

# Official Gazette – Special Issue of the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

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## Curriculum for the Doctoral Programme at the faculty of Natural and Life Sciences of the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

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Curriculum 2022

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In its meeting on 21.06.2022, the Senate of the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg enacted the curriculum for the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences in the following version, as decided by the curriculum committee of the Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences of the University of Salzburg in its meeting on 20.06.2022.

The legal basis is the Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies (Universities Act – UG, BGBl. I No. 120/2002) as well as the academic section of the statutes of the University of Salzburg in the currently valid version. In particular, reference is made to the following regulations:

- Admission to Doctoral Programmes: § 64 para. 4, § 63a para. 7 UG
- Admission Periods: § 61 para. 1 UG
- Composition, Supervision and Grading of the Doctoral Thesis as well as the Doctoral Committee: § 83 UG and § 24 Statute
- Final Exam (*Rigorousum*) and Public Defence of the Doctoral Thesis: § 13 and § 18 Statute

Regarding the implementation of doctoral programmes, please refer to the "Standards & Recommendations of the Rectorate and the Senate on Quality in Doctoral Studies" (*Standards & Empfehlungen des Rektorats und des Senats zur Qualität im Doktoratsstudium*, Official Gazette no. 35 of 5, December 2014, text in German).

## § 1 General information

- (1) The doctoral degree programme Natural and Life Sciences equates to 180 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to six semesters of full-time study.
- (2) Graduates of the doctoral degree programme Natural and Life Sciences are awarded the academic degree of „Doctor of Natural Sciences”, with the abbreviated designation of “Dr. rer. nat.”.

If the dissertation deals primarily with social, or cultural science issues, the academic degree “Doctor of Philosophy”, abbreviated to “Dr. phil.”, is awarded.

If the dissertation deals primarily with technical issues, the academic degree “Doctor of Technology”, abbreviated to “Dr. techn.”, is awarded.

- (3) Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses must not be discriminated against in any way during their studies. The Guiding Principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Federal Equal Treatment Act and appropriate academic adjustments apply.

### § 1a Application process

- (1) Applicants for the doctoral degree programme need to demonstrate qualifications required for entrance in to the degree programme ( § 64 Abs.. 4 UG). In addition to this they also need to go through the following evaluation process in which the applicants qualifications will be checked.
- (2) The applicants suitability will be evaluated on the following criteria
  - a) Adequate background knowledge in the discipline and in the (experimental/theoretical) methods required for the intended topic of the dissertation.
  - b) Motivation and scientific potential to carry out the planned dissertation and a demonstration of the possibility to include the scientific study in current research directions at the University.
- (3) In order to judge this the applicants need, as part of their application to the doctoral studies course, to supply the following documents:
  - Curriculum vitae, including publication list, demonstration of previous work experience (e.g. research activities). Additional information that helps demonstrate special qualifications for the topic of the dissertation should also be added.

- Motivation letter, describing the skill set, and abilities for the applicant to carry out a dissertation at the University of Salzburg
- Description of the planned dissertation and how the topic of the dissertation links in with current research at the university.
- A written declaration of the willingness of a member of the Faculty of Natural and Life sciences to supervise the dissertation. The potential supervisor needs to have the permission or qualifications (Habilitation or equivalent) to be able to supervise a dissertation.

## § 2 Qualifications

Graduates of this doctoral programme are qualified, among other things, in the following areas:

**Knowledge:** in-depth knowledge of the current state of international research in the field of knowledge of the dissertation and a good understanding of related research areas

**Skills:** Working independently on current scientific issues and publishing the results in high quality international publications

**Competences:** Development of new ideas and methods in research, industry and other application domains; Promotion and guidance of young scientists; role model effect in scientific and professional integrity

## § 3 Structure and content of the study programme

The doctoral programme Natural and Life Sciences comprises 3 modules, for which a total of 30 ECTS credits are available. The doctoral thesis is worth 150 ECTS credits. This includes the written thesis (research proposal) and its presentation, for which there is a possible 12 ECTS credits available, as well as the public defence, which is assessed with 8 ECTS credits.

The modules of the doctoral programme Natural and Life Sciences are listed below.

<b>Doctoral programme Digital and Analytical Sciences</b>				
<b>Module</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
<b>Module 1: Seminars for doctoral candidates</b>				
	Doctoral Seminar - 1	1	SE	2
	Doctoral Seminar – 2	1	SE	2
	Doctoral Seminar - 3	1	SE	2
	Doctoral Seminar – 4-6	1-3	SE	2-6
	Sum Module 1	4-6		8-12
<b>Module 2: Courses</b>				At least 8
Any course at the university available for doctoral students (see PLUSonline).				
<b>Module 3: Additional activities</b>				8-14
<b>Dissertation</b>				<b>150</b>

Written thesis (research proposal)			12
Public defence			8
<b>Total</b>			<b>180</b>

#### § 4 Research proposal

(§ 24 para. 4 Statute)

- (1) The research proposal and its presentation in the doctoral programme Natural and Life Sciences comprises 12 ECTS credits.
- (2) The proposal must outline how the project can address a problem (methodology) and the relevant research questions as well as the work plan (structure, methodology) clearly and comprehensively. Furthermore, it must be made clear that the project will culminate in a conclusive academic thesis. The research proposal must also include a written outline of the candidate's thought process, the planned structure of the thesis, a timetable and an initial bibliography.  
A research proposal for a cumulative doctoral thesis must outline how many and at what stage of submission the contributions are concluded and their relation to each respective part.
- (3) Statements from the potential primary and secondary supervisors must be submitted together with the research proposal. The potential primary supervisor must also state whether additional supervisors will be appointed.
- (4) The research proposal must be submitted to the responsible Examinations Office (*Prüfungsreferat*) in agreement with the proposed principal supervisor by the end of the second semester at the latest.
- (5) Before the research proposal is approved, it must be presented and discussed in front of a review board (e.g., departmental colloquium, seminar for doctoral candidates), ideally soon after the proposal has been submitted. The course leader must ensure that a person responsible for the subject and authorized to teach, appointed by the doctoral committee, attends the presentation and reports to the dean about the presentation. The presentation must be made open to the public. The doctoral candidate should receive suggestions for his/her dissertation concept during the discussion.
- (6) After the research proposal has been approved (according to § 24 para. 4 of the Statute), a supervision agreement must be concluded between the primary supervisor and the doctoral candidate in accordance with the University of Salzburg's guidelines.

#### § 5 Seminars for doctoral candidates

- (1) In the doctoral programme Natural and Life Sciences, 4-6 doctoral seminars with a total of 8 to 12 ECTS credits must be successfully completed. The supervisor shall stipulate which seminars the doctoral candidate is required to attend, as agreed together with the candidate. The seminars must be relevant to the theses project and provide regular opportunities for candidates to present on the progress of their research.
- (2) Doctoral candidates may only attend one seminar before the research proposal has been approved. The proposal must be approved before candidates can participate in any further seminars.

## **§ 6 Courses**

- (1) In addition to the seminars for doctoral candidates, the doctoral programme Natural and Life Sciences requires candidates to pass at least 8-14 ECTS credits in other courses for doctoral candidates.
- (2) The required courses shall focus on the theory, history and/or subject-specific theories, methods or methodologies of science. They should enable candidates to reflect on the general or subject-specific prerequisites, methods and goals of scientific research.

## **§ 7 Additional activities**

- (1) In the doctoral programme Natural and Life Sciences, candidates must complete additional activities totalling at least 8 ECTS credits. This includes the following activities:
  - Teaching their own relevant university courses (up to 2 ECTS credits per course; max. 6 ECTS credits).
  - Active participation in international workshops and congresses (incl. paper, lecture, poster, etc.) (up to 6 ECTS credits per active participation)
  - Publications in scientific, peer-reviewed] journals independent of the dissertation topic (up to 6 ECTS credits per publication)
  - Publications in scientific, peer-reviewed journals that are related to the thesis but are not submitted as part of a cumulative thesis (up to 6 ECTS credits per publication).
  - Participation in a summer school or a similar event (up to 4 ECTS credits per participation)
  - Stay at a foreign university, research institution or graduate college for study or research purposes (candidates must provide proof of attendance, for which 1 ECTS credit per month is accredited; max. 6 ECTS credits available)
  - Patents granted as part of the doctoral thesis project (up to 6 ECTS credits per patent)
  - Successful completion of university courses that teach interdisciplinary competences (e.g. project management, scientific ethics, rhetoric, university didactics, foreign languages) (up to 6 ECTS credits).
- (2) Doctoral candidates who have completed fewer than 8 ECTS or have completed no additional activities may acquire the remaining ECTS credits through courses for doctoral candidates.
- (3) The individual additional activities shall be submitted to the dean for approval and ECTS accreditation. The dean may involve the doctoral committee in this process. Activities will only be approved – mutually with the primary supervisor – if they are relevant to and aid the progression of the doctoral thesis project.

## **§ 8 Doctoral thesis**

(§ 83 Universities Act, § 24 Satzung)

- (1) The doctoral thesis must be written in German, or English.
- (2) A doctoral thesis consisting of a collection of scientific publications (cumulative doctoral thesis) may be submitted, if it contains a detailed introduction and, where there are multiple authors, a declaration detailing the doctoral candidate's contributions to the thesis, which must be signed by the co-authors.
- (3) Students shall present on the progress of their dissertation to an audience of internal experts at least three times over the course of their programme (including the Project Proposal presentation, and e.g., as part of seminars for doctoral candidates or departmental colloquia).

- (4) The supervisory team and the doctoral candidate may submit a list of proposed assessors in accordance with § 24 para. 6 of the Statute. If necessary, separate proposals may also be made.

## **§ 9 Public defence of the dissertation**

(§ 13 and § 18 Statute)

- (1) Candidates must pass all required seminars and courses, additional activities and must have a positive grade on their doctoral thesis to apply for admission to the defence of the dissertation.
- (2) The public defence of the dissertation will be conducted by an examination board. The primary supervisor shall chair the session. The two to four further discussion participants (examiners) are appointed by the dean. In addition to the primary supervisor, the examination board may include a secondary supervisor, as well as the assessors (§ 24 para. 6 Statute). At least one board member cannot be part of the thesis supervisory team. The primary and secondary supervisors and the doctoral candidate may submit a list of potential board members.
- (3) The defence begins with the candidate's presentation of the topic and results of the dissertation project.
- (4) The examination board members then interview the doctoral candidate on the thesis topic – whilst considering the candidates appraisals – with the aim of evaluating the doctoral candidate's mastery of the specialist research field.
- (5) This is followed by an open discussion moderated by the chairperson of the examination board.

## **§ 10 Doctoral committee (*Promotionskommission*)**

(§ 24 Abs. 2 Satzung)

- (1) The doctoral committee (§ 24 para. 2 Statute) is regulated by the Senate's rules of procedure and advises the dean in matters concerning doctoral programmes.
- (2) The doctoral committee must consist of the following persons:
  - the dean
  - the chairperson of the relevant curriculum committee for the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences.
  - one university lecturer with an authorisation to teach pursuant to § 94 para. 1 subpara. 6 and para. 2 UG from each field of study at the Faculty of *Natural and Life Sciences*. The dean shall appoint these members according to proposals made by the individual departments.
  - two students in the doctoral programme at the Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences. These members are appointed by the responsible body of the students' legal representation.
- (3) The doctoral committee shall advise the dean on questions concerning admission to doctoral programmes, the approval of a dissertation project, the selection of supervisors, reviewers and the participants in the defence of the dissertation.
- (4) For admissions defined in § 6 para. 4 of the University of Applied Sciences Act (*Fachhochschulgesetz, FHStG*), the doctoral committee shall approve the transcript of set modules for the extended doctoral programme.

## **§ 11 Entry into force**

The curriculum shall enter into force on 1 October 2022.

## **§ 12 Transitional provisions**

(1) From the time it comes into effect, this curriculum applies to all doctoral students in technical sciences, natural sciences, and philosophy at the Faculty of Natural Sciences from the following dissertation subjects:

Ecology and Evolution, Molecular Biology, Medical Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Materials Science, Psychology, Sport and Movement Science, Physical and Social Geography.

(2) All performance records and exams taken so far in the doctoral program are recognized for the further doctoral programme.

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## **Imprint**

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