

**The University of Natural Resources  
and Applied Life Sciences Vienna**  
**Curriculum for the *Doctorate in Agricultural Sciences***  
**(Doktorat in Bodenkultur)**  
(As of 1 October 2006)

The University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU Vienna) enacts according to § 54 UG 2002 the following curriculum for the Doctorate in Agricultural Sciences:

§ 1. Objective of the doctoral program

The Doctorate in Agricultural Sciences is to enhance the competency for independent scientific work as well as for management and career advancement of young scientists working in research areas of agricultural sciences.

§ 2. Admission requirements for the doctorate degree

(1) Admission requirements for doctoral programmes in agricultural sciences include:

(a) a diploma or Master's degree in engineering sciences at BOKU or an individual diploma or Master's degree with a specialization at BOKU,

(b) a degree from an accredited Austrian or international university that is equivalent to the diploma or Master's degrees listed in item a) or

(c) a degree from an accredited degree programme at a university of applied sciences (Fachhochschule).

(2) When equivalence is given and not entirely equivalent in some aspects, the Rectorate may require for the achievement of complete equivalency special examinations that are to be taken in the course of studies in addition to the Viva Voce.

(3) Admission according to (1)(b) for graduates with post-graduate degrees awarded by an international institution requires proof of direct admission to doctoral programmes in the countries awarding the degree, which is also proof of general admission to university.

(4) The admission is granted by the Rector of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna.

§ 3. Duration and structure

(1) . The degree programme is not structured in different stages.

(2) Admission granted according to § 2(1)(c), stipulates additions to the scope of the doctoral programme according to the relevant statutory requirements.

(3) Upon successful admission to the doctoral programme the candidate is to officially register in the degree programme at the Dean's Office within one year. For registration the following information is to be provided:

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- Name of advisor
- A work schedule approved by the advisor including
  - advisory team
  - schedule
  - resource plan
- Proposal for doctoral courses.

#### § 4. *Viva Voce* Examination

The *Viva Voce* is a comprehensive examination conducted in two parts. The first part is comprised of course examinations; the second part is to be conducted as an examination before the Examination Board.

#### § 5. First part of the *Viva Voce* Examination

(1) For the first part of the *Viva Voce* Examination of the Doctorate of Agricultural Sciences candidates are required to take course examinations amounting to 20 ECTS. These courses are to be relevant to the dissertation topic.

(2) Candidates that were admitted according to § 2(1)(c) are required to take additional examinations (examinations of courses pertaining to the programme of study); these examinations are not part of the *Viva Voce*. The number and subject areas of the courses for university of applied sciences degree holders are specified in the doctoral programme regulations for each university of applied sciences programme.

(3) Courses are to be officially approved by the Dean in accordance with suggestions of the advisory team. The candidate may submit his or her own proposal.

(4) Candidates may attend additional courses in addition to courses stipulated in (1) to (3).

(5) Research conducted outside of the university including relevant scientific publications is accredited according to § 78(3) Universities Act 2002.

#### § 6. Dissertation

(1) The dissertation is to demonstrate the candidate's ability to independently select a scientific problem for investigation and deal with it competently. Several scientific publications that pertain to the same topic are also accepted as dissertation.

(2) The topic of the dissertation suggested by the candidate is to pertain to a scientific discipline that is taught at the University of Natural Resources and Applied

Life Sciences, Vienna by a university teacher with *venia docendi*. The student may also select a topic from proposals of his or her advisor.

(3) The same topic may also be prepared and researched by several students if their individual input can be assessed.

(4) When a research topic requires additional physical and financial resources provided by BOKU departments, it is only acceptable if the head of the department was informed prior about the intended project and has not rejected it within one month due to interference with lectures and research, or insufficient resources.

(5) The completed dissertation is to be submitted by the advisor to the Dean for evaluation.

(6) The Dean is responsible for presenting the dissertation to two university teachers according to § 31(5) and (6) of the Statutes (study regulations). They are required to review the dissertation within a maximum of four months. The advisor may not review the dissertation. Furthermore, a maximum of one reviewer may pertain to the same department as the advisor. Both reviewers are to pertain to the scientific discipline of the dissertation or at least to a related field.

(7) In their report, aside from honouring the work the reviewers are to state whether they judge the dissertation as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. They may furthermore propose a grade according to § 8(5) of the Statutes (study regulations).

(8) If one or both reviewers evaluate the dissertation as unsatisfactory, the Dean is to consult with a third reviewer who has to pertain at least to a related scientific discipline. He or she is to review the dissertation within a maximum of two months.

## § 7. Second part of the *Viva Voce* Examination

(1) Registration for the second part of the *Viva Voce* Examination requires compliance with admission requirements, passing of all examinations pertaining to the first part of the *Viva Voce* (courses according to § 5) and an assessment of the dissertation as satisfactory. If three reviewers have been consulted (§ 6(8)), at least two of them need to evaluate the dissertation as satisfactory.

(2) The second part of the *Viva Voce* is an examination conducted before the entire Examination Board in accordance with regulations on public examinations. The Chair of the Examination Board and all participants (candidate, examiners) may present the dissertation according to their own preferences; they decide whether the audience may participate in the discussion and how the examiners should arrive at their evaluations.

(3) Examination subjects of the *Viva Voce* include:

1. the subject area of the dissertation topic;
2. a subject area that is proposed by the Dean in accordance with preferences of the candidate and suggestions of the advisory team.

(4) The dissertation is graded by absolute majority reached by members of the Examination Board for the second part of the *Viva Voce*. When the Board cannot reach a uniform assessment, all evaluation results are added and the result is divided by the number of Board members. The result is to be rounded to a whole-numbered grade. A result larger than x.5 is to be rounded up. An assessment as satisfactory requires an absolute majority of evaluations as satisfactory.

(5) The Examination Board is responsible for determining the overall grade of the doctoral degree.

#### § 8. Academic degree

Graduates of doctoral programmes of agricultural sciences are conferred the degree of "Doctor of Agricultural Sciences", in Latin "*Doctor rerum naturalium technicarum*" and abbreviated by "*Dr.nat.techn.*".

#### § 9. Interim regulations

(1) This curriculum enters force on 1 October 2006.

(2) For Doctor of Agricultural Sciences candidates who were admitted according to provisions of the University Studies Act, previous regulations remain valid until the end of the academic year 2008/2009. These candidates have the right to apply in writing to subject themselves to this new curriculum.