

**Ordinance of the University for Continuing Education Krens on the curriculum of the PhD program „Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning“ / „Interdisziplinäre Studien der Weiterbildung und des lebensbegleitenden Lernens“
(Faculty of Education, Arts and Architecture)**

Study program according to § 54 UG, Doctor of Philosophy / PhD, 180 ECTS-points

Translation from the German version published in University Bulletin 2025/No. 36 of June 24, 2025. Please note that the German version is the official and legally binding version of this curriculum.

§ 1. Study objective and qualification profile

- (1) The PhD program „Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning“ (in German: „Interdisziplinäre Studien der Weiterbildung und des lebensbegleitenden Lernens“) belongs to the category of social and economic studies. The PhD program examines the prerequisites and processes of continuing education and lifelong learning, as well as the necessary conditions and resulting effects for individuals, organizations, and society.
- (2) The PhD program „Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning“ serves to further develop the ability to carry out independent academic work according to international standards and in an international (English-speaking) environment, as well as to train and promote young academics after completing a diploma or master's degree.
- (3) Intended learning outcomes: Graduates of the PhD program can make an original, independent contribution to the further development of the subject. This is particularly evident in the following learning outcomes, which students acquire during their studies. After completing their studies, graduates will be able to
 - select appropriate methods for addressing specific research questions in interdisciplinary continuing education research based on epistemological considerations;
 - carry out research projects in the field of interdisciplinary continuing education research in a methodologically and substantively sound manner;
 - adequately integrate theories from several disciplines in the analysis and processing of interdisciplinary research issues;
 - present their own research results accordance with international scientific quality standards both in writing and orally;
 - reflect on research designs and results with regard to the consideration of gender and diversity aspects and compliance with standards of good scientific practice;

- take into account the basics of scientific data management and the FAIR principles when collecting, using, and analyzing research data;
- demonstrate the relevance of their own scientific findings to non-scientific target groups in society and business;
- discuss the applicability of the knowledge and skills acquired during their PhD studies in economic and social contexts.

§ 2. Admission

- (1) Admission to the PhD program “Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning” requires proof of completion of a relevant diploma or master's degree or a master's degree from a university of applied sciences.
- (2) For admission to the PhD program “Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning,” English language skills at least at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) must be demonstrated. Proof of this will be assessed by the PhD coordinator.
- (3) Admission to the PhD program is subject to funding requirements. It can only be granted if sufficient research funding (e.g. via project funds, scholarships, etc.) is available to carry out the dissertation project. A financial plan for the dissertation project must be submitted to the PhD coordinator.
- (4) Specific requirements for the PhD program „Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning” are thematically relevant prior experience and knowledge (such as attendance of relevant courses or participation in relevant research projects). Proof of thematically relevant prior experience and knowledge must be documented in writing and will be assessed by the PhD coordinator.
- (5) Admission to the study program is the responsibility of the Rectorate.
- (6) The following documents must be submitted to the Service Center for Students of the University for Continuing Education Krens for admission to the study program:
 - application form, incl. Europass CV and letter of intent;
 - proof of identity (passport, identity card);
 - school-leaving certificate;
 - graduation, diploma or master's degree certificate and
 - if necessary: legalization of foreign documents.

§ 3. Scope and duration of studies

- (1) The PhD program „Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning“ takes three years or six semesters to complete.
- (2) The scope of the PhD program „Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Life-long Learning“ is 180 ECTS points, distributed as follows:
 - The three PhD colloquia comprise 6 ECTS points.
 - The courses in modules 2, 3, and 4 comprise a total of 26 ECTS points.
 - The completion of the research project and the writing of the dissertation comprise a total of 143 ECTS points.
 - The final examination ("Rigorosum") comprises 5 ECTS points.
- (3) Breakdown of credit points to calculate the workload: One ECTS point corresponds to 25 working hours of the student (according to UG §54 para. 2 "[...] With these credits the share of the workload of the students related to the individual academic achievements shall be determined in relation to the entire programme, with an amount of 1,500 hours for one year of studies and 60 credits being assigned to this workload.").

§ 4. Modules and courses

The curriculum is divided into the following modules:

- Module 1: PhD colloquia (6 ECTS points)
 - Module 2: Research design and research methods (10 ECTS points)
 - Module 3: Fields of research (12 ECTS points)
 - Module 4: Complementary subjects (4 ECTS points)
- (1) In the PhD colloquia module, 3 PhD colloquia worth 2 ECTS points each (6 ECTS points in total) must be completed.

| Module 1: PhD-Colloquia | elective / compulsory | ECTS-points |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| PhD Colloquium 1 | compulsory | 2 |
| PhD Colloquium 2 | compulsory | 2 |
| PhD Colloquium 3 | compulsory | 2 |

(2) Students must complete courses worth 10 ECTS points in the "Research Design and Re-search Methods" module.

| Module 2: Research Design and Research Methods | elective / compulsory | ECTS-points |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| Epistemological Foundations and Research Methods of Transdisciplinary Educational Research | compulsory | 4 |
| Research Seminar I | compulsory | 2 |
| Research Seminar II | compulsory | 2 |
| Advanced Research Methods | compulsory | 2 |

The course "Epistemological Foundations and Research Methods of Transdisciplinary Educational Research" provides an overview of research practices and thought patterns in the various disciplines in the field. The two research seminars serve to provide methodological guidance and needs-based support to students in the research process. In-depth study of selected re-search methods serves to acquire the methodological knowledge relevant to the students' own research work and is chosen by the students in consultation with the respective PhD committee. Im Modul „Forschungsfelder in Weiterbildung und Lebensbegleitendem Lernen“ sind Kurse im Umfang von insgesamt 12 ECTS-Punkten zu absolvieren.

(3) Students must complete courses worth 12 ECTS points in the "Fields of Research in Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning" module.

| Module 3: Fields of Research | elective / compulsory | ECTS-points |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| Foundations, Historical Context, and Current Issues in Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning | compulsory | 4 |
| Teaching and Learning Processes & Professional Development | elective | 4 |
| Educational Technologies & Human-Centered Design | elective | 4 |
| Education Systems, Organizations, and Management | elective | 4 |

The Module "Fields of Research in Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning" serves to deepen knowledge in the subject areas that are the focus of the PhD program. The course "Foundations, Historical Context, and Current Issues in Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning" covers the common content of the field and is compulsory for all students. Two elective courses totaling 8 ECTS points must be selected from the four available courses in consultation with the PhD committee.

- (4) Students must complete courses worth 4 ECTS points in the “Complementary Subjects” module.

| Module 4: Complementary Subjects | elective / compulsory | ECTS-points |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| Wissenschaftskommunikation (Science Communication) | elective | 2 |
| Projektmanagement (Project Management) | elective | 2 |
| Entrepreneurship | elective | 2 |
| Ausgewählte Themen (Selected Topics) | elective | 2 |

The Module “Complementary Subjects” concludes the curriculum by offering courses that teach transferable skills, thereby contributing to students' professional development.

§ 5. Dissertation

- (1) In the PhD program “Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning,” a dissertation worth 143 ECTS points must be written. The framework regulation for dissertations can be found in the Statutes of the University for Continuing Education Krens.
- (2) The dissertation must demonstrate the ability to solve scientific research questions independently. It must also represent a significant contribution to the respective field of research. Therefore, the dissertation must be an original piece of work completed and written independently by the student in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice.
- (3) The topic of the dissertation must be relevant to the research area of the PhD program. The research fields eligible for the dissertation are listed in the courses according to §4 (3).
- (4) The dissertation can be written in English or German and must comply with the guidelines for writing a dissertation (see appendix to the PhD Order).
- (5) The dissertation may be written and published as a cumulative dissertation based on publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals approved by the PhD committee or as an independent monograph.

§ 6. Examination regulations

The principles of the examination system are determined by the Statutes of the University for Continuing Education Krens, Part II, Section 2, paragraphs 1-5.

- (1) PhD colloquia (module 1): In the case of individual PhD colloquia, successful participation in the course will be assessed individually on the basis of the prepared documents, the presentation of the state of research, and the discussion between the PhD committee and the students.

- (2) Research design and research methods (Module 2): All courses are assessed on a continuous basis and are graded based on ongoing participation and written or oral examination elements.
- (3) Fields of research in continuing education and lifelong learning (Module 3): All courses are assessed on a continuous basis and are graded based on ongoing participation and written or oral examination elements.
- (4) Complementary subjects (Module 4): All courses are assessed on a continuous basis and are graded on the basis of written or oral examination elements.
- (5) Dissertation: The framework regulations for dissertations can be found in the Statutes of the University for Continuing Education Krens.
- (6) Rigorosum (final examination): The framework regulations for the Rigorosum can be found in the Statutes of the University for Continuing Education Krens.

§ 7. Quality assurance and evaluation

- (1) Key aspects of quality assurance in the PhD program „Interdisciplinary studies of continuing education and lifelong learning“ are:
 - the guidance of the student by an academically qualified supervisor,
 - the written formulation of the dissertation project and presentation to the PhD Commission,
 - the supervision of the dissertation by the PhD Committee,
 - half-yearly progress reports to the PhD committee and feedback discussions with the PhD committee as part of the PhD colloquia,
 - the review of the dissertation by two reviewers, one of whom is from outside the university,
 - the final dissertation defense.

The roles and tasks of the PhD Committee and the PhD Commission are regulated in detail in the Statutes of the University for Continuing Education Krens, Part II, § 11.

(2) Evaluation

The PhD program „Interdisciplinary studies of continuing education and lifelong learning“ is evaluated via:

- the evaluation of the courses defined in the curriculum by the students (using a standard-ized evaluation form);
- annual progress reports of the student to the PhD committee
- as well as a final feedback meeting of the student with the chairperson of the PhD committee after completion of the PhD program. If the chairperson is also the supervisor of the dissertation, a substitute must be nominated for the meeting.

All feedback is incorporated into the further development of the curriculum.

The evaluation and further development of the PhD program "Applied Evidence Synthesis in Health Research" is also ensured by annual meetings of the PhD faculty.

§ 8. Academic degree

Graduates of the PhD program "Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning" shall be awarded the academic degree "Doctor of Philosophy," abbreviated "PhD."

§ 9. Entry into force

The curriculum for the PhD program "Interdisciplinary Studies of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning" will enter into force on October 1, following its announcement in the Bulletin.