

Note:

The following curriculum is a consolidated version. It is legally non-binding and for informational purposes only.

The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

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Curriculum for the

Doctoral Programme Literature and Cultural Studies

at the Faculty of Humanities (Language and Literature) of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification profile and study objectives

- (1) The Doctoral Programme Literature and Cultural Studies at the Faculty of Humanities (Language and Literature) of the University of Innsbruck belongs to the group of humanities and cultural studies.
- (2) Graduates of the Doctoral Programme Literature and Cultural Studies have a systematic understanding of their research discipline and a grasp of the methods employed by research in this field. Through their submission of an original piece of scientific work, graduates of this programme have made their own contribution to research which widens boundaries of knowledge and conforms to the evaluation standards of national and international experts. They identify scientific questions and subject them to critical analysis in an independent way. Graduates develop and synthesize new complex ideas, technologies, or methods in an independent manner. Graduates are capable of independently designing and carrying out significant research projects with scientific integrity and are also qualified to reflect on these processes in terms of the theory of science. They are qualified junior scientists. Graduates are able to advance the societal, scientific and/or cultural progress of a knowledge-based society in an academic or non-academic environment. Graduates of the Doctoral Programme Literature and Cultural Studies are qualified to organize scientific forums, to discuss findings from their special areas with colleagues, students and experts, and to present and explain these findings to both students as well as to academic and interested non-academic audiences. They are able to look beyond the boundaries of their own discipline and integrate themselves into inter-disciplinary scientific discourse. The quality and international orientation of the Programme promote the graduates' mobility and direct their perception beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines. The key qualifications acquired empower them to adapt their expertise to fast-changing requirements.
- (3) Career opportunities: careers in university research and in non-academic research institutions as well as in journalism, the publishing industry, radio and TV, theater, film, new media, language consulting, technical editing, and in the field of (literary) translation.
- (4) Doctoral or research projects can develop into programmes which are subsidized by an acknowledged national or international research funding institution and whose project leader is the main supervisor.

§ 2 Duration and scope

The Doctoral Programme Literature and Cultural Studies takes three years (six semesters), which equals 180 ECTS credits.

§ 3 Admission

- (1) Valid proof of the necessary academic level for admission to the doctoral programme must be provided. This includes proof of completion of a relevant diploma or master programme, of completion of a relevant diploma or Magister programme at a university of applied science, or proof of completion of other equivalent studies at an accredited Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution. If equivalency is given in principle, and only a few elements are missing for full equivalency, the rector's office is entitled to combine the determination of equivalency with the obligation to pass certain examinations in the course of the doctoral programme.
- (2) Relevant studies are in any case
 1. any diploma programme completed at the Faculty of Humanities (Language and Literature) of the University of Innsbruck,
 2. any Magister or master programme completed at the Faculty of Humanities (Language and Literature) of the University of Innsbruck.
- (3) In addition, a dissertation concept is required as a qualitative admission condition, which has been deemed suitable in terms of subject matter and supervisable by a committee to be formed by the Dean of Studies in analogous application of § 21 of the Study Law Provisions.

§ 4 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
 1. **Lectures** (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject.
 2. **Working groups** (AG) serve to treat a topic in collective fashion, examining theories, methods and techniques of an area using group work. Maximum number of participants: 25
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
 1. **Seminars** (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 25
 2. **Lectures with practical elements** (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 25

§ 5 Procedure for the allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

Students whose study time will be prolonged if they are not admitted are to be given priority.

§ 6 Compulsory and elective modules

(1) The following compulsory modules equaling 20 ECTS-Credits are to be taken:

1.	Compulsory Module: Scientific Basics/Core Skills of the Thesis Topic	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, equal to 10 ECTS-Credits must be completed to provide the scientific basis/core competences for the dissertation topic		10
	Total		10
	Objective: After the successful completion of this module, students possess the high level of interdisciplinary knowledge necessary for working on the dissertation.		
	Prerequisites: none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Interdisciplinary Seminar for PhD Candidates	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Interdisciplinary Seminar for PhD Candidates Students present their dissertation projects and put them up for discussion in this faculty seminar.	2	5
	Total	2	5
	Objective: Students master the presentation of research projects and results and are familiar with interdisciplinary questions.		
	Prerequisites: none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final oral dissertation defense before an examination board	-	5
	Total	-	5
	Objective: Presentation, reflection on, and analysis of the dissertation results in the overall context of the doctoral programme. The focus is on summarizing and explaining results of the research project, on presenting the increase in knowledge for the discipline, on demonstrating evaluation and methodical competences, as well as on presenting the results.		
	Prerequisites: Successful completion of all other modules and positive evaluation of the dissertation		

(2) Elective modules equal to 10 ECTS-Credits must be passed.

1.	Elective Module: Reflection on Methods	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Reflection on Methods Presentation and discussion of research methods employed in the humanities, including a comparison with the methods of other scientific disciplines by means of analyzing different positions in the theory of science and case studies.	2	2.5
	Total	2	2.5
Objective: Students are able to reflect on research methods, to compare them with each other and with the methods of other sciences, as well as to assess the advantages and disadvantages of different methodologies. Furthermore, the module strengthens methodological awareness and method competences relative to the dissertation, creates the methodological basis for interdisciplinary research, and develops specialized knowledge of different positions in the theory of science.			
Prerequisites: none			

2.	Elective Module: Culture and Society	h	ECTS-Credits
	VO Theories of Art and Culture Presentation and discussion of theory formation in cultural studies and the arts, including in comparison with theory formation in other disciplines, with a view to positioning and questioning premises and concepts of cultural studies.	2	2.5
	Total	2	2.5
Objective: Students are familiar with different theories of cultural studies and the arts, both in terms of their own disciplines and with regard to interdisciplinary research. They are able to assess the position of the humanities in society and to critically question their manifestations.			
Prerequisites: none			

3.	Elective Module: The Humanities and Society	h	ECTS-Credits
	VO The Humanities and Society Relationship between the humanities and society and knowledge of how they influence each other; the role, importance and practical application of knowledge in the humanities in different areas of society (politics, culture, media, everyday life etc.); expectations of society regarding the humanities.	2	2.5
	Total	2	2.5
Objective: Knowledge of the position of the humanities in society; ability to contribute to the further development of society and to critically question its different manifestations.			
Prerequisites: none			

4.	Elective Module: Generic Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Courses, as defined in the dissertation agreement, equal to 10 ECTS-Credits must be completed. One course must be chosen from the field of "Equality and Gender". Additionally, courses are offered which develop didactic skills and competences for subsequent knowledge transfer of the field.	-	10
	Total	-	10
	Objective: After the successful completion of this module, students command advanced theoretical and practical knowledge, skills and competences in selected disciplines, as well as methods and general skills which empower them to pursue independent scientific work and help them succeed in their future careers.		
	Prerequisites: none		

5.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Research Workshop	h	ECTS-Credits
	SE Interdisciplinary Research Workshop By means of selected topics which are, as far as possible, oriented towards the participants' research interests, theoretical and practical questions of different disciplines in the humanities are discussed; an interdisciplinary point of view is assumed as much as possible.	2	5
	Total	2	5
	Objective: Upon completion of the course, students can critically evaluate their own research projects and those of others and discuss them in an interdisciplinary manner at the highest level, both in terms of theoretical impact and practical relevance.		
	Prerequisites: none		

6.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Research Discussion	h	ECTS-Credits
	AG Interdisciplinary Research Discussion Using the participants' research projects, theoretical and practical problems of creating a dissertation are discussed as broadly as possible and from an interdisciplinary perspective; possible solutions are investigated.	1	5
	Total	1	5
	Objective: Graduates are able to discuss their own and other research projects in an interdisciplinary fashion.		
	Prerequisites: none		

7.	Elective Module: Philosophy of Literary Studies	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Philosophy of Literary Studies The lecture provides an overview of historical and current scientific concepts of the terms literature and literary interpretation, literary criticism, and literary history. Different theories about text, intertextuality, author and reader, canon and literary periods, genres, aesthetics, stylistics, and rhetoric are presented and reflected on in comparison with and relation to other arts and scientific disciplines. With reading list.	1	4
b.	SE Philosophy of Literary Studies The seminar expands on the subject matter provided in the lecture and trains the practical application of this theoretical knowledge.	2	6
	Total	3	10
	Objective: Upon successful completion of the module, students possess systematic and comparative knowledge of the different areas of literary theories. They have mastered the scientific discourse about the different theories on an excellent level and are able to apply their theoretical knowledge to concrete work with literature. They are able to reflect on their knowledge and discuss it in an analytical, comparative, and evaluative way.		
	Prerequisites: none		

8.	Elective Module: Philosophy of Cultural Studies	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Philosophy of Cultural Studies The lecture provides a survey of the theoretical principles of research in cultural studies, including by showing the historical development of cultural studies. It presents individual cultural theories and their understanding of culture in comparison with society and investigates the different manifestations, basic structures, and mechanisms of certain cultures or ethnic groups. Moreover, the lecture shows cultural theory at the intersection to other scientific disciplines, such as political science and sociology, or anthropology and history. With a reading list.	1	4
b.	SE Philosophy of Cultural Studies The seminar expands on the lecture by applying cultural semiotics to analyze cultural processes and cultural products. The focus is on context-oriented, pragmatic, and self-reflected work.	2	6
	Total	3	10
	Objective: Upon successful completion of the module, students understand the concept of culture on an excellent theoretical level and are able to not only reflect on various cultural theories and their content in a differentiated manner, but also to understand them in their relation to other scientific disciplines.		
	Prerequisites: none		

9.	Elective Module: Methodology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Methods of Literature Studies The lecture provides a detailed overview of the methods employed in literary studies. On this basis, current debates about content, terminology, and methodical approaches are reflected upon at a high level.	2	5
b.	VU Methods of Cultural Studies The lecture provides a detailed overview of the methods employed in cultural studies. On this basis, current debates about content, terminology, and methodical approaches are reflected upon at a high level.	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Objective: Upon successful completion of the module, students possess a profound knowledge of the methods and current debates of both studies and are able to differentiate between, evaluate and discuss divergent concepts and opinions.		
	Prerequisites: none		

10.	Elective Module: Reflection, Analysis and Critical Valuation of own Research Strategies	h	ECTS-Credits
	Students critically analyze and evaluate their own research strategies when planning and carrying out their dissertation project.	-	10
	Total	-	10
	Objective: Upon completion of the module, students have specialized skills and command the most frequently used advanced methods, including synthesis and evaluation, and employ them to solve central questions.		
	Prerequisites: none		

11.	Elective Module: Scientific Discourse	h	ECTS-Credits
	Active participation in scientific discourse at national and international conferences, in projects, and at comparable events.	-	10
	Total	-	10
	Objective: Presentation of research results at national and international forums; students analyze and critically assess their own research results and those of others.		
	Prerequisites: none		

§ 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the Doctoral programme Literature and Cultural Studies, a dissertation equal to 150 ECTS credits must be written. The dissertation is a piece of scientific work which – unlike a diploma or master thesis – serves to prove the student's ability to address scientific questions in an independent manner.
- (2) The dissertation topic must be chosen from the field of literary and cultural studies.
- (3) The student proposes a team of supervisors, consisting of at least two people (dissertation committee), and nominates one of them as the main supervisor (holder of *venia docendi*). Students are permitted to propose supervisors (with the exception of the main supervisor) from subject-related fields. Furthermore, in justifiable exceptional cases it is possible for students to propose only one supervisor.
- (4) Prior to beginning work on the dissertation, the student must communicate in writing the dissertation topic and the names of the supervisors to the Director of Studies. Topic and supervisors are considered accepted if the Director of Studies does not veto them by means of a decree within one month of receiving the proposal.

§ 8 Examination regulations

- (1) Compulsory Modules 1 to 2 and Elective Modules 1 to 9 are evaluated by means of course examinations.
 1. Lectures and working groups are evaluated by means of a single exam at the end of the course. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods (oral and/or written) before the start of the course.
 2. The evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment is based on the student's regular written and/or oral contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation methods and criteria before the start of the course.
- (2) Elective Module 10 is evaluated by the main supervisor based on sections of the dissertation and on oral/written progress reports submitted by the student. A positive grade must be indicated by the assessment "participated with success"; a negative grade must be indicated by the assessment "participated without success".
- (3) Elective Module 11 is evaluated by the main supervisor based on the student's contribution to the forum(s) or project in question. A positive grade must be indicated by the assessment "participated with success"; a negative grade must be indicated by the assessment "participated without success".
- (4) The evaluation of Compulsory Module 3 – "Doctoral Thesis Defense" – is based on an oral exam taken before an examination board consisting of three examiners.

§ 9 Academic degree

Graduates of the Doctoral Programme Literature and Cultural Studies are awarded the academic degree of "Doktor der Philosophie ", abbreviated "Dr. phil."

§ 10 Coming into Force

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2009.
- (2) The modification of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 2 June 2014, Issue 25, No. 403 comes into force on 1 October 2014 and is valid for all students.
- (3) The modification of the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 27 June 2024, Issue 79, No 884 comes into force on 1 October 2024 and applies to all students.