

**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).

**Original version** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 22 April 2009, issue 69, no 261

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 31 May 2012, issue 29, no 312

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 20 April 2016, issue 19, no. 331

## **Complete version as of 1 October 2016**

### Curriculum for the **Doctor of Philosophy Programme School of Catholic Theology (PhD)** at the School of Catholic Theology of the University of Innsbruck

#### **§ 1 Qualification Profile and Programme Objectives**

- (1) The Doctoral Programme (PhD) School of Catholic Theology belongs to the group of theological studies.
- (2) The Doctoral Programme (PhD) School of Catholic Theology is a joint study programme of Catholic religious education and philosophy at the School of Catholic Theology. Graduates are able to academically elaborate on and present philosophical and/or religious pedagogical problems on a high level of subject-matter and methodology, and to recognise their practical relevance.

The Doctoral Programme (PhD) School of Catholic Theology specifically deepens and consolidates the graduates' communicative and interdisciplinary competences, as well as their understanding of the theory of science and didactics; special consideration is given to basic human questions of *Weltanschauung* and a responsible treatment of faith and religion in the public life of the church and of society. The programme guides students towards independent and creative practical academic work and is meant to be the first step of an academic career.

Graduates have an in-depth knowledge of the disciplines required for writing their dissertation, competences in self-perception and self-evaluation, competences in the fields of academic teaching and learning, as well as in presentation of scientific findings in the public, language, communication, planning and leading skills.

- (3) Depending on the topic chosen for the dissertation, the dissertation will focus on questions of philosophy or religious pedagogy. This includes well-founded academic orientation knowledge with respect to
  - a survey of current themes in philosophical research,
  - philosophy in the context of the discussion with other sciences, and
  - and especially with respect to the fact that philosophical thinking leads to argumentatively well-founded and academically responsible convictions in questions of "Weltanschauung";and/or
  - the independent perception, assessment and further development of theories and concepts in the field of religious pedagogy and theology,

- the competence to develop complex topics according to the state of the art in the relevant disciplines and by employing one's methods in a theologically reflected manner,
  - using the connection between theory and practice for generating academic insight,
  - reflection on the tension-charged unity of faith and teaching, of dogma and practice,
  - the awareness of the relationship between form and matter with respect to teaching and research in religious pedagogy,
  - the development of an academic-theological capability of discernment through the integration of the knowledge gained into one's personality.
- (4) The Doctoral Programme (PhD) School of Catholic Theology qualifies graduates for professional careers which require the application of special academic knowledge and methods. In particular, it qualifies graduates to pursue academic careers, to teach at universities and other academic institutions, and to conduct academic work, especially in an interdisciplinary context and/or in basic research. The programme qualifies for leadership positions in these areas, but also in fields which require academically well-founded orientation knowledge, the special competence of critical analysis and the ability to take an argumentatively plausible and academically responsible position, as well as theological judgment and didactic competences, for example for occupations within the church, in the areas of education, publishing, and administration, in teacher training, consulting, communication and media work, in public administration, and in private business.

## § 2 Scope and Duration

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme (PhD) School of Catholic Theology covers 180 ECTS-Credits and has a duration of three years (six semesters).

## § 3 Admission

- (1) Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy Programme School of Catholic Theology requires a university (diploma or) Master's degree in a thematically relevant field, a Master's or diploma degrees awarded by universities of applied sciences ("Fachhochschulen") acc. to §6 par. 4 or another comparable study programme of an approved post-secondary educational institution home or abroad. In the event that equivalence has been established in principle but with certain qualifications missing for full equivalence, supplemental examinations may be required. These examinations must be completed during the doctoral degree programme.
- (2) Relevant study programmes are in any case a completed Master's Programme Philosophy at the School of Catholic Theology, a completed Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education and the Master's Teacher Training Programme for Secondary Schools (general education) with a Master's Thesis in the field of Catholic Religious Education acc. to the curriculum of 2002, if the Diploma Thesis' theme is related to the subject of Catholic Religious Education, at 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) **Seminars** (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 20

## § 5 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.

## § 6 Compulsory Modules

The following compulsory modules covering 30 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	<b>Compulsory Module: Academic Core Competences for the Dissertation Topic</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, related to the subject of the dissertation covering 12 ECTS-Credits, two of which must be seminars covering a minimum of 4 ECTS-Credits each, must be passed.	-	12
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>12</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Having successfully completed the module, students have advanced specialist knowledge of the dissertation topic as well as of the methodological skills required for writing the dissertation.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	<b>Compulsory Module: I: Theory of Knowledge and Sciences and Didactics of Sciences</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-AP</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Philosophy of Science I</b> General theory of science and its history under special consideration of the theologian's needs; critical reflection of one's own work; gender aspects in theology;	2	3
<b>b.</b>	<b>VO Philosophy of Science II</b> Questions of normativity in science and the relationship of church and theology; theological sources (loci); theology of inspiration; theological models and their critical reflection; gender aspects in theological studies;	2	3
<b>c.</b>	<b>SE Science Didactics</b> Positions and methods of scientific and academic didactics with regards to theological teaching and knowledge transfer; gender aspects of theological teaching;	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Highly specialized knowledge in the modern theory of sciences and its history; student competence to critically analyze their own scientific work and place it in an academic context, and especially to recognize uncritical applications of models and methods from other areas of science. Excellent knowledge of central conflicts in the history of theology and of systematically central questions in the theory of science of theology; students possess the competence to critically evaluate different theological models and to reflect on their own basic theological options. Pertaining didactic knowledge and competence to teach and learn in academic institutions and to present research results to an (expert) public; long-term commitment to develop new ideas in the context of learning and giving presentations.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Active Participation in Scientific Discourse	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p><b>SE Supervision of Scientific Projects</b>  Supervised planning and evaluation of scientific projects; advancing the knowledge in the field of research communication and research management, furthering of analysis and evaluation skills with regards to presentation of the research results of oneself and others; further development of self-assessment and evaluation skills with regards to improving academic and professional integrity.</p> <p>If students already have relevant project experience, this seminar can – with the agreement of the main supervisor - be replaced by additional projects acc. to lit. b amounting to 2 ECTS-Credits.</p>	1	2
b.	<p>Self-reliant Completion of Scientific Projects as agreed and selected with the team of supervisors. The number of ECTS-Credits awarded for the respective courses is specified by the main supervisor.  Exemplary listing of project types, which can be selected and approximate number of ECTS-Credits allocated:</p> <p>Active participation in congresses/symposia/specialist consortia (in the context of School, main research areas, research platforms, public relations of the University, pertinent international events), e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• thematic and organizational planning and implementing academic events or events that serve knowledge transfer (2 ECTS-Credits)</li> <li>• making a contribution: e.g. 30-minute lecture (4 ECTS-Credits)</li> </ul> <p>poster (2 ECTS-Credits)  Publication with a length of at least 2,500 words in a publication with (potential) ISSN or ISBN registration (4 ECTS-Credits) e.g. in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• subject-specific journals</li> <li>• edited volumes</li> </ul> <p>Drafting an application for research funding institutions, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Austrian Science Fund (FWF)</li> <li>• the Jubilee Fund of the Austrian National Bank</li> <li>• scholarship programmes of the Austrian Academy of Science</li> </ul> <p>The application must be submitted in a formally adequate manner and has to be admitted for appraisal by the respective funding institution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• independently created draft of an application (6 ECTS-Credits)</li> <li>• participation in the creation of an application (2 ECTS-Credits)</li> </ul> <p>Teaching Practice, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in planning and teaching courses, if the courses content is related to the subject of the dissertation (4 ECTS-Credits)</li> <li>• thematic and organizational assistance in planning and leading excursions (4 ECTS-Credits)</li> </ul> <p>Self-organized learning, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in planning and organizing alumni conferences / doctoral symposia (4 ECTS-Credits)</li> <li>• participation in international research networks (2 ECTS-Credits)</li> </ul>	-	4

	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Competences in independently planning, making and evaluating presentation projects in national and international fora; basic competences in research management and in applying for research funding; students advance their competences in analysis and critical evaluation of presentations of their own scientific achievements and the achievements of others; independent developing of self-assessment and evaluation skills for promoting independence and innovation skills.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>4.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	Final oral defense of the dissertation before an examination board	-	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Ability to present, reflect on and analyse the dissertation results in the overall context of the doctoral programme; competence to summarise and explain the results of the research project, to show the increase in knowledge for the discipline, to demonstrate evaluation and method competences, as well as to present the results on the highest academic level.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> positive completion of Compulsory Modules 1-3 as well as positive evaluation of the dissertation		

## § 7 Dissertation

- (1) Within the scope of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme School of Catholic Theology (doctoral programme) a dissertation amounting to 150 ECTS-Credits must be written. The dissertation is an academic thesis 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 fields of philosophy or Catholic religious pedagogy and is to be defined in the dissertation agreement.
- (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 main supervisor (holder of *venia docendi*). It is permissible to propose supervisors (with the exception of the main supervisor) from subject-related fields.
- (4) 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. Topic and supervisors are considered as accepted, unless the Director of Studies vetoes them by means of a decree within one month after the receipt of the proposal.

## § 8 Examination Regulations

- (1) The evaluation of Compulsory Modules 1, and 3 lit.a Elective Modules 1 – 3 is based on course examinations.
- (2) Lectures are evaluated by means of a single exam at the end of the course. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods (oral or written) before the course starts.

- (3) 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.
- (4) Compulsory Module 3 lit. b is evaluated by the main supervisor on the basis of a performance report written 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 Compulsory Module 4 - "Defense of the Dissertation (Rigorosum)" - is based on an oral exam taken before an examination board consisting of three examiners.

## **§ 9 Academic Degree**

Graduates of the Doctoral Programme (PhD) School of Catholic Theology are awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" or "PhD", in brief.

## **§ 10 Coming into force**

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2009.
- (2) Amendments of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 31 May 2012, issue 29, no. 312 come into effect on 1 October 2012 and are to be applied to all students.
- (3) The amendments of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 20 April 2016, issue 19, no. 331 come into effect on 1 October 2016 and are to be applied to all students.