

PhD Programme

Artistic Research (PhD in Art)

Curriculum

Duration: 6 Semesters

„Doctor of Philosophy“-
doctoral programme

Programme Number: 794 950

This is the English translation of the original German version. Only the latter is legally binding.

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§ 1. Preamble

The Artistic Research PhD Programme (PhD in Art) - doctoral degree programme at the University of Applied Arts Vienna represents a postgraduate study programme in the field of art, in which independent artistic research is generated to contribute to the development and appreciation of the arts. The focus of the programme is on artistic work, which is regarded as the basis of knowledge production.

The Artistic Research PhD Programme (PhD in Art) - doctoral degree programme is governed by topics and practices of artistic research. Reflecting upon the specific methods and production processes on use of the own artistic project represents a significant part to be incorporated in the research work. As a matter of principle, research in the sense of comprehensive knowledge production is defined as open to any outcome.

§ 2. Qualification profile

The study programme will enable graduates to accomplish independent artistic research achievements at the level of international standards, as well as to take on coordinating and leading roles.

The doctoral studies offer artists the opportunity to generate fresh knowledge regarding specific issues in the arts, to contextualize their artistic research and to adequately communicate the insights gained. They possess the abilities required to successfully hold their ground in both national and international artistic environments.

§ 3. Admission to the doctoral programme

(1) In addition to evidence of a general university entrance qualification pursuant to § 64 [4] Universities Act¹, prerequisite for admission to this doctoral programme is to pass the entrance selection process based on the rectorate's regulation pursuant to § 71e [4] Universities Act.²

§ 4. Classification and structure of the doctoral programme

(1) Pursuant to §54 [1] Universities Act, the doctoral programme is assigned to the group of "Art Studies".

(2) The duration of the Artistic Research PhD Programme (PhD in Art) - doctoral studies is scheduled for six semesters.

(3) The doctoral programme consists of course attendances and a dissertation in the form of an artistic research thesis.

(4) The doctoral candidate is supported by a supervising tutor holding an artistic *venia docendi*.

(5) The study programme is available in English language only.

¹ evidence of a general university entrance qualification as required for admission to the doctoral studies is deemed to have been submitted by providing evidence of a completed, subject-relevant diploma or master programme at a university or college of higher education (pursuant to §5 [3] Fachhochschule Studies Act), or other studies of equal value at a recognized domestic or foreign post-secondary educational institution. If basic equal value is evident and only individual supplements are missing to constitute full equal value, the rectorate is entitled to make recognition of full equal value dependent on examinations, which are to be passed during the course of the appropriate doctoral studies.

² The appropriate rectorate's regulation stipulates further prerequisites for admission, namely to present evidence of a qualified artistic career after studying, which is to also show subject-related abilities of analytical and independent thinking; to present a portfolio of artistic works; to present a written exposé outlining the intended artistic research, its context, methodology and project goal; to present a time and contents schedule; as well as positive completion of the admission selection process. The regulation defines the type of examination committee: The committee consists of members of teaching staff holding *venia docendi* for an artistic teaching subject, they evaluate the portfolios and exposés presented and decide on applicants' admission.

§ 5. Academic performance

(1) To successfully complete the study programme, the doctoral students have to produce exam achievements amounting from 36 to 38 ECTS, plus prepare an artistic research thesis.

(2) The compulsory exam achievements consist of:

- a) Completing courses regarding theory and practice of artistic research amounting to 4 ECTS (recommended at the beginning of the programme).
- b) Once every semester, attending a colloquium of mutual exchange in which the doctoral students provide information on the current stage of their research work that is based on the PhD programme. This amounts to 1 ECTS per semester, 6 ECTS in total.
- c) Attending an annual public colloquium in which the progress of the research project is presented and to which at least one external expert is invited. This represents 4 ECTS, amounting to 12 ECTS in total.
- d) Completing additional courses as stipulated by the PhD programme coordinator in concurrence with the doctoral student's tutor; to the extent of at least 2 ECTS and at most 4 ECTS.
- e) Completing privatissima or doctoral seminars offered by the doctoral student's individual tutor; amounting to 12 ECTS in total.

§ 6. Concluding artistic research project (thesis) and thesis defense

(1) The thesis comprises an artistic research project, or a thesis in form of a number of artistic projects connected to each other as far as the research issue is concerned (artistic complex of work, groups of work), plus a demonstration of the insights in the sense of a reflexive documentation.

(2) The research outcome is to be documented in a suitable media-specific manner; it is to be contextualized and to be reflected upon. The conclusions of the artistic research are to be communicated in comprehensible form.

(3) During the thesis defense, the thesis is assessed by an examination committee of five members. It consists of the supervisor plus four other committee members of which at least two but ideally three are experts from outside the University with appropriate artistic-researching practice, and at least one member from within the University with teaching authorisation from an artistic field close to the thesis subject. In justified exceptions, a second member from within the University with teaching authorisation from an artistic field close to the thesis subject may be appointed instead of the third expert from outside the University with appropriate artistic-researching practice.

Doctoral candidates may provide two suggestions each regarding the two external committee members. For the third external member, a joint recommendation from supervisor and candidate may be submitted. The committee is convened by the dean of studies based on the proposal from the vice-rectorate for research.

(4) Within the context of the thesis defense, the thesis is to be presented, explained and defended in front of the examination committee in form of a publicly available format suitable for the work, as well as in form of a lecture (45 minutes max.).

(5) Questioning and discussion refer to both parts of the thesis, plus the presentation and lecture. The assessment relates to all of the above parts and is provided as one overall mark per examiner. The final grade is calculated from the total of marks received from all committee members.

§ 7. Examination regulations

Course examinations

(1) Course examinations will be carried out as written or oral exams by the teaching staff members in charge of the courses. Examination contents, methods, and assessment criteria are to be announced in a suitable manner prior to the start of each semester.

Colloquia

(2) The assessment of colloquia is to be worded as "mit Erfolg teilgenommen" (successfully completed /pass) or "ohne Erfolg teilgenommen" (unsuccessfully completed /fail).

Doctoral viva

- (3) The doctoral viva comprises the assessment of the thesis within the framework of the thesis defense.
- (4) Prerequisite for the admission to the thesis defense is the successful completion of all compulsory examination achievements listed in § 5, as well as the finalized thesis. The tutor ascertains whether the thesis is concluded. The reflexive documentation is to be submitted with the application for admission to the thesis defense.
- (5) The reflexive documentation is to be forwarded to the committee members for preparation at least 8 weeks prior to the thesis defense.
- (6) The date of the thesis defense is to be announced to all persons involved at least 8 weeks prior to the examination date.
- (7) The artistic presentation must be publicly available three days prior to the thesis defense to allow for perusal of the artistic research project.

§ 8. Publication

The part of the thesis that is in form of a reflexive documentation has to be available in the library. This part has to have a link to the project website and/or research database in which the work complex (groups of artistic work) is (are) to be presented in an adequate manner.

§ 9. Academic degree

After successful completion of the doctoral viva, candidates will be awarded the academic title of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).