



---

## Statutes of the Doctoral School of Architecture

Version of 2020-06

These statutes were written by the coordination team of the Doctoral School of Architecture. The Doctoral School is made up of the employees with a teaching qualification at the Faculty of Architecture together with their doctoral candidates. The coordination team for the Doctoral School, together with the officer responsible for study matters, is responsible for the content-related implementation of the subject-specific details according to § 3 (4) of the currently applicable curriculum.

The curriculum for the Doctoral Programme in Technical Sciences at Graz University of Technology is applicable in the currently valid version.

### **1. Scope of the Doctoral School of Architecture**

The aim of the Doctoral School of Architecture (German title: Doctoral School für Architektur) at Graz University of Technology is to enable in-depth independent scientific work in the field of architecture. The training takes place alongside research activities. Students who have been admitted to the programme in accordance with § 2 (1) of the doctoral programme curriculum may be associated with the Doctoral School of Architecture independent of their previous degree, as long as the content of their doctoral thesis may be classified as belonging to the subject area of architecture.

### **2. Academic degree to be awarded**

Graduates of the Doctoral School of Architecture are awarded the academic degree “Doctor of Technical Sciences” (abb. Dr. techn.).

### **3. Objectives and subject-specific qualification profile**

The objectives of the doctoral programme are to develop skills for independent scientific research, to advance knowledge of the graduates in the specific subject area of their doctoral thesis as well as related subject areas, and to provide doctoral candidates with the abilities needed to present and defend research results at the highest level. Graduates of the Doctoral Programme in Architecture have in-depth knowledge about the areas of their doctoral theses, extensive experience with the application of scientific methods in the technical and natural sciences, skills in presenting and defending research results, and the ability for teamwork. The graduate of this Doctoral School is able to independently implement the latest scientific knowledge from the field of architecture and its areas of application.

## 4. Subjects of the Doctoral School

All Institutes of Architecture are associated with the Doctoral School of Architecture.

## 5. Structure and tasks of the coordination team

The Doctoral School of Architecture is headed by a tripartite coordination team, which is made up of one representative and deputy representative of the professors, one representative and deputy representative of the non-professorial teaching staff (habilitated) and one representative and deputy representative of the doctoral candidates in the field of architecture. The members of the coordination team of the Doctoral School of Architecture are nominated by their respective peers. The coordination team elects a chairperson and a deputy chairperson.

Based on proposals from the members and in consultation with the officer responsible for study matters (Dean of Studies of the Doctoral School of Architecture), the coordination team compiles a course catalogue and assumes the tasks specified in the curriculum for the Doctoral Programme in Technical Sciences at Graz University of Technology.

The doctoral candidates of the Doctoral School of Architecture elect a representative and a deputy representative every other year. The representative participates in the preparation of the course plans for “Seminar for PhD students (Doctoral School for Architecture)” and “Architectural Research (Doctoral School)”. The representative has the right to be heard in the event of disagreement (as outlined in § 4 (8) of the curriculum).

## 6. Guidelines for supervision and mentoring

The rights and responsibilities of the supervisor and the doctoral candidate are defined in § 4 of the curriculum. Furthermore, the Doctoral School of Architecture also provides for a mentoring programme. Mentoring should aim to provide informal and confidential support to the doctoral candidate. The mentors should support the mentees in making progress with their studies throughout the entire duration of the doctoral programme. Mentors should come from the Doctoral School environment and have earned at least a doctorate or equivalent academic degree. They do not have to be explicitly affiliated with the Doctoral School of Architecture or Graz University of Technology. The mentor is to be nominated by the coordination team on the recommendation of the doctoral candidate. To maintain confidentiality, both the mentor and the mentee must sign a separate non-disclosure agreement before mentoring begins.

## 7. Instructional classes

### 7.a) Scope:

The scope of the curricular workload totals 14 semester course hours per week (SWS) and consists of subject-specific basic courses totalling 6-8 SWS, courses from Scientific Methods and Communication totalling 4-6 SWS, and an exclusive tutorial for doctoral programmes totalling 2 SWS (§ 6 (4) of the curriculum).

### 7.b) Subject-specific basic courses:

Subject-specific basic courses can be selected from the following course catalogue:

- VO Architectural Research (Doctoral School) (2 SWS)
- SE Architectural Research and Cultural Studies (2 SWS)
- SE Buildings and Energy (2 SWS)
- SE Buildings and Function (2 SWS)
- SE Collaborative Modelling (2 SWS)

Furthermore, all courses (with the exception of those of the bachelor's programme) offered at the Faculty of Architecture and commissioned by the officer responsible for study matters can be selected. Each doctoral candidate must submit a list of the courses selected for the curricular workload, which must then be discussed with the supervisor and confirmed by the officer responsible for study matters. This list of the courses selected should include courses both relevant for and supporting the work on the doctoral thesis. To support the concept of a broad basic educational foundation at a high level, doctoral candidates are strongly discouraged from choosing only lectures that are given at the institute of their supervisor.

It is expressly stated that doctoral candidates also have the option of choosing courses from outside the course catalogue of the Doctoral School (see § 6 (2) 4 of the curriculum).

Examinations completed at recognised national or international post-secondary educational institutions, universities or non-university research institutions (for instance summer schools or specialist courses) may also be approved by the officer responsible for study matters if equivalence is met. Courses that doctoral candidates have already completed as part of their master's degree programme are not admissible.

### 7.c) Scientific Methods and Communication (4-6 SWS):


Courses in this part of the curriculum aim at teaching the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for developing research results using scientific methods and to present and defend these results. The following courses are mandatory:

- SE Seminar for PhD students (Doctoral School for Architecture) (2 x 1 SWS)
- VO Theories of Science (2 SWS) or SE Methods of Research in Architecture (2 SWS)

The following course is recommended:

- SE How to Write a Thesis (2 SWS)

The "Seminar for PhD students (Doctoral School for Architecture)" is held in the form of a symposium. All doctoral candidates take part and present their work at least twice throughout their doctoral programme. All members of the Doctoral School are invited to participate. All



doctoral candidates are to present their research project within the first year as well as their research achievements at the end of their doctoral programme.

#### 7.d) Exclusive tutorial for doctoral programmes (2 SWS):

The exclusive tutorial for doctoral candidates is offered by all teaching staff with a teaching qualification, is named according to the respective teaching qualification and consists of regular supervision dialogues between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate.

### 8. Publication guidelines at the Doctoral School

Every doctoral candidate must provide evidence of at least one publication on the subject of the doctoral thesis in a scientific journal, a publication in international conference proceedings or an academic collective volume. The acceptance for publication shall be deemed sufficient as proof of publication. If no publication exists, at least three reviews must be obtained for assessments of the doctoral thesis.

### 9. Guidelines for the doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis must be written in either German or English. Writing in another language is only possible in consultation with the coordination team of the Doctoral School of Architecture. If the doctoral thesis is a collection of several publications, e.g. articles or papers ("Manteldissertation" or "kumulative Dissertation" in German), it must consist of at least 4 papers discussing a shared topic, and must be framed with an introductory chapter (including a detailed report on the current state of research) and a conclusion.

### 10. Guidelines for the assessment of the doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis is assessed by two evaluators in accordance with § 31 (4) of the Excerpt of Statutes Legal Regulations for Academic Affairs. If no publication exists, at least three reviews must be obtained for assessments of the doctoral thesis. The doctoral candidate has the right to recommend evaluators. This recommendation should be submitted to the officer responsible for study matters no later than four months before the planned submission of the doctoral thesis. It will then be checked by the coordinating team of the Doctoral School to determine the extent to which the recommended evaluators have the required qualifications and approved or rejected accordingly. Pre-selection of the evaluators should be completed at least two months before submitting the doctoral thesis. From this point on, all evaluators must familiarise themselves with the preliminary version of the doctoral thesis. This enables the doctoral candidate to take any suggestions for improvement into consideration in good time.

## 11. Guidelines for the doctoral examination

The doctoral examination consists of two parts, these are a presentation with a maximum length of approx. 30 minutes, followed by a discussion and an oral exam by the board of examiners with a minimum length of 30 minutes and maximum length of 1 hour. The doctoral examination is announced in the publication organ of the Faculty of Architecture and is open to the public.

## 12. Confidentiality agreement

The members of the Doctoral School with a “*venia docendi*” teaching qualification and the doctoral candidate representative on the coordination team must provide a written confidentiality agreement. This agreement refers in particular to

- (i) reports and statements issued by the doctoral candidate and his/her supervisor (§ 4 (4, 6) of the curriculum),
- (ii) any aspects regarding the assessment of a doctoral thesis (§ 5 (2) of the curriculum), and
- (iii) the overall scope of the doctoral project and the doctoral thesis as whole, if access to the doctoral thesis is blocked or restricted by the officer responsible for study matters (§ 5 (1, 7) of the curriculum).

## 13. Transitional arrangement

The present statutes are applicable to doctoral candidates who are subject to the curriculum for the Doctoral Programme in Technical Sciences and the curriculum for the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at Graz University of Technology, version 2019, which came into effect on October 1, 2020. Full-time doctoral candidates who began the Doctoral Programme in Technical Sciences or the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences at Graz University of Technology before October 1, 2020 and did not submit to the curriculum in the 2019 version are entitled to continue and complete their doctoral programme in accordance with the statutes that were previously valid until September 30, 2024.