

**Attention: provisional**

**The text below is solely a translation of the German document. It is not legally binding.**

The revision of the Rules and Regulations of the Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme in the version published on 4 September 2006 (Bulletin 15/2006, p. 1222) was approved by the Chairmanship of Göttingen University on 17 June 2009 (§ 44, section 1, clause 2, § 9, section 3, clause 1, § 41, section 2, clause 2, and § 44, section 1, clause 3 NHG in the version published on 26 February 2007 (Nds. GVBI. p. 69), most recently changed by law on 25 March 2009 (Nds. GVBI. p. 72)), following the decision taken by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 4 February 2009, and following representation by the Senate of Göttingen University on 4 March and 27 May 2009.

## Rules and Regulations of the Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Göttingen University

### Part I

#### General Provisions

##### § 1 Sphere of Application

These rules and regulations regulate the doctoral programme in the context of the Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Göttingen University. The doctoral programme consists of the doctoral studies and the doctoral examination.

##### § 2 Admission Requirements

The requirements for admission to the Doctoral Studies Programme are defined in the Admission Rules and Regulations of the Doctoral Studies Programme of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Göttingen University.

##### § 3 Objective of the Doctoral Programme

The objective of the Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences is to qualify the participants to take on responsible tasks in research and teaching and in occupational fields outside of the university sector. The means to achieve this goal is a research-oriented, fixed-curriculum post-graduate programme which enables students to master and apply the recent theories and methods of the social sciences, to critically reflect upon them, and to produce scientific, specialist knowledge. Furthermore, key qualifications are acquired.

##### § 4 Participation

- (1) All doctoral students are obligated to complete the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Social Sciences and to matriculate in order to do so. Orderly participation in one of the research training groups of the Faculty of Social Sciences or in a post-graduate

programme equivalent to the doctoral studies in the Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme at Göttingen University is considered as the completion in due form of a programme.

- (2) The Graduate Committee may decide to make exceptions from section 1 above in certain cases. It may delegate the responsibility for taking this decision to the respective Thesis Committee.

## Part II

### Nature and Scope of the Doctoral Studies

#### § 5 Scope of the Doctoral Studies

Doctoral studies in the Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme usually extend over a period of 6 semesters. A total of 20 credits can be earned in accordance with the module overview (appendix 1).

#### § 6 Proof of Academic Achievement

- (1) In order to participate in the programme, matriculation is necessary. Successful completion of the programme is substantiated by the rating “passed”; marking does not take place. A respective certificate is issued after the necessary achievements have been made and evaluated; an entry into the electronic examination management system can be made instead of the issue of a certificate. In other respects, the regulations defined in § 26 of the Examination Rules and Regulations of the Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme apply.
- (2) There are different ways of completing academic achievements: presentation, co-presentation, chairing a discussion, and report.
- (3) An achievement is deemed not completed (“not passed”) if the examinee does not appear or if he or she aborts a presentation or the like (see section 2 above) without citing a relevant reason for doing so.
- (4) If an examinee tries to influence the result by cheating or utilising prohibited auxiliary means, the respective achievement is deemed not completed (“not passed”). A person who is guilty of violating the orderly procedure of an academic achievement may be excluded from its continuation. In this case, the achievement is deemed not completed (“not passed”).
- (5) If a student fails to complete the achievement in the first attempt, he or she may try to do so two more times. The retry must be scheduled not earlier than in the semester following the semester in which the failure took place.
- (6) The Thesis Committee may call upon the Graduate Committee to decide whether academic achievements completed outside of the framework of the doctoral studies programme are acknowledged.

#### § 7 Supervision

The Thesis Committee sets up an individual programme timetable together with the doctoral student; this timetable serves as a guideline as to when the respective academic achievements should be completed. The Thesis Committee gets together with the doctoral student at least once a year. On this occasion, he or she presents the current state of his or her doctoral thesis. The Thesis Committee and the student will discuss questions and problems that have arisen in

the course of research. The committee will also give advice and aid in further developing the individual programme timetable.

## Part III

### Final Provisions

#### § 9 Coming into Effect, Interim Regulations

- (1) These rules and regulations will come into effect on the day after their publication in the bulletin of Göttingen University.
- (2) Within one year after these rules and regulations have come into effect, doctoral candidates who have already been admitted to the doctoral programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences may choose to conduct the programme in accordance with these rules and regulations.

### Appendix 1 Module Overview

In order to complete the doctoral programme, academic achievements amounting to at least 20 credits must be completed, in accordance with the following regulations; whenever modules of the B.A. or M.A. programmes are referred to, examination achievements stipulated in these programmes should be completed as unmarked achievements in accordance with § 7 of the present rules and regulations.

#### a. Compulsory Modules

The following four compulsory modules with a total of 12 credits must be completed successfully:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| P.SOWI.1 | Methods of research (4 C / 4 WLH [weekly lecture hours]) |
| P.SOWI.2 | Seminar for doctoral candidates (3 C / 3 WLH)            |
| P.SOWI.3 | Interim conclusions workshop (3 C / 2 WLH)               |
| P.SOWI.4 | Science communications (2 C / 1 WLH)                     |

#### b. Optional Required Modules in the Key Competences Area

Out of the following optional required modules, at least two modules with a total of 8 credits must be completed successfully:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| P.SOWI.5    | Presentation techniques (2 C / 1WLH)                             |
| P.SOWI.6    | Science management (2 C / 1 WLH)                                 |
| P.SOWI.7    | Scientific teaching (4 C / 3 WLH)                                |
| P.SOWI.8    | Language skills for field research (2 C / 2 WLH)                 |
| M.MZS.1     | Design and planning of empirical research projects (4 C / 2 WLH) |
| SQ.SOWI.19  | Work in student or academic self-government (2 C)                |
| SQ.SOWI.100 | Membership in student or academic self-government (2 C)          |

## Appendix 2 Module Guide

### **Göttingen University Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme P.SOWI.1 “Methods of Research”**

#### **Scope**

4 credits / 4 WLH

Workload: 120 hrs

Attendance: 42 hrs

Self-study: 78 hrs

#### **Objectives and Competences**

The doctoral students

1. deal with specific methods of research
2. deepen and refine their methodological knowledge needed for writing the Doctoral Thesis
3. learn how to acquire and apply knowledge and skills autonomously
4. present their results systematically
5. separate different objects of research from each other and deduct empirically verifiable research questions on the basis of the state of research
6. develop adequate research designs to answer research questions on the basis of their methodological knowledge

#### **WLH individually**

2 WLH

2 WLH

#### **Lectures and Examinations**

1. Workshop: Methodology Summer of the GGG
2. Methodology workshop
3. Methodology lecture
4. External course in methodology

The individual study plan should be set up in a way that students take part in two of these courses.

Proof of academic achievement: presentation (30 minutes approx.) and report (2 pages max.)

#### **Compulsory/optional**

Compulsory module

#### **Admission requirements**

None

#### **Possible retries**

Two

#### **Applicable for**

Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme

#### **Frequency**

Every semester

#### **Duration**

Can be completed within two semesters.

#### **Language**

German or English

#### **Max. number of students**

35

#### **Person in charge**

Prof. Steffen Kühnel

**Göttingen University**  
**Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme**  
**P.SOWI.2 “Seminar for Doctoral Candidates”**

**Scope**

3 credits / 3 WLH

Workload: 180 hrs

Attendance: 31.5 hrs

Self-study: 78 hrs

**Objectives and Competences**

The doctoral students

1. deal with their research project
2. present the design of their empirical study and research in an appropriate way
3. report on the state of their work and
4. present their results systematically
5. acquire proficiency in specialised areas of knowledge and in current fields of research
6. are able to establish connections between the topics presented and their own research work in an autonomous way

**WLH individually**

1 WLH

1 WLH

1 WLH

**Lectures and Examinations**

1. Seminar for doctoral candidates/research colloquium
2. Seminar for doctoral candidates/research colloquium
3. Seminar for doctoral candidates/research colloquium

The individual study plan should be set up in a way that students take part in all three of these courses.

Proof of academic achievement: presentation in one of these courses (20 minutes approx.)

**Compulsory/optional**

Compulsory module

**Admission requirements**

None

**Possible retries**

Two

**Applicable for**

Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme

**Frequency**

Every semester

**Duration**

Can be completed within three semesters.

**Language**

German or English

**Max. number of students**

35

**Person in charge**

Prof. Matthias Koenig

**Göttingen University**  
**Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme**  
**P.SOWI.2 “Interim Conclusions Workshop”**

**Scope**

3 credits / 2 WLH  
Workload: 180 hrs  
Attendance: 21 hrs  
Self-study: 159 hrs

**Objectives and Competences**

The doctoral students

1. deal with their research project
2. report on the state of their work
3. present their results systematically
4. can critically review their own research project in the interdisciplinary course
5. develop their future research perspective

**Lectures and Examinations**

Block course: “Interim Conclusions”

Proof of academic achievement: presentation (30 minutes approx.) and discussion

**Compulsory/optional**

Compulsory module

**Admission requirements**

None

**Possible retries**

Two

**Applicable for**

Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme

**Frequency**

Every winter semester

**Duration**

Can be completed within one semester.

**Language**

German or English

**Max. number of students**

35

**Person in charge**

Prof. Ilona Ostner

**Göttingen University**  
**Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme**  
**P.SOWI.4 “Science Communications”**

**Scope**

2 credits / 1 WLH  
Workload: 60 hrs  
Attendance: 10 hrs  
Self-study: 50 hrs

**Objectives and Competences**

The doctoral students

1. improve their ability to advance their view in the course of a controversial discussion and
2. to deal with criticism in a constructive way
3. summarise their research results systematically
4. are able to represent their own research project in interdisciplinary discourse

### **Lectures and Examinations**

1. Language course in accordance with the individual study plan, or
2. Rhetoric course, or
3. Participation in a panel discussion on a scientific topic, or
4. Oral scientific presentation at a national or international conference

Proof of academic achievement: report (5 pages max.)

### **Compulsory/optional**

Compulsory module

### **Admission requirements**

None

### **Possible retries**

Two

### **Applicable for**

Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme

### **Frequency**

Every semester

### **Duration**

Can be completed within three semesters.

### **Language**

German or English

### **Max. number of students**

35

### **Person in charge**

Prof. Steffen Kühnel

## **Göttingen University**

### **Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme**

#### **P.SOWI.5 “Advance Presentation Techniques”**

### **Scope**

2 credits / 1 WLH

Workload: 60 hrs

Attendance: 10 hrs

Self-study: 50 hrs

### **Objectives and Competences**

The doctoral students

1. summarise their research findings systematically
2. present their results to a specialist audience
3. are able to critically review their own research project in interdisciplinary discourse

### **Lectures and Examinations**

Scientific contribution at a national or international conference

Proof of academic achievement: presentation (30 minutes approx.) and report (5 pages max.)

### **Compulsory/optional**

Compulsory module

### **Admission requirements**

None

**Possible retries**

Two

**Applicable for**

Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme

**Frequency**

Every semester

**Duration**

Can be completed within one semester.

**Language**

German or English

**Max. number of students**

35

**Person in charge**

Prof. Steffen Kühnel

**Göttingen University****Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme****P.SOWI.6 “Science Management”****Scope**

2 credits / 1 WLH

Workload: 60 hrs

Attendance: 10 hrs

Self-study: 50 hrs

**Objectives and Competences**

The doctoral students

1. acquire the ability to plan and organise a scientific conference
2. acquire vital competences in project planning and realisation
3. acquire the ability to chair a discussion
4. acquire practical skills and learn how to cope with stress and how to apply moderating methods

**Lectures and Examinations**

Block course: scientific conference

Proof of academic achievement: report (5 pages max.), chairing a discussion or minutes

**Compulsory/optional**

Compulsory module

**Admission requirements**

None

**Possible retries**

Two

**Applicable for**

Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme

**Frequency**

Every semester

**Duration**

Can be completed within one semester.

**Language**

German or English

**Max. number of students**

35

**Person in charge**

Prof. Ilona Ostner

Göttingen University



## **Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme**

### **P.SOWI.7 “Scientific Teaching”**

#### **Scope**

4 credits / 3 WLH

Workload: 120 hrs

Attendance: 32 hrs

Self-study: 88 hrs

#### **Objectives and Competences**

The doctoral students

1. learn how to plan and organise a teaching session
2. learn how to support a course didactically
3. acquire the basic competences needed to conduct a course
4. acquire basic knowledge in measuring learning success and performance
5. acquire the ability to critically reflect upon their own course

#### **WLH individually**

1 WLH

2WLH

#### **Lectures and Examinations**

1. Workshop in university didactics
2. Holding a course

Proof of academic achievement: report (5 pages max.)

#### **Compulsory/optional**

Compulsory module

#### **Admission requirements**

None

#### **Possible retries**

Two

#### **Applicable for**

Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme

#### **Frequency**

Every semester

#### **Duration**

Can be completed within one semester.

#### **Language**

German or English

#### **Max. number of students**

35

#### **Person in charge**

Prof. Steffen Kühnel

## **Göttingen University**

### **Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme**

### **P.SOWI.8 “Language Skills for Field Research”**

#### **Scope**

2 credits / 2 WLH

Workload: 60 hrs

Attendance: 21 hrs

Self-study: 39 hrs

### Objectives and Competences

The doctoral students acquire advanced language proficiency which will be useful in their research work.

They write texts to demonstrate their grasp of the vocabulary and basic grammar and their reading skills, as well as their knowledge of the culture, society etc.

This language course can be taken at another university or specialised institution.

### Lectures and Examinations

Language course

Proof of academic achievement: report (5 pages max.)

#### Compulsory/optional

Compulsory module

#### Admission requirements

None

#### Possible retries

Two

#### Applicable for

Social Sciences Doctoral Studies Programme

#### Frequency

Every semester

#### Duration

Can be completed within one semester.

#### Language

German or English

#### Max. number of students

35

#### Person in charge

Prof. Lauser

## Appendix 3 Exemplary Programme Timetable

Semester	Core Curriculum		Key Competences
$\Sigma$ C*	Module	Module	Module
1. $\Sigma$ 3 C	P.SOWI.2a Seminar for doctoral Candidates (compulsory) 1 C	P.SOWI.1 Methods of research (compulsory) 4 C	P.SOWI.6 Science management (compulsory) 2 C
2. $\Sigma$ 4 C			
3. $\Sigma$ 4 C	P.SOWI.2b Seminar for doctoral Candidates (compulsory)	P.SOWI.3 Interim conclusions (compulsory) 3 C	

4. $\Sigma$ 4 C	1 C	P.SOWI.4 Science communications (compulsory) 2 C	P.SOWI.7 Scientific teaching (optional required) 4 C
5. $\Sigma$ 3 C	P.SOWI.2c Seminar for doctoral Candidates (compulsory) 1 C		
6. $\Sigma$ 2 C			P.SOWI.5 Advanced presentation techniques (optional required) 2 C
$\Sigma$ 20 C		12 (+8)	