

Teaching in the doctoral programme in Social Sciences

(SPL 40, version: 3 September 2024)

Examination results according to the curriculum

“During the doctoral programme in Social Sciences, doctoral candidates have to complete achievements comprising 30 ECTS credits. At least 20 ECTS credits must be obtained through courses, of which at least 15 ECTS credits must be obtained through courses with continuous assessment. All activities relating to the doctoral thesis (attending academic workshops, holding presentations at international conferences, subject-related aspects in the organisation of academic events, academic practical courses, teaching, participation in research projects, etc.) which are linked to the doctoral thesis may be considered achievements relevant to the Curriculum. Before the conclusion of the doctoral thesis agreement, doctoral candidates may complete courses with continuous assessment comprising 10 ECTS credits [...]” ([Curriculum for the doctoral programme in Social Sciences](#))

Courses

- All courses in the doctoral programme in Social Sciences are **multidisciplinary** in nature, i.e. they are open to doctoral candidates of all fields of doctoral research related to the doctoral programme in Social Sciences. These fields are: communication, demography, development studies, geography, nursing science, political science, psychology, science and technology studies, social and cultural anthropology, as well as sociology. Courses can focus on one or several disciplines by defining key focuses. Research colloquia are particularly suited for a focus on specific disciplines (see below).
- All courses offered as part of the doctoral programme in Social Sciences are **courses with continuous assessment**. A course with continuous assessment constitutes an examination which covers the entire duration of the course and includes at least two oral or written partial achievements to be completed.
- All courses comprise **two hours per week** per semester. This corresponds to 22.5 hours in class. Block-mode courses are possible.
- Doctoral candidates obtain **5 ECTS credits** for every course allocated to the doctoral programme in Social Sciences that they successfully complete.
- After the end of the registration period, the StudiesServiceCentre Social Sciences/Doctoral Studies checks whether students fulfil the **prerequisites** for the relevant course. The SSC does not check previous knowledge that lecturers of advanced seminars may specify as a prerequisite via the course directory (see below).
- **At least five persons** must register for a course by the end of the registration period. Otherwise, the course cannot take place.

Types of courses

Type	Description	Prerequisites
Introduction course	<p>The introduction course aims at preparing doctoral candidates for the public presentation at the Faculty (FÖP) through feedback from peers and lecturers. The course focuses on writing the research proposal and on the presentations of the research proposals.</p> <p>The course is co-taught by two lecturers from different disciplines, who have experience as members of the doctoral advisory board.</p> <p>The course usually comprises one to two course units at the beginning of the semester focusing on the presentation of key contents, two consecutive course units before the end of the registration period for the FÖP to practice for the presentations, as well as one course unit at the end of the semester for a debriefing.</p> <p>In addition to the introduction course, the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences organises peer mentoring by postdoctoral researchers from the Faculty of Social Sciences.</p>	none; participation only possible if the public presentation at the Faculty (FÖP) was not yet successfully completed
Research colloquium	<p>A research colloquium focuses on the presentation and discussion of doctoral thesis projects with peers and the lecturer. They can have a subject-specific focus in order to ensure the compatibility of doctoral projects with disciplinary parameters.</p> <p>Research colloquia are usually taught by lecturers who supervise a large number of doctoral candidates.</p>	none
Theory seminar	<p>Theory seminars focus on the presentation and discussion of current theories and research approaches in the social sciences. These courses convey the foundations of theoretical debates, linking these to empirical case studies where possible or relevant.</p> <p>Theory seminars either focus on the participants' research projects or are based on the respective academic literature (reading seminar).</p> <p>The Social Sciences Directorate of Doctoral Studies particularly welcomes suggestions of theory seminars inspired by the Faculty's key research areas, if possible co-taught by two lecturers.</p>	none
Methods seminar	<p>Methods seminars focus on qualitative, interpretative and/or quantitative procedures of data collection and data analysis. Participants learn how to develop their own conceptual and empirical approach, how to compare it to other approaches and, if relevant, how to combine different approaches.</p> <p>Methods seminars on the following topics are offered on a regular basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnography • Interpretative methodologies • Qualitative content analysis • Introduction to research design from a quantitative perspective • Introduction to regression models <p>More information</p>	none

Advanced methods seminar	<p>Methods seminars may be offered as ‘advanced seminars’ if they serve the in-depth study of a specific methodological approach. These courses are aimed at doctoral candidates who have already successfully presented their research proposal at the doctoral advisory board and have completed their doctoral thesis agreement.</p> <p>Advanced methods seminars on the following topics are offered on a regular basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced research design from a quantitative perspective and causal inference • Advanced regression models • Advanced quantitative text analysis <p>More information</p>	<p>Conclusion of the doctoral thesis agreement; in addition, subject-specific previous knowledge may be required. If this is the case, lecturers have to specify these requirements in the course directory and check the fulfilment of the requirements themselves.</p>
Research Workshop	<p>Research workshops are aimed at supporting doctoral candidates with the analysis of empirical material that they have already collected and based on the methods specified in the research proposal. Lecturers offer solution-oriented guidance and participants support each other by providing intensive peer feedback. Research workshops may also extend over two semesters.</p> <p>Research workshops on the following topics are offered on a regular basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnographic writing and theory building • Analyses following interpretative methodologies • Advanced qualitative content analyses <p>More information</p>	<p>Conclusion of the doctoral thesis agreement</p>

Language

- Courses may be held in **German or English**. When deciding on the language of instruction, please consider that many doctoral candidates do not speak German and that the working language at the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences is English.
- If possible, students should be allowed to complete **partial achievements in a language other than the language of instruction** (e.g. a German paper in an English-language seminar).
- The **introduction course** is always offered in English to enable as many doctoral candidates as possible to participate. Doctoral candidates who plan to write their doctoral thesis in German and/or who plan to hold their public presentation at the Faculty in German may also submit a German research proposal and present their proposal in German.
- The recommended language of instruction for **methods** seminars and advanced methods seminars is English.

Course planning

- Course planning for the academic year starts in the **autumn of the year before**.

- Supervisors in the doctoral programme in Social Sciences at the Faculty are asked to submit **suggestions for courses**.
- For planning the seminars and advanced seminars in the field of **methods**, the Social Sciences Directorate of Doctoral Studies organises two **exchange meetings** of lecturers after the end of the deadline for the suggestion of courses – one focusing on qualitative methods and one focusing on quantitative methods.
- Based on the submissions received and the suggestions made during the exchange meetings, the Directorate of Studies proposes a teaching programme. This teaching programme is then discussed by the Steering Committee of the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences and by the Studies Conference.
- Lecturers are informed about the **allocation of courses** in February.

Information in the course directory

The employees of the StudiesServiceCentre Social Sciences/Doctoral Studies enter the courses in the course directory and contact the lecturers to arrange the course **dates and book course rooms**.

Lecturers have to publish the following information about their courses in **u:find** by the date the course directory goes online (1 July for the winter semester, 15 January for the summer semester) or, at the very latest, by the beginning of the registration period. Lecturers can enter this information themselves via [u:space](#) or send the relevant information to the StudiesServiceCentre Social Sciences/Doctoral Studies (doktorat.sozialwissenschaften@univie.ac.at).

- Aims, contents and dates of the course
- Methods and course format (on site, digital, hybrid) to achieve the learning outcomes
- Language of instruction, including information if partial achievements may be completed in other languages
- Assessment (for each of the at least two partial achievements in written or oral form) and permitted materials for each partial achievement
- Minimum requirements to be met by students for a positive assessment
- The contribution of individual partial achievements to the assessment of the course with continuous assessment (assessment elements)

For further information about minimum requirements and assessment elements in courses with continuous assessment, please see the [Teaching Manual](#) of the University of Vienna (intranet). Text modules for u:find are available for the introduction course.

Contact

StudiesServiceCentre Social Sciences/Doctoral Studies

University of Vienna, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Vienna, 6th floor, room: A0628

T: +43-1-4277-491 93, +43-1-4277-482 04

E-mail: doktorat.sozialwissenschaften@univie.ac.at