

6. PhD Program

The international PhD program of the Vetmeduni Vienna is dedicated to the highest standards of training with the aim of providing PhD students with the opportunity to develop into successful young scientists. The operational language of the PhD program is English.

The minimum duration of the PhD program is 3 years which is equivalent to 180 ECTS credits.

After successful completion of the PhD studies and following satisfactory performance in the PhD examination, the academic degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" (PhD) is awarded by the Vetmeduni Vienna.

The PhD program of the Vetmeduni Vienna relies heavily on training by research, and offers courses and seminars to an equivalent of 23 ECTS distributed over three years. The training of PhD students encompasses both scientific training and complementary skills courses. The training provided by the Vetmeduni Vienna aims interdisciplinary in nature with focus on scientific rigor, and the ability to work in a team of scientists with backgrounds in different research areas.

coursework (23 ECTS)

Based on the recommendations of the PhD committee, the student is required to attend courses with an equivalent of 23 ECTS. The courses can be taken either at the Vetmeduni Vienna or at other universities. The courses need to include a weekly journal club, scientific seminar series, complementary skills, as well as specialized courses.

teaching (2 ECTS)

PhD students are required to assist during the teaching of course(s) at the vetmeduni vienna. Preference is given to courses related to the topic of the PhD project. If possible the teaching activities could be in the form of tutors.

PhD project (155 ECTS)

Assessment of the PhD thesis

The PhD curricular committee evaluates the PhD thesis based on: the written reports of 1) the PhD advisors 2) an external examiner, who is identified by the PhD committee. The reports are independent of each other and include a concluding assessment of the thesis and a final grade (1-5).

PhD defence (disputation)

The PhD defence consists of a public presentation of at least 30 minutes and in English by the PhD student on the research project, followed by a public

discussion of the project of at least 15 minutes. The disputation should take at least 45 minutes, yet not exceeding 75 minutes. In cases where the student fails the examination, three further attempts are possible. In case of repeated failure to pass the examination, it will be concluded that the student has failed the PhD examination. The PhD curricular committee is then notified about the examination result.

After successful completion of the PhD examination and filling in the PhD program questionnaire the Vetmeduni Vienna confers the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on the student.