Navigating your PhD at the University of Vienna

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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
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

Research Phase
- Realisation of doctoral thesis Project

- Submission of Exposé & Public Presentation
- Doctoral Thesis Agreement
- 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

- Study period abroad
- Networking
- Research
- Seminars/Workshops
- Conferences
- Summer Schools
- Grant proposal writing
- Teaching
- Publications

Welcome Days September 2022
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 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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