

CURRICULUM for the doctoral degree programmes at the University of Klagenfurt

§ 1 Guiding Principles and Objectives

The doctoral degree programmes lead to a qualification for scientific activities in the field of the subject of the doctoral thesis. 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 University of Klagenfurt in the fields of Natural Sciences, Humanities, Law, 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. In addition, as a prerequisite for admission, applicants must present proof of the provisional supervision commitment of at least one supervisor as stipulated in Part B § 19 para. 2 first sentence of the University Statute.

§ 2a Supervision and Mentoring

- 1) Supervisors shall be selected from the category of eligible individuals as defined in Part B § 19 para. 2 and 3 of the University Statute.
- 2) Mentors shall be selected from among the university's academic staff. A teaching authorisation (*venia docendi*) is not mandatory, however, the selected individual must have completed her/his doctorate. In the case of a member of academic staff without teaching authorisation, their field of research must be attributable to the proposed topic of the doctoral thesis.

§ 3 Degree Programme Duration and Required Academic Achievements

- 1) In accordance with § 54 para. 4 UA, the doctoral degree programmes have a duration of three years, or six semesters.
- 2) The following academic achievements must be attained:

Within the framework of the doctoral degree programmes, students must attain the following examination achievements:

- a)
 - 16 to 32 ECTS credits to obtain the doctorate in Philosophy, the doctorate in Law, or the doctorate in Science and Engineering;
 - 16 to 40 ECTS credits to obtain the doctorate in Natural Sciences;
 - 16 to 80 ECTS credits to obtain the doctorate in Social Sciences and Economics.

When choosing courses, it is recommended to include both subject-specific courses and interdisciplinary courses in the agreement on academic achievement. Furthermore, adequate consideration should be given to Women's Studies and Gender Research in line with the Plan for the Advancement of Women (Part E / I § 26 University Statute).

- 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 their relevance to the doctoral thesis can be established. The precise individual definition of the required achievements (indicating ECTS credits) shall be confirmed by the competent doctoral advisory committee, following the suggestion of the supervisor and the mentor (see Part B of the University Statute § 19, para. 4 ff.), and shall be recorded in the agreement on academic achievement (see § 5, para. 1, lit. g).
- 3) Students must submit the application for approval of the proposed thesis project (see § 4) to the Rector of Studies before the end of the first year of the doctoral degree programme.
- 4) The thesis project must be presented to the university public (see § 4) in the presence of the competent doctoral advisory committee.
- 5) Periodic reports on the study progress must be submitted to the individuals appointed as supervisor and mentor.
- 6) Once the agreement on academic achievement has been concluded, students are required to write a thesis (see § 6).
- 7) 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 Thesis Project and Public Presentation

- 1) Students must submit a proposal for their thesis 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 of Studies. In the context of a presentation to the university public, students must present their thesis 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 at least two individuals authorized to supervise or mentor. At least one of these individuals must be authorized to supervise (in accordance with § 2a).

§ 5 Agreement on Academic Achievement

- 1) Students are required to enter into an agreement on academic achievement with the individuals appointed as supervisor and mentor.

The agreement on academic achievement must include the following items:

- a) the student's name, matriculation number;
- b) the name of the supervisor and of the mentor;
- c) the subject (working title) of the thesis;
- d) the formally defined doctoral thesis area to which the thesis is assigned, and the academic degree to be awarded;
- e) the exposé, upon which the approval is based;

- f) the timetable for the thesis project;
 - g) the defined record of achievements to be attained, as set out by this curriculum;
 - h) the key data relating to the supervision and mentoring process, in particular the frequency of the periodic reports on the study progress and of the planned feedback meetings between the individuals appointed as supervisor and mentor and the 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 thesis project, and having given due consideration to any statements provided by the competent doctoral advisory committee, the Rector of Studies shall decide upon the approval of the proposed thesis project and the agreement on academic achievement. The approval of the proposed thesis project represents an obligatory prerequisite for the conclusion of the agreement on academic achievement.
- 3) The unilateral termination as well as any significant amendment to the agreement on academic achievement also requires approval by the Rector of Studies. The Rector of Studies shall arrive at a decision on the basis of statements provided by the competent doctoral advisory committee.

§ 6 Doctoral Thesis

- 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 subject of the thesis is assigned. The thesis 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 thesis project in scientific journals and their presentation at scientific conferences prior to the submission of the completed thesis. Own publications, where applicable, can be included in the thesis 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 (§ 83 para. 2 UA). Further provisions are set forth in Part B of the University Statute § 19 para. 5, read in conjunction with § 18 para. 4a. This must be formally defined in the respective agreements on academic achievement.
- 4) The Rector of Studies shall appoint the supervisor and mentor from the group of eligible persons as set out in § 2a. The student is entitled to suggest a supervisor and mentor or to select these individuals subject to the available options.
- 5) The completed thesis must be submitted to the Rector of Studies in electronic as well as printed form (Part B of the University Statute § 19 para. 6). The appointment of the two expert reviewers is conducted in accordance with the rules set forth in Part B of the University Statute § 19 para. 7.
- 6) Expert reviewers must complete the thesis review process within a period not exceeding four months (Part B of the University Statute § 19 para. 7, final sentence). The assessment is subject to the provisions as stipulated in Part B of the University Statute § 19 para. 8 and 9. The individuals appointed as supervisor and mentor are entitled to submit comments on the thesis.
- 7) The title and grading of the thesis as well as the grading of the oral defence shall be recorded on the doctoral degree certificate.

- 8) The student must provide the positively assessed thesis to the libraries defined in § 86 para. 1 and 2 UA in an electronic format. In addition, the positively assessed thesis will be published in an open, electronically accessible repository. The justifications for an application for access to the thesis to be withheld as listed in § 86 para. 4 UA also include publication by a publisher. If credible proof of this is provided, the application to withhold access to the copies deposited can be granted for a maximum of three years.

§ 7 Oral Defence, Examination Regulations and Final Examination

- 1) Once all academic achievements as stipulated in § 3 have been positively completed, and the thesis 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 thesis is publically presented and critically discussed. The expert reviewers' reports as well as any statements submitted by the individuals appointed as supervisor and mentor shall be made available to the members of the examining board as well as to the respective student in advance.
- 2) The examining board is comprised of at least 3 persons entitled to vote, who are endowed with a subject-relevant authority to teach (*venia docendi*). At least one of the expert reviewers must be appointed to the examining board. The supervisor and the mentor may join the examining board, however they have no voting rights. Students are entitled to submit applications 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 thesis and of the assessment of the oral defence. If the assessment of the thesis is "very good", and the oral defence is graded no poorer than "good", then the doctoral degree is considered to have been achieved with "distinction". In all other cases, the overall grade is "passed", provided that the oral defence receives a positive assessment.

§ 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 Rechtswissenschaften" or "Doktorin der Rechtswissenschaften", English name "Doctor of Law", Latin name "Doctor iuris", abbreviated to "Dr. iur.";
 - "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 international 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 names; 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 2018 following publication in the University Bulletin of the University of Klagenfurt, and applies to all students who are admitted to the doctoral degree programme from the winter semester of 2018/2019 onwards.

- 2)** Students who commenced their doctoral degree programme before the winter semester of 2018/2019 and from the winter semester of 2012/2013 onwards are entitled to complete their studies in accordance with the rules that have applied to them so far, in a period of time equivalent to the designated duration of study plus two semesters, i.e. no later than the 30th of November 2022. If the degree programme is not completed on time, the student has to continue her/his studies according to the provisions of the new curriculum, subject to the established doctoral thesis areas. Furthermore, subject to the established dissertation areas, students are entitled to voluntarily transition to the provisions of the new curriculum at any point in time.