

Recent developments of doctoral studies and programmes in Austria



Warsaw, Bologna Seminar, 17 June 2010

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1. Universities Austria

- Founded in 1911
- National umbrella organisation of the 21 public universities
- **Mission:** official representative organisation, voice of the public universities, responsible for transferring the demands of universities to society, the private sector, the government and other interested parties
- **Structure:**
 - rector: acts as the university's delegate in the plenary; each university has one vote
 - plenary: supreme governing body of the association, all rectors are participating
 - policy committees (fora) and working groups: focus on specific issues such as teaching, research, international, financial or legal affairs ...; policy committees were established to ease the communication and coordination between the member institutions
 - permanent secretariat: secretary general, five policy advisors (research, international affairs, teaching, legal and personnel issues, budget, press and public relations), two secretaries

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1. Universities Austria



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2. Dates and figures of the Austrian Higher Education Institutions

Four types of Higher Education Institutions:

- 21 public universities (first university was founded in the fourteenth century)
- One university of continuing education (since 1995)
- 20 sustainers, not all being polytechnics (since 1994)
- 13 private universities (since 2000)
- 14 teacher training college and three private providing bodies (since 2005 HEI)

Number of students:

Public universities:	2009/10 – 273.678 / 2002/03 – 199.450
Polytechnics:	2009/10 – 36.085 / 2002/03 – 17.409
Private universities:	2009/10 – 5.829 / 2005/06 – 3.608
Teacher training colleges & Other pedagogical HEI:	... / 2002/03 – 13.640

Doctoral studies and programmes may only be offered by public & private universities!

3. Changes due to the Bologna Process in Austria

- Introduction of the three tier system (Bachelor / Master / Doctorate)
- Introduction of learning outcomes and student centered learning
- ECTS and Diploma Supplement
- Quality Assurance (internal / external)
- Stronger focus on employability
- Stronger focus on lifelong learning

Many of the action points of the Bologna Process and the three tier system were integrated in the respective laws of each HEI.

4. Legal background / focus on public universities

The doctorate and the law

- 4.1. University Studies Act (UniStG 1997)
- 4.2. University Act 2002: Two types of doctoral programmes (regular doctorate – 120 ECTS and PhD programmes – 240 ECTS)
- 4.3. Amendment Act of the University Act 2002 (2006): abolishment of the double-track situation; minimum study period is three years
- 4.4. Amendment Act of the University Act 2002 (2009): Universities are allowed to have qualitative access regulations for choosing specially gifted students for PhD studies

5. Activities on the national level

- Declaration of the Austrian, German and Swiss Rectors' Conferences on the inclusion of the doctorate in the Berlin Communiqué, September 2003
- Declaration of the Austrian, German and Swiss Rectors' Conferences on „The Future of the doctorate in Europe“, 27 March 2004
- First national conference on new-style doctoral studies, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, November 2004
- First mutual position paper by the ministry and Universities Austria – „The Doctorate in Austria. National Positioning in the Context of European Developments“, Vienna, January 2005
- Bologna Seminar in Salzburg – 10 Salzburg Basic Principles, February 2005
- Amendment Act to the University Act 2002 in 2006
- Working Groups in the ministry and in Universities Austria (2006-2007)
- Statement of the Austrian Rectors' Conference on the international discussion about different kinds of doctorates, November 2006

5. Activities on the national level



Recommendations by Universities Austria on New-Style Doctoral Studies 2008

Three projects related to the Bologna Process by Universities Austria, 2008-2010 / one project on doctoral programmes and studies:

- international developments on new-style doctoral programmes and studies
- national developments on new-style doctoral programmes and studies
- International conference in cooperation with the EUA on "How to Assure Quality in New-Style Doctoral Studies?"

5. Activities on the national level

- Amendment Act of the University Act 2002 in 2009
- Conferences, workshops and other initiatives of universities

Some national conferences, workshops and activities for interested and involved parties since 2007:

- The EHEA after the Ministerial Conference in London, 3rd Forum EHEA, University of Vienna, September 2007
- Doctorate quo vadis? Apropos Bologna, University of Graz, Mai 2008
- International practice and perspectives in PhD studies in the field of art, PhD- Forum, University of Art and Industrial Design, April 2009
- Supporting young researchers during the doctoral studies, summer talk, University of Graz, June 2009
- The Advancement of European Biomedical and Health Science PhD Education by Cooperative Networking, Medical University of Vienna, April 2010

For students:

- Doctorate of the Humanities and the Arts (University of Graz): organised by students with the support of vicerectorate for teaching, 2008
- Students of the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and students of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna organised mutually the first so-called "DoktorandInnen-Tagung" (Day of doctoral candidates) in April 2008
- Enhancing Students' Contribution to Bologna Implementation, EURODOC, Technical University of Vienna, March 2010

6. Doctoral Studies and Programmes in Austria. What has changed?

- Interlinking of EHEA and ERA
- Minimum duration of doctoral studies/programmes is three years now
- Change from old style to new-style doctoral studies should be linked with an increase in quality; necessary basis is adequate funding by the state, which is asked for universities
- Trend towards structured doctoral programmes BUT depending on the discipline
- Implementation of doctoral schools, Doktoratskollegs, ...
- Doctoral candidates are young researchers
- Workshops, conferences, other informative activities

7. Activities on the institutional level

7.1. Forms of organisation

Implementation of the new-style doctorate

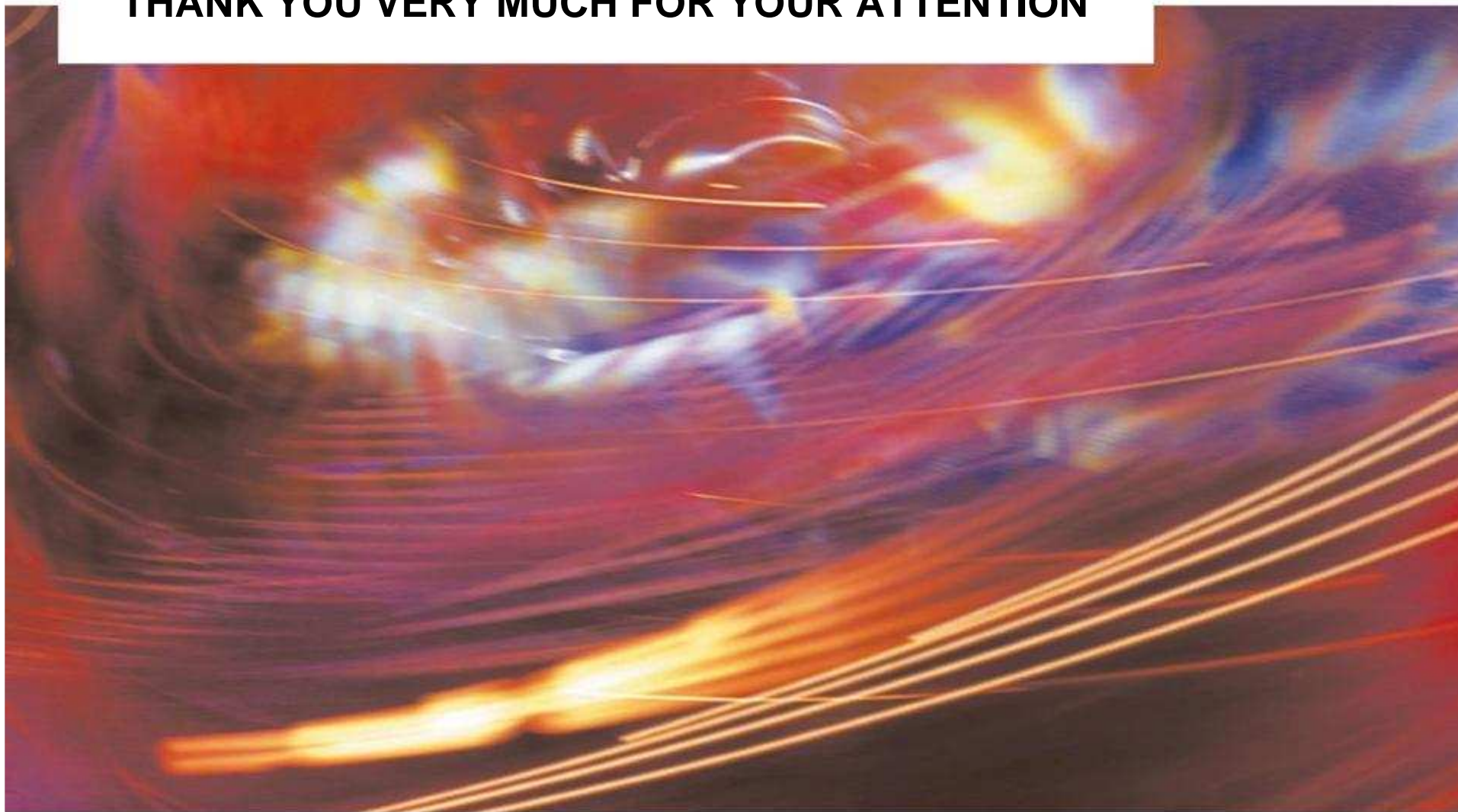
Special characteristics:

- University of Vienna - *Initiativkollegs*
- Vienna Graduate School of Finance - joint initiative
- University of Graz - first *Doktoratskolleg* in the Humanities and the Arts in the field of Cultural Studies
- Graz University of Technology - 10-13 Doctoral Schools
- University of Music and Dramatic Arts Graz - Doctor Artium

7.2. How do universities implement the new-style doctoral studies?

- University of Vienna
- University of Graz
- University of Innsbruck

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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