

Note:

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

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Complete Version from 1 October 2025

Curriculum for the
Doctor of Philosophy Programme Architecture
at the Faculty for Architecture at the University of Innsbruck

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§ 1 Allocation of the study programme

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Architecture at the University of Innsbruck is allocated to the group of engineering study programmes.

§ 2 Admission

- (1) Proof of general university entrance qualification for admission to PhD studies shall in any case be deemed to have been provided by evidence of completion of a relevant diploma or master's degree programme, a relevant diploma or master's degree programme from a university for applied sciences, or another equivalent programme at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution.
- (2) In any case, the following degrees are considered to be relevant: a master's degree completed at the Faculty of Architecture and a diploma degree in architecture.
- (3) In order to compensate for significant differences in subject matter, supplementary examinations worth a maximum of 30 ECTS-Credits may be required, which must be completed by the end of the second semester of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Architecture.
- (4) In addition, a dissertation concept is required as a qualitative admission requirement, which has been deemed academically suitable and supervisable by a committee to be formed by the Dean of Studies in accordance with §21 of the Study Law Regulations.

§ 3 Qualification profile

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Architecture gives architects the opportunity to generate new knowledge about specific problems in architecture, to contextualise their research and/or practical work and to adequately communicate the resulting knowledge. They have the necessary skills to successfully assert themselves in the national and international environment.
- (2) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Architecture are excellently familiar with the methods and approaches of current research in architectural theory. They possess the necessary knowledge, skills and competences to develop and implement methodologically sound solutions to interdisciplinary questions directly related to architecture.
- (3) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Architecture are exceptionally familiar with established formats aimed at developing creative and artistic processes or architectural practice. This includes design-oriented research (research by design), practice-based research and arts-based research.
- (4) Graduates are able to present and discuss research findings both to specialist audiences and to specific target groups (Research).
- (5) Graduates are qualified to scientifically develop and assess research areas in architecture and to apply the acquired competences across disciplines, thus contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge at an international level. This is evidenced by the independent scientific research work in the form of a Dissertation.
- (6) Graduates possess scientifically sound key competences supported by theory and methods for solving interdisciplinary questions and are able to critically question research results and interpret them in social, scientific and/or ethical terms.
- (7) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Architecture serves to further develop and enable independent scientific interdisciplinary work as well as to train and promote young scientists based on passed diploma and master programmes.
- (8) Graduates are qualified to work in a planning and analytical capacity in university and non-university (research) institutions in their field of research. Professional activities include above all scientific and managerial activities
 - at universities
 - at research institutions and other post-secondary educational institutions,
 - at research departments of public and private, national and international institutions,
 - in leading positions of organisations.

§ 4 Scope and duration

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Architecture covers 180 ECTS-Credits (in the following referred to as ECTS-Credits). This corresponds to a duration of the study programme of six semesters. One ECTS-Credits corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.

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

Courses with continuous performance evaluation:

Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics, methods and techniques through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of students: 20

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

The following criteria shall be applied for the allocation 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 no. 1 does not suffice, the available places will be randomly allocated.

§7 Compulsory and elective modules

(1) The following compulsory modules covering altogether 10 ECTS-Credits are to be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Dissertation Project	h	ECTS-Credits
	Description of the envisaged dissertation topic and format including methodology, goals, literature and a work schedule and time schedule in the form of a written synopsis	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are able to formulate a specific problem, structure it, contextualise it in a subject-specific discourse and communicate the expected gain in knowledge to a specialist audience.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Dissertation Defence (Defensio)	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral defence of the Dissertation before an examination board	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning Outcomes: The students are able to reflect on, analyse and present the results of the dissertation in the overall context of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Architecture. The focus is on the synopsis of the research work, the presentation of the increase in knowledge for the discipline in the national and international environment, the assessment and methodological skills and the presentation.		
	Prerequisites: positive evaluation of all other modules as well as the Dissertation		

(2) Elective modules covering altogether 20 ECTS-Credits are to be passed:

1.	Elective Module: Discourse and Methods	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE PhD Seminar 1: Discourse	2	5
b.	SE PhD Seminar 2: Methods	2	5
	Total	4	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: Students are able to acquire a range of skills and competences relating to general and specific research methods and discourses within architecture and apply these in their own research work. Students are given the opportunity to incorporate current developments into their work and are able to develop and implement methodologically sound solutions to interdisciplinary issues directly related to architecture.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites: none</p>			

2.	Elective Module: Reflection on Research	h	ECTS-Credits
	Students present and reflect on their research findings and parts thereof by participating in subject-specific recognised national and international conferences or symposia.	-	10
	Total	-	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: Students are able to develop an in-depth understanding of the topic of their work and sharpen their awareness of their own work process and research question. Students are able to reflect on their own understanding and develop individual learning, communication and working strategies in order to present and discuss their research findings to an expert audience. Depending on the topic they choose, they can also consider aspects of gender studies.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites: none</p>			

3.	Elective Module: Dissemination	h	ECTS-Credits
	The students develop targeted strategies for the dissemination of their research or project results and introduce them to thematically relevant target groups in the form of transfer-oriented exhibitions, installations or lectures.	-	10
	Total	-	10
<p>Learning Outcomes: Students are able to develop ways to increase their visibility and build networks. Furthermore, they are able to create opportunities to share their project progress and results and to promote them through relevant stakeholders.</p>			
<p>Prerequisites: none</p>			

§ 8 Dissertation

- (1) In the Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Architecture, a Dissertation comprising 150 ECTS-Credits is to be written. The Dissertation is an academic work that serves as proof of the ability to independently address academic issues.
- (2) The topic for the Dissertation is to be taken from the field of architecture.
- (3) The Dissertation must be written in the form of a monograph or as a collection of related academic essays with a framework text consisting of a theoretical framework and conclusions ("cumulative dissertation") and submitted to the Director of Studies in electronic form. At the request of the assessors, the Dissertation must be submitted in a fully bound paper version in addition to the electronic form.
- (4) A monograph must meet the international quality standards of the respective field of research.
- (5) A cumulative Dissertation must meet the following quality criteria:
 1. The Dissertation consists of at least three contributions, preceded by an independent text ("framework text") that places the contributions in the overall context of the literature in the respective field of research and reflects on the relevant theoretical and methodological implications and prerequisites. This text must be written by the author alone.
 2. The minimum of three contributions must be publishable and eligible for submission to quality-assured and internationally visible journals.
 3. At least two of the contributions must have been written solely by the author.
- (6) If the dissertation follows a design- or practice-oriented approach or a creative-hypothetical approach, this must be reflected in a written section.
 1. The Dissertation "by design" must contain works of the author's own creation (designs, buildings, film works, drawings, models, installations, etc.) and a comprehensive reflection on the work processes in which these works were created.
 2. In the case of completed works, exhibitions and installations, comprehensive, coherent and archivable documentation of the exhibited material may form part of the written dissertation.
- (7) The student must propose a team of supervisors consisting of at least two supervisors (dissertation committee) and appoint one person with teaching authorisation (venia docendi) as the responsible principal supervisor. It is permissible to propose supervisors from related or relevant fields, with the exception of the main supervisor. In justified individual cases, students may also propose only one supervisor.
- (8) The student must notify the University Director of Studies in writing of the topic of the Dissertation and the supervisors of the Dissertation before beginning work on it. The topic and supervisors shall be deemed to have been accepted if the University Director of Studies does not formally reject them within one month of receiving notification.
- (9) The completed dissertation must be submitted to the University Director of Studies in electronic form. It must be accompanied by an affidavit confirming that the rules of good scientific practice have been followed.

§ 9 Examination regulations

- (1) Elective module 1 is completed by the positive evaluation of its courses. In the case of courses with continuous performance evaluation, the assessment is based on at least two written, oral and/or practical contributions of the students.
- (2) The course instructor has to fix and announce the examination method (written, oral and/or practical contributions) and the evaluation criteria before the start of the semester.
- (3) The performance evaluation of compulsory module 1 and elective modules 2 and 3 is carried out by the Director of Studies on the basis of a performance record to be compiled by the student and the opinion of the main supervisor. A positive assessment reads "participated successfully", a negative assessment "participated unsuccessfully".
- (4) The performance assessment for compulsory module 2, "Dissertation Defence (Defensio)", takes the form of a public oral examination before an examination board consisting of three persons.

§ 10 Academic degree

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Architecture are awarded the academic degree “Doctor of Philosophy”, abbreviated as “PhD”.

§11 Coming into force

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2025 and is to be applied to all students.