

CURRICULUM for the doctoral degree programmes at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt

§ 1. Guiding Principles and Objectives

The doctoral degree programmes lead to a qualification for scientific activities in the field of the dissertation subject area. They provide scientific training at an international level and are designed to enable graduates to produce independent research work in their chosen discipline, in line with international standards.

§ 2. Scope of Application and Admission

- 1) This curriculum applies to students enrolled in the doctoral degree programmes established at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt in the fields of Natural Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Economics, and Science and Engineering.
- 2) Admission to the doctoral degree programmes shall be granted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Universities Act 2002 (hereinafter referred to as UA), as amended.

§ 3. Degree Programme Duration and Required Academic Achievements

- 1) In accordance with § 54 section 4 UA, the doctoral degree programmes have a duration of three years, or six semesters.
- 2) The following academic achievements must be attained:
 - a) Examinations: Within the framework of the doctoral degree programmes, students must attain the following examination achievements:
 - 16 to 32 ECTS credits (or 8 to 16 semester hours) to obtain either the doctorate in Humanities or the doctorate in Science and Engineering;
 - 16 to 40 ECTS credits (or 8 to 20 semester hours) to obtain the doctorate in Natural Sciences;
 - 24 to 80 ECTS credits (or 12 to 40 semester hours) to obtain the doctorate in Social Sciences and Economics.
 - b) Achievements, such as presenting at international conferences and workshops, teaching courses, and producing publications, as well as achievements that are generated at other universities, shall be formally recognised, provided that the relevance to the dissertation can be established. In accordance with the Statutes of the university, the precise individual definition of the required achievements (including the required ECTS credits) shall be confirmed by the competent doctoral advisory committee, following the suggestion of the supervisor (cf. Part B of the university's Statutes § 19, section 4 ff.), and shall be recorded in the dissertation agreement (cf. § 5, section 1, lit. h). In accordance with the Action Plan for the Promotion of Women (university's Statutes Part E/I § 26), the selection of courses must adequately reflect women's and gender studies.
 - c) Within the first year following admission to a doctoral degree programme, students must submit the application for approval of the proposed dissertation project (see § 4) to the Rector for Academic Affairs.

- d) The dissertation project must be presented to the university public (see § 4) in the presence of the competent doctoral advisory committee.
- e) Periodic reports on the study progress must be submitted to the supervisor. The agreed frequency is recorded in the dissertation agreement.
- f) Once the dissertation agreement has been concluded, students are required to write a dissertation (see § 6).
- g) Upon completion of all required academic achievements, the degree programme is concluded with a public oral defence (see § 7).

§ 4. Submission of a Proposal for the Dissertation Project and Public Presentation

- 1) Students must submit a proposal for their dissertation project in the form of a written exposé no later than at the end of the first year of doctoral studies. This paper must include the current state of research, the research objectives, the proposed methodology, as well as a timetable, and must be submitted to the Rector for Academic Affairs. In the context of a presentation to the university public, students must present their dissertation project to the competent doctoral advisory committee. This presentation shall be arranged by the competent doctoral advisory committee.
- 2) The presentation by the student to the university public is conditional upon the existence of a formal supervision agreement concluded with an individual authorized to supervise in accordance with Part B of the university's Statutes § 19 sections 2 and 3.

§ 5. Dissertation Agreement

- 1) Students are required to enter into a dissertation agreement with their supervisor.
The dissertation agreement must include the following:
 - a) the student's name, matriculation number;
 - b) the supervisor's name;
 - c) the subject (working title) of the dissertation;
 - d) the dissertation area to which the dissertation is assigned, and the academic degree to be awarded;
 - e) the exposé, upon which approval is based;
 - f) the timetable for the dissertation project;
 - g) the defined record of achievements to be attained, as set out by the curriculum;
 - h) the key data relating to the supervision process, in particular the frequency of the periodic reports on the study progress and of the planned feedback meetings between supervisor and student;
 - i) a declaration of commitment by the student, undertaking to adhere to the standards of good scientific practice (please refer, in particular, to the university's Code of Conduct).
- 2) Following the public presentation of the dissertation project, and having given due consideration to any statements provided by the competent doctoral advisory committee, the Rector for Academic Affairs shall decide upon the approval of the proposed dissertation project and the dissertation agreement. The approval of the proposed dissertation project represents an obligatory prerequisite for the conclusion of the dissertation agreement.
- 3) The unilateral termination as well as any significant amendment to the dissertation agreement also requires approval by the Rector for Academic Affairs. The Rector for Academic Affairs shall arrive at a decision on the basis of statements provided by the competent doctoral advisory committee.

§ 6. Dissertation

- 1) Exceeding the requirements related to diploma or Master's theses, the student's doctoral thesis must demonstrate her/his acquired capacity to independently provide solutions to problems presented by current scientific research. The required quality of work must stand up to publication, at least of parts of the research results, in line with the standards of the chosen discipline, to which the dissertation subject is assigned. The dissertation must reflect good scientific practice; students are required to confirm this by signing a solemn declaration.
- 2) The university explicitly encourages the publication of partial research results from the dissertation project in scientific journals and their presentation at scientific conferences prior to the submission of the completed dissertation. Own publications, where applicable, can be included in the dissertation and shall be disclosed there.
- 3) Collaborative research efforts by several students are permissible, provided that the achievements of each of the students can be assessed individually (§ 82 section 2 UA). Further provisions are set forth in Part B of the university's Statutes § 19 section 5, read in conjunction with § 18 section 4a. This must be formally defined in the respective dissertation agreements.
- 4) The Rector for Academic Affairs shall appoint the supervisor from the group of persons defined by Part B of the university's Statutes § 19 sections 2 and 3. The student is entitled to suggest a supervisor.
- 5) The completed dissertation must be submitted to the Rector for Academic Affairs in electronic as well as printed form (Part B of the university's Statutes § 19 section 6). The appointment of the two reviewers is conducted in accordance with the rules set forth in Part B of the university's Statutes § 19 section 7.
- 6) Reviewers must complete the dissertation review process within a period not exceeding four months (Part B of the university's Statutes § 19 section 7, final sentence). The assessment is subject to the provisions as stipulated in Part B of the university's Statutes § 19 sections 8 and 9.
- 7) The title and grading of the dissertation as well as the grading of the oral defence shall be recorded in the doctoral degree certificate.
- 8) Prior to the bestowal of the academic degree, the student must publish the positively assessed dissertation by delivering a complete copy both to the university library and the Austrian National Library (§ 86 section 1 UA). On lodging the submission with a library, the author shall be entitled to apply for access to the copies deposited therewith to be withheld for a maximum of five years. The Rector for Academic Affairs shall approve such an application, if the student establishes that his/her legal or business interests would be endangered otherwise (§ 86 section 2 UA).

§ 7. Oral Defence, Examination Regulations and Final Examination

- 1) Once all academic achievements as stipulated in § 3 have been positively completed, and the dissertation has been positively assessed, an oral defence takes place. The oral defence is an oral final examination that takes place before an examining board, during which the results of the dissertation are publically presented and critically discussed.
- 2) The examining board is comprised of 3 persons who are endowed with a subject-relevant authority to teach (*venia docendi*). Reviewers can join the examining board, as long as they do not simultaneously function as the supervisor. The supervisor attends the oral defence, and has no voting rights. The Rector for Academic Affairs appoints the examining board following the suggestion made by the competent Programme Director and selects the chairperson. Students are entitled to submit proposals with regard to the individuals to be appointed as examiners.

- 3) The doctoral degree programme is deemed successfully concluded, when the oral defence has been successfully completed. The doctoral degree certificate must include details of the assessment of the dissertation and of the assessment of the oral defence. If one of these assessments is “very good”, and the other no poorer than “good”, then the degree is considered to have been achieved with distinction.

§ 8. Academic Degrees

- 1) In accordance with the specific doctoral degree programme to which admission was granted, one of the following academic degrees is conferred upon graduates of the doctoral degree programmes:
- “Doktor der Naturwissenschaften” or “Doktorin der Naturwissenschaften”, English name “Doctor of Natural Sciences”, Latin name “Doctor rerum naturalium”, abbreviated to “Dr. rer. nat”;
 - “Doktor der Philosophie” or “Doktorin der Philosophie”, English name “Doctor of Philosophy”, Latin name “Doctor philosophiae”, abbreviated to “Dr. phil.”;
 - “Doktor der Sozial- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften” or “Doktorin der Sozial- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften”, English name “Doctor of Social Sciences and Economics”, Latin name “Doctor rerum socialium oeconomicarumque”, abbreviated to “Dr. rer. soc. oec.”;
 - “Doktor der Technischen Wissenschaften” or “Doktorin der Technischen Wissenschaften”, English name “Doctor of Science and Engineering”, Latin name “Doctor technicae”, abbreviated to “Dr. techn.”.
- 2) In order to promote academic mobility, an English translation of the notice of the academic award is provided, in which the name of the university and of the issuing authority, as well as the academic degree are not translated. The award notice must include the following information:
- a) surname, first name; in any case, name at birth;
 - b) date of birth and citizenship;
 - c) completed doctoral degree programme;
 - d) conferred academic degree.

§ 9. Effective Validity and Transitional Provisions

- 1) This curriculum comes into force on the 1st of October 2012, and applies to all students who commence their studies from this date onwards.
- 1a) The amendments to the curriculum, published in the University Bulletin dated 20th of May 2015, Issue 16, No. 117.3, come into force on the 1st of October 2015. As the amendments are of a non-structural nature, the amended curriculum applies to all students pursuing doctoral degree programmes from this time onwards.
- 2) Regular students enrolled in doctoral degree programmes with an expected academic output of at least 120 ECTS credits, which were established prior to the stipulations of § 54 section 4 as amended by Federal Law Gazette I No. 74/2006, are entitled to complete these studies no later than the 30th of September 2017 according to the provisions heretofore in force (§ 124 section 15 UA). If the degree programme is not completed on time, the student has to pursue her/his studies according to the provisions of the new curriculum.
- 3) Students who commenced their doctoral degree programme from the winter semester of 2009/10 onwards are entitled to complete their studies no later than the 30th of November 2017. If the degree programme is not completed on time, the student has to pursue her/his studies according to the provisions of the amended curriculum. Furthermore, students are entitled to voluntarily transition to the provisions of the amended curriculum at any point in time.