

Curriculum für das Doktoratsstudium der Rechtswissenschaften und das PhD-Studium Interdisciplinary Legal Studies

English translation: Curriculum for the doctoral programme in Law and the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies

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1st amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 24 June 2013, 32nd edition, number 208

2nd amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 25 June 2018, 34th edition, number 166

§ 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) Beyond offering academic education for a future profession, this doctoral programme enables doctoral candidates to expand their ability and contribute independent research towards the development of law as an academic research field and thus serves to train future generations of academics. It provides an academic education of international standard.

(2) Graduates of the doctoral programme in Law and the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies are able to conduct independent research of international standard in their respective field of expertise.

§ 2 Scope of application and entry requirements

(1) This Curriculum applies to students who intend to write a doctoral thesis in a field of doctoral research that corresponds to one of the accepted fields of law as defined in the diploma curriculum ("Diplomstudienplan") for law (doctoral programme in Law) and for doctoral candidates aspiring to launch an interdisciplinary orientated doctoral project with a focus on law (PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies).

(2) In addition to the general prerequisites specified in the 2002 Universities Act, requirements for admission to the doctoral programme in Law are

- a. the completion of a diploma programme in the field of law, or
- b. the completion of an equivalent degree programme at a recognised domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution. Applicants may have to take supplementary examinations pursuant to para. 4.

(3) In addition to the general prerequisites specified in sections 63 and 64 of the 2002 Universities Act, requirements for admission to the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies include the completion of an eligible degree programme and an interdisciplinary doctoral project with a focus on law.

(4) 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.

§ 3 Qualitative entry requirements

(1) Applicants for the doctoral programme in Law have to undergo a special admission procedure that assesses whether the applicant fulfils all the qualitative admission requirements.

(2) The assessment of the applicants' qualifications is based on the following criteria:

- 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 envisaged academic work, and compatibility of the intended doctoral project with a current research area at the University.

(3) For the assessment of these criteria, applicants have to 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/Centre who is allowed to supervise a doctoral thesis which states their willingness to supervise the doctoral project in question (number 3) according to the 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 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 have to be published in due time on its website.

(5) If the written documents are insufficient for reaching a positive or negative decision on the fulfilment of the qualitative entry requirements, the competent body responsible for study matters may interview the applicant. The use of videoconferencing 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.

(6) In addition to the prerequisites specified in section 2, para. 3, applicants for the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies have to undergo the following admission procedure, which takes place in collaboration with the competent doctoral advisory board. The assessment of the applicants' qualifications is based on the following criteria:

- Profound expert knowledge in the field of law and the other relevant discipline with regard to the intended doctoral project;
- Motivation and academic potential for the realisation of the intended interdisciplinary project in the field of law.

For the assessment of these criteria, applicants have to provide the following documents in addition to the documents specified in para. 3:

- Supporting documents proving academic success in previous studies,
- Expert opinion on previously written academic theses and details about articles which have already been published.

§ 4 Duration and scope

The degree programme duration is 3 years.

§ 5 Structure of the doctoral programme

(1) To complete the degree programme candidates are required to complete courses pursuant to para. 2, submit the application for approval of the intended doctoral project to the competent body responsible for study matter, give the public presentation of the intended doctoral project at the Faculty, obtain the approval of the doctoral thesis agreement, write and complete the doctoral thesis and receive a positive grade, and complete the public defence. The stipulations in the section of the University's Statutes governing university studies apply.

(2) During the degree programme, doctoral candidates are required to pass the following courses comprising at least 28 ECTS credits:

- a. One lecture (Vorlesung, VO) on methodology in the field of law, non-continuous assessment (2 hours per week per semester, comprising 4 ECTS credits),
- b. One seminar (Seminar, SE) in the field of doctoral research to present and discuss the intended doctoral project (2 hours per week per semester, comprising 6 ECTS credits),
- c. Three seminars, of which two have to be in the field of doctoral research (6 hours per week per semester, comprising 18 ECTS credits). The University has to offer a sufficient number of seminars that aim at the preparation and supervision of the doctoral project.

(3) Additionally, doctoral candidates can complete courses in the field of doctoral research or elective subjects (Wahlfächer).

(4) Passing the courses listed in para. 2, lit. b is a prerequisite for the approval of the intended doctoral project.

(5) The exact specification of proof of performance, 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 that the doctoral candidates have to meet.

(2) The public presentation of the intended doctoral project at the Faculty is a prerequisite for the approval of the intended doctoral project. The doctoral candidate also has to submit a written presentation 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 comment on the presentation.

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

§ 7 Doctoral thesis agreement

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. The doctoral thesis is expected to be of a quality to merit publication, at least in parts, in accordance with the standards in the field of research.

(2) The publication of partial results of the doctoral project in academic journals and their presentation at academic conferences prior to the submission of the doctoral thesis is encouraged.

(3) The completed doctoral thesis has to be submitted to the Studienpräses for assessment. According to the University's Statutes, the Studienpräses will forward the thesis to at least two suitable assessors qualified in the respective subject. 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. The doctoral candidate and the supervisor(s) have the right to propose an assessor. 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 assessment has to be made within a maximum period of four months.

(4) 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.

(5) 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. 2 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 head of the examination committee, which consists of at least three examiners, is a person appointed by the Director of Studies. All other members of the committee should represent the field of doctoral research and at least one subject meaningfully connected to it. Assessors can be appointed as members of the examination committee.

§ 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 have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Lectures (Vorlesung, VO), non-continuous assessment (npi): Lectures aim at introducing students to the subject's key issues, the structure and contents and presenting important institutions, regulations, contexts and methods.

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

Seminars (Seminare, SE), continuous assessment (pi): Seminars serve the academic discussion of specific questions. Participants are required to give academic presentations that they have to prepare independently.

Courses (Kurse, KU), continuous assessment (pi): Courses resemble lectures and conservatoriums (Konservatorium). They require students to prepare the course contents on the basis of reading assignments, which gives them the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the course contents, allowing them to extend their knowledge.

(3) The doctoral candidates' performance is assessed in a written and/or oral examination, if applicable.

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

(1) The following general limits on the number of students apply in the following courses:

The maximum number of participants in courses with continuous assessment is limited to 25.

(2) Modalities concerning the registration for courses and examinations as well as the allotment of spots in the courses are governed by the stipulations in the section of the University's 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 degree programme, which constitutes an entry requirement for the doctoral programme, cannot be recognised again in the doctoral programme.

§ 14 Academic degree

(1) Graduates of the programme who are admitted to the programme according to section 2, para.2, lit. a, b or c, are awarded the academic degree "Doktorin der Rechtswissenschaften" or "Doktor der Rechtswissenschaften" (Doctor iuris, abbreviated as Dr. iur.) pursuant to section 51, para. 2, no. 14 of the 2002 Universities Act.

(2) Graduates of the PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Legal Studies, admitted to the 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.

§ 15 Entry into force

(1) This Curriculum enters into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2009.

(2) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 24 June 2013, number 208, edition 32 enter into force on 1 October 2013.

(3) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of {pubdate2}, number {article_number}, edition {document_number}, enter into force on 1 October 2018 and apply to admissions as of the winter semester of 2018/19.

§ 16 Transitional provisions

(1) This Curriculum applies to all students who commence their degree programme as of the winter semester of 2009.

(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) The competent body responsible for study matters 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.