

CURRICULUM FOR THE DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM IN BUSINESS LAW

Pursuant to § 25 (1) item 10 of the Universities Act 2002 (*Universitätsgesetz 2002*), Federal Law Gazette (*Bundesgesetzblatt, BGBl.*) I no. 120/2002, last amended by the federal act promulgated in Federal Law Gazette I no. 177/2021, the following regulation is passed:

§ 1 Objectives

The Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law is a degree program in law within the meaning of § 54 (1) of the Universities Act 2002 and is taught in German. To the extent that the research seminars provided for in the curriculum are offered in English, the degree program can also be completed in English. Students may also write their dissertation in English, provided that appropriate supervision is available. The focus of the doctoral program is on developing students' ability to conduct independent academic research and on qualifying early-stage researchers in the field of business law. Building on the Master's Degree Program in Business Law or diploma and master's programs in law completed at other universities, students conduct theoretical or applied research in the field of business law in accordance with current academic standards. In this context, they can independently formalize problems, conduct research-based analyses, and develop solutions.

In the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law, students gain an in-depth, research-guided understanding of the body of legal norms, related case law, and business law theories, paradigms, and legal methods. The students gain communication skills for professional academic discourse. They learn to build sound academic arguments, use appropriate methodology, generate new academic results, and implement academic publication strategies.

These skills are taught in research-based, doctoral-level courses. The research seminars focus on the dissertation and, in particular, provide a platform for students to conduct their own research and present their research results. Graduates of the doctoral degree program are qualified early-stage researchers and meet the requirements for an international academic career at universities and research institutes. Especially due to their high degree of independence and their ability to apply knowledge to completely new problems, they are also qualified for careers in the legal professions and at for-profit, nonprofit, and public sector organizations.

In the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law, students acquire the following knowledge, skills, and competencies:

Discipline-specific knowledge:

- Students develop a broad, systematic, and critical understanding of the field of business law, as well as in-depth and up-to-date specialist knowledge and critical expertise in a particular area of the field
- They learn to critically analyze current contributions to the academic study of law

- They are able to recognize the need for acquiring further knowledge in their own subject area and to identify and make connections to related areas of research

Synthesis and evaluation:

- Students learn to comprehend and analyze legal issues comprehensively, particularly legal issues pertaining to business and economics, using appropriate methods
- They can engage in academic analysis and synthesis, and can independently and critically examine and assess new and complex phenomena, issues, and situations
- They have the tools needed to make a significant contribution to the further development of academic knowledge in the relevant field through their own research
- They can identify gaps in the available research in order to expand and redefine existing knowledge or professional practice
- They are able to generate original knowledge and understanding to make a significant contribution to research in a legal discipline or to professional legal practice
- They are able to critically discuss, analyze, and further develop the methodological status quo and the theoretical foundations of the field

Research:

- Students can identify and formulate research questions critically, independently, innovatively, and with academic rigor
- They have the skills to plan and conduct research and other work on complex problems using appropriate methods and within specified time frames
- They learn how to plan and conduct substantial research projects with academic integrity, and, as a result, they are able to reflect on the processes involved theoretically and academically
- Students acquire teamwork skills that allow them to take an active part in participatory problem-solving processes
- Students have learned to reflect on the ethical and social implications of their research findings
- They have a deeper understanding of the possibilities and limitations of academic research, its role in society, and the responsibilities of the individual researcher

Communication:

- Students have the skills needed to write legal academic publications that meet the national and international quality standards of the relevant discipline
- They can present and discuss their research and findings competently in both national and international contexts and in dialog with the scientific community and with society in general
- They know how to make new knowledge and insights accessible and promote the learning of others in research, teaching, and other professional contexts

§ 2 Admission Requirements

(1) The prerequisite for admission to the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law is the completion of a previous degree within the meaning of § 64 of the Universities Act 2002.

(2) In addition, candidates for the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law must meet the following qualitative eligibility criteria:

1. Sufficient specialist and methodological knowledge with regard to the doctoral program in question and the intended subject area of the dissertation
2. The motivation and academic potential needed for the realization of the planned academic work and compatibility of the project with a current research area of WU

(3) In order to assess these criteria, candidates must include the following documents with their application:

1. Curriculum vitae (including a list of any publications or other research activities that may indicate a particular qualification with regard to the intended dissertation project)
2. Description of the dissertation project with details of the intended research area, the methodological approach, and how the candidate plans to integrate the project into WU's research in the field of the dissertation
3. Confirmation by a WU faculty member authorized to supervise dissertations, stating that the project described pursuant to item 2 above is suitable dissertation topic and that it is compatible with a current WU research area in the faculty member's subject area, and that he or she would therefore be willing to supervise the work ("provisional supervision agreement")

(4) Dual application of examinations to the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law through credit transfer of examinations completed in the first-degree program pursuant to (1) is not permissible.

§ 3 Program Duration

The Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law is a three-year program.

§ 4 Types of Examinations

The examination types indicated in this curriculum are defined in the Examination Regulations of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business). This curriculum, together with the Examination Regulations, forms a curriculum pursuant to § 25 (1) item 10 of the Universities Act 2002.

Abbreviation key:

AG – <i>Arbeitsgemeinschaft</i> , workshop-type course
FP – <i>Fachprüfung</i> , subject examination
FS – <i>Forschungsseminar</i> , research seminar
LVP – <i>Lehrveranstaltungsprüfung</i> , course examination
MP – <i>Modulprüfung</i> , module examination
PI – <i>prüfungsimmanent</i> , course with continuous assessment of student performance
VUE – <i>Vorlesungsübung</i> , lecture with interactive elements

§ 5 Courses and Examinations

(1) Students in the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law must complete the following courses:

<i>Course title</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>	<i>Credit hours</i>	<i>Type of examination</i>

<i>In the dissertation subject (12 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar in the Dissertation Subject I	6	2	FS
Research Seminar in the Dissertation Subject II	6	2	FS
<i>In a further legal subject (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar in a Further Legal Subject	6	2	FS
<i>In Legal Methodology (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar on Legal Methodology	6	2	FS
<i>In a further subject (6 ECTS credits)</i>			
Research Seminar in a Further Subject	6	2	FS
<i>In Defensio Dissertationis (4 ECTS credits)</i>			
Defensio Dissertationis	4		FP

- (2) The Research Seminar in a Further Legal Subject pursuant to (1) above is to be chosen from the subjects of Civil Law including Civil Procedure, Austrian and European Public Law, Tax Law, Labor and Social Security Law, Criminal Law, or European and International law. The subject of the dissertation may not be selected again.
- (3) The Research Seminar in a Further Subject pursuant to (1) above is to be chosen from a subject in law or social and economic sciences. The subject of the dissertation may not be selected again.
- (4) Students of the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law must announce the subjects they have chosen when they announce the topic selected for their dissertation.

§ 6 Research Proposal

- (1) The research proposal should include the topic, the state of the art of the research field, the research question, and basic information on the theoretical and methodological approach to be taken in the dissertation. The research proposal will be posted on the intranet of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) for a period of one month. In the event of a change of the student's main supervisor, a new research proposal must be published.
- (2) The provisions in § 34 (6), final sentence, of the By-Laws of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) apply *mutatis mutandis* to the assessment of the research proposal. Each member of the supervisory team shall combine their assessment with constructive suggestions for the further development of the dissertation, and in the event of a negative assessment, suggestions for the improvements necessary to achieve a passing grade.

§ 7 Dissertation and *Defensio Dissertationis*

- (1) Students in the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law are required to write a dissertation. The topic must be selected from one of the following subjects (dissertation subject):
 - a) Civil Law Including Civil Procedure
 - b) Austrian and European Public Law
 - c) Tax Law

- d) Labor and Social Security Law
 - e) Criminal Law
 - f) European and International law
- (2) The successful completion of all courses specified in § 5 and a positive grade on the research proposal are prerequisites for admission to the *Defensio Dissertationis*. During the *Defensio Dissertationis*, the student shall present their dissertation to the Doctoral Committee and respond to questions posed by members of the Committee.
- (3) The provisions in § 34 (6), final sentence, of the By-Laws of WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) apply *mutatis mutandis* to calculating the grade on the *Defensio Dissertationis*.

§ 8 Completion of the Doctoral Program

After successful completion of all required courses and examinations pursuant to § 5 and the dissertation, the doctoral candidate shall be issued a certificate confirming that he/she has successfully completed the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law.

9 Academic Degree

Graduates of the doctoral program will be awarded the academic degree Doctor of Law (*Doktor/in der Rechtswissenschaften*), abbreviated as "Dr.iur."

§ 10 Effective Date

- (1) This curriculum will enter into force on October 1, 2009.
- (2) This curriculum shall replace the curriculum for the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law pursuant to the resolutions of the Academic Programs Committee dated June 6, 2005, November 17, 2005, and April 26, 2007, approved by the Senate on June 8, 2005, November 23, 2005, and May 2, 2007.
- (3) Degree program students who had already begun their studies in the Doctoral Degree Program in Business Law at the time of entry into force of this curriculum under the provisions of the versions pursuant to the resolutions of the Committee for Academic Programs dated June 6, 2005, November 17, 2005, and April 26, 2007, approved by the Senate on June 8, 2005, November 23, 2005, and May 2, 2007, are entitled to complete their studies under the provisions of the curriculum valid on September 30, 2009, by September 30, 2017. If a student fails to complete their studies within that period, the student will be subject to the new curriculum for the remainder of their studies. In addition, the students are entitled to voluntarily transfer to the new curriculum at any time.
- (4) The amendments to this curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated November 18, 2010, approved by the Senate on December 1, 2010, will enter into force on October 1, 2011.
- (5) The amendments to this curriculum pursuant to the resolution of the Academic Programs Committee dated May 6, 2014, approved by the Senate on May 21, 2014, will enter into force on October 1, 2014.
- (6) The amendments to this regulation as published in WU Bulletin no. 40 of June 27, 2018, shall enter into force on October 1, 2018.

- (7) The amendments to this regulation as published in WU Bulletin no. 40 of June 26, 2019, shall enter into force on October 1, 2019.
- (8) Amendments to his regulation as published in WU Bulletin no. 44, dated June 30, 2021, shall enter into force on October 1, 2021.
- (9) Amendments to his regulation as published in WU Bulletin no. 44, dated June 30, 2022, shall enter into force on October 1, 2022.

§ 11 Transitional Provisions

Degree program students who began their doctoral studies in Business Law before the 2018 summer semester shall be entitled to complete their studies according to the curriculum applicable on September 30, 2018, with the exception of the amendments in § 5. Students are entitled to change to the version of this curriculum valid on October 1, 2018, at any time.