C U R R I C U L A

Curriculum of the Doctoral Course in
Natural Sciences and Technological Sciences in the field of Natural Sciences.

§ 1 Qualification profile

The degree program is geared towards providing the necessary qualification for pursuing a scientific career in the area of the doctoral thesis. It provides a scientific education of international standard and aims to empower graduates to conduct independent research projects of international standard in their respective area of expertise.

§ 2 Scope of application and admission

(1) This curriculum applies to students who want to write a doctoral thesis in an area that corresponds to one of the Bachelor or diploma courses in this field (or to a Master course in those Natural Sciences subjects for which no Bachelor course is available) or to a relevant teacher education course. Particularly welcome are doctoral theses that pertain to one of the following fields of study:

- *Astronomy*
- *Chemistry*
- *Environmental Sciences*
- *Earth Sciences*
- *Geography*
- *Geophysics*
- *Information Technology*
- *Mathematics*
- *Meteorology*
- *Physics*
- *Psychology*
- *Sports Sciences*

(2) Admission to the course is governed by the provisions set out in the Universities Act 2002 as amended.[1]

(3) With the exception of doctoral theses in the area of "Information Technology", successful candidates are awarded a doctoral degree in Natural Sciences, abbreviated as Dr.rer.nat. Doctoral candidates completing a doctoral thesis in "Information Technology" are awarded a doctoral degree in Technical Sciences, abbreviated as Dr.techn, pursuant to § 54 (4) Universities Act 2002.

§ 3 Structure

(1) The duration of study is 3 years.

[1] Universities Act 2002 §§ 63, 64 Admission regulations

(2) During the doctoral course students are required to:
a) Take modules earning between 12 to 30 ECTS points (ranging from 8 to 30 semester hours per week)
b) Attendance of additional seminars, courses, workshops, etc. as set out in the doctoral thesis agreement (e.g. attendance of workshops, international conference presentations, organization of scientific/academic events, internships, etc.).
c) Submission of the doctoral thesis proposal for approval to a governing body responsible for study matters within the first year of study (see § 4),
d) Public presentation of the doctoral thesis proposal at the faculty (protection of patent, intellectual property and other rights, if necessary)
e) Submission of a periodic, but at least annual, progress report,
f) Writing of the thesis (see § 6),
g) Public defense (see § 7).

(3) The attendance of additional seminars, lectures, workshops may be required for the acquisition of core competences. [2]These may be attended on a voluntary basis during the orientation period, in order to acquire the basics of scientific research and writing methods and to develop a project-oriented work approach. Furthermore, students are able to finalize their respective doctoral project and write a synopsis. The attendance of such seminars, lectures and workshops during the orientation period can be recognized under the doctoral thesis agreement.

(4) The required study credits (including ECTS points and semester hours) as well as all specifications pertaining to the writing and supervision of the doctoral thesis are set out in the doctoral thesis agreement.

(5) The doctoral course can be taken partially or completely in English.

§ 4 Submission of the doctoral thesis proposal and public presentation at the faculty
The doctoral candidate has to submit his/her doctoral thesis proposal, together with a letter of endorsement from the supervisor, for approval to the governing body responsible for study matters. This application for approval must include a synopsis of the doctoral thesis, a schedule and a list of necessary resources. Principally, the doctoral thesis proposal is approved by the relevant governing body responsible for study matters, following a public presentation at the faculty (§ 3, 2 d). If, however, the doctoral thesis is part of a research project[3] that has been externally approved according to international standards, then the doctoral thesis proposal may be approved by the relevant governing body responsible for study matters prior to the public presentation at the faculty.
The approval of the doctoral thesis proposal is, in any case, a mandatory requirement for the signing of a doctoral thesis agreement.

§ 5 Doctoral thesis agreement
As set out in the statutes, a doctoral thesis agreement has to be signed by the supervisor and the

[2] This refers to competences which, in addition to the respective expert knowledge, is relevant to the future career of the doctoral candidates. Said competences include, e.g. academic writing, project management, etc.
[3] This requirement is deemed satisfied with regard to FWF projects and approved Doctoral Programs and Initiative Groups.

doctoral candidate and approved by the governing body responsible for study matters.

§ 6 Doctoral thesis
(1) A doctoral thesis is to be written in the doctoral course, which is to serve as proof of the doctoral candidate's ability to independently deal with new scientific issues (§ 51 paragraph. 2 Z 13 of the Universities Act2002). The quality of the doctoral thesis should, at least in part, be of the standard required to fulfill the scientific and formal criteria for publication.

(2) The publication of parts of the doctoral thesis in scientific journals or their presentation at scientific conferences prior to the submission of the thesis is desired.

§ 7 Public defense
(1) The doctoral candidate has to pass a final oral examination (public defense) conducted by a board of examiners. Admittance to the final oral examination is subject to achievement of all study credits in the sense of § 3 and a positive assessment of the doctoral thesis. The oral examination includes the presentation and defense of the doctoral thesis. The composition of the examination board is set out in the provisions of the statutes.

§ 8 Examination regulations
(1) As part of the doctoral course in Natural Sciences and Technical Sciences both classes with continuous assessment and classes without continuous assessment of coursework can be taken.

(2) Classes with continuous assessment of coursework are limited to a maximum number of 12 doctoral candidates. The governing academic body may allow for exceptions because of space, staff, financial, and/or other logistical limitations.

(3) Admission: If the number of applicants exceeds the maximum number of students for a particular class, the following admission criteria apply:
(i) Admission to classes must be guaranteed for those students who participate in a structured program under which the classes are funded.
(ii) If attendance of classes is mandatory for the completion of the doctoral course, i.e. if the students have enrolled for certain classes in the doctoral thesis agreement, they are to be given priority.
(iii) Student's grades (Grades obtained in other classes relevant to the admission to a particular class or in other classes in which desired knowledge has been acquired).
(iv) The student's year of study.

§ 9 Completion of the doctoral course
(1) The doctoral course is successfully completed if all study credits have been achieved in the sense of § 3 paragraph 2.

(2) Graduates of the doctoral course with a doctoral thesis in a field other than Information Technology are awarded a doctoral degree in Natural Sciences, abbreviated as Dr.rer.nat., pursuant to §54 (4) of the Universities Act 2002.

(3) Graduates of the doctoral course with a doctoral thesis in the field of Information Technology are a awarded a doctoral degree in Technical Sciences, abbreviated as Dr.techn., pursuant to §54

(4) of the Universities Act 2002.

§ 10 Coming into effect and transitional arrangements.
(1) This curriculum comes into effect on October 1, 2009.

APPENDIX:
According to § 5 of the statues, the doctoral thesis agreement must include:
1. The student's name, the registration number, date of birth;
2. The names of the supervisors;
3. The topic of the doctoral thesis;
4. The curriculum of the course of study;
5. The field of study to which the doctoral thesis pertains;
6. The synopsis based on which the doctoral thesis proposal has been approved.
7. The schedule for the doctoral thesis;
8. The study credits that need to be achieved according to the curriculum;
9. Supervision specifications, in particular with regard to the frequency of feedback meetings between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate;
10. Declaration of commitment of the doctoral candidate to adhere to the rules and regulations of proper scientific conduct.