

Please note that this is a translation of the original German version of the curriculum. It is provided to facilitate understanding of the curriculum and is not legally binding.

## **Academy of Fine Arts Vienna**

### **Curriculum**

#### **Doctoral Studies in the Natural Sciences (Dr. rer. nat.) – in the Context of Art and Cultural Heritage**

The curricula commission responsible for the doctoral studies at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, has agreed on the following program, approved by the Senate on June 25, 2013.

#### **§ 1 Objectives and Qualification Profile**

(1) According to § 51 (2) Number 12 Universities Act 2002, doctoral study programs have to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake independent academic work beyond the education for occupations requiring the application of academic knowledge and methods, and to promote the education, training and career advancement of junior academic staff. The educational aims and tasks of universities, listed in § 1 Universities Act 2002 are to be particularly fostered. Additionally, doctoral studies in the natural sciences (Dr. rer. nat.) at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, serve to deepen students' theoretical knowledge and enhance their experimental skills regarding the field of natural sciences and technologies where they meet objects of art history and culture. Therefore, the term "doctoral studies in the natural sciences" refers to research accompanying those subjects or disciplines of natural or technical science which, both methodologically and theoretically, deal with problems arising in the areas of art and cultural heritage. The foci of these doctoral studies in the natural sciences at the Academy of Fine Arts lie on transdisciplinary issues of art and culture, strongly linked to the analysis, documentation and storage of individual, or groups of, objects (ensembles), the materials and technologies used, as well as possible deterioration, depending on the material and the conservation of such objects.

(2) This program is part of the studies of the natural sciences according to § 54 Section 1 Universities Act 2002.

#### **§ 2 Admission Requirements and Duration**

(1) For admission, a Master's or similar degree ("*Diplomstudium*") in the natural sciences or in a related artistic subject, or a secondary school teacher accreditation in a relevant school subject, is prerequisite.

(2) Admission is also possible if the doctoral candidate holds a degree equivalent to those mentioned, at a recognized Austrian or international institution of post-secondary education.

(3) Furthermore, the doctoral candidate is to submit a Dissertation Agreement (*Dissertationsvereinbarung*) no later than one year after admission, as specified in § 4 of this curriculum.

(4) The duration of study is 6 semesters, comprising 180 ECTS points.

#### **§ 3 Structure of the Study Program and Course Work**

Doctoral candidates enrolled in this program are required to submit evidence of the following achievements:

(1) Candidates are expected to attend courses comprising a minimum of 14 credit hours (or 20 ECTS points). At least three such courses must be chosen from the seminars specifically offered to doctoral candidates (*Dissertant\_innenseminare*) with 3 ECTS points or 2 credit hours each, and/or *Privatissima* (individual tutorials for selected participants) of 2 ECTS points or 2 credit hours each. All other courses can be freely chosen from the range of courses offered by the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, or by other Austrian or international institutions of post-secondary education; such courses must, however, in form and content be relevant to the candidate's dissertation, or complement the respective field of studies. These optional courses are to be included in the Dissertation Agreement.

(2) Research findings concerning the dissertation must be publicly presented and discussed at least once during the doctoral program, either at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, or in the course of a national or international convention (e.g. in the course of the graduate conference).

(3) Doctoral candidates and their supervisors are expected to meet at regular intervals (at least once a year) to give and receive feedback, respectively, and to discuss further steps. It is recommended that such discussions be recorded in writing.

(4) After all requirements have been fulfilled, studies are concluded with a public Thesis Defense (cf. § 8) and the publication of the dissertation (cf. § 9).

#### **§ 4 Submission of a Dissertation Agreement (*Dissertationsvereinbarung*)**

(1) In the course of the first year after admission, the doctoral candidate is to apply to the relevant university body (*studienrechtliches Organ*) for the authorization of the Doctoral Proposal (*Dissertationsvorhaben*) together with the Dissertation Agreement, the latter of which comprises the confirmation of supervision and the Dissertation Agreement.

(2) In the Dissertation Agreement, which is to be concluded in either German or English between the doctoral candidate and at least one supervisor, a qualified university lecturer (with *venia docendi*) of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna according to § 94 Section 2 Subparagraph 1 Universities Act 2002 undertakes to supervise the respective dissertation. Should, as far as content is concerned (especially owing to the dissertation's transdisciplinary nature), two supervisors be required, this must be determined in the Dissertation Agreement, and the supervision confirmation by the second supervisor submitted.

(3) In addition to the above-mentioned supervision confirmation, the Dissertation Agreement shall comprise the following:

- a. Doctoral candidate's name, matriculation number, date of birth
- b. Supervisor's (Supervisors') name(s)
- c. Title of the dissertation
- d. Language of the dissertation and the Thesis Defense
- e. The exposé underlying the authorization of the Doctoral Proposal
- f. List of optional courses (i.e. those courses the doctoral candidate may choose freely)
- g. Key data of supervision, especially the frequency of feedback sessions planned between candidate and supervisor.
- h. Formal commitment by the candidate to adhere to the rules of Good Practice in Research and Scholarship.

(4) During the course of studies, the Dissertation Agreement can be supplemented by the doctoral candidate, subject to the supervisor's (supervisors') approval, with e.g. the records of said feedback sessions (§ 3 Section 3). Should either party to the Dissertation Agreement wish to terminate or substantially amend the same without the other party's consent, authorization by the relevant university body responsible for study matters is to be sought.

#### **§ 5 Supervision of the Dissertation**

(1) Faculty members of the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, who are authorized to teach university courses in accordance with § 94 (2) Number 1 Universities Act 2002, as well as senior faculty (i.e. those with habilitation) are qualified to supervise doctoral theses in their respective field of expertise.

(2) Should joint supervision be required, the additional supervisor is to be chosen from the persons listed in Section 1. In certain cases, which must be individually authorized, the university body responsible for study matters is entitled to commission holders of a teaching qualification issued by other recognized Austrian or international institutions of post-secondary education with the supervision and assessment of the dissertation, subject to the availability of funds required therefor, if the latter's teaching qualification is equivalent to the one defined in Section 1. The selection of additional supervisors is always subject to the main supervisor's approval.

## **§ 6 Dissertation**

(1) To obtain a doctoral degree, doctoral candidates are required to write a dissertation, which can be supplemented with any necessary or helpful material from other sources or media.

(2) The dissertation is equivalent to 160 ECTS points.

(3) The doctoral candidate shall select a dissertation topic from the fields of study listed in the respective study plan / curriculum, or one that is strongly linked to these subjects, in consultation with his or her supervisor. Doctoral candidates are also permitted to apply for a topic issued by the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, in the framework of a research project. Candidates who wish to work together on a particular topic are permitted to do so, provided that their work can be assessed individually.

(4) Before the dissertation is submitted, doctoral candidates have the option to change their supervisor, their co-supervisor, or their respective topic; such changes must, however, be authorized by the university body responsible for study matters. In the case of a change of supervisor, a new Dissertation Agreement must be concluded, whereas a change of topic is to be added to the existing Dissertation Agreement as an amendment.

(5) Should, in the course of their doctoral studies and dissertation, the student require to use any machinery, special equipment or other facilities or appliances, the student is to adhere to the Terms of Use stipulated by the respective institute.

(6) Dissertations are to be submitted in two paper copies to the university body responsible for study matters, and as a digital copy deposited as a pdf file. If possible, the co-appraiser holding the *venia docendi* (teaching qualification) in accordance with § 94 Section 2 Subparagraph 1 Universities Act 2002 in the field of the dissertation, or in a closely related field, should be a member of a different faculty, university or external research institution. The university body responsible for study matters submits the dissertation to these appraisers, who are then asked to assess it within the following four months.

## **§ 7 Appraisal and Assessment**

(1) After dissertation submittal, the supervisor is expected to write one of the two appraisals required.

(2) The relevant university body commissions a person with said teaching qualification with the writing of a second dissertation appraisal.

(3) Each dissertation appraisal must include its topic, the methodology used, a categorization of the project into state-of-the-art research on the respective topic, and an overall assessment of the dissertation. Moreover, each appraiser is to grade the dissertation according to the Austrian system (excellent, good, satisfactory, adequate, and insufficient/poor).

(4) The overall assessment of the PhD Project results from the mean value of both grades given by the respective appraisers.

(5) The dissertation appraisals will be communicated to the doctoral candidates and the examination panel (*Prüfungssenat*) by the university body responsible for study matters.

### **§ 8 Thesis Defense (*Defensio*)**

(1) The course of studies is concluded with an oral presentation and Thesis Defense before an examination panel.

(2) The Thesis Defense takes place in public.

(3) To be entitled to hold the Thesis Defense, the doctoral candidate must provide the relevant university body with the following documentation:

1. The positive assessment of the candidate's participation in the lectures stipulated in the Dissertation agreement according to § 3 Section 1
2. A positive overall assessment of the dissertation. (§ 7 Section 4)

(4) The examination panel shall be appointed by the respective university body and comprise at least the supervisor or supervisors (if applicable), the second appraiser, and one member of the curricula commission responsible for doctoral studies who has not been involved in the supervision and/or appraisal of the respective dissertation. One of the members is to be appointed chair as suggested by the curricula commission responsible. Furthermore, the exam panel is to assess the Thesis Defense by giving a grade.

(5) The overall assessment of the doctoral candidate results from the mean value of both grades given by the two appraisers, and the grade received for the delivery of the Thesis Defense. If this result has any decimal places, numbers up to 0.5 are to be rounded down, whereas decimals above 0.5 are to be rounded up mathematically. For values of up to 1.5, the student graduates "with highest honors" (*mit ausgezeichnetem Erfolg bestanden*), and between 1.6 and 4.5 students have passed (*bestanden*), whereas with a grade of 4.6 or higher, they have failed (*nicht bestanden*).

(6) The Thesis Defense can be held no earlier than two weeks after the appraisals of the dissertation have been submitted.

### **§ 9 Publication**

(1) After the candidate's successful completion of the Thesis Defense, the dissertation shall be published by means of

1. Submittal to the university library of the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna
2. Submittal to the National Library
3. Submittal of an electronic version of the dissertation to the university library of the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna (Internet publication)

### **§ 10 Academic Degree**

The academic degree is "Doctor of Natural Sciences", abbreviated to "Dr.<sup>in</sup> rer. nat."/ "Dr. rer. nat.", awarded to the doctoral candidates after the successful completion of their doctoral studies and the actual publication of their dissertation.

### **§ 11 Effective Date and Interim Regulations**

(1) This curriculum comes into effect on October 1, 2013.

(2) Doctoral candidates who commenced their doctoral studies in the natural sciences before this curriculum came into force are entitled to continue their studies according to the provisions stipulated herein by submitting a simple declaration on a voluntary basis. The curricula commission for doctoral

studies is to determine individually or generally which of the courses successfully completed by the respective candidate or candidates will be recognized for this particular curriculum.

(3) Doctoral candidates subject to a curriculum valid before the issue of this curriculum are entitled to complete their studies by January 31, 2018.