

Examination regulations

Faculty of Psychology

Sigmund Freud University

Resolution of the Academic Senate of Juni 16th 2023

**First part: Basic Study Programmes Psychology (Bachelor's and Master's programme)
and university courses with academic degrees**

1 General

The applicable examination regulations shall be brought to all student's and lecturers' knowledge by publication on the homepage of the university or the Faculty of Psychology. At the beginning of the semester and each course, students must be informed about the modality and, in particular, the criteria for performance assessment. Corresponding information must be published by a (commented) course syllabus at the beginning of the semester. Examinations must take place as close as possible to the courses in which the exam-relevant content was taught.

2 Examination modalities for different course types

2.1 Lectures

The aim of a lecture is to teach students the contents of the respective field of knowledge specified in the accredited curriculum by means of lecturers' presentations. Students are not required to attend. The course is concluded with a written or oral examination. The subject matter of the examination may go beyond that presented in the lecture. The course lecturers must inform students in good time of the specialised literature that is to be acquired by the students by independent study in preparation for the examination. There are three examination dates open to students.

The examination dates are announced in advance together with the current university calendar. The exam will be assessed by the course teacher within three weeks.

In analogous adoption of the corresponding regulations of the University Act (§ 77, para. 2), students can repeat a failed examination three times. If there is no positive result after the third attempt (i.e. after two further repetitions), the fourth attempt must be held by a board of examiners.

In this case, the examination senate consists of the course director and a member of the Faculty of Psychology with a habilitation. The examination questions must be presented to the students in written form and the candidate must be given 30 minutes preparation time. The preparation of the examination questions is carried out under the supervision of one of the two members of the examination senate. Failing the exam that is held by a board of examiners results in the removal from the register of students of the candidate concerned.

Based on the above provisions, students who do not take the first exam on the first examination date, or in the event of a failed exam, can take the second and/or third examination date to have the opportunity to take the exam in the following semesters. The learning matter always refers to the current lecture material, whereby it is the student's responsibility to obtain a corresponding overview of this relevant material.

If the result of the examination is positive but unsatisfactory to the student, there is the possibility of repeating the exam once to improve the grade. In any case, the assessment of the last exam attempt is included in the final diploma (or Diploma Supplement).

2.2 Exercises, proseminars and seminars

Exercises, proseminars and seminars are courses have an integrated examination modality. Students are generally required to attend these courses.

As the requirements necessary to provide proof of performance can be used:

- active participation of the students in the course (e.g. contributing to discussions, presentations);
- active participation in developing the course material during class (e.g. through presentations);
- post-processing of the taught content (e.g. in the form of written comments);
- submitting written term papers.

However, course lecturers are also free to conduct written intermediate examinations and/or a written final examination. Students' written papers (term papers) must be submitted to the course lecturers either by the end of the current semester (first submission deadline) or at the latest at the beginning of the following semester (second submission deadline). In justified exceptional cases, such papers may also be submitted during the current semester or at the latest by the end of the following semester.

The assessment of written work (e.g. term papers) by the course teacher must be carried out within four weeks of the stated submission deadlines.

2.3 Integrated lecture courses

Integrated lecture courses are courses in which lecture and exercise parts are combined. The sequence of lecture presentations and practical exercises can be freely chosen by the course teachers, i.e. it can be flexibly arranged according to the respective contents. As in the case of exercises, proseminars and seminars, students are required to attend integrated lecture courses, including the lecture parts.

The performance assessment is carried out according to the criteria listed for exercises, proseminars and seminars under § 2.2. A written final examination is also mandatory.

The positive completion of the course requires that both examination parts – lecture part (written examination; cf. the regulations under 2.1 Lectures) and exercise part (presentations, written work etc.) – have been positively assessed. The overall grade is determined from the two partial grades. In the event of a negative assessment of the written final examination, this – and only this – part of the examination must be taken at one of the remaining examination dates scheduled and published for the course in the respective university calendar. For a positive completion of the written part of the examination, one of the three specified examination dates must be taken and passed. If none of the three scheduled dates has been taken and passed, the corresponding exercise part must also be repeated.

3 Mandatory attendance

Exercises, proseminars, seminars or integrated courses (and here also the lecture parts) generally require mandatory attendance. Failure to comply with the requirement of mandatory attendance will result in failing the course. Cases of hardship in the event of excused absence

shall be taken into account by the respective course teacher in consultation with the Head of Study Programme (Bachelor's or Master's programme).

4 Grading

The Austrian grading system (1 – Very Good; 2 – Good; 3 – Satisfactory; 4 – Sufficient; 5 – Insufficient) is to be used. If this form of assessment is not appropriate (e.g. in the case of the course 'Self-awareness' in the Bachelor's Programme of Psychology), the positive assessment shall read 'participated successfully'.

For the branches outside Austria, the grading system can be adapted to local conditions. Such provisions deviating from the Austrian grading system must be confirmed by the Faculty Conference and published in a separate annex to the examination regulations of the Faculty of Psychology.

If a course is taught by several lecturers who each carry out their own performance assessment for the parts they represent, the overall grade is determined by the head of the study programme from the individual partial grades.

If a performance assessment was demonstrably obtained by fraudulent means, the exam is to be graded as 'insufficient'.

An examination is classified as 'not taken' if the student cancels the exam early for an important reason. The decision on the existence of an important reason shall be made by the course teacher.

5 Provisions for the performance of the audit

Students must register for the examination at least three calendar days before the examination date. Examinations can be in written or oral form (individual or group examinations).

Supervision of written examinations is normally the responsibility of the course teacher.

Alternatively, other members of staff at the Faculty of Psychology may also supervise examinations.

The course of an oral examination must be recorded in writing by the examiners. The result of the examination is to be announced to the students after the examination. The examiners have to explain a negative assessment to the students.

In the case of written examinations, students are to be granted access to the corrected examination sheets on request.

6 Module examination

In the regular university study programmes and university courses conducted by the Faculty for Psychology, the faculty management may optionally schedule an overall module examination in addition to a separate performance assessment of the individual courses in a module.

The prerequisite for admission to such a module examination is the positive completion of all courses with integrated examination modality (exercises, proseminars, seminars and exercise parts of so-called integrated courses) in the module concerned. In this case, the positive assessment is made by 'participated successfully'.

The module examination itself is an oral or written examination to prove all competences to be acquired in the module concerned.

The examination is conducted by an examination senate set up for this purpose by the faculty management, which includes all course lecturers who teach courses in the module in question.

The written examination may not exceed a duration of two hours, the oral examination a duration of one hour.

7 Theses (Bachelor's thesis or Master's thesis)

In principle, members of the teaching and research staff at the Sigmund Freud University, and, as appropriate, external lecturers who have themselves provided relevant academic work, are intended to supervise theses. The students of the respective study programmes shall be notified of a list of the persons entitled to supervise bachelor's and/or master's theses.

Several students are permitted to work on a topic together. A prerequisite is that the individual achievements of the students are to be assessed separately. The final version of the thesis must therefore clearly show which parts have been worked on independently by which student.

Each thesis must include a declaration of academic honesty that confirms that the thesis has been independently written by the student and has not been submitted to any other body for a similar purpose.

It is permissible to write a thesis in English.

The final version of the thesis must be submitted to the secretariat in the form of a hardcover version and in digital version at the latest when registering for the final examination.

The thesis must be assessed within a period of four weeks. The reviewers must provide a written statement of the assessment of the thesis on the basis of a defined catalogue of criteria, which must be explained to the students in detail.

The theses are to be graded according to the Austrian grading system (1 – Very Good; 2 – Good; 3 – Satisfactory; 4 – Sufficient; 5 – Insufficient). For courses of study at places of performance outside Austria, the possibilities for adapting to country-specific regulations as set out in point 4 apply.

Admission of the candidate to the final examination is linked to a positive assessment of the thesis.

The author of a thesis is entitled to have it blocked for the use by others for a maximum period of five years. A corresponding application by the student with a detailed justification is to be submitted to the head of the study programme.

All resources that are available to students in the course of their studies at the university can be used for writing a thesis. There is no entitlement to separate resources.

7.1 Bachelor thesis

The Bachelor's thesis is a qualification thesis and serves to prove that students are able to investigate a problem from the field of psychology using scientific methods and to present the results in an appropriate manner. For writing-up the Bachelor's thesis in Psychology, students have at least the final semester of the curriculum at their disposal. The development of a research question and an exposé already takes place in the 5th semester in the seminar 'Bachelor thesis I – preparation'. The positive completion of this course is a prerequisite for the student being admitted to the course 'Bachelor's thesis II – Thesis' in the 6th semester. The control of the progress of the work is carried out in the context of the course 'Bachelor Thesis II – Thesis'. The assessment and grading of Bachelor's theses shall be the sole responsibility of the persons who are listed by name in the list of assessors of the Faculty of Psychology.

7.2 Master thesis

In the regular university study programme Master Psychology, the Master's thesis is a qualification thesis and serves to prove that students are able to independently investigate a

relevant question from a research area of psychology using scientific methods, to present the results appropriately and to classify them in the current state of research.

At least the final semester of the curriculum is available to students for writing their Master's thesis. The development of a research question and an exposé already takes place in the 3rd semester in the seminar 'Preparing the Master's Thesis'. The positive completion of this course is a prerequisite for the student's admission to the course "Research Workshop" in the 4th semester.

The Master's thesis in 'university courses with academic degree'

- Counselling Sciences and Management of Social Systems
- Management Sciences
- Cultural Relations and Migration (Sigmund Freud University Berlin Branch)

shows that the student is able to independently work on a career-relevant question using recognised scientific methods.

Students can write their Master's thesis in the third and fourth semester. Research questions and corresponding research designs are developed in the third semester in the course 'Master Thesis Topic Finding'. The supervision of the implementation takes place in small groups in the Master's seminar. The assessment of the Master's theses is carried out by the thesis' supervisor, the assessment and the grading require confirmation by the head of the study programme.

8 Final examination

The final examination shall determine whether the students have acquired the competences that are specified in the modules of the accreditation application. It is therefore an overall examination of the contents of the study programme.

The final examination is carried out by a commission, i.e. before an examination senate.

Admission to the final examination by the board of examiners requires the positive completion of all courses of the curriculum and the approbation of the final thesis. The final examination is open to the public.

To prepare for the exams, students select their exam literature or exam topics from a list published for the respective study programme on the homepage of the Faculty for Psychology.

Parts of the examination or the entire examination can also be held in English if the students .
Parts of the examination or the entire examination can also be held in English at the request of the students.

8.1 Bachelor's examination

The Bachelor's exam in Psychology consists of a board examination before an examination senate of at least two examiners and a chairperson. The members of the examination senate are appointed by the faculty management in agreement with the head of the study programme. The examination senate is chaired by a member of the academic staff of the Faculty of Psychology who holds a doctorate. The chairperson is responsible for the proper recording of the examination procedure.

Two different examinations subjects are examined, which are represented in the curriculum with a corresponding scope.

The assessment of performance (Austrian grading system from 1 to 5; for study programmes at SFU's Faculty branches outside Austria, the possibilities for adaptation to country-specific regulations as set out under point 4 apply) in the two examination subjects is determined jointly by the three members of the examination senate after consultation and an overall grade is then jointly determined. Following the discussions of the examination senate, the candidate must be informed of the examination result and the reasons for it must be given.

8.2 Master's examination

Regular Master's Programme Psychology

The Master's exam consists of a board examination before an examination senate of at least two examiners and a chairperson. The members of the examination senate are appointed by the head of the study programme in agreement with the faculty management.

At least one member of the examination senate must be a member of the habilitated academic staff of the faculty. In any case, the examination senate is chaired by a member of the Faculty of Psychology who holds a doctorate. The chairperson is responsible for the proper recording of the examination procedure.

Two different examination subjects are examined, which are represented in the curriculum with a corresponding scope.

The assessment of performance (Austrian grading system from 1 to 5; for study programmes at SFU's Faculty branches outside Austria, the possibilities for adaptation to country-specific regulations as set out under point 4 apply) in the two examination subjects is determined jointly by the three members of the examination senate after consultation and an overall grade is then jointly determined. Following the discussions of the examination senate, the candidate must be informed of the examination result and the reasons for it must be given.

University course in Counselling Sciences and Management of Social Systems and University course in Management Sciences

The Master's examination consists of an exam before an examination senate consisting of two examiners. A member of the scientific staff of the Faculty of Psychology with a doctorate serves as the first examiner, the second examiner is the respective supervisor of the Master's thesis. The first examiner is responsible for the proper recording of the examination procedure.

The examination itself is to be carried out in the form of a defensio: The candidate has to present a critical presentation of his or her work to the examination panel and then defend its value against objections in the discussion. The assessment of the performance (Austrian grading system: very good (1), good (2), satisfactory (3), sufficient (4), insufficient (5)) is determined in an overall grade after joint discussion. Following the discussion of the examination senate, the candidate must be informed of the examination result and the reasons for it must be given.

9 Transition from the Bachelor's programme to the Master's programme

The completion of a Bachelor's Programme is, without exception, a prerequisite for admission to the Master's Programme Psychology. If students of the Bachelor's programme of Psychology at Sigmund Freud University do not pass the commission examination by the autumn deadline, they may be admitted as extraordinary students to the Master's Programme Psychology.

10.1 Grade point average

The final assessment of the regular Bachelor's and Master's degree programme is carried out by calculating the overall grade point average from the weighted average of all performance assessments according to the Austrian grading system (1 – very good, 2 – good, 3 – satisfactory, 4 – sufficient, 5 – insufficient). The result must be rounded to two decimal places, with the value 5 being rounded up to the thousandth place. The weighting of individual performance assessments depends on the number of ECTS points received in each case. Positive assessments for which the Austrian grading system is not appropriate or whose positive assessment is "pass" are not taken into account in the grade point average calculation.

10.2 Overall grade for recognition in the Italian Republic

In general, the overall grade is calculated in the same way as the overall grade point average (see point 10.1). An exception is the calculation of the overall grade for Austrian qualifications that are intended for recognition in the Italian Republic. In this case, the arithmetic mean is calculated by adding the grades of all assessed examination subjects and dividing them by the number of examination subjects.

In the case of the Bachelor's degree programme, the sum of the grades of all assessed examination subjects, including the Bachelor's thesis grade, is divided by the number of examination subjects.

In the case of a Master's degree programme, the sum of the grades of all assessed examination subjects, including the Master's thesis grade, is divided by the sum of examination subjects plus 1.

Here, too, only performance assessments according to the Austrian grading system are taken into account. The result must be rounded to two decimal places, with the value 5 being rounded up to one thousandth of a place.

10.3 Final predicate

In addition to the positive completion of all courses, examinations and final theses, two criteria must be met in order to be awarded the degree "passed with distinction": The overall grade or the overall grade point average must be less than or equal to 1.4 and the work completed must have been assessed exclusively with the grades 1 – very good –

and 2 – good – grades. If these two criteria are not met, the final grade is "passed" based on the positive completion of all courses, examinations and final theses.

11 Plagiarism regulation

Each written work will be examined with regard to its authorship. Proof of plagiarism has the immediate consequence that the performance is assessed as 'insufficient'. In the case of objectionable term papers, the course must be repeated and a new paper on a new topic must be written. In the first instance, the competent decision-making body is the Faculty management, in the case of repetition it is the Study Commission. In the case of objectionable academic thesis papers whose completion is directly linked to the award of an academic degree, a new paper on a new topic must be written.

An internal file is created on each case of plagiarism. The repeated case can lead to the de-registration of the student concerned. In any case, the students concerned must be heard for a statement.

12 Admission examinations

Regular study programme in psychology

Contents of the admission examination:

The admission examination is acquired for a study programme and consists of the following five individual examinations:

- a) a written paper on a general topic (essay in German),
- b) three compulsory subjects,
- c) an elective course.

The examinations for a) and b) must be taken externally (e.g. VHS, BFI, WIFI etc.), the elective course must be attended as part of the study programmes of Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology.

ad a) With the written work on a general topic (essay), candidates have to prove that they are able to express themselves in writing on a given topic in impeccable and fluent language and with a clear train of thought.

ad b) The examination requirements in the compulsory subjects for the field of the study of psychology are based on the curriculum of the 12th and 13th school years. The compulsory

subjects are to be taken in the specified form depending on the subject of the examination and cover the following areas in terms of content:

- Mathematics 1: oral and written examination: sets of numbers; equations and inequation; linear systems of equations and inequation systemsle; vectors; matrices; determinants; elementary functions; basic concepts of differential and integral calculus; introduction to probability theory and statistics.
- English 2 as a foreign language: oral and written examination: confidence in oral and written expression with correct use of basic grammar; ability to understand the language at normal speaking rate and to participate in conversation about generally known contents in a way that is understandable to the conversationalist; ability to translate simple texts into German; ability to read and summarise short texts fluently; ability to comment in essay form on general topics mainly in a narrative and descriptive way.
- Biology: oral examination: development of living beings throughout the history of the earth; phylogeny of man; biology of cells and basic physiological processes; structure and function of the human body; basic principles of nutrition and health; reproduction and heredity of man; human and animal behaviour.

Final exams that have already been passed successfully can be recognised.

ad c) The elective subject is to be taken by means of an examination to the extent of 2 or 3 ECTS credits and is to be chosen from the Bachelor's study programme in Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology. The following can be chosen:

- VO 'General Psychology I' (3 ECTS)
- VO 'General Psychology II' (3 ECTS)
- VO 'History of Psychology I' (2 ECTS)

University course in Counselling Sciences and Management of Social Systems

Contents of the entrance examination:

The following subjects or examinations must be passed in the course of the admissions examination:

- a) a written paper on a general topic (essay in German),
- b) three compulsory subjects,

c) an elective course.

The examinations for a) and b) must be taken externally (e.g. VHS, BFI, WIFI etc.), the elective must be attended as part of the university course.

ad a) With the written work on a general topic (essay), candidates have to prove that they are able to express themselves in writing on a given topic in impeccable and fluent language and with a clear train of thought.

ad b) The examination requirements in the compulsory subjects for the field of the study of psychology are based on the curriculum of the 12th and 13th school years. The compulsory subjects are to be taken in the specified form depending on the subject of the examination and cover the following areas in terms of content:

- Mathematics 1: oral and written examination: sets of numbers; equations and inequation; linear systems of equations and inequation systems; vectors; matrices; determinants; elementary functions; basic concepts of differential and integral calculus; introduction to probability theory and statistics.
- English 2 as a foreign language: oral and written examination: confidence in oral and written expression with correct use of basic grammar; ability to understand the language at normal speaking rate and to participate in conversation about generally known contents in a way that is understandable to the conversationalist; ability to translate simple texts into German; ability to read and summarise short texts fluently; ability to comment in essay form on general topics mainly in a narrative and descriptive way.
- Biology & Environmental Studies: Oral examination: Development of living beings throughout the history of the earth; phylogeny of man; biology of the cell and basic physiological processes; structure and function of the human body; basic principles of nutrition and health; reproduction and heredity of man; human and animal behaviour.

Final exams that have already been passed successfully can be recognised.

ad c) The elective subject is taught within the university course in Counselling Sciences and Management of Social Systems by means of the following courses:

- LV 'Social and Cultural Theory' (2 ECTS)
- LV 'Cultures of Knowledge' (2 ECTS)

By the time the Master's thesis is submitted, all subjects must have been successfully completed.

Second part: Examination regulations for the PhD Programme Psychology

1 Connection with the regulations for the basic study programme of psychology:

The second part of the examination regulations regulates the PhD training at the Faculty of Psychology. All regulations (Part I of the examination regulations) which apply to the basic study programmes in Psychology (Bachelor's and Master's programmes) are also valid for the PhD Programme Psychology.

2 Structure of the study programme

- (a) The programme covers a period of three years (6 semesters).
- (b) The programme must be completed within six years (12 semesters).
- (c) Interruptions of studies are possible in accordance with the specifications in § 7 of the examination regulations of the Faculty of Psychology.
- (d) The programme is divided into two study phases.

In study phase 1 (1st and 2nd semester)

- the courses specified in the curriculum must be completed;
- a review article on the current state of the art research in relation to the student's research project must be written;
- a project proposal for the student's research project must be written in accordance with the international practices of research funding;
- the research project must be presented in a faculty-public presentation.

In study phase 2 (3rd to 6th semester)

- the courses provided for in the curriculum must be completed;
- the additional performances provided for in the respective PhD agreements (participation in workshops, presentations at conferences, professional organisation of scientific conferences, etc.) must be rendered;
- a detailed written report on the progress of the research project must be written at the end of each semester;
- the PhD thesis must be written;

- a public faculty presentation must be completed in which the PhD thesis is defended before an examination senate (thesis defense).

(e) Transition to study phase 2

(α) Registration for the public presentation of the research project must be made in writing via the Dean's Office for Psychology. A prerequisite for registration is proof that all of the courses planned in the curriculum for Phase 1 and any conditions imposed in the admission procedure (pursuant to the Admission Regulations of the Faculty for Psychology § 20, section 2) have been duly completed.

In justified exceptional cases, the head of the degree programme may allow admission to the public presentation of the research project, even if proof of successful completion of individual courses from the curriculum or from any imposed requirements is still pending. In these cases, the candidates are set a deadline limited to a maximum of two semesters, within which the missing credits from study phase 1 must be completed. During this transitional phase, students can complete courses and examinations from phase 2, but the corresponding examination results will only be entered into the student administration system and thus made valid as soon as all missing examination results from phase 1 have been completed.

If it is not possible to comply with the time limits set by the head of the study programme, an interruption of studies must be applied for in accordance with § 7 of Part I of the Examination Regulations.

(β) The faculty-public presentation and defense of the project proposal elaborated in study phase 1 on the student's research project takes place in front of a jury, which decides on the admission to continue the research project in study phase 2. A positive jury decision means official approval to continue the PhD thesis and thus to transfer to study phase 2.

(γ) The jury consists of the teaching staff of the PhD Psychology programme and external advisors of the PhD Psychology programme. The respective supervisors of the PhD theses can be members of the jury.

(δ) Following the project presentations, the jury makes its decision in a closed session with a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the head of the study programme shall decide.

(ε) The jury may reject a research project with a binding condition for improvement. In this case, students can resubmit their project after an appropriate revision. The head of the study programme decides on the appropriateness of the improvements.

(ζ) External advisory boards of the PhD programme Psychology are appointed by the head of the study programme for a period of three years. Reappointment is possible.

(η) If the research project in study phase 1 takes place within the framework of a third-party funded project that has already been externally evaluated according to international standards, the admission to transfer to study phase 2 and thus the approval to prepare the PhD thesis can also be granted by the head of the study programme even before the public presentation of the project to the faculty.

However, the faculty-public presentation must be completed in any case. In all other respects, the provisions stated under (α) apply.

3 Supervision of the PhD thesis

(a) The members of the teaching staff of the PhD Psychology programme are available to supervise the PhD thesis.

(b) In justified cases, the head of the study programme may also appoint an external supervisor with relevant professional qualifications.

(c) Supervisors are assigned by the head of the study programme at the beginning of study phase 1 in consultation with the students according to the research topic presented in the proposal.

(d) After the research project has been approved, the students conclude an agreement with the supervisor on the supervision of the PhD thesis.

(e) The PhD thesis agreement includes

- the name of the student
- the name of the supervisor
- the topic of the PhD thesis
- the format of the PhD thesis (monograph; cumulative of published articles)
- the language in which the PhD thesis will be written
- the schedule for the implementation of the research project
- the frequency of periodic reports on the progress of the study project
- the specification of the student's own scientific achievements in the context of the research project (publications, participation in congresses, internships, holding of a course, etc.)

The dissolution or significant changes of the PhD thesis agreement require the approval of the head of the study programme.

4 PhD thesis

(a) The PhD thesis serves to demonstrate that students are able to identify research desiderata in their field of research that have not yet been dealt with, to deal with them independently on the basis of an innovative problem using advanced and specialised methods, and thus to make a contribution to scientific progress in this field of research.

(b) A monograph or a cumulative (publication-based) thesis can be submitted as a PhD thesis.

(c) The publication of partial results of the PhD project in scientific media and their presentation at scientific conferences before the submission of the PhD thesis is desired. Any own publications can be included in the PhD thesis.

(d) The scope of the PhD thesis is set out in the PhD thesis agreement.

(e) Joint PhD work is possible and must be regulated in the PhD thesis agreement. The individual achievements of the participating students are to be reported and assessed separately.

(f) In the case of a publication-based PhD thesis, the individual publications must be related to each other and linked by an overarching research question. This must be presented accordingly in an introduction to the research problem and in a summary of the results achieved. From a formal point of view, a cumulative PhD thesis must at least correspond to a monograph: with a table of contents, consecutive page numbering, with a uniform citation method independent of the respective print formats, an overall bibliography, etc. The cumulative PhD thesis must also be presented in the same way as a monograph. The individual publications should therefore be treated as separate chapters in a monograph. Material that has not yet been published can be presented in separate chapters. The following criteria also apply to a publication-based PhD thesis:

(α) A publication-based PhD thesis must consist of at least four publications, at least two of which must have either already appeared in scientific journals with peer-review system or have been accepted for publication.

(β) Only papers in which the student is the first author can be accepted.

(γ) Details of the empirical methods that are not specified in the publications must be presented accordingly in the descriptive part of the PhD thesis (introduction and summary).
be presented accordingly.

(δ) The assessment of a publication-based PhD thesis must be carried out for the entire thesis; the acceptance of individual publications in peer-reviewed journals does not prejudice the decision of the reviewer.

(ζ) Joint publications by students and supervisors are possible.

4 Approbation

(a) After the supervisor has released the PhD thesis for assessment in a letter to the head of the study programme, the thesis must be submitted to the Dean's office of the Faculty for Psychology (StudyServiceCentre) in a printed and hardcover copy as well as in digital form. The head of the study programme selects two reviewers, whereby proposals by students or supervisors may be considered. One reviewer may be a member of the academic staff of the Faculty for Psychology; at least one reviewer must be external, i.e. not a member of the Faculty for Psychology.

(b) Each reviewer writes a written report independently of the others and assesses the work according to the grading scale applicable to the Austrian education system: very good (1), good (2), satisfactory (3), sufficient (4), insufficient (5).

(c) The evaluation must be carried out within a period of ten weeks. If the deadline is exceeded, the head of the study programme must appoint a new reviewer and ensure that the review is carried out as quickly as possible (but within six weeks at the latest).

(d) The final grade for the PhD thesis is calculated from the average of the grades from the individual grades, rounding down if the value after the decimal point is 5.

(e) The existence of two negative expert reviews leads to the dissolution of the supervisor relationship and to the termination of the PhD training.

(f) If there is a positive and a negative (i.e. the thesis is assessed as 'insufficient') expert review, the head of the degree programme appoints a (in any case: external) third expert whose opinion finally decides on the approval of the thesis..

(g) If the third-party reviewer's assessment is positive, the final grade for the PhD thesis is calculated as the average of the individual grades from the two positive assessments.

(h) If the assessment of the third-party reviewer is negative, the regulations mentioned under (e) shall be applied.

(i) The reports on the PhD thesis may only be made accessible to the student after the completion of the doctoral procedure. The members of the programme management may inspect the reviews at any time during the ongoing procedure.

(j) The revision and resubmission of a positively assessed PhD thesis is not permitted.

5 Defensio

(a) After successful approbation, the candidate is invited by the head of the study programme to a public defence of the PhD thesis. The prerequisite for attending the defence is the proof that all courses of the PhD programme provided for in the curriculum and any conditions imposed in the admission procedure (according to the Admission Regulations of the Faculty of Psychology § 20, Para. 2) have been properly completed.

(b) The head of the study programme appoints an examination senate consisting of a chairperson and at least two examiners, whereby the supervisor and at least one of the examiners are to be appointed as members. The chairperson is a member of the PhD Commission.

(c) The defence is assessed by the examination senate according to the grading scale applicable to the Austrian education system: very good (1), good (2), satisfactory (3), sufficient (4), insufficient (5). The examination senate must agree on a mark. If no agreement can be reached among the members of the examination senate, the average is calculated from the individual assessments of the two examiners and the chairperson, rounded down if the result is less than or equal to 5.

(d) If the defence is assessed as 'insufficient', it must be repeated within a period of eight weeks.

(e) The grade in the doctoral diploma is graded according to "passed" and "passed with distinction". It is calculated from the rounded average of the grade for the PhD thesis (double weight) and the grade for the defence (single weight). If the value calculated in this way is less than or equal to 1.5, the grade "passed with distinction" shall be awarded.

6 Duty to publish

(a) In accordance with the provisions of § 86 of the University Act, the graduate must publish a complete copy of the positively assessed PhD thesis by handing it over to the library of the university after completion of the doctoral procedure. This transfer can also take place digitally.

(b) The positively assessed PhD thesis must also be published by handing it over to the Austrian National Library. This transfer can also take place digitally.

Institutions

Head of the study programme:

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gerhard Benetka (Faculty Management)

Ass.-Prof. Dr. Nora Ruck

Academic staff members of the PhD Programme Psychology

The PhD college consists of academic staff members who are admitted to supervision and review on the basis of their academic qualifications (habilitation or equivalent qualification):

Univ.-Prof. DDr. Alfred Barth

Univ.-Prof. Dr. David Becker

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gerhard Benetka

Dr. Gabriele Caselli

Prof. Dr. Eva Dreher

Prof. Dr. Christiane Eichenberg

Prof. Dr. Rainer Gries

Prof. Dr. Giselher Guttmann

Ass.-Prof. Dr. Guiseppina Marsico

Prof. Dr. Birgit Stetina

Prof. Dr. Jaan Valsiner

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Peter Walla

Prof. Dr. Meike Watzlawik

Advisory boards of the PhD Programme Psychology

are external scholars who are appointed by the head of the study programme for a period of three years to the jury for the decision on the transfer to study phase 2.

Experienced university teachers who have extensive experience, especially in the field of psychology, in the supervision of doctoral and PhD students on the one hand and in the planning, implementation and evaluation of research projects financed by third-party funds on the other hand can be considered as PhD advisors.

Jury

is composed of the Academic staff members of the PhD Programme Psychology (i.e. all members of the scientific permanent staff of the Faculty of Psychology involved in the supervision of PhD theses) and the advisory boards of the PhD programme in Psychology and decides whether the research projects presented in a public faculty presentation at the end of study phase 1 are worthy of continuation.

The decision-making modalities are regulated in Part Two of the Examination Regulations for the PhD Psychology programme under 2 (e).