

**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).

**Original version** as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 3 April 2009, Issue 52, No. 230

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## **Complete Version from October 1 2025**

Curriculum for the

### **Doctor of Philosophy Programme Psychology**

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

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## **§ 1 Allocation of the study programme**

In accordance with §54 para. 1 Universities Act 2002, the Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Psychology is allocated to the natural science study programmes.

## **§ 2 Admission**

- (1) Admission to the Doctoral Programme in Psychology 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 degree programme or another equivalent programme at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution.
- (2) In any case, a Diploma or Master's Programme in Psychology passed at the University of Innsbruck is a subject-relevant study programme. The Rectorate decides on the existence of another eligible degree programme in accordance with §64 para. 4 Universities Act.
- (3) To compensate for significant subject-related differences, supplementary examinations totalling a maximum of 30 ECTS-Credits may be prescribed. They must be passed by the end of the second semester of the doctoral programme.
- (4) In addition, a dissertation concept is required as a qualitative admission requirement, which has been deemed suitable in terms of subject 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. They have an excellent knowledge of the relevant literature. By submitting an original scientific paper, graduates have made their own contribution to research that expands existing knowledge and stands up to national and international scrutiny by experts in the field; they identify scientific questions and analyse them critically on their own. Graduates develop and synthesise new complex ideas and methods independently. Graduates have the skills to independently conceptualise and carry out important research projects; they are qualified junior researchers. Graduates are qualified to promote social and scientific progress in an academic or non-academic environment. Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Psychology are qualified to organise scientific forums, to discuss findings from their specialist areas with colleagues, students and experts and to present and communicate these findings to student or academic audiences and interested laypersons. They have the skills to look beyond the boundaries of their own discipline and contribute constructively to an interdisciplinary academic discourse. Acquired key qualifications and generic competences qualify graduates to adapt their professional competence to rapidly changing requirements. Graduates are able to deal with specific psychological problems in a scientifically sound manner at the level of international professional standards.
- (2) The following knowledge and skills are of central importance
  1. Knowledge and understanding  
Sound detailed knowledge of the sub-discipline relevant to the successful completion of the dissertation and the associated current literature.
  2. Methodological competences  
Very good skills in the planning, practical implementation and interpretation of scientific studies using important research methods applied in psychology; innovative ability in the development of specific scientific studies, but also practical applications; ability to independently and critically analyse national and international scientific literature.
  3. Communicative competences  
The focus is on the ability to successfully and independently present and discuss scientific concepts and research results (one's own and those of others) in front of or with peers, laypersons and/or a specialised audience, taking into account basic didactic concepts.

#### 4. Competences for scientific professions

Competence in writing a scientific paper/publication; first-class methodological skills in collecting, synthesising and analysing scientific data (in particular using statistical or qualitative evaluation methods); skills for preparing a research funding application and knowledge of the relevant national and international research funding institutions; independent planning, organisation and implementation of workshops and scientific events, understanding and critical awareness of ethically significant problem areas and requirements in the research discipline such as data protection, dealing with mentally distressed research participants, risks of misuse and limits of the findings or methods developed, plagiarism, etc.

#### § 4 Scope and duration

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

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

Courses with continuous performance evaluation:

Seminars (SE) provide in-depth study of contents, methods and techniques of a specialist area including presentations and discussions. Maximum number of students: 8

#### § 6 Procedure for the 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 criterium in no. 1 does not suffice to regulate the admission, 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: Generic Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses are recommended which impart didactic skills and competences for the later transfer of knowledge in the subject. Courses on the following topics are recommended: project management, presentation techniques, gender competence, quality assurance and control, ethical principles, social and cultural science principles, time management.	-	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have advanced theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in selected disciplines and methods. This enables them to independently develop their scientific expertise and apply it accordingly.		
	<b>Prerequisite/s:</b> none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Research Workshop I	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Introduction of the Dissertation Project	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to develop scientifically sound concepts independently, present them systematically and subject them to in-depth critical analysis. They have mastered the scientific methods for solving problems and can present their concepts convincingly both in writing and orally. They are able to give constructive feedback and respond to feedback from the scientific discourse objectively with well-founded argumentation and communication.		
	<b>Prerequisite/s:</b> none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Research Workshop II	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Presentation and Discussion of Current Research Results	2	2.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to correctly analyse, precisely interpret and critically evaluate data collected from scientific studies with a high level of methodological competence. They can independently adapt and further develop research strategies and concepts to new scientific questions. They are also able to communicate this complex scientific content in an understandable way, substantiate it with arguments and defend it critically. On this basis, students can effectively communicate knowledge in different academic and professional contexts.		
	<b>Prerequisite/s:</b> positive evaluation of compulsory module 2		

4.	Compulsory Module: Presentation of Own Research Results	h	ECTS-Credits
	Presentation of own research results in the form of: – a presentation at a national or international conference, or – a workshop at a national or international conference or – presentations of two posters at national or international conferences.	-	12.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to present their research results and their specific specialised knowledge clearly and convincingly to target groups. They are able to present complex issues in an understandable and structured way within a limited time frame. In addition, they are able to reflect critically on their results and defend them objectively in discussions.		
	<b>Prerequisite/s:</b> none		

5.	Compulsory Module: Defence of the Dissertation (Defensio)	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral defence of the dissertation before an Examination Senate.	-	7.5
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7.5</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b>  Students are able to analyse the results of their Dissertation in detail in the context of their doctoral studies, present them in a comprehensible manner and reflect on them critically and comprehensively. They can communicate the increase in knowledge for their discipline precisely and comprehensively, evaluate the methods used and their relevance for research in a well-founded manner and present their research results convincingly both to a specialist audience and across disciplines. In addition, they are able to place their research work in larger scientific and social contexts, clearly communicate complex issues, constructively integrate feedback into their work and critically question and further develop their scientific expertise.</p>			
<p><b>Prerequisite/s:</b> positive evaluation of the Dissertation as well as all other modules.</p>			

## § 8 Dissertation

- (1) In the Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Psychology, a Dissertation worth 150 ECTS-Credits must be completed. The Dissertation is a piece of academic work which, unlike the Diploma and Master's Thesis, serves to demonstrate the ability to deal with academic issues independently.
- (2) The Dissertation is to 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').
- (3) The Dissertation as a monograph also includes a publication in first authorship that has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal or an equivalent peer-reviewed publication form (e.g. in a peer-reviewed scientific edited volume).
- (4) The cumulative Dissertation must consist of three related scientific articles. Two of these articles must have been accepted for publication as full papers in peer-reviewed journals, one of them in a journal listed in 'Journal Citation Reports - Impact Factors'. The third publication must also have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal or in an equivalent peer-reviewed publication form, such as a peer-reviewed scientific edited volume. At least two of these three publications must have been written as first author(s).

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 by him or her in the framework text of the cumulative Dissertation, taking into account the current state of research, referring to the articles included in the Dissertation and discussing possible future developments in the field of research.

- (5) The topic of the Dissertation must be taken from one or more of the following areas: General Psychology, Methodology of Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Personality Psychology and Differential Psychology, Social Psychology, Biological Psychology, Applied Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Diagnostics or Psychopathology.
- (6) 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.
- (7) The student must propose a team of supervisors consisting of at least two supervisors (Dissertation Committee) and nominate a person with teaching authorisation (*venia docendi*) as the responsible main supervisor. It is permissible to propose supervisors, with the exception of the main supervisor, from related subject areas. In justified individual cases, students may also propose only one supervisor.
- (8) The student must inform the Director of Studies in writing of the topic and the supervisors of the Dissertation before commencing work on the Dissertation and write an exposé of several pages containing the Dissertation plan based on the current state of research in the chosen subject area. The topic and the supervisors are deemed to have been accepted if the Director of Studies of the

University does not prohibit them in writing within one month of submission of the announcement.

### **§ 9 Examination regulations**

- (1) A module, with the exception of compulsory modules 4 and 5, are completed by the positive evaluation of its courses.
- (2) The performance in courses of modules is evaluated by course examinations. Course examinations serve as proof of the knowledge and skills imparted in an individual course, whereby
  1. in the case of courses without continuous performance evaluation the evaluation is based on a single examination at the end of the course;
  2. in the case of courses with continuous performance evaluation, the evaluation 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 (written and/or oral, exam paper) and the evaluation criteria before the start of the semester.
- (4) Modules and courses taken from other study programmes are subject to the curriculum they have been taken from. Extracurricular Minors are subject to the examination regulations of this curriculum.
- (5) Modules 1, 2 and 3 are evaluated by course examinations.
- (6) Module 4 is evaluated by the main supervisor on the basis of performance report to be drawn up by the student. Positive evaluation reads “participated with success”, negative evaluation “participated without success”.
- (7) The assessment of Module 5 Defence of the Dissertation (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 in Psychology are awarded the academic degree “Doctor of Philosophy”, abbreviated as “PhD”.

### **§ 11 Coming into force**

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