

Curriculum for the PhD program in Logistics and Operations Management at the University of Vienna

§ 1 Qualifications profile

The PhD program in Logistics and Operations Management is intended as a preparation for research-oriented work. In accordance with the inter-disciplinary character of the field, the program is directed at students with degrees in business administration, economics, business informatics, business mathematics, business engineering, informatics, mathematics, statistics or related fields. It offers academic education at an international level and graduates should be able to perform independent research in Logistics and Operations Management in accordance with international standards. This orientation to international research should be fostered in particular by publications in international specialist journals, participation in academic conferences and time spent doing research abroad already during the PhD course. In line with these quality standards, this program will be offered exclusively in English and admission will be subject to a strict selection procedure.

§ 2 Scope and admission

- (1) This curriculum applies for all students of the PhD program in Logistics and Operations Management at the Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics at the University of Vienna who wish to obtain a doctorate/PhD with a dissertation in the field of business administration.
- (2) Prerequisite for admission to the PhD program in Logistics and Operations Management is a degree qualifying the candidate for a PhD course in one of the following subjects: business administration, economics, economic informatics, financial mathematics, economic engineering, informatics, mathematics, statistics or related fields. Admission is also possible on the basis of an equivalent degree from a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution. Equally, graduates of other university diploma or masters programs can be admitted provided they have the technical competence necessary for the completion of the PhD program in Logistics and Operations Management.
- (3) The responsible academic authority (e.g. Studienpräses or Director of the Studies Programme) decides who will be admitted to the PhD program based on the recommendations of the doctoral advisory board for Logistics and Operations Management, which consists of representatives from the field of Logistics and Operations Management at the Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics at the University of Vienna.
- (4) The following documents must be submitted in English to apply for admission to the PhD program in Logistics and Operations Management:
 - a. proof of the completion of a degree qualifying the candidate for admission to the program pursuant to par. (2).
 - b. a covering letter explaining the candidate's motivation.
 - c. a sample of writing (e.g. seminar paper, extracts from bachelors or masters thesis).

- d. two letters of recommendation from academic referees.
 - e. proof of adequate English language skills (e.g. TOEFL-score.)
- Additionally, the doctoral advisory board can invite individual candidates to interview.

§ 3 Structure of the program

- (1) The program takes three years to complete.
- (2) In the course of the program, the students must complete the following:
 - a. courses pursuant to § 4 (1)
 - b. research seminars pursuant to § 4 (2)
 - c. submission of an application for approbation of a dissertation project to the responsible academic authority (e.g. Studienpräses or Director of the Studies Programme) within one year of admission to the program, see § 5(1)). This deadline can be extended by the responsible academic authority in justified cases upon application by the student.
 - d. presentation of the dissertation project publicly within the faculty (taking into account as necessary rights associated with patent laws, intellectual property and other laws) (see §5 (2)).
 - e. periodical, at least yearly, progress report to the doctoral program committee.
 - f. the writing of the dissertation (see § 7).
 - g. the public defence of such (see § 8).

§ 4 Courses

- (1) For the successful completion of the PhD program in accordance with §3(2)a, the students must pass the following doctorate courses, each accounting for 2 semester hours (4 ECTS).
 - a. Advanced Methods in Optimization,
 - b. Advanced Stochastic Models,
 - c. Advanced Topics in Operations Management,
 - d. Advanced Topics in Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

The language of instruction is English. Courses in transferable skills (e.g. scientific presentation, scientific paper writing) as well as courses covering theory and methodology necessary for the dissertation project can be included by the responsible doctoral advisory board in the dissertation contract for up to a maximum of 4 semester hours or 8 ECTS.

- (2) Furthermore, active participation in four research seminars (each 2 semester hours or 4 ECTS) in Logistics and Operations Management is compulsory (§3(2)b.).
- (3) The requirements under par. (1) and (2) above can also be met by completing other advanced courses at the University of Vienna or at other domestic and foreign universities provided that their content and level is suitable for the PhD program in Logistics and Operations Management. To this end, an application must be made for recognition of the credits to the responsible academic authority (e.g. Studienpräses or Director of the Studies Programme), which will decide on the suitability of the course and on recognition of the credits together with the responsible doctoral program committee.

- (4) The number of participants in the courses under par. (1) is limited to 15. The responsible academic authority (e.g. Studienpräses or Director of the Studies Programme) can set a different limit by way of exception in justified cases. In particular, it must be ensured that selected students from excellence programs, e.g. the FWF (Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung - Austrian Science Fund), can take part in the courses.
- (5) The admissions procedure for courses with a limited number of participants is set out in the Annex to the PhD curriculum of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics.

§ 5 Submission of a proposal for a dissertation project and public presentation within the faculty

- (1) The student must submit an application for approbation of her or his dissertation project together with a supervision agreement to the responsible academic authority (e.g. Studienpräses or Director of the Studies Programme). This application must contain an exposé of the dissertation, a time plan and a list of all the resource requirements. If the dissertation project would form part of a research project which has already been positively externally evaluated according to international standards, the responsible academic authority (e.g. Studienpräses or Director of the Studies Programme) can grant its approbation of the dissertation project even before the project is presented. The approbation of the dissertation project is in any case a prerequisite for the execution of a dissertation contract.
- (2) The dissertation project must be publicly presented within the faculty in the research seminar on Logistics and Operations Management.

§ 6 Dissertation contract

Pursuant to the statutes, a dissertation contract must be concluded between the supervisor and the student writing the dissertation (supervisee) with the consent of the responsible academic authority (e.g. Studienpräses or Director of the Studies Programme). The dissertation contract for a dissertation in business administration within the PhD curriculum of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics must contain the following points:

1. the name of the student, matriculation number, date of birth;
2. the name of the supervisors;
3. the topic of the dissertation;
4. the curriculum under which the student is studying;
5. the exposé on which the approbation is based;
6. the time plan for the dissertation project;
7. the proof of the academic achievement required by the curriculum;
8. basic information regarding the form of the supervision, in particular the frequency of the planned supervision meetings between the supervisors and the student;
9. Declaration by the student that s/he will observe the rules of good academic practice.

§ 7 Dissertation

- (1) The program requires the completion of a dissertation demonstrating the capacity to deal with

academic topics independently. It is expected to be of a quality that makes publication, at least in parts, possible in accordance with the standards usual in the field of study.

- (2) The dissertation must, as a rule, be written in English.
- (3) It is expected that partial results of the dissertation project be published in recognised academic media in the field and presented at academic conferences before the submission of the dissertation.
- (4) The responsible academic authority (e.g. Studienpräses or Director of the Studies Programme) will appoint at least two reviewers to assess the dissertation. Such reviewers should be internationally renowned experts in the dissertation subject in the sense of the provisions of the statutes of the University of Vienna; if possible at least one reviewer should not belong to the University of Vienna and at least two of them should not also be supervisors of the dissertation.

§ 8 Defensio

If all proofs of achievement in the sense of § 3 (excepting par. 2 g) have been provided and if the dissertation has been positively assessed by the reviewers, a final oral examination (defensio) shall take place before an examination committee. This oral examination, which is in English, consists of the presentation and defence of the academic work. The examination committee will be composed according to the rules laid out in the statutes of the University of Vienna.

§ 9 Completion of the program

- (1) The program has been successfully completed when all the requirements set out under § 3 par. 2 have been successfully fulfilled.
- (2) Graduates of the program will be conferred the academic degree "Doctor of Philosophy", abbreviated as PhD.

§ 10 Entry into force and transitory provisions

- (1) This curriculum enters into force on 1 October 2009.
- (2) Students who have already begun a doctorate program at the Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics may apply to the responsible academic authority (e.g. Studienpräses or Director of the Studies Programme) to transfer to the program in Logistics and Operations Management. The responsible academic authority shall decide together with the doctoral advisory board for Logistics and Operations Management on the recognition of credits for the purposes of § 4 par. (1) and (2).