

The English version of the curriculum for the „Doctoral programme Linguistics and Media Studies“ 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 28 April 2009, issue 90, No. 283.

Decision of the Curriculum Committee of the Faculty of Humanities (Language and Literature) on 07.04.2009, 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:

**Curriculum for the  
Doctoral programme Linguistics and Media Studies  
at the Faculty of Humanities (Language and Literature)  
of the University of Innsbruck**

**§ 1 Qualification profile and study objectives**

- (1) The Doctoral programme Linguistics and Media Studies belongs to the group of studies in the humanities and cultural studies.
- (2) Graduates of the Doctoral programme Linguistics and Media Studies have a systematic understanding of their research discipline and grasp of the methods employed by research in this field. Through their submission of an original piece of scientific work, graduates of this programme have made a 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, technologies, and methods in an independent manner. They are capable of independently designing and carrying out significant research projects with scientific integrity and are qualified to reflect on these processes in terms of the theory of science. They are qualified junior scientists. In an academic or non-academic environment, graduates are able to advance the societal, scientific and/or cultural progress of a knowledge-based society. Graduates of the Doctoral programme Linguistics and Media Studies are qualified to organize scientific forums, to discuss findings from their area of expertise with colleagues, students and experts, and to present and explain these findings to both students as well as to academic and interested non-academic audiences. They are able to look beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines and to integrate themselves into inter-disciplinary scientific discourse in a constructive way. The quality and international orientation of the programme promotes the graduates' mobility and directs their view beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines. The key qualifications acquired empower them to adapt their expertise to fast-changing requirements.

- (3) Career opportunities: Careers in university and non-academic research institutions as well as in journalism, publishing, radio and TV, theater, film, new media, language consulting, technical editing, and in the area of translation.
- (4) Doctoral or research projects can develop into programmes which are subsidized by an acknowledged national or international research funding institution and whose project leader is the main supervisor.

## § 2 Length and scope

The Doctoral programme Linguistics and Media Studies 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 a relevant diploma or master programme, of completion of a relevant diploma or Magister programme at a university of applied science, or proof of 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 include in any case
  1. any diploma programme completed at the Faculty of Humanities (Language and Literature) of the University of Innsbruck,
  2. any Magister / master programme completed at the Faculty of Humanities (Language and Literature) of the University of Innsbruck.

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

- (1) **Lectures (VO)** cover main and/or special areas as well as methods and schools of thought in linguistics and media studies.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
  1. **Seminars (SE)** are courses which focus on advanced scientific discussion. Participants are required to conduct independent scientific work, especially in the form of student presentations or equivalent assignments. Maximum number of participants: 25
  2. **Lectures with integrated practical elements (VU)** focus on the systematic acquisition, application and/or expansion of scientific content. Maximum number of participants: 25

3. **Working groups** (AG) focus on joint training of practical skills, practical application of scientific knowledge and methods, or on joint work on concrete questions. Maximum number of participants: 25
4. In **conversation classes** (KO) students learn and deepen their understanding of schools of thought, research approaches, theories, or research topics in a discursive manner. Maximum number of participants: 25.

### § 5 Procedure for the allocation 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 40 ECTS credits – are mandatory:

1	<b>Mandatory Module: Reflection on Methods</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	<b>VO Reflection on Methods</b> Presentation and discussion of research methods employed in the humanities, including a comparison with methods of other scientific disciplines by means of analyzing positions in the theory of science and case studies.	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	2	2
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Students are able to reflect on research methods, to compare them with each other and with the methods of other sciences, as well as to assess the advantages and disadvantages of different methodologies. Furthermore, the module strengthens methodological awareness and method competences in relation to the dissertation, creates the methodological basis for interdisciplinary research, and develops specialized knowledge of different positions in the theory of science.		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none		

2	<b>Mandatory Module: Scientific Basics/Core Skills of the Thesis Topic</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, equal to 15 ECTS credits must be completed to develop the scientific basis/core competences for the dissertation topic.	-	15
	<b>Total</b>	-	15
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> After the successful completion of this module, students possess the high level of interdisciplinary knowledge necessary for working on the dissertation.		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> as defined in the respective curricula		

3	<b>Mandatory Module: Culture and Society</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	<b>VO Theories -of Culture and Art</b> Presentation and discussion of theory formation in cultural studies and the arts, including in comparison with theory formation in other disciplines, with a view to positioning and questioning premises and concepts of cultural studies.	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	2	2
<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Students are familiar with different theories of the arts and cultural studies, both in terms of their own disciplines and with regard to interdisciplinary research. Students are able to assess the relevance of the humanities in society and critically question their different manifestations.			
<b>Admission requirements:</b> none			

4	<b>Mandatory Module: The Humanities and Society</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	<b>VO The Humanities and Society</b> The relationship between the humanities and society and how they influence each other; the role, importance and practical application of knowledge in the humanities in different areas of society (politics, culture, media, everyday life, etc.); society's expectations of the humanities.	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	2	2
<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Knowledge of the position of the humanities in society; ability to contribute to the positive further development of society and to critically question its different manifestations.			
<b>Admission requirements:</b> none			

5	<b>Mandatory Module: Generic Skills</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a.	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, equal to 10 ECTS credits are to be completed. One course must 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 indicated as such in the course catalog.	-	10
	<b>Total</b>	-	10
<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> 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.			

	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none
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6	<b>Mandatory module: Interdisciplinary Forum for PhD Candidates</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	<b>KO Interdisciplinary Forum for Doctoral Students</b> Students present their dissertation projects in a faculty-wide conversation class and open them up to discussion.	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	2	4
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Students are capable of presenting research projects and results and are familiar with interdisciplinary questions.		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none		

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> 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 methodical competences as well as on presenting the results.		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> successful completion of all other modules and positive evaluation of the dissertation		

(2) Students must complete elective modules equal to 20 ECTS credits; at least one of Elective Modules 1 to 5 must be chosen:

1	<b>Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Research Workshop</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a	<b>SE Interdisciplinary Research Workshop</b> By means of selected topics which are, as far as possible, oriented towards the participants' research interests, theoretical and practical questions of linguistics and media studies are discussed; an interdisciplinary point of view is assumed as much as possible.	2	6
b	<b>KO Interdisciplinary Research Workshop</b> Using the participants' research projects, theoretical and practical problems of creating a dissertation are discussed as broadly as possible and from an interdisciplinary perspective; possible solutions are investigated.	1	4

	<b>Total</b>	3	10
<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Upon completion of the module, students can critically evaluate their own research results and those of others and discuss them in an interdisciplinary manner at the highest level, both in terms of theoretical impact and practical relevance.			
<b>Admission requirements:</b> none			

2	<b>Elective Module: Philosophy of Linguistics</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a	<b>VO Philosophy of Linguistics</b> The relationship of linguistics to other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences is discussed, as is the overall position of the humanities and social sciences relative to the natural sciences. Additionally, basic questions, such as the relationship of language and thought, language and culture, as well as language and society, are discussed critically. With reading list.	1	4
b	<b>SE Philosophy of Linguistics</b> The seminar expands on the subject matter presented in the lecture and trains the practical application of this theoretical knowledge.	2	6
<b>Total</b>		3	10
<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> After the successful completion of the module, students have achieved critical awareness of the possibilities and limitations of scientific knowledge in linguistics. Furthermore, working at a high level of reflection, students are able to position linguistics relative to its related disciplines and to the natural sciences.			
<b>Admission requirements:</b> none			

3	<b>Elective Module: Philosophy of Media Science</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a	<b>VO Philosophy of Media Science</b> The relationship of media studies to other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences is discussed, as is the overall position of the humanities and social sciences relative to the natural sciences. In addition, fundamental questions, such as the relationship of language and thought, language/media and culture, as well as language/media and society, are discussed in a critical manner. With reading list.	1	4
b	<b>SE Philosophy of Media Science</b> The seminar expands on the subject matter presented in the lecture and trains the practical application of this theoretical knowledge.	2	6

	<b>Total</b>	3	10
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	<p><b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> After the successful completion of the module, students have achieved critical awareness of the possibilities and limitations of scientific knowledge in media studies. Furthermore, working on a high level of reflection, students can position media studies relative to their related disciplines and to the natural sciences.</p>		
	<p><b>Admission requirements:</b> none</p>		

4	<b>Elective Module: Philosophy of Cultural Studies</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a	<p><b>VO Philosophy of Cultural Studies</b> The lecture provides an overview of the theoretical foundations of research in cultural studies, including by expanding on the historical development of cultural studies. It investigates individual cultural theories and their understanding of culture in comparison to society and discusses the different manifestations, basic structures, and mechanisms of certain cultures or ethnic groups. Additionally, the lecture shows cultural theory as an intersection of other scientific disciplines, such as political science and sociology, or anthropology and history. With a reading list.</p>	1	4
b	<p><b>SE Philosophy of Cultural Studies</b> The seminar expands on the lecture by applying cultural semiotics to the analysis of cultural processes and cultural products. The focus is on context-oriented, pragmatic and self-reflected work.</p>	2	6
	<b>Total</b>	3	10
	<p><b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> After the successful completion of the module, students have achieved an excellent theoretical understanding of the concept of culture and are – in a differentiated manner – able not only to reflect on different cultural theories but also to position them in relation to other scientific disciplines.</p>		
	<p><b>Admission requirements:</b> none</p>		

5	<b>Elective Module: Methodology</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
a	<p><b>VU Linguistic Methods</b> The lecture provides an in-depth overview of the methods employed in linguistics. Developing on this, current debates about subject matter, terminology, and methodical approaches are analyzed at a high-level.</p>	2	5
b	<p><b>VU Methods of Media Studies</b> The lecture provides an in-depth overview of the methods employed in media studies. Developing on this, current debates about subject matter, terminology, and methodical approaches are analyzed at a high level.</p>	2	5

	<b>Total</b>	4	10
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> After the successful completion of the module, students have a profound knowledge of the methods and current debates in both fields and are able to differentiate and evaluate diverging concepts and opinions.		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none		

6	<b>Elective Module: Reflection, Analysis and Critical Valuation of own Research Strategies</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	Analysis and critical evaluation of the student's own research strategies for planning the dissertation project.	-	10
	<b>Total</b>	-	10
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Upon completion of the module, students possess specialized skills, are familiar with the most advanced methods – including synthesis and evaluation – and employ these to solve central questions.		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none		

7	<b>Elective Module: Scientific Discourse</b>	<b>Sem. hours</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>
	Active participation in scientific discourse at national and international conferences, in projects, and at comparable events.	-	10
	<b>Total</b>	-	10
	<b>Learning objectives of the module:</b> Presentation of research results at national and international forums; students can analyze and critically evaluate their own research results and those of others.		
	<b>Admission requirements:</b> none		

## § 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the Doctoral programme Linguistics and Media Studies, a dissertation equal to 120 ECTS credits must be written. The dissertation is a piece of scientific work which – unlike a diploma or master thesis – serves to prove the student's ability to address scientific questions in an independent manner.
- (2) The dissertation topic must be chosen from the fields of linguistics and media studies.
- (3) The student proposes a team of supervisors, consisting of at least two people (dissertation committee), and nominates one of them as the main supervisor. Students are permitted to propose supervisors (with the exception of the main supervisor) from subject-related fields. Furthermore, in justifiable exceptional cases it is possible for students to propose only one supervisor.
- (4) Prior to beginning work on the dissertation, the student must communicate in writing the dissertation topic and names of the supervisors 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 of receiving the proposal.

## **§ 8 Examination regulations**

- (1) Mandatory Modules 1 to 6 as well as Elective Modules 1 to 5 are evaluated by means of course examinations.
  - 1 Lectures are evaluated by means of a single exam at the end of the course. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria (oral and/or written) before the start of the course.
  - 2 The evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment is based on the student's regular written and/or verbal contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria before the start of the course.
- (2) Elective Module 6 is evaluated by the main supervisor based on sections of the dissertation and/or on the basis of written and oral performance reports submitted by the student. A positive grade must be indicated by the assessment "participated with success"; a negative grade must be indicated by the assessment "participated without success".
- (3) Elective Module 7 is evaluated by the main supervisor on the basis of the contribution the student has made to the respective forum(s) or the respective project. A positive grade must be indicated by the assessment "participated with success"; a negative grade must be indicated by the assessment "participated without success".
- (4) The evaluation of Mandatory Module 7 is based on an oral exam taken before an examination board consisting of three examiners.

## **§ 9 Academic degree**

Graduates of the Doctoral programme Linguistics and Media Studies are awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy", abbreviated to "PhD".

## **§ 10 Implementation**

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2009.

For the Curriculum Committee:  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sigurd Scheichl

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