



# Curriculum for the PhD programme in Advanced Theological Studies, the doctoral programme in Protestant Theology and the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology

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Typing error corrections: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 8 October 2012, 1st edition, number 1

1. (Minor) amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 24 June 2013, 32nd edition, number 203

2. Amendment and republication: University Gazette Universities Act 2002 as of 15 May 2019, 23rd edition, number 148

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## § 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The doctoral programme in Protestant Theology, the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology and the PhD programme in Advanced Theological Studies at the University of Vienna aim to prepare doctoral candidates for academic work in the fields of Protestant theology, or Catholic theology, or interdisciplinary research in the fields of Protestant or Catholic theology. The degree programme provides an academic education of international standard.

(2) Graduates of the doctoral programme in Protestant Theology, the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology or the PhD programme in Advanced Theological Studies at the University of Vienna are able to conduct independent research of international standard in their respective field of doctoral research.

## § 2 Scope of application and entry requirements

(1) This Curriculum applies to students who intend to write a doctoral thesis in one of the following fields of doctoral research:

- Theological Studies (Protestant)
- Theological Studies (Catholic)
- Protestant Theology
- Catholic Theology

(2) In addition to the general prerequisites specified in the 2002 Universities Act, requirements for admission to the doctoral programme in Protestant Theology, the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology or the PhD programme in Advanced Theological Studies are:

- a. *the completion of an eligible diploma or master's programme,*
- b. *the completion of an equivalent degree programme at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution.*

(3) If the qualification is basically equivalent and only certain supplementary qualifications are required to recognise equivalence, the Rectorate is entitled to recognise equivalence subject to examinations the candidate has to pass during the respective doctoral programme.

(4) Special provision for the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology: Candidates who fulfil the basic entry requirements and strive for a canonical doctorate (see section 15) have to meet requirements of up to 30 ECTS credits, provided that they do not have a licentiate in Catholic Theology.

### **§ 3 Qualitative entry requirements**

(1) In addition, applicants for the doctoral programme in Protestant Theology, the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology or the PhD programme in Advanced Theological Studies have to undergo a special admission procedure that assesses whether the applicant fulfils the qualitative admission requirements.

(2) For the assessment of these criteria, applicants have to provide the following application documents:

- a) Adequate subject-specific and methodological expertise with regard to the intended doctoral programme and the intended field of doctoral research
- b) Motivation and academic potential to undertake the intended academic work, and compatibility of the intended doctoral project with a current research area at the University

(3) In order to assess these criteria, applicants must provide the following application documents:

1. Curriculum vitae including a list of publications and evidence of previous professional experience, e.g. research activities, provided that this is a special qualification required for the intended doctoral project.
2. Letter of motivation describing the applicant's personal eligibility for a doctoral programme at the University of Vienna.
3. Description of the intended doctoral project and the planned link to research at the University of Vienna in the intended field of doctoral research.
4. Written indication by a member of the Faculty who is allowed to supervise a doctoral thesis, which states their willingness to supervise the doctoral project in question according to stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies. This indication does not replace the supervisor's official confirmation of supervision or the approval of the intended doctoral topic by the competent body responsible for study matters. If the applicant can demonstrate a compelling reason, the applicant does not have to submit such an indication.

(4) The competent body responsible for study matters may issue guidelines for the presentation of the documents described in para. 3. These guidelines must be published on its website in due time.

(5) If the written documents are insufficient for reaching a positive or negative decision on the fulfilment of the qualitative admission requirements, the competent body responsible for study matters may also interview the applicant. The use of video conferencing systems and similar communication media is permissible subject to the verification of the applicant's identity without any doubt. The procedure and results of the interview have to be recorded in summary minutes.

### **§ 4 Duration and scope**

The degree programme duration is 3 years.

### **§ 5 Structure of the doctoral programme**

(1) During the doctoral programme, candidates are required to complete courses (with continuous and non-continuous assessment) as well as academic activities which relate to their doctoral project (e.g. attending workshops, holding presentations at international conferences, handling subject-related aspects in the organisation of academic events, taking part in academic practical courses, teaching, etc.)

(2) Moreover, to complete the degree programme, candidates are required to submit the application for approval of the intended doctoral project to the competent body responsible for study matters, the public presentation of the intended doctoral project at the Faculty, the approval of the doctoral thesis agreement and adherence with its terms as well as submission of the related progress reports, writing and completing the doctoral thesis and receiving a positive grade, and a public defence. The stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

(3) During the doctoral programme in Protestant Theology, doctoral candidates have to obtain 20 ECTS credits in addition to the doctoral thesis in accordance with the general provisions in para. 1.

(4) During the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology, doctoral candidates have to obtain 20 ECTS credits in addition to the doctoral thesis in accordance with the general provisions in para. 1. These achievements serve to promote subject-specific, methodological and linguistic competences with regard to the doctoral project and to deepen their knowledge of a further theological discipline.

(5) During the PhD programme in Advanced Theological Studies, doctoral candidates have to obtain 20 ECTS credits in addition to the doctoral thesis in accordance with the general provisions in para. 1.

(6) The exact specification of courses that have to be completed by the doctoral candidate as well as all details about the writing and supervision of the doctoral thesis are recorded in the doctoral thesis agreement.

## **§ 6 Submission of the intended doctoral project and public presentation at the Faculty**

(1) The doctoral candidate has to submit an application for approval of the intended doctoral project within the first year of doctoral studies to the competent body responsible for study matters in the form of a written research proposal and has to present the intended doctoral project in a public presentation at the Faculty. For the research proposal, the competent body responsible for study matters can issue formal specifications the doctoral candidate has to meet.

(2) For the submission and approval of the intended doctoral project and the public presentation at the Faculty, the stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

## **§ 7 Doctoral thesis agreement**

(1) For the doctoral thesis agreement, the stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

## **§ 8 Doctoral thesis**

(1) Doctoral candidates have to write a doctoral thesis, which serves to demonstrate the candidate's ability to master academic topics independently.

(2) The completed doctoral thesis must be submitted to the Studienpräses for assessment. According to the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies, the Studienpräses will forward the thesis to at least two assessors. The appointment of a supervisor as an assessor is admissible in justified cases. In this case, an external person qualified in the respective subject has to additionally assess the thesis. In any case, every supervisor of a doctoral thesis is entitled to present a statement on the thesis of which the assessor has to be notified. The doctoral thesis must be assessed within a maximum period of four months.

(3) If two assessors have been consulted and one of them decides to fail the doctoral thesis, the competent body responsible for study matters has to consult another assessor.

(4) If two or three assessors have been consulted and two of them decide to fail the doctoral thesis, the final result is fail.

## **§ 9 Public defence**

(1) Provided that all achievements specified in section 5, para. 1 have been completed and the doctoral thesis has been positively assessed, the doctoral candidate has to pass a final oral examination (public defence) in front of an examination committee. This single examination consists of the presentation and defence of the academic work by the doctoral candidate and an examination by an examination committee. This examination includes the doctoral thesis topic and related subject areas.

(2) The final examination in the doctoral programme in Protestant Theology allows the doctoral candidate to discuss the results of their doctoral thesis and two further theological subjects freely selected by the candidate.

(3) The final examination in the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology allows the doctoral candidate to discuss the results of their doctoral thesis project in the context of the entire field of theology, in particular in the context of their doctoral research and the emphasis subject defined in the doctoral thesis agreement.

## **§ 10 Grading**

For grading, the stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

## **§ 11 Course classification**

(1) All courses with non-continuous assessment (npi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Lecture (Vorlesung, VO):

A course that serves as an introduction to a subject's main topics and methods. It deals with the main academic doctrines in the relevant subject and its subdisciplines. Lectures primarily convey the course material in the form of lectures. The assessment criteria is based on an oral and/or written examination.

(2) All courses with continuous assessment (pi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Seminar (SE):

A course with continuous assessment, which introduces the academic discourse and its structure of argumentation. The required achievements are met through active participation (oral or written contribution to discussions, records) and through completing a short written paper ("seminar paper").

Field course (Exkursion, EX):

A course with continuous assessment, which serves to illustrate the respective academic topic and to deepen knowledge on site in the form of academic excursions on foot or by means of transport. The achievements are met through active participation, preparatory and accompanying oral or written contributions by the students, as well as a final reflection.

## **§ 12 Courses with a limited number of participants and registration procedures**

(1) The maximum number of participants in courses with continuous assessment is limited to 25 in accordance with the budget available.

(2) Modalities concerning the registration for courses and examinations as well as the allotment of spots in the courses are governed by the stipulations of the Statutes governing university studies.

## **§ 13 Examination regulations**

(1) Proof of performance in courses

The lecturer of a course is responsible for making the necessary announcements according to the stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies.

(2) Content of examinations

The examination content relevant to preparing and holding examinations must be in line with the required number of ECTS credits.

(3) Examination procedure

For the examination procedure, the stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

(4) No double recognition and no dual use

Courses taken and examinations passed in the master's or diploma programme, which constitute an entry requirement for the doctoral programme, cannot be recognised again in the doctoral programme.

## **§ 14 Academic degree**

(1) Graduates of the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology or Evangelical Theology are awarded the academic degree "Doctor of Theology", abbreviated as "Dr. theol."

(2) Graduates of the PhD programme in Advanced Theological Studies are awarded the academic degree "Doctor of Philosophy", abbreviated as "PhD".

## **§ 15 Special provision for the doctoral programme in Catholic Theology**

The doctoral programme in Catholic Theology corresponds to the current legal basis of the Roman Catholic Church for higher education. It is recognised as a doctorate by the Congregation for Catholic Education and confers all ecclesiastical rights associated with the doctorate in Catholic Theology.

## **§ 16 Special provision for the PhD programme in Advanced Theological Studies**

Doctoral projects in the PhD programme in Advanced Theological Studies can either be implemented in the field of Protestant or Catholic theology and are subject to the regulations of the relevant competent body responsible for study matters.

## **§ 18 Entry into force**

(1) This Curriculum entered into force on 1 October 2012 after being published in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna of 21 June 2012, 34th edition, no. 210

(2) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 24 June 2013, 32nd edition, no. 203, entered into force on 1 October 2013.

(3) The amendments to and republication of the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 15 May 2019, no. 148, 23rd edition, will enter into force on 1 October 2019 and already apply to admissions of the winter semester of 2019/20. Notwithstanding section 5, the number of ECTS credits to be

obtained according to the doctoral thesis agreement remains valid after this amendment to the Curriculum entered into force and still applies to doctoral candidates who started the doctoral programme and have already concluded a doctoral thesis agreement prior to this amendment to the Curriculum.

## **§ 19 Transitional provisions**

- (1) This Curriculum applies to all students who commence their degree programme as of the winter semester of 2012/13.
- (2) If, at a later stage of the degree programme, courses are no longer offered which were compulsory under the original curricula, the competent body responsible for study matters decides ex officio (equivalence regulation) or at the request of the doctoral candidate which courses and examinations have to be completed instead.
- (3) Students who have started the doctoral programme before this date may voluntarily accept the provisions of this Curriculum by simple confirmation.
- (4) The competent body responsible for study matters specified in the organisational regulations is 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.