

Curriculum for the PhD Programme in Sport Science

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§ 1 Qualification profile

As well as offering academic training for a future profession, this PhD programme allows PhD candidates to expand their ability and contribute independent research towards the development of sport science as an academic research field and thus serves to train future generations of academics. It provides a scientific education which is internationally recognised and aims to help graduates conduct independent research at an international standard in their respective fields of expertise.

§ 2 Scope of application and admission requirements

- (1) This Curriculum applies to PhD candidates who intend to write a doctoral thesis in a research field related to sport science and are therefore working towards a PhD in Sport Science.
- (2) As well as the general prerequisites detailed in sections 63 and 64 of the 2002 Universities Act, candidates who wish to be admitted to the PhD programme in Sport Science at the Centre for Sport Science and University Sports must have completed:
 - a. A diploma or master's programme in the field of sport science, or
 - b. An equivalent, master-level degree programme in the field of sport science at a recognised Austrian or international institution of tertiary education. Applicants may have to take supplementary examinations.
- (3) Applicants for this PhD programme also have to go through the following admission process, in which the qualitative requirements for admission are checked (section 71e, para. 3 of the 2002 Universities Act) to see whether they have been satisfied and which takes place in collaboration with the Doctoral Advisory Board.

The applicants' qualifications are checked based on the following criteria:

- Sufficient expert knowledge for the future PhD project and the intended field of doctoral research
- Motivation and scientific capability to carry out the planned scientific work

In order for these criteria to be checked, the applicants must provide the following documents:

- Supporting documents proving academic success in previous studies
- Expert opinion on previously written theses and articles which have already been published
- Evidence of previous professional experience, provided that this is a special qualification required for the intended doctoral project
- Letter of motivation
- Description of the intended doctoral project and its methodology

- Declaration by a member of the Centre for Sport Science and University Sports who is allowed to supervise a doctoral thesis which states his/her willingness to supervise the doctoral project in question according to the rules of the University Statutes. This declaration does not replace the supervisor's confirmation of supervision or the approval of the topic by the competent body responsible for study law (section 5, para. 1).

In the course of the admission process, additional courses or examinations may be set if it is deemed necessary to broaden the candidate's methodological knowledge. These additional courses and examinations have to be taken during the PhD programme.

§ 3 Programme duration

The degree programme lasts 3 years.

§ 4 Structure of the programme

- 1) PhD candidates are required to complete the following:
 - a) Courses (both with continuous assessment or without continuous assessment) comprising 18 to 30 ECTS credits

Additional achievements (e.g. participate in workshops, present research findings at international conferences, act as subject-specific organisers for scientific events, placements, etc.)

- b) Moreover, completing the PhD programme requires the following: submitting the application for the intended doctoral project to the competent body responsible for study law so they can approve it (section 5); publicly presenting the intended doctoral project at the Faculty (section 5); approving the doctoral thesis agreement and adhering to its terms (section 6); writing and completing the doctoral thesis and receiving a positive grade (section 7); and a public defence (section 8). Section 15 of the study law-related section of the University Statutes applies.

The exact specification of additional academic achievements, including ECTS credits and hours per week per semester as well as all details about the writing and supervision of the doctoral thesis are recorded in the doctoral thesis agreement.

§ 5 Submission of the intended doctoral project and public presentation at the Faculty

- 1) PhD candidates have to submit their intended doctoral project to the competent body responsible for study law after achieving agreement with the supervisor or after selecting the topic by the end of the first academic year within the PhD programme by means of a written research proposal containing the objectives, methods, time and budget schedule and a declaration of consent to the doctoral project by the supervisor, and to present their doctoral project during a public presentation. For the research proposal, the competent body responsible for study law can issue formal specifications that have to be met by the PhD candidates. The supervisor may become a respondent for the public presentation. In addition, the provisions of section 14, para. 8 of the study law-related section of the University Statutes shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
- 2) The research proposal must be presented publicly at the Faculty in order to be accepted. A written form of the presentation must also be submitted electronically to the Director of

Studies so it can be published on the faculty website or made available in another suitable form. The Director of Studies has to bring the presentation to the attention of the Doctoral Advisory Board, which can then make a statement about the presentation. If the intended doctoral project is part of a research project which has already been approved externally (in accordance with international standards), the Studienpräses may approve the doctoral project prior to the presentation at the Faculty.

- 3) The rules set down in the study law-related section of the University Statutes are applied when approving the topic.

§ 6 Doctoral thesis agreement

- 1) As set out in the University Statutes, a doctoral thesis agreement has to be concluded by the PhD candidate in consultation with the supervisor(s) and approved by the Director of Studies.
- 2) If the Faculty's financial or material resources need to be used, the doctoral thesis agreement must also be signed by the person in charge of resources. The compatibility between the doctoral thesis agreement and the contracts that have been concluded for the establishment of an employment relationship to the University must be observed. The doctoral thesis agreement consists of the following items:
 1. The PhD candidate's name, student ID number, date of birth
 2. The supervisors' names
 3. The topic of the doctoral thesis
 4. The curriculum under which the PhD candidate is studying
 5. The field of doctoral research to which the doctoral thesis pertains
 6. The research proposal, on which the approval is based
 7. The time schedule for the intended doctoral project
 8. The proof of achievements required by the Curriculum
 9. Basic information about supervision, especially the frequency of feedback meetings between supervisors and the PhD candidate
 10. Letter of commitment on compliance with good academic practice signed by the PhD candidate.
- 3) The doctoral thesis agreement must be supplemented with periodical, but at least annual, progress reports made by the PhD candidate in agreement with the supervisor. The unilateral termination of the agreement and substantial changes of the doctoral thesis agreement are admissible on objective grounds and are subject to approval from the competent body responsible for study law.

§ 7 Doctoral thesis

- 1) PhD candidates have to write a doctoral thesis, which serves to demonstrate the candidate's ability to master scientific topics independently (section 51, para. 2, line 13 of the 2002 Universities Act). The doctoral thesis, or at least parts of it, is expected to be of a suitable quality for publication, in accordance with the standards of the research field.
- 2) The candidates are encouraged to publish partial results from the PhD project in scientific journals and present them at academic conferences prior to the submission of the doctoral thesis.
- 3) The completed doctoral thesis has to be submitted to the Studienpräses for assessment. According to the University Statutes, s/he will then forward the thesis to at least two suitable assessors familiar with the research field. The appointment of a supervisor is admissible in

justified cases and has to provide for the assessment by an external person qualified in the respective subject. Every supervisor of a doctoral thesis is entitled to present a statement on the doctoral thesis of which the assessors have to be notified. The assessment has to be made within a maximum period of four months.

- 4) If two assessors have been drawn on and one of them assesses the doctoral thesis with a fail, the competent body responsible for study law has to draw on another assessor.

If two or three assessors have been drawn on and two of them assess the doctoral thesis with a fail, the final result is a fail.

§ 8 Public defence

Provided that all requirements specified in section 4 have been met and the doctoral thesis has been passed by the assessors, the PhD candidate must then pass a final oral examination (public defence) in front of an examination committee. This single examination consists of presenting and defending the scientific work and an examination by an examination committee. This examination includes the doctoral thesis topic and related research areas.

§ 9 Grading

For grading, the rules of the study law-related section of the University Statutes apply.

§ 10 Types of courses

- 1) All courses offered in the PhD programme are to be offered as the following types of courses:
 - a. Lecture (*Vorlesung*, VO)
 - b. Seminar (SE)
 - c. Exercise (*Übung*, UE)
 - d. Lecture – Exercise (*Vorlesung-Übung*, VU)

§ 11 Academic degree awarded

Graduates of the PhD programme who are admitted to the PhD programme according to section 2, para. 3, are awarded the degree Doctor of Philosophy (abbreviated as PhD) pursuant to section 54, para. 4 of the 2002 Universities Act.

§ 12 Entry into force and transitional arrangements

- 1) This Curriculum enters into force on 1 October 2017.
- 2) PhD candidates enrolled in the PhD programme prior to the entry into force of this Curriculum can voluntarily and at any time accept the provisions of this Curriculum by means of a simple statement. The competent body will be entitled to determine in general or on a case-by-case basis which of the courses taken and examinations passed will be recognised for this Curriculum.
- 3) PhD candidates who pursue a degree programme which entered into force prior to this Curriculum are entitled to complete their degree programme by 30 November 2020.