

**Note:**

The following curriculum is a consolidated version. It is legally non-binding and for informational purposes only.

The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

**Principal version** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 22 April 2009, Issue 67, No 259

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 498

**Complete version from 1 October 2014**

Curriculum for the  
**Doctor of Philosophy Programme Biology**  
at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Innsbruck

**§ 1 Qualification profile and programme objectives**

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Biology belongs to the group of studies in the natural sciences.
- (2) Graduates are able to work on issues in the natural sciences on a high level of expertise and in an independent and creative way. They employ modern methods and integrate the current state of knowledge in the respective field.
- (3) Graduates are able to extend and evaluate biological issues as well as to interdisciplinary use the competences acquired.
- (4) Graduates possess scientifically well-founded theory- and method-driven key competences in order to solve problems. In particular, they have interdisciplinary competences that enable adapting to rapidly changing requirements. Apart from the acquisition of highly subject-specific and methodical competences, doctoral students train general scientific and communicative competences which are required for successful performance of a scientific profession, e.g. in the academic, private and public sector. These competences also include the ability to independently present and discuss scientific contents at national and international scientific events as well as to critically analyse own and other scientific results, concepts and experiments. Moreover, they acquire the ability to publish scientific results in suitable form (especially in international scientific journals).
- (5) Graduates are able to solve problems scientifically well-founded and theory- and method-driven. This competence enables them to elaborate relevant issues scientifically and practice-oriented in their professional fields, such as scientific and managing activities in private and public companies and institutions.
- (6) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Biology serves to develop and enable independent scientific work as well as to promote young scientists based on diploma and master programmes.

**§ 2 Length and scope**

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Biology 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 according to § 5 section 3 of the Study Law of Universities 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 Teacher Training Programme with Diploma or Master Thesis in the subject Biology and Environmental Protection and all Diploma, Magister and Master Programmes at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Innsbruck.

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

- (1) **Lectures** (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
  1. **Lectures with integrated practical parts** (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of students per course: 6-24
  2. **Seminars** (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 6-24
  3. **Practical courses** (UE) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks within an area. Maximum number of students per course: 6-24

### § 5 Procedure for the allotment of places in courses with a limited number of participants

The following criteria shall be applied for the allotment of places in courses with a limited number of participants:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criteria in Z 1 do not suffice, the available places are drawn by random.

### § 6 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules with a total of 15 ECTS-Credits are to be taken:

1.	Compulsory Module:	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>Concept of the Dissertation</b>	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning objectives:</b> Students are able to elaborate and present a concept of their dissertation.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	Compulsory Module:	h	ECTS-Credits
	Active participation in the scientific discourse within the framework of conferences, congresses, workshops or Summer Schools	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning objectives:</b> Students are able to present research results in institutional, national and international forums and discuss with colleagues.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 1		

3.	Compulsory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final public doctoral thesis defense	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning objectives:</b> Students are able to present and defend the results of their research work in terms of scientific standards. They are able to present and reflect the increase of knowledge acquired for the discipline and to integrate in a wider subject-related context.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of all other compulsory modules and all required elective modules as well as the dissertation.		

(2) From the following elective modules, modules with a total of 15 ECTS-Credits are to be taken:

1.	Elective Module: Research Training	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>SE Research Training 1</b>	1	1
	<b>SE Research Training 2</b>	1	1
	<b>SE Research Training 3</b>	1	1
	<b>SE Research Training 4</b>	1	1
	<b>SE Research Training 5</b>	1	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning objectives:</b> Students are familiar with the analysis, interpretation and critical discussion of own and other data corresponding to the current state of knowledge. They are able to document, present and interpret research results as well as to derive their own research strategies.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 1		

2.	Elective Module: Statistics	h	ECTS-Credits
	VU Advanced Statistics	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning objectives:</b> After completion of this module, students are able to create complex experimental designs and are familiar with advanced statistical and graphical methods of analysis.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 1		

3.	Elective Module: Scientific Writing and Publishing	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Scientific English	1	2.5
b.	VU Scientific Writing	1	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning objectives:</b> After completion of this module, students have acquired the linguistic skills required in the international discourse of the natural sciences. Additionally, students learn about the concept, IMRAD structure, design, and finalization of English-language publications.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 1		

4.	Elective Module: Scientific Basics / Core Skills of the Thesis Topic	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses amounting to 5 ECTS-Credits are to be completed in line with the thesis agreement as scientific basics/core competences.	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning objectives:</b> After successful completion of this module, students possess the high level of subject-specific knowledge necessary for working on the Dissertation.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 1		

5.	Elective Module: Generic Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	According to the thesis agreement, teaching units amounting 5 ECTS-Credits are to be completed. One teaching unit is to be completed on the topic of "Equality and Gender".		
	<b>Total</b>		
	<b>Learning objectives:</b> After successful completion of this module, students possess knowledge, skills, and competences in selected disciplines beyond the core area of their dissertation which are important for their future careers.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of compulsory module 1		

## **§ 7 Dissertation**

- (1) In the course of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Biology, a dissertation has to be written, which equals 150 ECTS-Credits. The dissertation is a scientific piece of work which serves to prove the student's ability to cope with scientific questions in an independent way.
- (2) The dissertation topic has to show a meaningful relationship to one of the master programmes offered at the Faculty of Biology of the University of Innsbruck.
- (3) The dissertation can also consist of articles that are related in terms of subject matter or methods. The following quality criteria apply:
  1. The dissertation has to consist of a minimum of three articles that have been accepted for publication by acknowledged scientific journals.
  2. 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 manuscripts included in the dissertation.
  3. If the articles were written by several authors, the student's own contribution must be shown clearly and added to the dissertation.
- (4) 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 with a *venia docendi*. 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.
- (5) The student has to communicate the dissertation topic and 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) Compulsory module 1 is assessed by the main supervisor. A positive grade has to read "mit Erfolg teilgenommen" (participated with success); a negative grade has to read "ohne Erfolg teilgenommen" (participated without success).
- (2) Compulsory module 2 is assessed after corresponding proof of performance by the dean of studies. A positive grade has to read "mit Erfolg teilgenommen" (participated with success); a negative grade has to read "ohne Erfolg teilgenommen" (participated without success).
- (3) The evaluation of compulsory module 3 is based on an oral exam taken before an examination board.
- (4) The evaluation of the elective modules 1-5 is based on 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 course starts.
  2. The evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment is based on the student's regular, written and/or verbal and/or experimental contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria before the course starts.

## **§ 9 Academic degree**

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Biology are awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" or "PhD", in brief.

## **§ 10 Implementation**

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2009.
- (2) The modification of the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 498 comes into force on 1 October 2014 and applies to all students.

### Equivalence list – Doctor of Philosophy Programme Biology

Positively assessed exams, taken as part of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Biology at the University of Innsbruck (curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 22 April 2009, Issue 67, No 259) will be recognised as equal towards the exams of the curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 498 as follows:

Curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 22 April 2009, Issue 67, No 259		Curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 498	
§6 No2a	CM*2: SE Analysis of Own Research Results I (1 h / 2 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2) No1	EM**1: SE Research Training (2 units à 1 h / 1 ECTS-Credits)
§6 No2b	CM*2: SE Analysis of Own Research Results II (1 h / 2 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2) No1	EM**1: SE Research Training (2 units à 1 h / 1 ECTS-Credits)
§6 No2c	CM*2: SE Analysis of External Research Results (1 h / 2 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2) No1	EM**1: SE Research Training (2 units à 1 h / 1 ECTS-Credits)
§6 No3d	CM*2: WS Presentation of Own Research Results (2 h / 4 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2) No1	EM**1: SE Research Training (4 units à 1 h / 1 ECTS-Credits)
§6 No3	CM*3: Presentation of Own Research Results (-h / 10 ECTS-Credits)	§6(1)No2, §6(2)No1, §6(1)No1,	CM*2: Participation in Scientific Discourse + EM**1: Research Training OR + CM*1: Concept of the Dissertation (- + 5 h / 5+5 ECTS-Credits)
§6 No4	CM*4: VU Advanced Statistics (2 h / 4 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2) No2	EM**2 VU Advanced Statistics (2 h / 5 ECTS-Credits)
§6 No5a	CM*5: VU Scientific English (2 h / 4 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2) No3a	EM**3: VU Scientific English (1 h / 2.5 ECTS-Credits)
§6 No5b	CM*5: VU Scientific Writing I (1 h / 2 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)No1	EM**1: SE Research Training (2 units à 1 h / 1 ECTS-Credits) or Courses amounting to 2 ECTS-Credits for the EM**5 (Generic Skills)
§6 No5c	CM*5: VU Scientific Writing II (1 h / 2 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)No3b	EM**3: VU Scientific Writing (1 h / 2.5 ECTS-Credits)

\*CM: compulsory module

\*\*EM: elective module