

# **The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna**

## **Curriculum of PhD in Biomolecular Technology of Proteins**

(as of October 1, 2015)

The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) enacts according to § 54 Universities Act 2002 the following curriculum for the PhD in Biomolecular Technology of Proteins:

### § 1. Objective of the PhD programme

The PhD in Biomolecular Technology of Proteins is to prepare for independent scientific work as well as to train young scientists in research areas related to the biomolecular technology of proteins.

### § 2. Admission requirements for the PhD degree

(1) Admission requirements for the PhD programme in Biomolecular Technology of Proteins at BOKU are:

a.) acceptance into the PhD programme "Biomolecular Technology of Proteins".

b.) a diploma or Master's degree in natural or engineering sciences, a degree in medicine or veterinary medicine, or

c.) a degree from an accredited Austrian or international university that is equivalent to the degrees listed under item b) or

d.) a degree from an accredited degree programme at an Austrian Fachhochschule (university of applied sciences).

(2) If equivalence is given except for individual courses not exceeding a total of 60 ECTS, the Rectorate is allowed to require certain examinations to be taken in addition to the viva voce examination.

(3) With respect to admission according to section 1 item c.), students with post-graduate degrees awarded by an international institution must furthermore present proof of admission to doctoral studies by the issuing country.

(4) The admission is granted by the Rector of BOKU.

### § 3. Duration and structure

(1) PhD Studies of Biomolecular Technology of Proteins comprise a minimum of 180 ECTS, including at least 42 ECTS doctoral courses and 138 ECTS for the dissertation.

(2) Admission granted according to § 2 section 1 item d.) stipulates additions to the programme congruent with legal requirements.

(3) Upon successful admission to the doctoral programme the candidate is to officially register his or her doctoral project at the Dean's Office within one year. For registration the following information is to be provided:

- Dissertation topic,
- Name of supervisor with *venia docendi* or equivalent qualification,
- Presentation of a working plan approved by the supervisor, including:
  - o advisory team
  - o time schedule
  - o plan of resources
- Proposal for doctoral courses.

(4) When a research topic requires additional physical and financial resources provided by BOKU, it is only acceptable if the head of the respective department was informed upfront about the intended project and has not rejected it within one month due to interference with lectures and research, or insufficient resources.

(5) The doctoral project is deemed accepted upon approval by the Dean of Studies.

(6) The dissertation topic and the supervisor can be changed at any stage up to submission of the dissertation. The doctoral project has then to be registered again. The previous supervisor is entitled to submit a statement within 6 weeks of being notified. Any changes to the selected courses have also to be approved.

#### § 4. Viva voce examination

The viva voce is a comprehensive examination conducted in two parts. The first part is comprised of course examinations; the second part is to be conducted as a defense of the dissertation in front of the Examination Board.

#### § 5. First part of the viva voce examination

(1) For the first part of the viva voce in PhD Studies of Biomolecular Technology of Proteins, candidates are required to take course examinations amounting to at least 42 ECTS. These courses are to be relevant to the dissertation topic.

(2) Students admitted according to § 2 section 1 item d.) are required to take additional examinations (examinations of courses pertaining to the programme of study); they are not part of the viva voce. The number and subject areas of the courses for university of applied sciences degree holders are specified in the doctoral programme regulations for each university of applied sciences.

(3) Courses are to be officially approved by the Dean of Studies based on a proposal by the advisory team. The candidate is entitled to suggest courses. A stepwise submission of the coursework is possible. If more than 42 ECTS are selected, all these credits have to be obtained once approved.

(4) Candidates may attend additional courses in addition to courses stipulated in §5 (1) to (3).

(5) Research conducted outside of the university including relevant scientific publications is accredited according to § 78 section 3 Universities Act 2002.

## § 6. Dissertation

- (1) The dissertation shall demonstrate the candidate's ability to independently select a scientific problem for investigation and to deal with it competently. Several scientific publications that pertain to the same topic are also accepted as dissertation.
- (2) The topic of the dissertation suggested by the candidate has to pertain to a scientific discipline that is taught at BOKU by a university lecturer with *venia docendi*. The student may also select a topic from proposals of his or her supervisor.
- (3) It is permissible that several students work together on the same topic if their individual input can be assessed.
- (4) The completed dissertation is to be submitted to the Dean of Studies for evaluation.
- (5) The Dean of Studies is to present the dissertation to two university lecturers according to § 31 sections 5 and 6 of the Statutes, Study Regulations, who must grade the dissertation within a maximum of two months. The supervisor is not eligible to review the dissertation. Furthermore, at least one reviewer has to be affiliated with a different institution than BOKU. Both reviewers are to pertain to the scientific discipline of the dissertation or at least to a related field.
- (6) In their report, aside from honouring the work, the reviewers are to state whether they judge the dissertation as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. They may furthermore propose a grade according to §73 section 1 Universities Act 2002.
- (7) If one or both reviewers evaluate the dissertation as unsatisfactory, the Dean of Studies has to nominate a third reviewer who has to pertain at least to a related scientific discipline. He or she is to review the dissertation within a maximum of two months.

## § 7. Second part of the viva voce examination

- (1) Registration for the second part of the viva voce examination requires compliance with admission requirements, passing of all examinations pertaining to the first part of the viva voce (courses according to § 5) and an assessment of the dissertation as satisfactory. If three reviewers have been consulted (§ 6(7)), at least two of them need to evaluate the dissertation as satisfactory.
- (2) The second part of the viva voce is a defense of the dissertation conducted in front of the entire Examination Board in accordance with regulations on public examinations. The supervisor is not eligible as a member of the Examination Board.
- (3) The dissertation is graded under consideration of the reviews by absolute majority reached by the members of the Examination Board for the second part of the viva voce.
- (4) The Examination Board is responsible for determining the overall grade of the doctoral degree. It consists of the grades for the defense of the dissertation (25%), the dissertation (50%) and the first part of the viva voce examination (25%). A final assessment of "passed" requires all subjects to be passed, otherwise it has to be "failed". A distinction is awarded if the individual grades for the defense of the dissertation, the dissertation and the first part of the viva voce examination are not higher than 2,0 with the overall grade not higher than 1,5.

## § 8. Academic degree

Graduates of PhD Studies in Biomolecular Technology of Proteins will be conferred the title “Doctor of Philosophy”.

## § 9. Temporary regulations

(1) This curriculum is enacted with October 1, 2015.

(2) Applicants for the PhD degree in Biomolecular Technology of Proteins enrolled in the curriculum enacted on October 1, 2010 are entitled to complete their studies according to this curriculum until September 30, 2017.