

Statutes of the Doctoral School of Physics

The curriculum for the Doctoral Programme in Engineering Sciences at Graz University of Technology and the curriculum for the Doctoral Programme in Natural Sciences shall apply in their currently valid version.

Governing Body Responsible for Study Regulations

The governing body responsible for study regulations at the Doctoral School of Physics is the Dean of Studies responsible for the bachelor's and master's degree programmes in Technical Physics.

Objective of the Doctoral Programme

Beyond pre-professional education and training, the objective of the Doctoral Programmes in Engineering Sciences or Natural Sciences at Graz University of Technology is for students to acquire the ability to undertake consolidated, independent scientific work in the field of physics.

Academic Degree

Graduates of the Doctoral School of Physics will be awarded the degree of "Doctor of Engineering Sciences", abbreviated "Dr. techn", or the degree of "Doctor of Natural Sciences", abbreviated "Dr. rer. nat." It will be decided during the admissions procedure to the doctoral programme which degree the graduate will receive, based on the content of his/her dissertation.

Subject Area and Member Institutes of the Doctoral School

The Doctoral School for Physics represents subject of physics.

The Doctoral School of Physics comprises the following institutes:

Institute of Experimental Physics

Institute of Solid State Physics

Institute of Theoretical and Computational Physics

Institute of Materials Physics

Institute of Electron Microscopy and Nanoanalysis

The doctoral school is run jointly with the Physics Institute of Karl-Franzens-Universität within the wider framework of the Faculty of Natural Sciences ("NAWI").

Doctoral Candidates' Representative

The students at the doctoral school elect a spokesperson and a deputy spokesperson for a two-year term. The spokesperson is involved in the drawing up of lecture plans for the modules "Scientific Methods" and the doctoral seminar and has the right to be heard in cases of difference of opinions (as outlined in § 4, paragraph (7) of the curriculum).

Publication Requirements

Every doctoral candidate must publish at least one article on the subject of his/her dissertation in an internationally refereed scientific journal. The acceptance for publication shall be deemed sufficient as proof of publication. The Coordinating Team may, together with the Dean of

Studies, also accept a publication in international conference proceedings, subject to a majority vote. If no publication record exists, a third assessment must be obtained.

Selection of Examiners

The pre-selection of thesis examiners according to § 5, section (2) of the curriculum is carried out by the members of the Coordinating Team of the doctoral school. The habilitated members of the doctoral school must be informed of the pre-selection and have the option of giving their opinion on the selection.

Curricular Workload

The basic extent of the curricular workload is 14 semester course hours which are broken down into subject-specific basic modules (8 semester course hours), the module “Scientific methods” (2 semester course hours), the doctoral seminar (2 semester course hours) and the research seminar (2 semester course hours).

Subject-specific basic modules: These comprise all lectures (with the exception of the lectures pertaining to the bachelor’s degree course) that are offered at the institutes allocated to the doctoral school and that have been approved by the Dean of Studies. Every doctoral student must present a study plan in accordance with his/her supervisor and subject to approval by the Dean of Studies. The selected subjects must correspond to the scope of the specific dissertation project as closely as possible, with the goal of supporting the progress of the candidate’s dissertation. To support the concept of a broad basic educational foundation at a high level, students are strongly discouraged from choosing only lectures that take place at their supervisor’s institute.

It is expressly stated that students also have the option of choosing subjects from outside the subject catalogue of the doctoral school (see curriculum § 6, section (2) 4).

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 Dean of Studies if the criterion of equivalence is met.

Modules that students have already completed as part of their master’s degree course are not admissible.

Doctoral Exam

The doctoral exam is a two-part examination, consisting of (i) a lecture of approx. 30 minutes in length, followed by a discussion, and (ii) an oral examination with a maximum length of 1 hour on the subject area of the dissertation, conducted by the thesis committee.

Statement of Obligation of the Members of the Doctoral School

The habilitated members of the doctoral school and the students’ representative in the Coordinating 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 (curriculum § 4, sections (4) and (6)), (ii) any aspects of the assessment of a dissertation (curriculum § 5, section (2)), and (iii) the overall scope of the dissertation and the dissertation as

whole, if access to the dissertation is blocked or restricted by the Dean of Studies (curriculum § 5 , sections (1) and (7)).

Legal validity remains restricted to the German original.

Graz, 12/03/2008