

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 24 February 2009, Issue 29, No 151

Modification published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 504

Complete version from 1 October 2014

Curriculum for the
Doctor of Philosophy Programme Political Science
at the School of Political Science and Sociology of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification Profile

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Political Science belongs to the group of studies in the social and economic sciences.
- (2) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Political Science mostly conduct theoretical and empirical research in political science and integrate their findings into the national and international research process by means of publications. Graduates of this programme are able to teach in the field of political science and to advance the development of theoretical and empirical research methods.
- (3) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Political Science will pursue careers, among others, at universities, in research institutions, and in other post-secondary educational institutions. They are capable of working in managerial positions in research institutions of national, transnational, and international organizations, with governmental and non-governmental interest groups, and for political institutions and the media.
- (4) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Political Science possess the competences and knowledge to write scientific contributions according to international research standards and to integrate them into the international research process, especially through their dissertation as independent research work. They are in a position to develop research projects independently and creatively, to successfully submit them to national and international research funding institutions, and to carry them out. Within their special field, they are able to communicate with the scientific community, to present their own research results in society, and to work on and discuss issues in an inter-disciplinary manner.

§ 2 Length and scope

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Political Science takes three years (six semesters). This 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 relevant diploma or master programmes at a university of applied sciences or 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
 1. the Diploma Programme in Political Science at the University of Innsbruck,
 2. the Master Programme "European Politics and Society" and the Master Programme "Political Science: European and International Studies" at the University of Innsbruck.

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

Courses without continuous assessment:

1. Lectures with integrated practical and discussion parts (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 20
2. Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 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 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules with a total of 40 ECTS-Credits are to be taken:

1.	Compulsory Module: PhD Seminar	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE PhD Seminar 1	2	5
b.	SE PhD Seminar 2	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Objective: Students are able to present and discuss the exposé and preliminary report of their dissertation publicly in front of the department. They are capable of individually reasoning, questioning and, if necessary, correcting issues in order to empirically review their hypotheses and study indicators.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Dissertation Project	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	Creating, Submitting and Discussing the Synopsis	-	10
b.	Creating and Presenting the Interim Report	-	5
	Total	-	15
	Objective: Students are able to present and discuss the synopsis and preliminary report of dissertation in front of department representatives. They individually approach, question and, if needed, correct issues of empirical examination of their hypotheses and examination indicators.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Scientific Writing and Publishing (Going Public)	h	ECTS-Credits
	Presentation of individual research results within an accepted or already published publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal (10 ECTS-Credits), or as a book review in a volume (5 ECTS-Credits) and the presentation of individual research results within a social sciences conference (5 ECTS-Credits).	-	10
	Total	-	10
	Objective: Students are able to present research results in national or international forums, to critically question their own research performance and research performances of others and recognize strengths and weaknesses of their own research. Students have didactic skills in order to clearly present their research results for experts and to convey complex correlations in a comprehensible matter.		
	Prerequisites: none		

4.	Compulsory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral dissertation defense before an examination Board.	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Objective: Presentation, reflection on, and analysis of dissertation results in the overall context of the doctoral programme; the focus is on summarizing and explaining the 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.		
	Prerequisites: successful completion of all other modules and positive		

(2) Elective modules with a total of 20 ECTS-Credits have to be taken:

1.	Elective Module: Research Designs and Methods I	h	ECTS-Credits
	VU Research Designs and Methods I	2	5
	Total	2	5
	<p>Objective: Students are able to analyse concepts of research projects and to evaluate and reorganize them in terms of suitability for their dissertation project. They know how to put research questions and to constitute their individual choice of method. Students are able to use specific political science-related methods and methods which are relevant for their own research project.</p>		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Elective Module: Research Designs and Methods II	h	ECTS-Credits
	VU Research Designs and Methods II	2	5
	Total	2	5
	<p>Objective: Students are able to analyse concepts of research projects and to evaluate and reorganize them in terms of suitability for their dissertation project. They know how to put research questions and to constitute their individual choice of method. Students are able to use specific political science-related methods and methods which are relevant for their own research project.</p>		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Elective Module: Scientific Writing and Presentation I	h	ECTS-Credits
	VU Scientific Writing and Presentation I	2	5
	Total	2	5
	<p>Objective: Students know how to structure and form the preliminary and final results of their research work for publication and presentation. They are able to present these results correctly in terms of language and style and visually appealing, i.e. inter-subjectively in the scientific discourse. They master the instruments to compose smaller publishable manuscripts (book reviews, literature reviews, discussion papers) and presentations (PPP, poster sessions).</p>		
	Prerequisites: none		

4.	Elective Module: Scientific Writing and Presentation II	h	ECTS-Credits
	VU Scientific Writing and Presentation II	2	5
	Total	2	5
	<p>Objective: Students know how to structure and form the preliminary and final results of their research work for publication and presentation. They are able to present these results correctly in English and also visually appealing, i.e. inter-subjectively in the scientific discourse. They master the instruments to compose longer publishable manuscripts (individual journal articles, book reviews) and presentations (PPP, poster sessions, conference presentations, scientific colloquia).</p>		
	Prerequisites: none		

5.	Elective Module: Current Discussions in Political Science I	h	ECTS-Credits
	VU Current Discussions in Political Science I	2	5
	Total	2	5
	<p>Objective: Students are able to evaluate and critically question current political science debates by literature studies and discussions. They know how to critically assess and comment literature in terms of content and methodology.</p>		
	Prerequisites: none		

6.	Elective Module: Current Discussions in Political Science II	h	ECTS-Credits
	VU Current Discussions in Political Science II	2	5
	Total	2	5
	<p>Objective: Students are able to evaluate and critically question current political science debates by literature studies and discussions. They know how to critically assess and comment literature in terms of content and methodology.</p>		
	Prerequisites: none		

7.	Elective Module: Generic Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses (e.g. gender and science; didactics; skills for future knowledge transfer of the subject; time management; ethics) amounting to 5 ECTS-Credits are to be completed according to the determination of the dissertation agreement.	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Objective: After the successful completion of this module, students have advanced theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in selected disciplines which transcend their subject-specific competencies put them in a position to pursue independent scientific work, and help them succeed in their future careers.		
	Prerequisites: none		

§ 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the doctoral programme, a dissertation has to be written, which equals 120 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 manner.
- (2) The dissertation topic is to be chosen from the field of political science.
- (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 (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.
- (4) The student has to communicate the dissertation topic and the 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) The evaluation of a module with one or several courses with continuous assessment is based on the student's regular written and oral contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate the evaluation criteria before the course starts.
- (2) Compulsory modules 2 and 3 are 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".
- (3) The evaluation of compulsory module 4 (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 Political Science 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 504 comes into force on 1 October 2014 and applies to all students.

Equivalence list – Doctor of Philosophy Programme Political Science

- (1) Positively assessed exams, taken as part of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Political Science at the University of Innsbruck (curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 24 February 2009, Issue 29, No 151) 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 504 as follows:

Curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 24 February 2009, Issue 29, No 151		Curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 504	
§6(1)1.a.	SE PhD Seminar 1 (2 h/2 ECTS-Credits)	§6(1)1.a.	SE PhD Seminar 1 (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(1)1.b.	SE PhD Seminar 2 (2 h/2 ECTS-Credits)	§6(1)1.b.	SE PhD Seminar 2 (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(1)1.c.	SE PhD Seminar 3 (2 h/2 ECTS-Credits)	§6(1)2.b.	Creating and Presenting the Interim Report (-/ 5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(1)2.a.	VU Statistics (2 h/4 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)1.	VU Research Designs and Methods I (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(1)2.b.	VU Methods of Social Research (4 h/6 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)2.	VU Research Designs and Methods II (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(1)3.	Generic Skills (-/15 ECTS-Credits)	§6(1)2.a.	Creating, Submitting and Discussing the Synopsis (-/10 ECTS-Credits) Generic Skills (-/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(1)4.	Presentation of Own Research Results (-/14 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)7.	
		§6(1)3.	Scientific Writing and Publishing (-/10 ECTS-Credits)
		§6(2)3.	Scientific Writing and Presentation I (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(2)1.	VU Political Theories and History of Ideas (4 h/10 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)6.	VU Current Discussions in Political Science II (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(2)2.	VU Comparative Politics (4 h/10 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)5.	VU Current Discussions in Political Science I (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(2)3.	VU International Relations and Processes of Integration (4 h/10 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)4.	VU Scientific Writing and Presentation II (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
Already successfully completed elective modules remain valid			

- (2) Individual cases, where this regulation does not apply, will be decided in order that no disadvantage shall arise for the student due to the modification.