The English version of the curriculum for the „Doctor of Philosophy programme Sociology“ 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 12 March 2009, issue 38, No. 175.

Decision of the Curriculum Committee of the School of Political Science and Sociology on 20.01.2009, approved by Senate Decree on 05.03.2009:

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. 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 Sociology** at the School of Political Science and Sociology of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification Profile

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy programme Sociology belongs to the group of studies in the social and economic sciences.
- (2) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Sociology are able to structure sociological issues theoretically and according to the current state of the discipline and to work on them in a methodically suitable manner. Therefore, they are able to pursue academic careers and/or assume preparatory tasks for planning and decision-making at the interfaces of science and practice in a modern "knowledge society" that require in-depth familiarity with scientific issues and procedures.
- (3) The Doctor of Philosophy programme Sociology serves to educate and train researchers as well as highly qualified professionals according to international research standards – for the public sector, the private and not-for-profit sector, as well as for national and, increasingly, international organizations. Correspondingly, graduates can pursue careers in university and non-university research facilities, in politics and business consulting, in market and opinion research, as well as in public relations, in the area of human resource and social management, in the management of data and symbolic analyses, and in cultural, educational, and media-related institutions.
- (4) The educational objective of this program is the competence to carry out independent and creative scientific work with scientific integrity, which is documented by the dissertation as an independent piece of scientific work. In addition to acquiring specialized subject knowledge and creating an increase in knowledge, the program aims at the acquisition of key qualifications. These include the following competences: in-depth theoretical reflection, self-organized learning, subject-specific discussion, interdisciplinary dialog, the presentation of the student's own research results, and knowledge transfer.

- (5) The educational and training objectives of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Sociology include "gender competence". Therefore, the current state of gender research is the subject of a special course and is, additionally, integrated in all modules as a cross-subject topic.

§ 2 Length and scope

The Doctor of Philosophy programme Sociology 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 program must be provided. This includes proof of completion of relevant diploma or master programs, of completion of relevant diploma or Magister programs 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 program.
- (2) Relevant studies include, in any case, the Master Programme in Social and Political Theory of the University of Innsbruck.

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

- (1) **Lectures (VO)** are courses where lecturers present certain areas of a discipline. Maximum number of participants: 20
- (2) **Lectures with integrated seminar parts (VU)** are courses with continuous performance assessment. They can include excursions. They serve to convey, elaborate, and present new scientific findings. Maximum number of participants: 20
- (3) **Seminar (SE):** Seminars are courses with continuous performance assessment aiming at the presentation, discussion of, and reflection on the respective dissertation topic. Maximum number of participants: 20
- (4) **Conversation classes (KO)** are courses with continuous performance assessment which aim at the discursive consolidating of schools of thought, research approaches, theories, or research topics. Maximum number of participants is 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 modules

- (1) Mandatory modules – equal to 70 ECTS credits – are mandatory:

1	Mandatory Module: PhD Project	Sem.	ECTS
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		hours	credits
a.	KO Dissertation Colloquium Series 1	2	3
b.	KO Dissertation Colloquium Series 2	2	3
c.	KO Dissertation Colloquium Series 3	2	3
	Total	6	9
	Learning objectives of the module: In the course of the dissertation project, under guidance of the dissertation committee and in dialog with each other, students acquire the following competences: they identify unsolved problems of sociology in the context of current theory debates, develop an appropriate strategy for solving the problem by drawing on the ensemble of sociological methods, and make an independent contribution to the problem solution by implementing the solution strategy. After the successful completion of this module, they are able to plan, carry out, and critically evaluate a research project independently. Simultaneously, they acquire the skill to communicate scientific theories, methods, and findings in a suitable way.		
	Admission requirements: none		

2	Mandatory Module: Philosophy of Social Science	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a	VO Philosophy of Social Science	2	3
b	SE Philosophy of Social Science	2	5
	Total	4	8
	Learning objectives of the module: Students are acquainted with alternatives and current debates in the philosophy and methodology of science and are able to apply them to their own research.		
	Admission requirements: none		

3	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
	Learning objectives of the module: After the completion of this module, students are familiar with specific research methods employed in qualitative and quantitative research traditions. They are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of these methods 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.		
	Admission requirements: none		

4	Mandatory Module: Sociology (Specialization)	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
a	VO Special Sociology	2	3
b	SE Special Sociology	2	5
	Total	4	8
	Learning objectives of the module: Sociological education in a special field of sociology relevant for the		

	dissertation topic		
	Admission requirements: registration of the dissertation		
5	Mandatory Module: Generic Skills	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, equal to 15 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 field, including the use of new media, insight into research ethics, and skills which promote inter-disciplinary thinking. Suitable options are marked in the course catalog.	-	15
	Total	-	15
	Learning objectives of the module: After the successful completion of this module, students command 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 work and help them succeed in their future careers.		
	Admission requirements: none		

6	Mandatory Module: Participating in the Scientific Community ("Going Public")	Sem. hours	ECTS credits
	Participation in an international sociological conference	-	5
	Participation in international discourse in the special area of the dissertation in the form of a contribution to a reviewed journal or a scientific conference	-	10
	Total	-	15
	Learning objectives of the module: Participation in international forums of the scientific community; students can analyze and critically assess their own research results and those of others; creation of a culture that is committed to research ethics and rejects plagiarism; students know their own strengths and weaknesses.		
	Admission requirements: none		

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 program; 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 positive evaluation of the dissertation		

§ 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Sociology, a dissertation has to be written, which equals 110 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 topic has to be chosen from the field of sociology.
- (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) Prior to beginning the work, the student has to communicate the dissertation topic and the names of the supervisors in writing to the Director of Studies. 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 Modules 1 to 5 is based on course examinations.
 1. Course examinations of lectures consist of a single examination at the end of the course. The lecturer is required to communicate the evaluation criteria (oral and/or written) before the course starts.
 2. 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.
- (2) The main supervisor evaluates Module 6 "Participation in the Scientific Community" as follows:
 1. in the case of a conference participation, on the basis of a conference report to be submitted by the student. The conference report must include a reflection on the relevance of the conference for the student's dissertation project;
 2. in the case of a conference or journal contribution, on the basis of the scientific contribution which is submitted by the student and has been accepted for presentation or publication.A positive grade has to read "participated with success"; a negative grade has to read "participated without success".
- (3) The evaluation of the Mandatory Module "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 Sociology 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