

## **CURRICULUM FOR THE PHD DEGREE PROGRAM IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Pursuant to § 25 (1) item 10 of the Universities Act 2002 (*Universitätsgesetz* 2002), Federal Law Gazette (*Bundesgesetzblatt*, BGBl.) I no. 120/2002, last amended by the federal act promulgated in Federal Law Gazette I no. 177/2021, the following regulation is passed:

### **§ 1 Objectives**

The PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences is a degree program in social and economic sciences within the meaning of § 54 (1) of the Universities Act 2002 and is taught in German. Students also have the option of taking the degree program in English. The focus of the PhD program is on developing students' ability to conduct independent academic research and on qualifying early-stage researchers in the field of economic and social sciences for a career in an international academic environment. Students conduct theoretical or applied social and/or economic research at the highest academic level.

In the PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences, students gain an in-depth, research-guided understanding of the methodology, theory, and research methods of their discipline. They acquire academic argumentation and writing skills. They develop and perfect the skills to apply and adapt or further develop survey and evaluation methods in an academically sound manner.

They learn to generate new academic results and implement academic publication strategies, and they acquire communication skills for professional academic discourse.

Skills in research methods, methodology/theory, and academic writing are taught in a research-based manner in courses with continuous assessment of student performance. In these courses, students acquire the skills necessary to write a dissertation. Research seminars are held in small groups; they focus on the dissertation and provide a platform for students to conduct their own research and present their research results.

Graduates of the PhD program are qualified early-stage researchers and meet the requirements for an international academic career at universities and research institutes. Especially due to their high degree of independence and their ability to apply knowledge to completely new problems, they are also qualified for careers at for-profit, nonprofit, and public sector organizations.

Students of the PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences acquire the following knowledge, skills, and competencies:

#### Discipline-specific knowledge:

- Students acquire a broad, systematic, and critical understanding of the field of social and economic sciences, as well as in-depth and up-to-date specialist knowledge and professional expertise in a particular aspect of the field.
- They learn to analyze academic contributions in their field critically
- They are able to recognize the need for acquiring further knowledge in their own subject area and to identify and make connections to related areas of research
- They have the ability to critically analyze academic contributions in their field

#### Synthesis and evaluation:

- Students can comprehensively understand and analyze issues related to the social and economic sciences using appropriate methods
- They can engage in academic analysis and synthesis, and can independently and critically examine and assess new and complex phenomena, issues, and situations
- Students have learned to develop, adapt, and apply research methods to expand and redefine existing knowledge or solve problems related to professional practice
- They are able to generate original knowledge and understanding to make a significant contribution to research in an academic discipline or to an area of professional practice

#### Research:

- Students can identify and formulate research questions critically, independently, innovatively, and with academic rigor
- They have the skills to plan and conduct research work using scientific methods and within specified time frames
- Students have learned to reflect on the ethical and social implications of their research findings
- They have a deeper understanding of the possibilities and limitations of academic research, its role in society, and the responsibilities of the individual researcher

#### Communication:

- Students have the skills needed to write academic publications that meet the international quality standards of the relevant discipline
- They can present and discuss their research and findings competently in both national and international contexts and in dialog with the scientific community and with society in general
- They know how to make new knowledge and insights accessible and promote the learning of others in research, teaching, and other professional contexts

## **§ 2 Admission Requirements**

(1) The prerequisite for admission to the Doctoral Degree Program in Social and Economic Sciences is the completion of a previous degree within the meaning of § 64 of the Universities Act 2002.

(2) In addition, candidates for the PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences must meet the following qualitative eligibility criteria:

1. Sufficient specialist and methodological knowledge with regard to the PhD program in question and the intended subject area of the dissertation

2. The motivation and academic potential needed for the realization of the planned academic work and compatibility of the project with a current research area of WU

(3) In order to assess these criteria, candidates must include the following documents with their application:

1. Curriculum vitae (including a list of any publications or other research activities that may indicate a particular qualification with regard to the intended dissertation project).
2. Description of the dissertation project with details of the intended research area, the methodological approach, and how the candidate plans to integrate the project into WU's research in the field of the dissertation.
3. Confirmation by a WU faculty member authorized to supervise dissertations, stating that the project described pursuant to item 2 above is suitable dissertation topic and that it is compatible with a current WU research area in the faculty member's subject area, and that he or she would therefore be willing to supervise the work ("provisional supervision agreement").

(4) Dual application of examinations to the PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences through credit transfer of examinations completed in a previous degree program pursuant to (1) above is not permitted.

### **§ 3 Program Duration**

The PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences is a three-year program.

### **§ 4 Types of Examinations**

The examination types indicated in this curriculum are defined in the Examination Regulations of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business). This curriculum, together with the Examination Regulations, forms a curriculum pursuant to § 25 (1) item 10 of the Universities Act 2002.

Abbreviation key:

AG – <i>Arbeitsgemeinschaft</i> , workshop-type course
FP – <i>Fachprüfung</i> , subject examination
FS – <i>Forschungsseminar</i> , research seminar
LVP – <i>Lehrveranstaltungsprüfung</i> , course examination
MP – <i>Modulprüfung</i> , module examination
PI – <i>prüfungsimmant</i> , course with continuous assessment of student performance
VUE – <i>Vorlesungsübung</i> , lecture with interactive elements

### **§ 5 Courses and Examinations**

(1) During the PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences, students are required to complete the following courses:

<i>Subject/course title</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>	<i>Credit hours</i>	<i>Type of examination</i>
<i>In Academic Writing (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Academic Writing	6	2	FS

<i>In Research Methods (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Methods	6	2	PI
<i>In Methodology and Theory (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Methodology and Theory	6	2	PI
<i>In Interdisciplinary Research Seminar (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Interdisciplinary Research Seminar	6	2	FS
<i>In Research Seminar – Participating in Scientific Discourse (12 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar – Participating in Scientific Discourse I	6	2	FS
Research Seminar – Participating in Scientific Discourse II	6	2	FS
<i>In Electives (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Elective I	3	2	AG
Elective II	3	2	AG
<i>In Defensio Dissertationis (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Defensio Dissertationis	6		FP

(2) Students must complete a further 30 ECTS credits in courses of their choice, selected from the subjects Academic Writing, Research Methods, Methodology and Theory, Interdisciplinary Research Seminar, and Research Seminar – Participating in Scientific Discourse.

(3) Electives are not to be taken at WU, but at another educational institution in Austria or abroad. Courses selected must be on the doctoral level and be in a subject relevant to the topic of the student's dissertation.

## **§ 6 Research Proposal**

(1) The research proposal should include the topic of the work, the current state of research in the field, the research question, the basic methodological and theoretical approaches of the dissertation, and the work's expected contribution to the development of the dissertation field.

(2) The research proposal will be posted on the intranet of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) for a period of one month. In the event of a change of the student's main supervisor, a new research proposal must be published.

(3) The provisions in § 34 (7), final sentence, of the By-Laws of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) apply *mutatis mutandis* to the assessment of the research proposal. Each member of the supervisory team shall combine their assessment with constructive suggestions for the further development of the dissertation, and in the event of a negative assessment, suggestions for the improvements necessary to achieve a passing grade.

## **§ 7 Dissertation and *Defensio Dissertationis***

(1) In the PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences, students shall write a dissertation in the form of one or several academic papers. The department's dissertation

guidelines apply. The topic of the dissertation is to be chosen from one of the following subjects:

Labor and Social Security Law
International Business
Ecological Economics
Empirical Economic Research
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
European and International law
Finance
Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
Management
Marketing
Austrian and European Public Law
Philosophy
Civil Law including Civil Procedure
Production Management and Operations
Accounting
Sociology/Political Sciences
Socioeconomics
Tax Law
Criminal Law
Strategic Management
Transport and Logistics Management/Supply Chain Management
Economics
Economic and Social History
Economic Geography
Information Systems and Information Business
Business Communication/Applied Linguistics
Mathematics in Economics and Business
Business Education and Educational Studies
Business Psychology

(2) The successful completion of all courses specified in § 5 and a positive grade on the research proposal are prerequisites for admission to the *Defensio Dissertationis*. During the *Defensio Dissertationis*, the student shall present their completed dissertation to the Doctoral Committee and respond to questions posed by members of the committee.

(3) The provisions in § 34 (7), final sentence, of the By-Laws of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) apply *mutatis mutandis* to calculating the assessment of the *Defensio Dissertationis*.

## **§ 8 Completion of the PhD Degree Program**

(1) After a student has successfully completed all required courses and examinations pursuant to § 5 and the dissertation, a certificate will be issued evidencing the successful completion of the PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences.

(2) If a student has completed a block of related courses in "Economics" or "Mathematics in Economics and Business" pursuant to the Annex worth at least 60 ECTS credits, the graduation certificate shall include the addition "Economics" or "Mathematics in Economics and Business."

## **§ 9 Academic Degree**

Graduates of the PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences will be awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy," abbreviated as "PhD."

## **§ 10 Effective Date**

(1) This curriculum shall take effect on October 1, 2012.

(2) The amendments to this curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated May 6, 2014, approved by the Senate on May 21, 2014, will enter into force on October 1, 2014.

(3) The amendments to this curriculum as published in WU Bulletin no. 40 of June 27, 2018, shall enter into force on October 1, 2018.

(4) The amendments to this regulation as published in WU Bulletin no. 40 of June 26, 2019, shall enter into force on October 1, 2019.

(5) The amendments to this regulation as published in WU Bulletin no. 44, dated June 30, 2021, shall enter into force on October 1, 2021.

(6) The amendments to this regulation as published in WU Bulletin no. 37 of May 18, 2022, shall enter into force on October 1, 2022.

## **§ 11 Transitional Provisions**

Degree program students who began the PhD Degree Program in Economic and Social Sciences before the 2018 summer semester shall be entitled to complete their studies according to the curriculum applicable on September 30, 2018, with the exception of the amendments in § 5. Students are entitled to change to the version of this curriculum valid on October 1, 2018, at any time.

## **Annex**

### **1. Blocks of related courses in "Economics" pursuant to § 8 (2):**

Courses in the following subjects specified in § 5 (1) are to be completed in the field of "Economics:"

- Academic Writing
- Research Methods
- Methodology and Theory

- Research Seminar – Participating in Scientific Discourse

The courses specified in § 5 (2) must also be completed in the field of “Economics.”

The specific courses to be completed in “Economics” will be determined in the dissertation agreement on a yearly basis.

## **2. Blocks of related courses in “Mathematics in Economics and Business” pursuant to § 8 (2):**

Courses in the following subjects specified in § 5 (1) are to be completed in “Mathematics in Economics and Business:”

- Academic Writing
- Research Methods
- Methodology and Theory
- Research Seminar – Participating in Scientific Discourse

The courses specified in § 5 (2) must also be completed in the field of “Mathematics in Economics and Business.”

The specific courses to be completed in “Mathematics in Economics and Business” will be determined in the dissertation agreement on a yearly basis.