Complete version from 1 October 2012

Curriculum for the
Doctoral programme (PhD) Faculty of Catholic Theology
at the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification profile and programme objectives

(1) The Doctoral programme (PhD) Faculty of Catholic Theology belongs to the group of theological studies.

(2) The Doctoral programme (PhD) Faculty of Catholic Theology is a joint study programme of Catholic pedagogy of religion and philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology. Graduates are able to academically elaborate on and present philosophical and/or religious pedagogical problems on a high level of subject-matter and methodology, and to recognise their practical relevance.

The Doctoral programme (PhD) Faculty of Catholic Theology specifically deepens and consolidates the graduates' communicative and interdisciplinary competences, as well as their understanding of the theory of science and didactics; special consideration is given to basic human questions of *Weltanschauung* and a responsible treatment of faith and religion in the public life of the church and of society. The programme guides students towards independent and creative practical academic work and is meant to be the first step of an academic career.

The focus of the programme includes the acquisition of knowledge in the disciplines required for a successful pursuit of the dissertation; of competences in self-perception and self-assessment; competences in the area of academic teaching and learning as well as the presentation of academic results in public; this also includes linguistic, communicative, as well as planning and managerial competences.

(3) Depending on the topic chosen for the dissertation, the dissertation will focus on questions of philosophy or religious pedagogy. This includes well-founded academic orientation knowledge with respect to

- a survey of current themes in philosophical research,

- philosophy in the context of the discussion with other sciences, and

- and especially with respect to the fact that philosophical thinking leads to argumentatively well-founded and academically responsible convictions in questions of "Weltanschauung";

and/or

- the independent perception, assessment and further development of theories and concepts in the field of religious pedagogy and theology,

- the competence to develop complex topics according to the state of the art in the relevant disciplines and by employing one's methods in a theologically reflected manner,

- using the connection between theory and practice for generating academic insight,

- reflection on the tension-charged unity of faith and teaching, of dogma and practice,

- the awareness of the relationship between form and matter with respect to teaching and research in religious pedagogy,

- the development of an academic-theological capability of discernment through the integration of the knowledge gained into one's personality.

(4)   The Doctoral programme (PhD) Faculty of Catholic Theology qualifies graduates for professional careers which require the application of special academic knowledge and methods. In particular, it qualifies graduates to pursue academic careers, to teach at universities and other academic institutions, and to conduct academic work, especially in an interdisciplinary context and/or in basic research. The programme qualifies for leadership positions in these areas, but also in fields which require academically well-founded orientation knowledge, the special competence of critical analysis and the ability to take an argumentatively plausible and academically responsible position, as well as theological judgment and didactic competences, for example for occupations within the church, in the areas of education, publishing, and administration, in teacher training, consulting, communication and media work, in public administration, and in private business.

§ 2   Length and scope

The duration of the Doctoral programme (PhD) Faculty of Catholic Theology is 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 the completion of relevant diploma or master programmes, or completion of relevant diploma or Magister 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 condition the determination of equivalency on the obligation to pass certain examinations in the course of the doctoral programme.

(2)   Relevant studies include in any case the completion of the Master Programme Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology or the Master Catholic Religious Pedagogy of the University of Innsbruck or the Academic Teacher Training Programme with Diploma Thesis in the School Subject of Catholic Religion.

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

(1)   **Lectures (VO)** are courses which convey content in the form of presentations.

(2)   Courses with continuous performance assessment:

1. **Seminars (SE)** focus on a thematically limited subject area and emphasize academic work in communication and cooperation. The maximum number of participants is 20.

2. **Research seminars (FO)** focus on the joint elaboration of an academic topic, on academic discussion, and on cooperation in the group - with special consideration of the current research literature. The maximum number of participants is 18.

3. **Cooperative seminars (SK)** are interdisciplinary courses whose special characteristic is that they are taught in cooperation by a minimum of two instructors from different subject areas. The maximum number of participants is 18.

§ 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   Modules

(1)   The following modules – equal to 60 ECTS-Credits – are compulsory:

1.	**Compulsory Module: Academic Core Competences for the Dissertation Topic**	**h**	**ECTS-Credits**
	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, equalling 12 ECTS-Credits have to be completed from the interdisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary area of the dissertation topic to develop the academic basic/core competences for the dissertation topic.	-	12
	Total	**-**	**12**
	Objective: After the successful completion of this module, students possess the high level of interdisciplinary knowledge necessary for working on the dissertation.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	**Compulsory Module: Specialization in the Immediate Subject of the Dissertation**	**h**	**ECTS-Credits**
a.	**FO Research Seminar** Joint work on an academic topic to achieve specialized knowledge in the core area of the dissertation, with special consideration of current research literature	2	5
b.	**FO Research Seminar: Discussion of the Student's Own Research Results** Discussion of the student's own research results from the core area of the dissertation; positioning the results on an interdisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary level	2	5
	Total	**4**	**10**
	Objective: Knowledge in state-of-the-art research: ability to – individually and jointly – advance the development of central questions in the core area of the dissertation, to jointly study current research literature, to present and discuss research results, and to network with other projects on the highest level		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	**Compulsory Module: Theory of Knowledge and Sciences and Didactics of Sciences**	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	**VO Theory of Sciences I** General theory of science and its history under special consideration of the theologian's needs; critical reflection on the student's own work; gender aspects in theology.	3	5
b.	**VO Theory of Sciences II** Questions of normativity in science and the relationship of church and theology; theological sources (loci); theology of inspiration; theological models and their critical reflection; gender aspects in theological studies	2	4
c.	**SK Didactics of Sciences** Attitudes and methods of scientific and academic didactics with respect to teaching and transferring theological knowledge; gender questions in teaching theology; monitored and documented work on a project as described in Compulsory Module 4; the type of documentation will be determined and communicated by the lecturer.	2	6
	Total	**7**	**15**
	Objective: Highly specialized knowledge in the modern theory of sciences and its history; student competence to critically analyze their own scientific work and place it in an academic context, and especially to recognize uncritical applications of models and methods from other areas of science. Excellent knowledge of central conflicts in the history of theology and of systematically central questions in the theory of science of theology; students possess the competence to critically evaluate different theological models and to reflect on their own basic theological options. Pertaining didactic knowledge and competence to teach and learn in academic institutions and to present research results to an (expert) public; long-term commitment to develop new ideas in the context of learning and giving presentations.		
	Prerequisites: none		

4.	**Compulsory Module: Presentation Projects**	h	ECTS-Credits
	Students independently carry out presentation projects to be chosen in coordination with the team of supervisors	-	10
	Eligible project types: Active participation in conferences / symposia / special work groups (in the context of the faculty, research centres, research platforms, public relations at the university, pertinent international events), e.g. • thematic and organizational co-operation in planning and conducting scientific forums or forums that focus on knowledge transfer (2 ECTS-Credits) • making a contribution, e.g. a 30-minute presentation (4 ECTS-Ccredits) • posters (2 ECTS-Credits) Publication with a length of at least 2,500 words in a publication with (potential) ISSN or ISBN registration (4 ECTS-Credits) e.g. in • subject-specific journals		

• edited volumes

Drafting an application for research funding institutions, such as

- the Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- the Jubilee Fund of the Austrian National Bank
- scholarship programmes of the Austrian Academy of Science

The application must be submitted in a formally adequate manner and has to be admitted for appraisal by the respective funding institution.

- independently created draft of an application (8 ECTS-Credits)
- cooperation in the creation of an application (2 ECTS-Credits)

Teaching Practice, e.g.

- cooperation in planning and teaching courses, if the dissertation belongs to the respective subject area (4 ECTS-Credits)
- thematic and organizational assistance in planning and leading excursions (4 ECTS-Credits)

Self-organized learning, such as

- cooperation in planning and organizing alumni conferences / doctoral symposia (4 ECTS-Credits)
- cooperation in international research networks (2 ECTS-Credits)

Total	-	10

Objective:
Competences in independently planning, executing, and evaluating presentation projects in national and international forums; basic competences in research management and in applying for research funding; students enhance their competence to analyze and critically evaluate the presentation of their own scientific achievements and those of others with the objective to develop independence and innovation skills

Prerequisites: positive completion of Compulsory Module 3

5.	**Compulsory Module: Supervision of Academic Projects**	h	ECTS-Credits
	SK Mentoring of Academic Projects Mentoring of a presentation project selected in Compulsory Module 4	2	4
	Total	**2**	**4**

Objective:
Monitored planning and evaluation of a selected presentation project; profound knowledge in the areas of research communication and management, development of analytical and evaluative competences with respect to the presentation of the student's own research results and those of others; advancement of self-assessment and self-evaluation competences in connection with promoting academic and professional integrity

Prerequisites: positive completion of Compulsory Module 3

6.	**Compulsory Module: Defense of the Dissertation**	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral defence of the dissertation before an examination board	-	4
	Total	**-**	**4**

	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 on the highest academic level.
	Prerequisites: positive completion of Compulsory Modules 1-5, the chosen elective module as well as positive evaluation of the dissertation

(2) One of the three following elective modules equal to 5 ECTS-Credits has to be completed:

1.	**Elective Module: Generic Skills**	**h**	**ECTS-Credits**
	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, equal to 5 ECTS-Credits have to be completed. The courses must be chosen from the field of "Equality and Gender". Suitable courses are marked as such in the course catalogue.	-	5
	Total	**-**	**5**
	Objective: Enhancement of highly specialized knowledge, skills and competences in selected disciplines, as well as methods and general skills which empower students to pursue independent academic work and help them succeed in their future careers.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	**Elective Module: Languages**	**h**	**ECTS-Credits**
	Choice of courses that improve skills in languages that are relevant for working on the dissertation topic	-	5
	Total	**-**	**5**
	Objective: Improving relevant language skills.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	**Elective Module: Special Methods**	**h**	**ECTS-Credits**
	SE Special Research Methods	2	5
	Total	**2**	**5**
	Objective: Acquisition of methods necessary for the dissertation, for example empirical research methods as employed in the social sciences		
	Prerequisites: none		

§ 7   Dissertation

(1)   In the course of the Doctoral programme (PhD) Faculty of Catholic Theology, a dissertation has to be written, which equals 120 ECTS-Credits. The dissertation is an academic thesis 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 fields of philosophy or Catholic religious pedagogy and is to be defined in the dissertation agreement.

(3)   The student has to propose a team of supervisors, consisting of at least two persons (dissertation committee), and to nominate one of them as the main supervisor. It is permissible to also propose supervisors (with the exception of the main supervisor) from subject-related fields.

(4)   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. Topic and supervisors are considered as accepted, unless the Director of Studies vetoes them by means of a decree within one month after the receipt of the proposal.

§ 8   Examination regulations

(1)   The evaluation of Compulsory Modules 1 - 3 and 5 and of Elective Modules 1 – 3 is based on course examinations.

(2)   Lectures are evaluated by means of a single exam at the end of the course. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods (oral and/or written) before the course starts.

(3)   The evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment is based on the student's regular, written and/or oral contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria before the course starts.

(4)   Compulsory Module 4 is 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".

(5)   The evaluation of Compulsory Module 6 - " Defense of the Dissertation" - is based on an oral exam taken before an examination board consisting of at least three examiners.

§ 9   Academic degree

Graduates of the Doctoral programme (PhD) Faculty of Catholic Theology are awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" or "PhD", in brief.

§ 10   Implementation

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2009.