

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 respective University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

Original version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 14 May 2012, Issue 25, No. 272

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Complete Version as of 1 October 2025

Curriculum for the
Doctoral Programme in Law
at the University of Innsbruck Faculty of Law

§ 1 Qualification Profile and Objectives

- (1) The Doctoral Programme in Law forms part of the group of law studies (§ 54 Para 1 No 6 Universities Act 2002).
- (2) The Doctoral Programme in Law aims at educating researchers and excellent candidates for high profile careers. It shall provide the participants with the ability to do independent and methodologically correct research. This is proven by the submission of a piece of individual research, the Doctoral thesis. Doctoral students shall gain in depth knowledge of the disciplines which are relevant to the topic of their theses, especially in regard to the most important legal subjects as well as several related disciplines. They shall also become acquainted with the current publications in these particular fields. Besides that the Doctoral Programme in Law serves to develop important other qualifications such as the ability of in depth theoretical reflection, self-organized studying, scientific discourse, interdisciplinary and international dialogue, presentation of research and the transfer of knowledge. Graduates of the Doctoral Programme in Law will have developed a thorough understanding of the occupational profile of an independent researcher in academia, in practice, in business and the public sector, as well as the ability to publish and the ability to understand problems of ethical relevance and their effects on society.
- (3) Among others the activities of the graduates of the Doctoral Programme in Law are: becoming aware of current research findings, developing new and independent solutions to current legal topics as well as being able to publish and present these solutions. Graduates are qualified not only for the classical legal professions but also for other high profile careers at the University or other research and educational institutions, in the diplomatic service, in European and other international organisations, in national and international corporations as well as in politics.
- (4) Graduates of the Doctoral Programme in Law have the ability to find elaborate solutions to complex legal questions applying a methodologically correct and creative approach. This requires an outstanding knowledge of the law as well as the competence to apply this knowledge in practice.
- (5) Moreover, graduates of the Doctoral Programme in Law are able to present their solutions and other legal topics in front of members of the legal profession as well as in front of others and to discuss and analyse them critically.

§ 2 Duration

The Doctoral Programme in Law equals 180 ECTS credits (ECTS-CREDITS). This corresponds to a length of study of three years (six semesters).

§ 3 Admission

- (1) Proof of general university entrance qualification for admission to the doctoral programme shall in any case be deemed to be the completion of a relevant diploma or master's programme, a relevant diploma or master's programme at a university of applied sciences in accordance with §6 para. 4 of the University of Applied Sciences Study Law or an equivalent study programme passed at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution. In any case, a completed Diploma Programme in Law, the Integrated Diploma Programme in Law, the Master's Programme in Business Law or the Master's Programme in Business, Digitalisation and Sustainability Law at the University of Innsbruck are deemed to be eligible study programmes. If equivalence is given in principle and only a few additions are missing for full equivalence, the Rectorate may require that supplemental examinations be completed during the doctoral programme.
- (2) In addition, a Dissertation concept is required as a qualitative admission requirement, which has been deemed academically suitable and can be supervised by a commission to be formed by the Director of Studies in accordance with §21 of the Study Law Regulations part of the statutes.

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

- (1) Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject.
- (2) Courses with continuing performance assessment:
 1. Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants
 2. Practical training courses (PR) provide practical experience with concrete scientific tasks, complementing occupational and academic training. Maximum number of participants: 45

§ 5 Allocation of places 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.

§ 6 Compulsory Modules

The following courses equalling 40 ECTS credits are mandatory.

1.	Compulsory Module: Research and Theoretical Core Competences	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Theory of Law and Methodology	2	5
b.	VO Comparative Law	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning Outcomes: After the successful completion of this module students have an excellent knowledge in legal theory, methodology and comparative law		
	Prerequisites: None		

2.	Compulsory Module: Core Competences for the Legal Profession	h	ECTS-Credits
	Students have to choose 2 different lectures equalling 5 ECTS-Credits from among one or more of the following fields:		
a.	PR Communication, Presentation and Negotiation Skills	2	2.5
b.	VO Legal Ethics	2	2.5
c.	VO Foreign Legal Terminology	2	2.5
d.	SE Equal Treatment and Gender	2	2.5
	Total	4	5
	Learning Outcomes: After the successful completion of this module students have achieved the core competences which are essential in their later professional life.		
	Prerequisites: None		

3.	Compulsory Module: Scientific Fundamentals and Core Skills in Fields Other Than the Field of Thesis Topic	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO From a Field Other Than the Field of Law the Thesis Deals With	2	5
b.	SE From a Field Other Than the Field of Law the Thesis Deals With	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning Outcomes: After the successful completion of this module students have an excellent and high level knowledge of the studied fields, which enables them to publish in legal journals as well as to use that knowledge in practice.		
	Prerequisites: None		

4.	Compulsory Module: Scientific Fundamentals and Core Skills in the Field of Thesis Topic	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO From the Field of Law the Thesis Deals With	2	5
b.	SE From the Field of Law the Thesis Deals With	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of this module students have an excellent knowledge of the field of law of their thesis topic, which enables them to write the thesis as well as qualifies them for their later professional life in regard to publications and practice.		
	Prerequisites: None		

5.	Compulsory Module: Thesis Defense ("Rigorosum")	h	ECTS-Credits
	Defense of the doctoral thesis in an oral before a board of examiners	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning Outcomes: Presentation and Analysis of the findings of the doctoral thesis in its wider context		
	Prerequisites: positive assessment of all other modules and the doctoral thesis		

§ 7 Dissertation

- (1) The doctoral programme requires completion of a doctoral thesis equivalent to 140-ECTS-Credits. The thesis is a scientific dissertation that demonstrates the ability to address scientific questions independently (§ 51 par. 2 no 13 Universities' Act 2002).
- (2) The topic of the Dissertation must be related to the legal subject of the Diploma Programme in Law, the Integrated Diploma Programme in Law, the Master's Programme in Business Law or the Master's Programme in Business, Digitalisation and Sustainability Law offered at the University of Innsbruck.
- (3) This student is to propose a supervisory team consisting of at least two supervisors (dissertation committee), from which one is to be named as the main supervisor. With exception of the main supervisor, a supervisor from a related academic field may be proposed. In justified cases, a student may select a single supervisor.
- (4) The student has to inform the Director of Studies of the topic and/or the supervisors in writing before commencing the dissertation. The topic and the supervisors are to be considered as accepted if there is no notification to the contrary within a month of submission.

§ 8 Examination regulations

- (1) Course performance is evaluated in the following ways (except the performance required in § 6 No. 5).
- (2) Lectures are evaluated in a final examination. The examination mode (written or oral) has to be announced by the lecturer beforehand.
- (3) Courses with continuing performance assessment are evaluated based on regular oral and/or written participation during the course. The lecturer has to announce the criteria and methods of evaluation beforehand.
- (4) Compulsory module §6 no. 5 is evaluated by an oral examination before a board of examiners consisting of at least three examiners.

§ 9 Academic Degree

Graduates of the Doctoral Programme in Law are awarded the academic degree of a "Doctor in law" or "Dr. iur" in brief.

§ 10 Coming into force

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2012.
- (2) The changes of the curriculum in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 3 April 2017, Issue 30, No. 401 come into effect as of 1 October 2017 and are to be applied to all students.
- (3) The changes of the curriculum in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 13 June 2025, Issue 74, No. 653 come into effect as of 1 October 2025 and are to be applied to all students.