

**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).

**Original version** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 12 March 2009, Issue 39, No. 176.

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 18 March 2015, Issue 16, No. 268.

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 4 April 2019, Issue 26, No. 373

**Modification** published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 27 June 2024, Issue 79, No. 882

## **Complete Version as of 1 October 2024**

### **Curriculum for the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Educational Sciences at the Faculty of Education of the University of Innsbruck**

#### **§ 1 Qualification Profile**

- (1) The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Educational Sciences belongs to the group of the humanities and cultural sciences study programmes.
- (2) Graduates have an extensive and specialised knowledge of their research discipline. They are familiar with related fields of knowledge and able
  1. to independently research theoretical and empiric problems with subject-specific approaches, further develop questions in consideration of the current state of research and to present and publish their results on a national and international level.
  2. to contribute to the analysis and conceptual design of problems in the field of educational science, to act according to their educational knowledge in respective institutions, to teach educational science and to plan working processes in educational and related organizations and institutions, to head a team, and to design, implement and evaluate educational programmes.
- (3) Graduates find, among others, career opportunities in the fields of
  1. university and other research and post-secondary educational institutions, research departments of private and public institutions and administrations
  2. educational, learning and psycho-social institutions, e.g. on the level of human resource management, national and internationally active education, human resource and public relations departments of businesses and social organizations in the profit and non-profit area, as well as cultural, political and media projects and institutions.
- (4) Educational aims: Graduates acquire the competences
  1. to research and teach in an anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-classist way in compliance with ethical principles, to write scientific papers and contributions that meet international standards, to use research methods properly, to present and substantiate results in a methodological and appropriate way, to contribute to research networks and to organize scientific fora.
  2. to take on tasks relating to planning, designing and deciding at the intersection of science and practice, to impart subject-specific knowledge to interested lay persons in an understandable way and to communicate with socially-relevant players or groups resp.

- (5) The competences listed in para. 3 are acquired and furthered during the study programme by
  1. active participation in scientific discourse and critical reflection on questions, e.g. subject construction and theory formation in respective research, PhD, and methodology seminars.
  2. gaining additional qualifications e.g. leadership, teaching, media and communication competence in subject-specific and interdisciplinary contexts.
- (6) The doctoral programme aims at enabling the students and to further develop their competence to undertake independent scientific work and to training and promoting young academics with diploma and master degrees by doctoral and research programmes offered on approved national and international institutions.

## **§ 2 Scope and duration**

The Doctor of Philosophy Programme Educational Sciences takes three academic years (six semesters) and corresponds to 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 the Diploma Programme and Master's Programme Educational Science at 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 or participants**

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:  
Working groups (AG) serve to treat a topic in collective fashion, examining theories, methods and techniques of an area using group work.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:  
Seminars (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof.
- (3) The maximum number of participants for all courses of the "Doctor of Philosophy" Programme Education Sciences is 15, with exception of the Research Seminar (SE), where the number of participants is limited to 10 persons.

## **§ 5 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 covering 20 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Research Seminar	h	ECTS-Credits
	<b>SE Research Seminar</b> Presentation and discussion of the dissertation project	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students acquire the competence to independently plan, develop and present their research project orally and in writing and to put it up for discussion.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	Compulsory Module: Seminar for Doctoral Students	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<b>SE Seminar for Doctoral Students I</b> In this seminar students discuss the current state of research as well as theoretical and methodological questions of their dissertation projects and partial results.	2	5
b.	<b>SE Seminar for Doctoral Students II</b> In this seminar students discuss the current state of research as well as theoretical and methodological questions of their dissertation projects and partial results.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students acquire the knowledge and ability to critically reflect on their own dissertation and the subject-specific dissertations of others, to produce research results, to assess them and to integrate new developments in the discipline and current subject-specific literature in consideration of a systematic understanding of the discipline.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	Compulsory Module: Doctoral Thesis Defense	h	ECTS-Credits
	Final, public defense of the dissertation by an oral examination in front of an examination board consisting of three persons.		5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> 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 method competences, as well as on presenting the results.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> positive assessment of the dissertation and positive completion of all compulsory modules.		

(2) Two elective modules covering 10 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	<b>Elective Module: Research Methods</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>SE Research Methods</b> The methods used for the dissertation project are reflected on in a methodological way, discussed and evaluated.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> The students are able to account for their choice of research methods in relation to the construction and context of the research subject of the dissertation, to interpret the data based on theory and to present the results in an adequate way.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	<b>Elective Module: Generic Competencies and Interdisciplinary Research</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	Courses covering altogether 5 ECTS-Credits must be passed in accordance with the dissertation agreement. It is recommended to choose a course from the field of "Equality and Gender".		5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students possess the theoretical knowledge and practical skills of selected disciplines that enable them to undertake independent scientific work and help them to be of value in their future professional fields.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	<b>Elective Module: Publishing and Presentation</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	In accordance with the dissertation agreement own research results are presented on national and international fora (e.g. lectures, progress reports, poster presentations on conferences, seminars, symposia, congresses, research workshops, workshops, summer schools, competitions) and/or published as articles (e.g. in respective, scientific journals or anthologies).		5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students are able to actively contribute to scientific discourse, to present arguments for their positions, to evaluate their own research as well as the research of others, to productively deal with criticism and to contribute to the research results of a scientific community that is committed to research ethics.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

4.	<b>Elective Module: Teaching and Didactics</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>AG Teaching and Didactics</b> Planning and reflecting on teaching units held within the scope of the courses.	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Objective:</b> Students acquire didactical knowledge in the field of scientific teaching, in consideration of in-depth knowledge, including new cultural techniques and communication technology.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

### § 7 Dissertation

- (1) In the course of the Doctor of Philosophy Programme Educational Sciences a dissertation corresponding to 150 ECTS-Credits has to be written. The dissertation is a piece of scientific work which – in contrast to a Diploma or Master’s Thesis – serves to prove the student's ability to cope with scientific questions in an independent way. The dissertation can be written as monography or as a selection of several articles. An article thesis must consist of a minimum of three articles that must be accepted for publication in acknowledged scientific journals. If the articles were written by several authors, the student's own contribution must be shown clearly and a presentation thereof must be added to the dissertation.
- (2) The dissertation topic must relate directly to educational science specialist fields or demonstrate a close relation to the disciplinary remit of educational sciences.
- (3) The student has to propose a team of supervisors, consisting of at least two people (dissertation committee), and to nominate one of them as main supervisor (holder of *venia docendi*) It is permissible to propose supervisors (with the exception of the main supervisor) from subject-related fields. In justifiable exceptional cases it is possible for students to propose only one supervisor.
- (4) Prior to beginning the work, the student has to communicate the dissertation topic and names of the supervisors in writing to the Director of Studies. Topic and supervisors are considered as accepted, if the Director of Studies does not veto them by means of a decree within one month after the receipt of the proposal.

### § 8 Examination regulations

- (1) Compulsory modules 1 and 2 and elective modules 1, 2 and 4 are assessed by course examinations.
- (2) The evaluation of courses with continuous performance assessment is based on the student's regular written, oral and/or practical/experimental contributions. The lecturer is required to communicate evaluation criteria before the course starts.
- (3) Courses without continuous performance assessment are evaluated by means of a single examination at the end of the course. The course lecturer has to announce the examination method (written/oral) before the course starts.
- (4) Elective module 3 “Publishing and Presentation” is evaluated by the main supervisor based on a performance report and/or a to-be-submitted conference/congress contribution and/or a submitted article in a scientific publication.
- (5) Compulsory module 3 “Doctoral Thesis Defense” is an oral examination in front of an examination board consisting of three examiners.

### § 9 Academic degree

Graduates of the Doctoral Programme Educational Sciences are awarded the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy", abbreviated as "PhD".

## **§ 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 18 March 2015, Issue 16, No. 268 comes into force on 1 October 2015 and is to be applied to all students.
- (3) The modification of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 5 April 2019, Issue 26, No. 373 comes into effect on 1 October 2019 and is to be applied to all students.
- (4) The modification of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 27 Juni 2024, Issue 79, No. 882 comes into effect on 1 October 2024 and is to be applied to all students.