Agenda

• The University of Vienna
• The Doctorate – Expectations & General Frame
• Entry Phase of the Doctorate
• Achievements & Responsibilities
The University of Vienna

• One of the oldest and largest universities in Central Europe
• 15 Faculties & 4 Research Centers spread over more than 60 locations
• PhD studies in a wide range of fields (Humanities, Social-, Natural- and Life Sciences, Law, Economics,)
• Approx. 5000 PhD Candidates enrolled
• About 40% are international PhD Candidates
Vienna Doctoral Schools

- Advanced Research School in Law and Jurisprudence
- Vienna Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies
- Vienna Doctoral School in Philosophy
- Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences
- UniVie Doctoral School Computer Science
- Vienna Doctoral School in Physics
- Vienna Doctoral School in Chemistry
- Vienna International School in Earth and Space Sciences
- Vienna School of Mathematics | Joint Doctoral School mit der TU Wien
- Doctoral School Microbiology and Environmental Science
- Vienna Doctoral School of Ecology and Evolution
- Vienna Doctoral School of Pharmaceutical, Nutritional and Sport Sciences
- Vienna BioCenter PhD Program, joint doctoral school of the University of Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna
- Vienna Doctoral School in Cognition, Behavior, and Neuroscience - from Biology to Psychology and the Humanities (CoBeNe)
- Vienna Doctoral School of Theology and Research on Religion
- Vienna Doctoral School in Education
- Oskar Morgenstern Doctoral School

Welcome Days September 2023
Early stage researchers are expected to ....

• make an original contribution to the field
• present research findings at conferences, etc.
• engage in scientific activities
• increase your research and transferable skills
Recommendation: Increase your PhD awareness

- Learn how the system works
- Get familiar with the common practices at your faculty
- Make sure you know what a PhD actually is
Structure of the Doctorate at the University of Vienna

Entry Phase
- Concept development
- Submission of Exposé & Public Presentation
- Doctoral Thesis Agreement

Research Phase
- Realisation of doctoral thesis Project

Research, Research, Research
- Feedback meetings
- Seminars, workshops, lectures
- Conferences, etc.

Submission
- Public defense
Entry Phase

- Specification of the research topic & planning of research project
- Writing your research proposal
- Submission & presentation of research proposal at the faculty within the first year

Recommendation: Attend public presentations to get an idea how it is organized at your faculty
The research proposal | Exposé

• Format
  ◦ Approx. 10 pages

• Content
  ◦ Description of the topic including clear research questions
  ◦ Outline of the state of the art
  ◦ Illustration of chosen methods
  ◦ Relevant literature
  ◦ Time & work plan
Recommendation: Write, write, write ....

- Start writing as early as possible,
- Writing skills can be trained: Many course/workshops on academic writing available
- Join a thesis writing group! They are useful instruments to escape isolation
- Check the offers of your school: Many provide specific pre-ÖP trainings
Public presentation of research proposal

- Mandatory within the first year
- Quality assurance & feedback from the Doctoral Advisory Board
- Exchange with peers
- Positive presentation is precondition for the approval of your topic
- Organisation:
  - 2-3 dates per Semester
  - Registration at the StudyServiceCenter
Achievements

- Curriculum
  - very general outline of structure and number of required ECTS credits
- Thesis Agreement
  - supervision and trainings plan
- Annual Progress Report
PhD life includes more than „only“ writing a thesis

- Networking
- Research
- Seminars/Workshops
- Conferences
- Summer Schools
- Publications
- Teaching
- Grant proposal writing
- Study period abroad
Recommendation: Make the most of opportunities which arise

- Attend workshops, conferences, seminars
- Take part in training seminars
- Get involved in the activities at your department/of your doctoral school
- If possible, include a research stay abroad
- Build up your future networks, ....
Recommendation: Planning is essential

- A good time management is important!
- Define milestones and divide your project into manageable phases
- Use the annual progress report as a planning tool
- Think about your life after the PhD in due time – what is needed for your future career?
Responsibilities – Doctoral Candidate

- Your dissertation must be your contribution to the scientific community
- Research project is under your management
Responsibilities

• **Supervisor(s)**
  • Experts in your field
  • Give guidance, continuous support & feedback

• **Directors of the Doctoral Study Programmes**
  • Responsible for quality assurance
  • Acceptance of achievements, ….
Responsibilities

• **Doctoral Schools**
  
  • a variety of funding opportunities and funding support
  • an internationally competitive training environment
  • excellent (team) supervision
  • networking opportunities with peers and experienced researchers, ….

Join your doctoral school and be part of your local scientific community
Responsibilities – Study Service Center

- All administrative issues
- Organize public presentation
- Collect your documents and forms
- Organize defence, etc.
Responsibilities – Center for Doctoral Studies

Contact

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Get in contact with us!

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