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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 12 March 2009, Issue 38, No 175

Modification published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 505

Complete version from 1 October 2014

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

§ 1 Qualification Profile

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sociology belongs to the group of studies in the social and economic sciences.
- (2) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sociology are able to structure sociological issues theoretically and according to the current state of the discipline and to work on them in a methodically suitable manner. Therefore, they are able to pursue academic careers and/or assume preparatory tasks for planning and decision-making at the interfaces of science and practice in a modern "knowledge society" that require in-depth familiarity with scientific issues and procedures.
- (3) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sociology serves to educate and train researchers as well as highly qualified professionals according to international research standards – for the public sector, the private and not-for-profit sector, as well as for national and, increasingly, international organizations. Correspondingly, graduates can pursue careers in university and non-university research facilities, in politics and business consulting, in market and opinion research, as well as in public relations, in the area of human resource and social management, in the management of data and symbolic analyses, and in cultural, educational, and media-related institutions.
- (4) The educational objective of this program is the competence to carry out independent and creative scientific work with scientific integrity, which is documented by the dissertation as an independent piece of scientific work. In addition to acquiring specialized subject knowledge and creating an increase in knowledge, the programme aims at the acquisition of key qualifications. These include the following competences: in-depth theoretical reflection, self-organized learning, subject-specific discussion, interdisciplinary dialog, the presentation of the student's own research results, and knowledge transfer.
- (5) The educational and training objectives of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sociology include gender competence. The current state of gender research is integrated in all modules as a cross-subject topic and is also the subject of an elective course.

§ 2 Length and scope

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sociology 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 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 equivalency with the obligation to pass certain examinations in the course of the doctoral program.
- (2) Relevant studies include, in any case, the Master Programme in Social and Political Theory of the University of Innsbruck.

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

Seminars (SE) are courses with continuous performance assessment and serve to in-depth scientific examination with the presentation and discussion of articles by the students. 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 15 ECTS-Credits are to be taken:

1.	Compulsory Module: Disciplinary Competence Dissertation Project	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE PhD Seminar 1	2	5
b.	SE PhD Seminar 2	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Objective: In the course of the dissertation project, under guidance of the dissertation committee and in dialog with each other, students acquire the following competences: they identify unsolved problems of sociology in the context of current theory debates, develop an appropriate strategy for solving the problem by drawing on the ensemble of sociological methods, and make an independent contribution to the problem solution by implementing the solution strategy. After the successful completion of this module, they are able to plan, carry out, and critically evaluate a research project independently. Simultaneously, they acquire the skill to communicate scientific theories, methods, and findings in a suitable way. They are able to write a synopsis of their dissertation project and as a second step, present an interim report of their dissertation project (current state of research) at the institute.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	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 evaluation of the dissertation.		

- (2) Elective modules with a total of 20 ECTS-Credits have to be taken, whereas at least one module each from the group of elective modules 1 to 3 as well as from the group of the elective modules 4 and 5 are to be completed.

1.	Elective Module: The Dissemination and Communication of Scientific Results ("Going Public") - Journal Articles	h	ECTS-Credits
	Contribution to the national and international discussion in the dissertation field in the form of an individual article reviewed scientific journals. Creation of a culture committed to research ethics and rejecting plagiarism.	-	10
	Total	-	10
	Objective: Students take part in the national or international discussion in their dissertation field in the form of a journal article. They are able to evaluate their own contribution in a research-ethical view and know how to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of their article.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Elective Module: The Dissemination and Communication of Scientific Results ("Going Public") - Contributions to edited volumes	h	ECTS-Credits
	Contribution to the national and international discussion in the dissertation field in the form of an individual contribution in an anthology. Creation of a culture committed to research ethics and rejecting plagiarism.	-	10
	Total	-	10
	Objective: Students take part in the national or international discussion in their dissertation field in the form of a contribution in an anthology. They are able to evaluate their own contribution in a research-ethical view and know how to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of their contribution.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Elective Module: The Dissemination and Communication of Scientific Results ("Going Public") - Conference Presentation	h	ECTS-Credits
	Contribution to the national and international discussion in the dissertation field in the form of an individual oral contribution at a conference (conference contribution). Creation of a culture committed to research ethics and rejecting plagiarism.	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Objective: Students take part in the national or international discussion in their dissertation field in the form of an oral contribution. They are able to evaluate their own contribution in a research-ethical view and know how to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of their presentation and its contents.		
	Prerequisites: none		

4.	Elective Module: Elective Module: Disciplinary Competence - Theoretical and Meta-Theoretical Reflexivity	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Theory-Workshop	2	5
	Total	2	5
	Objective: Students are able to synthesize the current discussions of sociology and their scientific-theoretical background and to apply to their individual and original research project.		
	Prerequisites: none		

5.	Elective Module: Disciplinary Competence - Methods and Techniques of Social Research	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Methodology-Workshop	2	5
	Total	2	5
	Objective: Students are familiar with orientation alternatives of the use of methods and current methodological discussions of social sciences; and they are able to apply them to their own research practice. They know specific research techniques used in qualitative and quantitative research traditions. They know about their strengths and weaknesses and understand and critically evaluate empirical evidence produced with these methods. Moreover, they are able to plan, implement and evaluate studies in terms of scientific standards.		
	Prerequisites: none		

6.	Elective Module: Generic Skills 1	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses amounting to 5 ECTS-Credits are to be completed according to the determination of the dissertation agreement. Courses are offered which impart didactical skills and skills for future knowledge transfer, including the use of new media, insights into research ethics as well as interdisciplinary approaches. It is recommended to complete a course from the subject Equality and Gender.	-	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.	Elective Module: Generic Skills 2	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses amounting to 5 ECTS-Credits are to be completed according to the determination of the dissertation agreement. Courses are offered which impart didactical skills and skills for future knowledge transfer, including the use of new media, insights into research ethics as well as interdisciplinary approaches.	-	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 Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sociology, a dissertation has to be written, which equals 145 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 way.
- (2) The dissertation topic has to be chosen from the field of sociology.
- (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) Prior to beginning the work, the student has to communicate the dissertation topic and the names of the supervisors in writing to the Director of Studies. 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 compulsory module 1 and elective modules 4 to 7 is based on course examinations.
- (2) The evaluation of 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.
- (3) A positive evaluation of compulsory module 1 “Disciplinary Competence Dissertation Project” has to read "participated with success"; a negative grade has to read "participated without success".
- (4) Elective modules 1 to 3 “The Dissemination and Communication of Scientific Results” are evaluated by the main supervisor on the basis of a scientific contribution accepted for publication or presentation submitted 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 the compulsory module 2 (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 Sociology 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 505 comes into force on 1 October 2014 and applies to all students.

Equivalence list – Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sociology

- (1) Positively assessed exams, taken as part of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sociology at the University of Innsbruck (curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 12 March 2009, Issue 38, No 175) 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 505 as follows:

Curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 12 March 2009, Issue 38, No 175		Curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 505	
§6(1) a.	KO PhD Conversatory 1 (2 h/3 ECTS-Credits)	§6(1)1.a.	SE PhD Seminar 1 (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(1) b.	KO PhD Conversatory 2 (2 h/3 ECTS-Credits)	§6(1)1.b.	SE PhD Seminar 2 (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(1) c.	KO PhD Conversatory 3 (2 h/3 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)4.	SE Theory-Workshop (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(2) a.	VO Philosophy of Science (2 h/3 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)4.	SE Theory-Workshop (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(2) b.	SE Philosophy of Science (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)4.	SE Theory-Workshop (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(3) a.	VU Statistics (2 h/4 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)5.	SE Methodology-Workshop (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(3) b.	VU Methods of Social Research (4 h/6 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)5.	SE Methodology-Workshop (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(4) a.	VO Special Sociology (2 h/3 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)4.	SE Theory-Workshop (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(4) b.	SE Special Sociology (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)4.	SE Theory-Workshop (2 h/5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(5)	Generic Skills (15 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)6.	Generic Skills 1 (5 ECTS-Credits)
		§6(2)7.	Generic Skills 1 (5 ECTS-Credits)
§6(6).	Participating in the Scientific Community ("Going Public") (15 ECTS-Credits)	§6(2)3.	The Dissemination and Communication of Scientific Results ("Going Public") - Conference Presentation (5 ECTS-Credits)
		§6(2)1. or 2.	The Dissemination and Communication of Scientific Results ("Going Public") - Journal Articles or Contributions to edited volumes (10 ECTS-Credits)

- (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.