

The English version of the curriculum for the “PhD Program in Law” of the University of Innsbruck is not legally binding and is for informational purposes only. The curriculum stands as it was published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin on 14 May 2012, issue 25, No 272.

Decision of the Curriculum Committee of the Faculty of Law of 11 January 2012, approved by Senate Resolution on 17 April 2012:

On the basis of § 25 Para 1 No 10 University Act 2002, BGBl I (Federal Law Gazette I) 2002/120, most recently amended by Federal Law BGBl I 2011/13, and § 32 of the articles regarding university studies, restated in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 3 February 2006, Issue 16, No. 90, most recently amended by the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 4 September 2011, Issue 19, No 360, the following decree is enacted:

**Curriculum for the
PhD Program in Law
at the University of Innsbruck Faculty of Law**

§ 1 Qualification Profile and Objectives

(1) The PhD Program in Law forms part of the group of law studies (§ 54 Para 1 No 6 Universities Act 2002).

(2) The PhD Program in Law aims at educating researchers and excellent candidates for high profile careers. It shall provide the participants with the ability to do independent and methodologically correct research. This is proven by the submission of a piece of individual research, the PhD thesis. PhD students shall gain in depth knowledge of the disciplines which are relevant to the topic of their theses, especially in regard to the most important legal subjects as well as several related disciplines. They shall also become acquainted with the current publications in these particular fields. Besides that the PhD Program in Law serves to develop important other qualifications such as the ability of in depth theoretical reflexion, self-organized studying, scientific discourse, interdisciplinary and international dialogue, presentation of research and the transfer of knowledge. Graduates of the PhD Program in Law will have developed a thorough understanding of the occupational profile of an independent researcher in academia, in practice, in business and the public sector, as well as the ability to publish and the ability to understand problems of ethical relevance and their effects on society.

(3) Among others the activities of the graduates of the PhD Program in Law are: becoming aware of current research findings, developing new and independent solutions to current legal topics as well as being able to publish and present these solutions. Graduates are qualified not only for the classical legal professions but also for other high profile careers at the University or other research and educational institutions, in the diplomatic service, in European and other international organisations, in national and international corporations as well as in politics.

(4) Graduates of the PhD Program in Law have the ability to find elaborate solutions to complex legal questions applying a methodologically correct and creative approach. This requires an outstanding knowledge of the law as well as the competence to apply this knowledge in practice.

(5) Moreover, graduates of the PhD Program in Law are able to present their solutions and other legal topics in front of members of the legal profession as well as in front of others and to discuss and analyse them critically.

§ 2 Duration

The PhD Program in Law equals 180 ECTS credits (ECTS-AP). This corresponds to a length of study of three years (six semesters).

§ 3 Admission Requirements

Admission to the PhD Program in Law requires the completion of a thematically relevant Diploma or Master Program at a University or a University of Applied Sciences (“Fachhochschule“) or other, equivalent studies at an acknowledged Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution. In cases where only minor requirements for recognition are missing, the Rector’s office may require additional examinations during the PhD Program.

§ 4 Courses and Number of Participants

(1) **Lectures (VO)** present an in depth analysis of relevant legal topics, their systematics as well as their relevant contents. The students are encouraged to ask questions and participate to discussions.

(2) The following are courses with continuing performance assessment:

1. **Seminars (SE)** focus on the discussion of specific legal questions. Students are required to discuss and present legal topics and their solutions. Maximum number of participants: 15

2. **Practical Training (PR):** Especially qualified lecturers provide an in depth view of the practitioner. Maximum number of participants: 45

§ 5 Procedure of Admission to Courses with Limited Number of Participants

In course units with a maximum number of participants, places are first allocated to students for who the non-admission would lead to a longer duration of study.

§ 6 Mandatory Modules

The following courses equalling 60 ECTS credits are mandatory.

1.	Mandatory Module: Research and Theoretical Core Competences	HPS	ECTS-AP
a.	Lecture (VO) Theory of Law and Methodology	2	5
b.	Lecture (VO) Comparative Law	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Educational Objective of the Module: After the successful completion of this module students have an excellent knowledge in legal theory, methodology and comparative law		
	Application Requirement(s): None		

2.	Mandatory Module: Core Competences for the Legal Profession	HPS	ECTS-AP
	Students have to choose 2 different lectures equalling 5 ECTS-AP from among one or more of the following fields:		
a.	Practical Course (PR) Communication, Presentation and Negotiation Skills	2	2,5
b.	Lecture (VO) Legal Ethics	2	2,5
c.	Lecture (VO) Foreign Legal Terminology	2	2,5
d.	Seminar (SE) Equal Treatment and Gender	2	2,5
	Total	4	5
	Educational Objective of the Module: After the successful completion of this module students have achieved the core competences which are essential in their later professional life.		
	Application Requirement(s): None		

3.	Mandatory Module: Research and Core Competences in fields other than the field of thesis topic	HPS	ECTS-AP
a.	Lecture (VO) from a field other than the field of law the thesis deals with	2	5
b.	Seminar (SE) from a field other than the field of law the thesis deals with	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Educational Objective of the Module: After the successful completion of this module students have an excellent and high level knowledge of the studied fields, which enables them to publish in legal journals as well as to use that knowledge in practice.		
	Application Requirement(s): None		

4.	Mandatory Module: Research and Core Competences in drafting the thesis concept	HPS	ECTS-AP
a.	Presentation of thesis topic and thesis concept	-	5
b.	Written presentation of relevant literature and case law regarding the field of law the thesis deals with	-	10
	Total	-	15
	Educational Objective of the Module: After successful completion of this module students have gained the necessary research skills by having drafted, presented and discussed their thesis concept		
	Application Requirement(s): None		

5.	Mandatory Module: Research and Core Competences in the field of thesis topic	HPS	ECTS-AP
a.	Lecture (VO) from the field of law the thesis deals with	2	5
b.	Lecture (VO) from the field of law the thesis deals with	2	5

	Total	4	10
	Educational Objective of the Module: After successful completion of this module students have an excellent knowledge of the field of law of their thesis topic, which enables them to write the thesis as well as qualifies them for their later professional life in regard to publications and practice.		
	Application Requirement(s): None		

6.	Mandatory Module: Thesis Defence (“Rigorosum”)	HPS	ECTS-AP
	Defence of the PhD thesis in an oral exam in front of a board of examiners	-	10
	Total	-	10
	Educational Objective of the Module: Presentation and Analysis of the findings of the PhD thesis in its wider context		
	Application Requirement(s): positive assessment of all other modules and the Phd thesis		

§ 7 PhD Thesis (“Dissertation”)

(1) The PhD Program in Law requires the writing of a PhD thesis (Dissertation) equalling 120 ECTS points. Other than the diploma or master thesis the PhD thesis requires participants to prove that they are able to independently and correctly foster a research topic (§ 51 Para 2 No 13 University Act 2002).

(2) The topic chosen for the PhD thesis must stem from a field of law listed in the mandatory courses or elective courses (“gebundene Wahlfächer”) of the curriculum of law studies at the University of Innsbruck (University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 19 July 2001, issue 38, No 731 as amended by the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 8 June 2011, issue 26, No 437) except the subjects enumerated in § 15 No 6 and 7 of the elective courses.

(3) The PhD student has to name a team of at least 2 supervisors and, from among those, one responsible main supervisor. It is possible to choose a professor teaching a related subject as a supervisor, but not as the main supervisor. In special cases it can be justified to choose only 1 supervisor.

(4) Before the start of the thesis the PhD student has to inform the Dean of Studies in writing about the topic of the PhD thesis and the names of the supervisors. This suggestion counts as accepted, if the Dean of Studies does not issue a negative statement within a month.

§ 8 Examination regulations

(1) Course performance is evaluated in the following ways (except the performance required in § 6 No 4 and § 6 No 6):

(2) Lectures are evaluated in a final examination. The examination mode (written and/or oral) has to be announced by the lecturer beforehand.

(3) Courses with continuing performance assessment are evaluated according to regular oral and/or written participation during the course. The lecturer has to announce the criteria and methods of evaluation beforehand.

(4) Evaluation of the performance required in § 6 No 4 are evaluated by the main supervisor of the PhD thesis issuing grades.

(5) Performance regarding § 6 No 6 is evaluated in the form of an oral exam in front of a committee of at least 3 examiners.

§ 9 Academic Degree

Graduates of the PhD Program in Law are awarded the academic degree of a “Doctor in law“ or “Dr. iur“ in brief.

§ 10 Transitional Provisions

Upon application of the student exams passed under the curriculum of the PhD Program in Law 2009 (University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 22 April 2009, issue 70, No 262; „Curriculum 2009) can be credited against the curriculum 2012 as follows:

Courses from the Curriculum 2009	Course from the Curriculum 2012
VO Research Skills and Methodology (§ 6 Para 1 No 1 lit a; 4 ECTS-AP) or VU Research Skills and Methodology (§ 6 Para 2 No 1; 4 ECTS-AP) and VO Theory of Law and Legal Ethics (§ 6 Para 1 No 1 lit b; 4 ECTS-AP) or VU Theory of Law and Legal Ethics (§ 6 Para 2 No 2; 4 ECTS-AP)	VO Theory of Law and Methodology (§ 6 No 1 lit a; 5 ECTS-AP) and Legal Ethics (§ 6 No 2 lit b; 2,5 ECTS-AP)
VO Theory of Law and Legal Ethics (§ 6 Para 1 No 1 lit b; 4 ECTS-AP) or VU Theory of Law and Legal Ethics (§ 6 Para 2 No 2; 4 ECTS-AP)	Legal Ethics (§ 6 No 2 lit b; 2,5 ECTS-AP)
VO Comparative Law and Foreign Legal Terminology (§ 6 Para 1 No 1 lit c; 4 ECTS-AP)	VO Comparative Law (§ 6 No 1 lit b; 5 ECTS-AP)
VU Comparative Law and Foreign Legal Terminology (§ 6 Para 2 No 3; 4 ECTS-AP)	Foreign Legal Terminology (§ 6 No 2 lit c; 2,5 ECTS-AP)
PR Communication, Presentation and Negotiation Skills (§ 6 Para 1 No 2 lit c; 4 ECTS-AP)	Communication, Presentation and Negotiation Skills (§ 6 No 2 lit a; 2,5 ECTS-AP)
Equal Treatment and Gender (§ 6 Para 1 No 3)	Equal Treatment and Gender (§ 6 No 2 lit d; 2,5 ECTS-AP)
VO thesis topic (§ 6 Para 1 No 4; 4 ECTS-AP)	VO thesis topic (§ 6 No 5 lit a; 5 ECTS-AP)
SE thesis topic (§ 6 Para 1 No 4; 4 ECTS-AP)	SE thesis topic (§ 6 No 5 lit b; 5 ECTS-AP)
VO related to thesis topic I (§ 6 Para 1 No 5 lit a; 4 ECTS-AP) or II (§ 6 Para 1 No 5 lit b; 4 ECTS-AP) or	VO other than thesis topic (§ 6 No 3 lit a; 5 ECTS-AP)

<p style="text-align: center;">III</p> <p>(§ 6 Para 1 No 5 lit c; 4 ECTS-AP) or VU Contract Drafting and Contracting (§ 6 Para 1 No 2 lit a; 4 ECTS-AP) or VU Procedure (§ 6 Para 1 No 2 lit b; 4 ECTS-AP)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SE related to thesis topic (§ 6 Para 1 No 5 lit d; 4 ECTS-AP)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SE other than thesis topic (§ 6 No 3 lit b; 5 ECTS-AP)</p>

Each assessment can only be credited once.

§ 11 Entry into force

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2012.

For the Curriculum Commission:

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Andreas Scheil

For the Senate:

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ivo Hajnal