

# **Regulations for the PhD Program in Economics at the University of Vienna**

## **Preamble**

This document complements the PhD curriculum of the Faculty of Business, Economics, and statistics that is in effect since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and puts it into concrete terms for those students who do the PhD Program in Economics. The regulations herein apply therefore to all students who have been admitted to enter the PhD Program in Economics on or after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, or who have submitted themselves to the above mentioned PhD curriculum of the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Statistics.

At some places in this document references will be made to terms from the PhD curriculum of the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Statistics (“Rahmencurriculum für das PhD-Studium aus dem Bereich der Wirtschaftswissenschaften bzw. Doktoratsstudium der Wirtschaftswissenschaften“). For simplicity this curriculum will henceforth be referred to as the „PhD curriculum“. The aforementioned terms are “University Rules” (“Satzung”), „program committee“ („Doktoratsbeirat“), „dissertation contract“ („Dissertationsvereinbarung“), „examination committee“ („Prüfungskommission“), “Dean of Studies” (“zuständiger Studienprogrammleiter”), and “Praeses of Studies” (“Studienpräses”).

## **§ 1 Aims of the program**

The PhD program in Economics offers training and supervision that allow students to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for a research-oriented career in economics. It caters primarily to students who plan to become professional economists at universities, research institutions, or research departments of government agencies, non-government organizations, central banks, etc. After successful completion of the PhD Program in Economics students should be able to carry out independent research in theoretical, empirical, and/or applied economics.

## **§ 2 Admission**

(1) Applications for the PhD Program in Economics must be scanned and submitted to [phd.wiwi@univie.ac.at](mailto:phd.wiwi@univie.ac.at). Please find information on the application process, required application materials and deadlines here:

<http://ssc-wirtschaftswissenschaften.univie.ac.at/spl-39-phd-und-doktorat/admission-phd/>

Applicants must have a master degree in economics (or a closely related field) which has a level that is comparable to the master degree in economics from the University of Vienna.

(2) If all legal requirements are satisfied, the suitability of the applicants for the PhD Program in Economics will be checked by the program committee. Suitability requires that the applicants

- a) possess demonstrated knowledge of advanced macroeconomics, advanced microeconomics, and advanced econometrics;

(3) Except for the seminars specified in (1) and (2), students are free to choose eligible courses to fulfill the requirement in § 3 (2.a). All courses offered by the Department of Economics for the PhD Program in Economics are eligible. Credits for other courses may be given provided that the content and level is judged to be appropriate by the program committee and the Dean of Studies. If students want to get credit for a course, they must have the approval from their supervisors (if these are already assigned), the program committee, and the Dean of Studies before registering for the courses.

(4) Students may also take courses teaching transferable skills (these are skills which may be of use in the future also outside the area of study like presentation techniques, scientific writing, project organization, etc.). Credit for such courses can be given if approved by the program committee and the Dean of Studies. At most 5 ECTS points can be earned with transferable skills courses.

### **§ 5 Submission and presentation of the dissertation project**

(1) Within the first year of the program, each student has to submit a research proposal for his or her dissertation project to the Praeses of Studies. The research proposal has to contain a description of the research topic, information about the methodological approach and background literature, a time table, and a description of resource requirements (if applicable). The research proposal must also contain the supervision agreements by a main supervisor and a co-supervisor. In justified cases, the deadline for the submission of the research proposal can be extended by the Praeses of Studies.

(2) The student must make a public presentation of the dissertation project in the “Graduate and Staff Seminar” in front of the program committee and both supervisors. The supervisors may contribute to the presentation.

(3) The program committee can submit a report on the feasibility of the research proposal to the Praeses of Studies within two weeks after the presentation. The Praeses of Studies decides on the approval of the dissertation project according to the University Rules. The approval of the dissertation project is a necessary requirement for the formation of a dissertation contract.

### **§ 6 Supervision**

(1) Each student must have two supervisors, a main supervisor and a co-supervisor. The assignment of supervisors forms part of the dissertation contract. All (full or associate) professors with “*venia legendi*” in Economics are eligible as supervisors.

(2) At least one of the supervisors must be a member of the Department of Economics. Except for justified cases which require the approval of the program committee and the Dean of Studies, the main supervisor must be a member of the Department of Economics.

### **§ 7 Dissertation contract**

If a dissertation project has been approved, a dissertation contract will be concluded which contains at least the following items:

- a) the name, student number, and date of birth of the student;
- b) the names of the main supervisor and the co-supervisor;
- c) a working title of the dissertation;
- d) the curriculum according to which the student studies (i.e., the PhD curriculum);

- e) the dissertation area to which the dissertation belongs (i.e., Economics);
- f) the research proposal for the dissertation project;
- g) a time table for the dissertation project;
- h) the requirements according to § 3 (2);
- i) information about the supervision (planned frequency of meetings, etc.);
- j) a statement by the student that he or she will obey the usual code of conduct regarding scientific work.

## **§ 8 Annual progress report**

At the end of every academic year, each student has to submit a progress report to the program committee. The program committee will provide appropriate forms for the report.

## **§ 9 Dissertation**

(1) The dissertation has to provide evidence that the student is capable of contributing to research through independent (individual) scientific work, and it has to correspond to internationally recognized standards of scientific quality in the economics literature. It is desirable that the dissertation has the format of a so-called “cumulative thesis”. A cumulative thesis consists typically of three thematically or methodologically related papers, whereby an introductory chapter should demonstrate the interrelationship between these three papers.

(2) Cooperation between students and supervisors as well as other scholars is encouraged. If such a cooperation results in papers produced jointly with coauthors, the following conditions must be met when such a paper forms part of a cumulative thesis:

- a) It must be possible from the perspective of the reviewers to identify the individual contribution of the student. Therefore, the student has to illustrate explicitly in the introductory chapter of his or her thesis in which form the joint research has been realized and to which extent the student has contributed to it.
- b) At least one paper that forms part of the cumulative dissertation must be authored solely by the student.

It is the task of the reviewers to decide whether or not the individual contribution of the student under consideration is sufficient for a positive evaluation of the thesis (considering also the role of the coauthors).

(3) Before submitting the dissertation, each student must present his or her completed research project in one of the seminars listed in § 4 (1-2). Both supervisors have to attend this presentation.

(4) Each dissertation has to be evaluated by two reviewers who typically also constitute two of the three members of the examination committee. The selection of the reviewers for the evaluation and grading of the dissertation must be consistent with the following principles:

- a) A dissertation which includes joint papers must not be reviewed by a coauthor of the joint papers.

b) Except for well-grounded cases supervisors of a dissertation are not eligible to be reviewers of that dissertation. If a supervisor is admitted as a reviewer, the second reviewer must not be a member of the Department of Economics.

(5) The following steps are necessary for the selection of reviewers of a dissertation. In coordination with the program committee, the main supervisor recommends a list of at least two reviewers to the Dean of Studies. Before this recommendation is made, the main supervisor should have obtained the informal approval of the potential reviewer(s). The Dean of Studies reserves the right to choose two reviewers from this list (if it contains more than two names) or to reject the list in well-grounded cases. After the Dean of Studies has selected the reviewers, they are officially invited to serve as reviewers.

### **§ 10 Defense**

When all requirements from §3 (2a-f) are fulfilled and when the dissertation has been positively evaluated by the reviewers, the student has to defend the dissertation in a public defense in front of the examination committee.

### **§ 11 Degree**

(1) The program is successfully completed if all requirements from §3 (2) have been positively met.

(2) Students who have successfully completed the program will be awarded the academic degree "Doctor of Philosophy" (abbreviated "PhD").