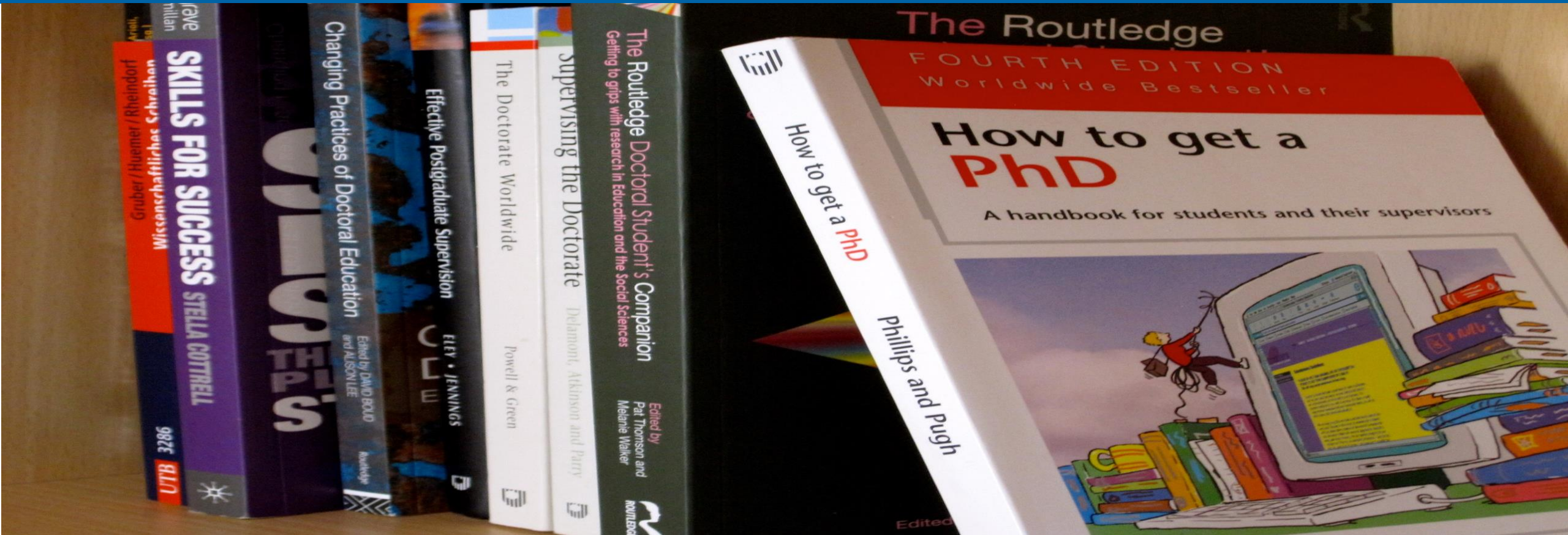




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# Navigating your PhD at the University of Vienna

Bianca Lindorfer, Research Services and Career Development



## 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 Reserach 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](#)

## 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 awarness

- 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

- 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

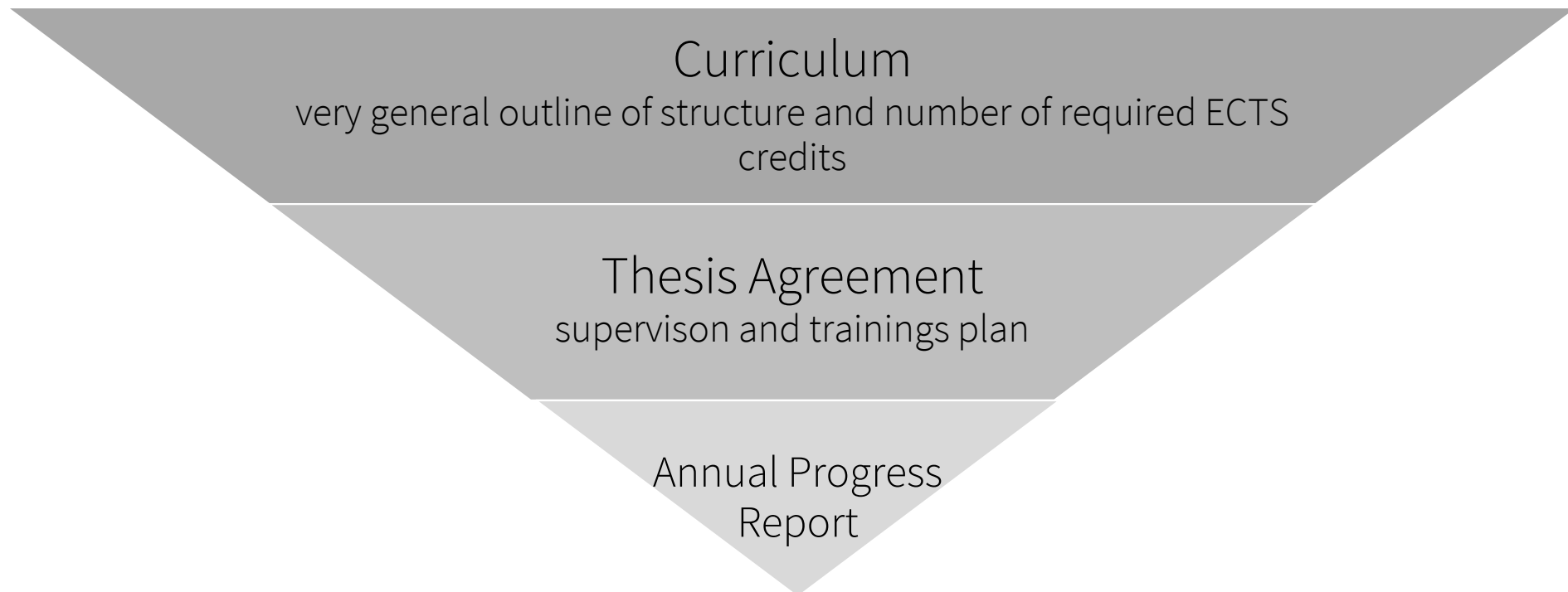
## Recommendation: Write, write, write ....

- 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

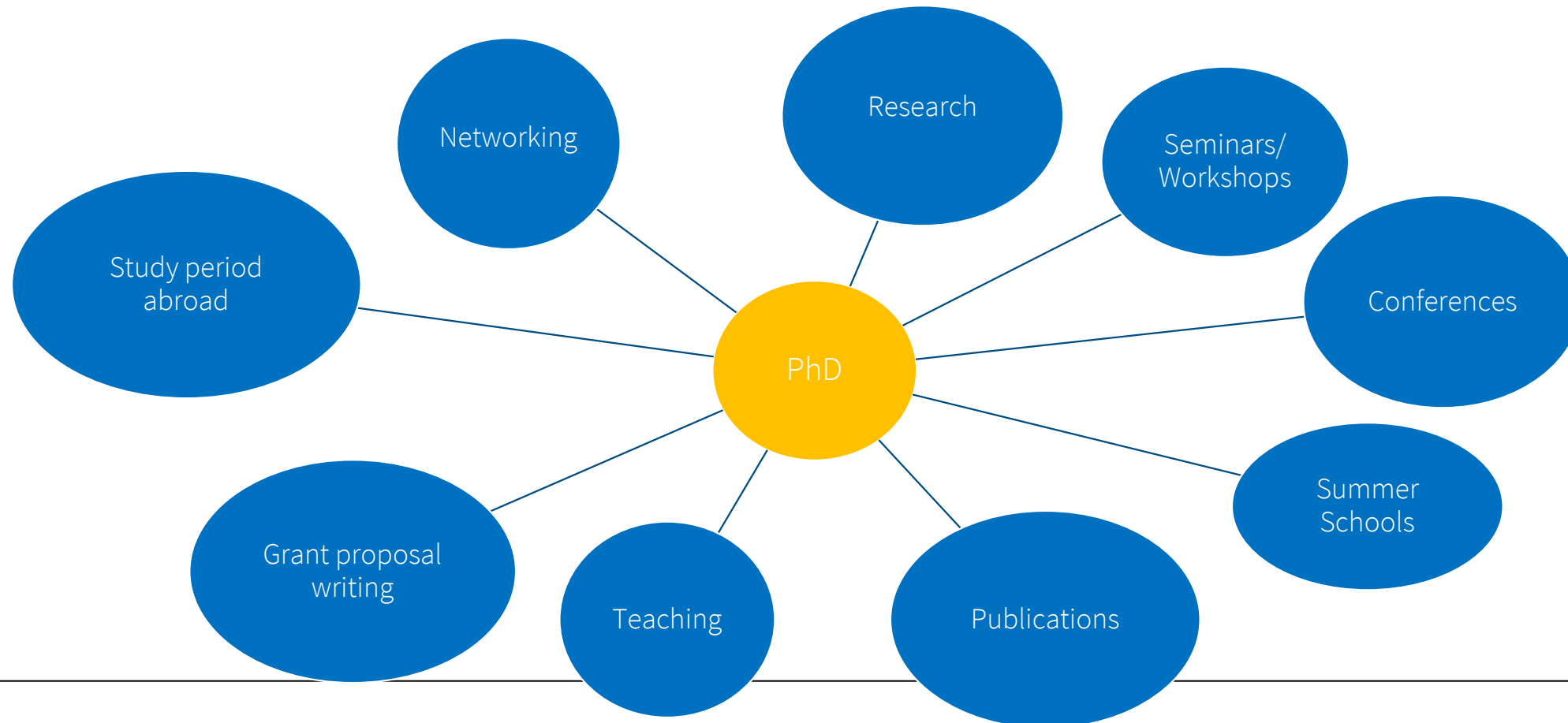
## Public presentation of research proposal

- 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



## PhD life includes more than „only“ writing a thesis





## 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 and divide your project into manageable phases
- Use the annual progress report as 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
- Reserach 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

Transferable Skills  
Workshops



Afternoon Talks



Welcome Days



Individuelle  
Schreibberatung



Schreibklausur



Schreibgruppen



### Contact

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## Get in contact with us!

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