

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 as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 3 April 2009, Issue 52, No. 230

Modification as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No. 506

Complete Version from October 1 2014

Curriculum for the
Doctor of Philosophy Programme Psychology
at the Faculty of Psychology and Sport Science of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification profile and objectives

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Psychology belongs to the group of the natural science studies.
- (2) Graduates have a systematic understanding of their research discipline and the methods employed by research in this field. They possess excellent knowledge of the pertinent literature. Through their submission of an original piece of scientific work, graduates of this programme have made their own 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 or methods in an independent manner. They are capable of independently designing and carrying out significant research projects with scientific integrity; they are qualified junior scientists. Graduates are able to advance the societal and scientific progress of a knowledge-based society in an academic or non-academic environment. Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Psychology are qualified to organize scientific forums, to discuss findings from their special areas with colleagues, students as well as experts and to present and explain these findings to an academic as well as an interested non-academic audience. They are able to look beyond the boundaries of their own discipline and to constructively contribute to inter-disciplinary scientific discourse. The acquired key qualifications / generic skills qualify the graduates to adapt their expertise to fast-changing requirements. Graduates are able to work on special psychological issues according to international standards in a scientifically sound way.

The following knowledge aspects and skills are of central importance:

1. Knowledge and understanding

Excellent and detailed knowledge of the dissertation's sub-discipline and the corresponding current literature that is required for successfully completing the dissertation.

2. Methodological competences

In order to work on the dissertation topic, students have the competence and scientific integrity to plan and carry out scientific research and interpret research results by means of important psychological research methods; ability to innovatively develop scientific examinations and also to apply them in practice; independence and scientific integrity when acquiring, critically reflecting on, and interpreting national and international scientific

literature;

3. Communicative skills

The focus is on the competence to successfully and independently present scientific concepts and research results (generated by the student and other researchers) and discuss them with peers, laypersons and/or an expert audience, taking into account basic didactic concepts.

4. Competences for a career as a scientist:

Competence to write scientific works/publications; first-class knowledge of methods for the collection, synthesis and analysis of scientific data (especially by means of statistical or qualitative methods of analysis); competence to create an application for research funding and knowledge of pertinent national/international research funding organizations; independent planning and organization of workshops and scientific events, understanding and critical awareness of ethically significant problem areas in the research discipline, for example data collection and data protection, dealing with emotionally stressed participants, danger of abuse and limitations of the results obtained or methods developed, plagiarism, etc.

§ 2 Scope and duration

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Psychology covers 180 ECTS-Credits. This corresponds to a study time of three years (six semesters).

§ 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 master programmes at a university 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 equivalence with the obligation to pass certain examinations in the course of the doctoral programme.
- (2) Relevant studies are in any case the completion of
 1. the Diploma Programme Psychology at the University of Innsbruck
 2. the Master Programme Psychology at the University of Innsbruck.

§ 4 Types of courses and maximum number of participants

- (1) **Lectures** (VO) introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
Seminars (SE) are focused on detailed scientific discussion of contents and methods of an area of the subject. Presentations, papers and discussions are common tools of assessment. Maximum number of participants: 8

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

Students, the study time of whom would be prolonged without admission to the course, are given priority for admission.

§ 6 Compulsory modules

(1) The following modules – equal 30 ECTS-Credits – are compulsory:

1.	Compulsory module: Generic Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses are offered which develop didactic skills and competences for subsequent knowledge transfer of the subject. Courses on the following subjects are especially recommended: project management, presentation techniques, gender competence, quality assurance and control, ethical principles, societal and cultural principles, and time management	-	2.5
	Total	-	2.5
	Objective: After the successful completion of this module, students have advanced theoretical and practical knowledge, skills and competencies in selected disciplines, as well as methods and general skills which put them in a position to pursue independent scientific work and help them succeed in their future careers.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Compulsory module: Research	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Presentation of the Dissertation Project	2	5
	Total	2	5
	Objective: After the successful completion of this module, students are able to design and present scientifically sound concepts and to subject them to critical analysis. By presenting the research project to and discussing it with colleagues, students test and consolidate their didactic and communicative competences.		
	Prerequisites: The dissertation theme must not be vetoed by the Director of Studies.		

3.	Compulsory module: Research	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Presentation and Discussion of Current Research Results	2	2.5
	Total	2	2.5
	Objective: After successful completion of this module, students are able to critically analyze, interpret and evaluate the data won within the scope of their scientific examinations, design and further develop independent research strategies and concepts. By presenting the research project to and discussing it with colleagues, students test and consolidate their didactic and communicative competences.		
	Prerequisites: Positive evaluation of compulsory module 2		

4.	Compulsory module: Presentation of own Research Results I	h	ECTS-Credits
	Presentation of the student's research results in the form of a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – presentation at a national or international conference or – workshop at a national or international conference or – presentation of two posters at national or international conferences 	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Objective: After the completion of this module students have the high level of methodical competence that allows them to present to, critically reflect on and discuss their subject-specific knowledge with scientific experts and/or an interested lay audience. Students are able to present difficult content within a limited timeframe and in a clearly understandable manner.		
	Prerequisites: none		

5.	Compulsory module: Presentation of own Research Results II	h	ECTS-Credits
	Students are required to publish the results of their scientific work (first author) in a reviewed journal or an equivalent form of publication (e.g. peer-reviewed scientific edited volume). The publication in question may not be a part of the "monograph or cumulative dissertation".	-	12.5
	Total	-	12.5
	Objective: After the successful completion of this module, students are able to formulate, critically discuss and present their research results in an understandable manner, displaying a high level of method competence. Students know the rules of scientific working and apply them on a high level.		
	Prerequisites: none		

6.	Compulsory module: Doctoral Thesis Defense	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral dissertation defense before an examination board	-	2.5
	Total	-	2.5
	Objective: 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 method competences, as well as on presenting the results.		
	Prerequisites: 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 method competences, as well as on presenting the results.		

§ 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Psychology a dissertation corresponding to 150 ECTS-Credits has to be written. The dissertation is a piece of scientific work which – in contrast to a diploma or master’s thesis – serves to prove the student's ability to cope with scientific questions in an independent way.
- (2) The dissertation can consist of articles that are related in terms of subject matter or methods. In this case, a minimum of two full papers must be accepted for publication in peer-reviewed scientific publications that are listed in the “Journal Citation Reports – Impact Factors”. A third publication is possible in a similar kind of publication, e.g. a peer-reviewed scientific edited volume. The student must be the first author of at least two of these articles, and all three articles must already have been accepted for publication. 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 articles included in the dissertation. Furthermore, a summary of the scientific work must be discussed with reference to the current state of research in the area of the dissertation topic, and a preview has to be given of the future scientific and methodical development of the research topic. The dissertation topic has to be chosen from one or more of the following fields: general psychology, methodology of psychology, developmental psychology, personality psychology and differential psychology, social psychology, biological psychology, applied psychology, clinical psychology, diagnostics, or psychopathology.
- (3) If the articles were written by several authors, the student's own contribution must be presented clearly and the presentation 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 main supervisor (holder of *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) 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. A prospectus comprising several pages must be submitted, including the dissertation plan based on the current state of research of the chosen topic area. 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 Mandatory Modules 1, 2 and 3 is based on course examinations.
- (2) The evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment is based on the student's regular written, oral and/or practical/experimental contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation criteria before the course starts.
- (3) Module 4 is evaluated by the main supervisor on the basis of a performance report to be submitted by the student. A positive grade has to read "participated with success"; a negative grade has to read "participated without success".
- (4) Module 5 is evaluated by the Director of Studies on the basis of the proof that the scientific articles have been accepted for publication. A positive grade has to read "participated with success"; a negative grade has to read "participated without success".
- (5) Module 6 (defence) is an oral examination in front of the examination senate, a board consisting of three examiners.

§ 9 Academic degree

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy programme Psychology are awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy", abbreviated "PhD".

§ 10 Coming into force

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2009.
- (2) The modifications of the curriculum as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, issue 30, no. 506 come into force on 1 October 2014 and must be applied to all students.

Equivalence list

Positively assessed exams, taken as part of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Psychology at the University of Innsbruck (curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 3 April 2009, Issue 52, No. 230 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 506 as follows:

Curriculum published in the version of University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 3 April 2009, Issue 52, No. 230	Curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No. 506
Courses passed in the compulsory module "Generic Skills" corresponding to at least 2.5 ECTS-Credits	Compulsory module: Generic Skills 2.5 ECTS-Credits
Presentation of the Dissertation Project PO 2 / 3 ECTS-Credits and Analysis of Research Results I KO 2 / 2 ECTS-Credits	Presentation of the Dissertation Project SE 2 / 5 ECTS-Credits
Presentation of the Dissertation Project PO 2 / 3 ECTS-Credits and Analysis of Research Results II SE 2 / 2 ECTS-Credits	Presentation of the Dissertation Project SE 2 / 5 ECTS-Credits
Discussion of Current Research II PO 3 / 3 ECTS-Credits or Methodology SE 2 / 5 ECTS-Credits	Presentation and Discussion of Current Research SE 2 / 2.5 ECTS-Credits

Performances that have been made according to the curriculum of 2009 but cannot be allocated are to be credited towards the ECTS-Credits of the dissertation to ensure that students are not disadvantaged.