

Note:

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

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Curriculum for the

Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sport Science

at the Faculty of Psychology and Sport Science of the University of Innsbruck

Table of contents

- § 1 Allocation of the study programme
- § 2 Admission
- § 3 Qualification profile
- § 4 Scope and duration
- § 5 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course
- § 6 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants
- § 7 Compulsory modules
- § 8 Dissertation
- § 9 Examination regulations
- § 10 Academic degree
- § 11 Coming into force

§ 1 Allocation of the study programme

Pursuant to §54 para. 1 Universities Act, the Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Sport Science is allocated to the group of natural science study programmes.

§ 2 Admission

- (1) Admission to the Doctoral Programme in Sport Science requires the completion of a relevant diploma or master's degree programme, a relevant university of applied sciences diploma programme or university of applied sciences master's programme or another equivalent programme at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution.
- (2) In any case, the Master's Programme in Sport Science or Sport and Exercise Science resp. completed at the University of Innsbruck or the Teacher Training Programme completed at the University of Innsbruck with a Master's Thesis or Diploma Thesis in the subject of Physical Education and Sport shall be considered as eligible study programmes. The Rectorate decides on the existence of another eligible degree programme in accordance with §64 para. 4 Universities Act.
- (3) Supplementary examinations totalling a maximum of 30 ECTS-Credits may be prescribed to compensate for significant subject-related differences and must be taken by the end of the second semester of the doctoral programme.
- (4) In addition, a Dissertation concept is required as a qualitative admission condition, which has been deemed suitable in terms of subject matter by a committee to be formed by the Dean of Studies in analogous application of §21 of the Study Law Regulations and can be appropriately supervised by a supervisor.

§ 3 Qualification profile

- (1) Graduates have a systematic understanding of their research discipline and are proficient in the methods used in research in this field. By submitting an original academic paper, graduates have made their own contribution to research that expands knowledge and stands up to national and international scrutiny by specialised academics. The quality and international orientation of the degree programme promotes the mobility of graduates and sharpens their view beyond the boundaries of their own specialisation. The key qualifications acquired enable graduates to adapt their expertise to rapidly changing requirements.
- (2) The 'Doctor of Philosophy' Programme in Sport Science at the University of Innsbruck serves to train young academics in the field of sport science. Graduates of this doctoral programme are able to independently develop and present sport science problems at a high professional and methodological level. In addition to the highest technical and methodological competences, students acquire the general scientific and communicative competences required to successfully pursue a scientific profession in the academic, business or public sector. In particular, the following knowledge and competences are required:
 1. Knowledge and understanding:
 - excellent knowledge in the relevant disciplines of sport science, especially in the core areas of sport science
 - detailed knowledge of those scientific disciplines that are relevant for the successful elaboration of the Dissertation topic, especially the core areas of sport science, related relevant sciences, as well as the current literature relevant for the Dissertation project.
 2. Practical skills:
 - skills to plan, practically carry out, and interpret scientific projects in sport science for the purpose of elaborating the Dissertation topic and deepening as well as broadening the student's practical experience in project management.
 - differentiated skills for researching and critically interpreting scientific literature and other information, including the use of data bases relevant in the field.

3. Communicative skills:

- skill to present scientific results independently; competence to critically discuss and analyse one's own scientific results and those of others, as well as concepts and projects with colleagues, laypersons and a scientifically competent audience.

4. Competences for the profession as a scientist:

- understanding the career profile of an independent scientist in academic, business and public environments
- knowledge of statistics for the collection and analysis of scientific data
- competence to write scientific publications
- competence to compile an application for research funding and knowledge of the pertinent national and international research funding organisations
- understanding ethically relevant issues (e.g. methods of data collection, plagiarism, co-authorship) in scientific practice and knowledge of the pertinent basic standards and problem solutions.

§ 4 Scope and duration

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Sport Science has a duration of three years (six semesters). This corresponds to 180 ECTS-Credits.

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

Courses with continuous performance evaluation:

Working groups (AG) serve to treat a topic in collective fashion, examining the theories, methods and techniques of an area using group work. Maximum number of students: 5

Seminars (SE) provide in-depth study of contents, methods and techniques of a specialist area including presentations and discussions. Maximum number of students: 10

§ 6 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 criterion in no. 1 does not suffice to regulate the admission to a course, the available places will be randomly allocated.

§ 7 Compulsory modules

The following compulsory modules covering altogether 30 ECTS-Credits are to be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Conceptual Design of the Dissertation Project	h	ECTS-Credits
	AG Conceptual Design of the Dissertation Project Familiarisation with topic-specific research methods and their critical assessment, development of the Dissertation's disposition, analysis and focusing of the research question, preparation of a timetable for the implementation of the Dissertation project and data collection	2	5
	Total	2	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students have expert knowledge at the highest level in their field of work, as well as extensive knowledge in related disciplines. On this basis and through their practical research experience, they can independently develop their Dissertation topic. They are able to generate a work plan for their Dissertation project, which includes the theoretical background, the study design, the methodological approach to data collection and data analysis, as well as a timetable for the Dissertation project.		

	Prerequisite/s: none
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2.	Compulsory Module: Generic Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses covering altogether 5 ECTS-Credits, as specified in the Dissertation agreement, must be passed. One course must be selected from the topical field of “equality and gender”. Furthermore, courses that impart didactic competences and skills for the later transfer of knowledge in the subject are recommended.	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students have advanced theoretical and practical knowledge, skills and competences in selected disciplines. This enables them to independently develop their academic expertise and apply it accordingly. They are familiar with gender equality issues and are able to consider problems in a gender-sensitive manner.		
	Prerequisite/s: none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Analysis and Interpretation of Own Research Results 1	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Analysis and Interpretation of Own Research Results	2	5
	Total	2	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are able to analyse their own data according to the current state of knowledge and can generate new knowledge and new insights from this. They can categorise these results in the context of current specialist literature and present them convincingly in a lecture. They are able to analyse and critically evaluate their own research and that of others. Their work complies with good scientific practice.		
	Prerequisite/s: positive evaluation of compulsory module 1		

4.	Compulsory Module: Analysis and Interpretation of Own Research Results 2	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Analysis and Interpretation of Own Research Results	2	5
	Total	2	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students can analyse their own data and results, synthesise new knowledge and innovative solutions from them, and present these convincingly to the audience. They can also present their research results in accordance with the applicable quality standards. Students are able to use their skills in research management to further develop and optimise their projects and to apply for funding.		
	Prerequisite/s: positive evaluation of compulsory module 3		

5.	Compulsory Module: Presentation of Own Research Results	h	ECTS-Credits
	Active participation in international scientific discourse in the context of conferences, meetings, projects and competitions.	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students are able to present their research project and the results obtained to national and international forums, discuss them critically and defend them appropriately.		
	Prerequisite/s: positive evaluation of compulsory module 1		

6.	Compulsory Module: Dissertation Defense (Defensio)	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral defence of the Dissertation before an examination senate	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning Outcomes: Students can summarise the results of their Dissertation project in a structured manner, present them in an understandable way and reflect on them critically. They can comprehensibly categorise and evaluate the increase in knowledge in the context of sport science and discuss the significance of their research work in a wider scientific and social context. They can competently defend the methods used and decisions made. Students are able to convince through professional authority and scientific integrity.		
	Prerequisite/s: positive evaluation of the Dissertation as well as all other modules		

§ 8 Dissertation

- (1) Within the scope of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sport Science, a Dissertation has to be written, which equals 150 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 core area of sport science or show a close subject-specific relation to sport science.
- (3) The Dissertation must be written in the form of a monograph or as a coherent collection of academic essays with a framework text consisting of a theoretical framework and conclusions ('cumulative Dissertation').
- (4) The cumulative Dissertation must consist of at least three articles in which the student is named as the first author. The articles must have been accepted in recognised specialist publications - at least one of which must be listed in 'Journal Citation Reports Science Edition - Impact Factors'. In addition to the theoretical framework and conclusions, the student must also prepare a detailed summary of the field of work, the methods used and the results obtained, whereby reference must be made to the finished manuscripts already published and included in the Dissertation. Furthermore, the scientific work must be summarised and reflected with reference to the current state of research in the field of the Dissertation topic and an outlook on the further scientific and methodological development of the topic dealt with must be written.
- (5) If the articles are written by several authors, the author's own contribution must be clearly stated, and this statement must be attached to the Dissertation.
- (6) 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.

- (7) Prior to beginning the work, the student has to communicate the Dissertation topic and 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.

§ 9 Examination regulations

- (1) A module, with the exception of compulsory modules 5 and 6, is completed by the positive assessment of its courses.
- (2) Courses of the modules are evaluated by course examinations. Course examinations serve as proof of knowledge and skills imparted by an individual course whereby
 1. in the case of courses without continuous performance evaluation, the assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course;
 2. 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 participants.
- (3) The course instructor has to fix and announce the examination method and the evaluation criteria before the start of the semester.
- (4) Modules and courses taken from other study programmes are subject to the examination regulations of the curriculum they were taken from.
- (5) The performance evaluation of compulsory modules 1 and 4 is based on course examinations.
- (6) Compulsory module 5 is assessed by the main supervisor on the basis of a performance report to be drawn up by the student.
- (7) The performance assessment of compulsory module 6 'Dissertation Defense (Defensio)' must take the form of an oral examination before an examination board consisting of three examiners.

§ 10 Academic degree

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Sport Science are awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" or "PhD", in brief.

§ 11 Coming into force

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