

**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).

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**Complete version from 1 October 2025**

Curriculum for the  
**Doctoral Programme PhD Education**  
at the Faculty of Teacher Education at the University of Innsbruck

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## **§ 1 Allocation**

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Education at the Faculty of Teacher Education is grouped among the humanities and cultural sciences according to § 54 Para 1 Universities Act 2002.

## **§ 2 Qualification Profile**

- (1) Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Education have a systematic understanding of their research discipline and master the scientific research methods applied in this field.
- (2) The qualifications acquired during the study programme enable graduates to use their professional skills in scientific and non-scientific fields in order to develop school and teaching as well as to qualify and professionalize the staff in schools and school authorities and thus to contribute to social progress in education. They are prepared for teaching and research activities at universities and other post-secondary education and research institutions.
- (3) By presenting an original scientific work, graduates have made their own contribution to research which expands the limits of knowledge and withstands an external, national or international evaluation by scientists. They identify scientific issues and independently and critically analyse them based on adequate investigation instruments.
- (4) Graduates have the necessary skills to independently design and implement important research projects with scientific integrity, and they are qualified to reflect these processes in terms of science theory and oriented towards the respective practical experience.
- (5) Graduates have the competence to discuss interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary with other disciplines contributing to the development of school, teaching and educational system. They are able to adapt their expertise to rapidly changing requirements.

## **§ 3 Scope and Duration**

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Education covers 180 ETC-Credits with a duration of three years (six semesters).

## **§ 4 Admission**

- (1) Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Education is granted for persons with a thematically relevant diploma or master's programme at a University of Applied Sciences or other equivalent studies completed at an acknowledged Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution. Master's or diploma degrees awarded by universities of applied sciences are considered on an individual basis.
- (2) In the event that equivalence has been established in principle but with certain qualifications missing for full equivalence, supplemental examinations may be required. These examinations must be completed during the doctoral degree programme.
- (3) In any case, the following study programmes completed at the University of Innsbruck count as relevant study programme
  1. Diploma Programme Secondary School Teacher Training,
  2. Master's Programme Secondary School Teacher Training (General Education),
  3. Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education.
  4. Master's Programme Islamic Religious Education
  5. Master's Programme Islamic-Theological Studies

## § 5 Courses and numbers of participants

Courses with continuing performance assessment:

Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 12

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

In courses with a limited number of participants, students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.

## § 7 Compulsory and Elective Modules

(1) Compulsory modules with a total of 25 ECTS-Credits are to be taken:

1.	Compulsory Module: Subject-Specific and Research-Based Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>One course with a total of 5 ECTS-Credits is to be taken from the field of dissertation:</b> a) SE School Pedagogics (2 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) b) SE Educational Research (2 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) c) SE Subject Didactics (2 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) d) SE Religious Education (2 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) e) SE Inclusive Education (2 h, 5 ECTS-Credits) f) SE Islamic Theology (2 h, 5 ECTS-Credits)	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> After successful completion of this module, students master the active examination of the current state of science in the field of the dissertation topic as well as the critical discussion and reflection with experts in the chosen sub-discipline. Moreover, they are familiar with the scientific methods applied in this research field and with investigation instruments appropriate for scientific issues. Based on that, they are able to provide their own research approaches and to reflect them in terms of science theory and oriented towards the respective practical experience.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Scientific Basics/Core Skills of the Thesis Topic	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses with a total of 5 ECTS-Credits from the field of the dissertation subject are to be completed according to the regulation of the dissertation agreement.	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> After successful completion of the module, the students have interface knowledge at a high professional level, which is required for the execution of the dissertation.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Interdisciplinary Seminar for Doctoral Students	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Interdisciplinary Education Laboratory	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have didactic skills which enable to clearly present their research results within an interdisciplinary context and to comprehensibly convey complex contexts. They are able to participate in the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary discourse with other disciplines which contribute to the development of school, teaching and educational system.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

4.	Compulsory Module: Participation in Academic Discourse	h	ECTS-Credits
	Participation in the national and international academic discourse within conferences and projects	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Knowledge of the results of current research, presentation of research results in front of national and international panels, establishment of competences in an international network and in research management as well as the application of research funds; analysis and critical evaluation of individual research achievements and research achievements of third parties; creation of a culture committed to research ethics and avoiding plagiarism.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

5.	Compulsory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral dissertation defence in front of an examination board	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Presentation, reflection and analysis of the results of the dissertation in the general context of the doctoral programme. In this context, the summary and presentation of the results of the research work, the presentation of knowledge growth for the discipline, the competence of evaluation and methods as well as the presentation are the main focus.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of all other modules as well as the dissertation		

(2) One elective module with a total of 5 ECTS-Credits is to be taken:

1.	Elective Module: Generic Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses with a total of 5 ECTS-Credits are to be completed according to the regulation of the dissertation agreement (e.g. gender and science; skills for future knowledge transfer of the subject; ethics; ...)	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> After successful completion of this module, students will have generic competences that will support them to prove themselves in their future fields of activity.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Research Workshop	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Interdisciplinary Research Workshop	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students can critically evaluate their own and other people's research projects and discuss them interdisciplinarily in theoretical and practical terms at the highest level.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

## § 8 Dissertation

- (1) Within the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Education a dissertation with a scope of 150 ECTS-Credits is to be completed. The dissertation is a scientific piece of work which serves to prove the student's ability to cope with scientific questions in an independent way.
- (2) The dissertation topic is to be taken from the fields of school education, educational research, subject didactics, religious education, inclusive education or Islamic theology.
- (3) It is the responsibility of Ph.D. candidates to propose a team of supervisors (dissertation committee) comprising at least two persons, and to nominate one of these as the main supervisor. With the exception of the main supervisor, committee members may come from other and related disciplines. In justifiable and exceptional cases it is possible for Ph.D. candidates to propose a single supervisor.
- (4) Before beginning work on the thesis project, PhD candidates must submit written confirmation of the proposed supervisor/s to the University of Innsbruck Director of Studies. The thesis topic and the committee of supervisors are considered to have been accepted if the above-named Director of Studies does not issue a formal rebuttal within one month following the receipt of the proposal.

## § 9 Examination Regulations

- (1) The performance of the compulsory modules 1, 2 and 3 and of the elective modules 1 and 2 is assessed by course examinations.
- (2) In courses with continuing performance assessment, the performance is assessed by regular written and/or oral contributions of the students. The course instructor has to define the methods and assessment criteria before the course begins.
- (3) The performance of the compulsory module 4 is assessed by the main supervisor based on a performance report written by the student. Positive completion is to be defined by “successfully completed”, negative completion is to be defined by “not successfully completed”.
- (4) The performance of the compulsory module 5, Doctoral Thesis Defence is assessed by an oral board examination held by an examination board with three examiners.

## § 10 Academic Degree

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

## **§ 11 Coming into force**

- (1) The curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2015.
- (2) The changes of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 4 May 2022, Issue 40, No. 460 come into effect as of 1 October 2022 and are to be applied to all students.
- (3) The changes of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 16 April 2025, Issue 54, No. 535 come into effect as of 1 October 2025 and are to be applied to all students.