

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).

Principal version published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 March 2009, Issue 42, No 179

Modification published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 501

Modification published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 27 June 2024, Issue 79, No 881

Complete version from 01 October 2024

Curriculum for the

Doctor of Philosophy Programme Geography

at the Faculty of Geo- and Atmospheric Sciences of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification profile and programme objectives

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Geography belongs to the group of studies in the natural sciences.
- (2) Graduates have a sound theoretical and systematic understanding of their research discipline and command the methods employed by research in this field.
- (3) The key qualifications acquired during the doctoral programme empower graduates to employ their expertise in scientific and non-scientific dialogue and to adapt themselves to fast-changing requirements.
- (4) Through their submission of an original piece of scientific work, graduates of this programme have made their own contribution to research which widens boundaries of knowledge and conforms to the evaluation standards of international experts. They are able to identify scientific issues which they independently and critically analyse.
- (5) Graduates are able to independently design and implement important research projects considering scientific integrity. They are qualified to reflect these processes scientific-theoretically.
- (6) Graduates are in particular able to critical reflection, objective discourse and creative work.
- (7) The quality and international orientation of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Geography promotes the graduates' mobility and broadens their horizon beyond the boundaries of their special field.

§ 2 Length and scope

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Geography takes 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 completion of relevant diploma or master programmes, of completion of relevant diploma or Master's 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 combine the determination of equivalency with the obligation to pass certain examinations in the course of the doctoral programme.
- (2) Relevant studies are in any case
 1. the Diploma Programme Geography completed at the University of Innsbruck,
 2. the Academic Teacher Training Programme in the School Subjects Geography and Economic Studies completed at the University of Innsbruck
 3. the Master's Programme Geography: Global Change – Regional Sustainability completed at the University of Innsbruck
- (3) In addition, a dissertation concept is required as a qualitative admission condition, which has been deemed suitable in terms of subject matter and supervisable by a committee to be formed by the Dean of Studies in analogous application of § 21 of the Study Law Provisions.

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

Seminars (SE) are courses with continuous performance assessment and serve to in-depth scientific examination with the presentation and discussion of articles by the students. Maximum number of participants: 15

§ 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

The following compulsory modules with a total 30 ECTS-Credits are to be taken:

1.	Compulsory Module: Dissertation Exposé	h	ECTS-Credits
	Preparation and Presentation of a detailed Dissertation Exposé	2	5
	Total	2	5
	Learning objectives of the module: After thorough research (relevant literature, discussion with the dissertation committee), the students have prepared a detailed written dissertation exposé, successfully presented it to an auditorium and defended it in academic discourse.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Generic Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, equal to 5 ECTS-Credits must be completed. Additionally, courses are offered which develop didactic skills and competences for subsequent knowledge transfer of the field. Completion of one course from the field of "Equality and Gender" is recommended.	-	5
	Total	-	5
Learning objectives of the module: After the successful completion of this module, students command advanced theoretical and practical knowledge, skills and competences in selected disciplines, as well as methods and general skills which empower them to pursue independent scientific work and help them succeed in their future careers.			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Compulsory Module: Scientific Core Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Other courses with a total of 5 ECTS-Credits, as defined in the dissertation agreement as the scientific basis of dissertation topic.	-	5
	Total	-	5
Learning objectives of the module: After successful completion of the module students have advanced skills, which are needed for the implementation of the dissertation.			
Prerequisites: successful completion of compulsory module 1			

4.	Compulsory Module: Discussion of New Research Results	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Discussion of New Academic Literature 1	2	2.5
b.	SE Discussion of New Academic Literature 2	2	2.5
	Total	4	5
Learning objectives of the module: After successful completion of the module students have advanced technical knowledge, especially knowledge interface, which are needed for the completion of the dissertation.			
Prerequisites: successful completion of compulsory module 1			

5.	Compulsory Module: Participation in the Academic Discussion	h	ECTS-Credits
	Active participation in scientific discourse at conferences, workshops or "summer schools"	-	5
	Total		
	Learning objectives of the module: Students demonstrate proficiency in the acquisition and presentation of research results in institutional national and international forums in consultation with the dissertation committee and the related analysis and critical assessment of their own research achievements and research performance of third parties.		
	Prerequisites: successful completion of compulsory module 1		

6.	Compulsory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final study, oral defense of the dissertation	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Learning objectives of the module: Representation, reflection and analysis of the results of the dissertation in the overall context of the doctoral programme; here are the summary and communication of results of the research, the representation of the increase in knowledge for the discipline, the evaluation and methodological skills and the presentation in the foreground.		
	Prerequisites: successful completion of the dissertation and the compulsory modules 1 to 5		

§ 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Geography, a dissertation has to be written, which equals 150 ECTS-Credits. The dissertation is a piece of scientific work in a special field of geography which serves to prove the student's ability to cope with scientific questions in an independent way.
- (2) The dissertation can also consist of articles which are related in terms of subject matter or methods. The following quality criteria apply:
 - a. The dissertation has to consist of a minimum of three articles that have been accepted for publication by an acknowledged scientific journal.
 - b. The students must be the first author of a minimum of two of these articles.
 - c. These articles have to be embedded in a comprehensive presentation of the research question and the current state of knowledge in the field; extensive critical assessment of the results and a summary are required.
 - d. If the articles were written by several authors, the student's own contribution must be clearly shown and added to the dissertation.
- (3) The student has to propose a team of supervisors, consisting of at least two supervisors (dissertation committee) and to nominate one of them as the supervisor mainly responsible (with a *venia docendi*).

- (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, if the Director of Studies does not veto them by means of a decree within one month after the receipt of the proposal.

§ 8 Examination regulations

- (1) The evaluation of the compulsory module 1 is based on the student's written and/or oral contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria before the course starts.
- (2) The evaluation of the compulsory modules 2, 3 and 4 is based on course examinations. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria before the course starts.
- (3) Compulsory module 5 is evaluated by the main supervisor on the basis of a performance report written by the student. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria before the course starts.
- (4) The evaluation of the compulsory module 6 "Doctoral Thesis Defense" is based on an oral exam taken before an examination board consisting of three examiners.

§ 9 Academic degree

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

§ 10 Implementation

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2009.
- (2) The modification of the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 17 June 2014, Issue 30, No 501 comes into force on 1 October 2014 and applies to all students.
- (3) The modification of the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 27 June 2024, Issue 79, No 881 comes into force on 1 October 2024 and applies to all students.