

Guidelines

1. Aim of the doctoral program

The interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies brings together the philological, religious studies and cultural studies expertise of the participating disciplines (Indology, Japanology, Religious Studies, Sinology and Tibetology) at a high level, thus facilitating a focussed, interdisciplinary approach to Buddhist studies topics. The most important objective of the participation in the doctoral program is an increase in the quality of the doctoral degree, which is to be achieved not least by an improvement in the supervision. The doctoral program therefore contains elements for academic qualification as well as a structured supervision concept. Since the writing of the dissertation is accompanied by research-oriented courses, the problems, methodical approaches and objective results are integrated right from the start into a broader theoretical and historical context, so that a close exchange of specialist ideas is established both amongst the doctoral students themselves and between the lecturers and the doctoral students. Great importance is placed on the involvement of the doctoral students in interdisciplinary and international Buddhist studies networks. In this way, the academic and communication skills of the doctoral students and their teamwork skills are strengthened. In addition, training is given in transferable key skills, in particular in the fields of knowledge transfer and academic management (e.g. by completion of teaching practice).

2. Degree

The Faculty for the Study of Culture, on behalf of the Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, awards the academic degree of a Doctor of Philosophy (doctor philosophiae = Dr. phil.) on the basis of a successful doctoral examination. The doctoral examination procedure is regulated by the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the LMU for the Faculties 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 (2016), as well as the provisions recorded in these guidelines. A certificate, detailing the participation in the Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies and the results obtained, is produced and can be appended to the doctoral degree certificate.

3. Prerequisites for admission and assessment of suitability

(1) The assessment of suitability is carried out on the basis of the documents submitted as per paragraph 2 by a selection committee, which is comprised of three of the professors participating in the doctoral program who are authorised examiners. The prerequisites for admission to the doctoral program are proof of completion of a Master of Arts or Magister Artium degree in a relevant field, knowledge of at least one Buddhist source language and outstanding qualification in the subject. Applicants will be informed about the result of the assessment of suitability in writing.

(2) Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- a CV with a detailed description of the academic career;
- proof of qualification for university entrance;
- certified copies of all school and university diplomas;
- a copy of the thesis;
- the names and addresses of two professors who are able to provide information about the qualifications and the academic potential of the applicant;
- a list of publications, if applicable;
- an outline of the planned dissertation project (maximum 5 A4 pages);
- proof of knowledge of one or more Buddhist source languages.

Instead of the documents listed above, applicants are preferred to fill out and submit the “Online Application Tool of the LMU Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies”. The tool site is linked from the doctoral program’s website and can also be accessed directly via <http://www.graduatecenter-lmu.de/buddstud/index.php>.

(3) The degree can be started in the winter or summer semester. Applications should be submitted by 1st June for the winter semester and by 1st December for the summer semester. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have been successful by the end of July or the end of January respectively and admission will take place on 1st October or 1st April respectively.

4. Supervision

(1) The supervision of the doctoral students is carried out by a team of supervisors which consists of a primary supervisor and two further supervisors. The primary supervisor bears the main responsibility for the supervision of the student; the other supervisors have an advisory function. The team of supervisors oversees the academic work of the student, but is also a point of contact for all aspects of the individual career planning of the doctoral student. Furthermore, all the professors involved in the PhD Program are available for the specialist supervision of the doctoral student.

(2) The doctoral student meets with the team of supervisors at least once each semester. In these meetings the students report on the progress of the dissertation and receive differentiated feedback. In consultation with the doctoral student, a concrete work plan and timetable are drawn up or updated, in which specific work steps and performance requirements are defined: This includes, for example, agreements concerning attendance of specific courses (see 5 (a), (b) and (c) below). The nature and scope of the courses which are to be attended depend on the interests of the doctoral student, the requirements of the dissertation project and the previous knowledge of the student. From about the third semester onwards, agreements are also made on the submission of first sections or chapters of the dissertation.

(3) The structure of the supervision relationship is set out in a written supervision agreement and in written target agreements between the team of supervisors and the doctoral student as per Appendix 1.

5. Content and structure of the degree

The disciplines Indology, Japanology, Religious Studies, Sinology and Tibetology are involved in the Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies. Cooperations with other disciplines, such as Ethnology, Sociology or Philosophy, can be arranged on an individual basis depending on the dissertation project. The program combines philological, philosophical and historical as well as social studies, cultural studies and religious studies approaches, with which the polymorphism of Buddhism is examined. Thus the degree includes topics from the field of Buddhism in history and in the present, as well as questions of theoretical and methodical approach. In the process, current research debates are taken up and pursued.

(a) The following courses form the core of the doctoral program:

- Introductory lecture series (as a rule, compulsory)
- Research seminars (active participation in one research seminar is, as a rule, compulsory)
- Colloquia for doctoral students or research colloquia (participation in these colloquia in each semester is, as a rule, compulsory)

(b) In addition, the degree course can be supplemented with other lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops or presentations, including those of the M.A. degree courses of the participating disciplines (e.g. on Buddhist studies topics, on the cultural environments of Buddhism, on theory, methodology, on comparative questions or on the reading of Buddhist texts) and with language courses.

(c) Other elements of the doctoral program are aimed at the acquisition of skills which are geared towards academic or professional practice, in particular in the fields of knowledge transfer and academic management:

The doctoral students are expected to participate at least once in the organisation of a (doctoral student) symposium or to actively take part in the symposium by giving a talk.

In addition, they are to complete a teaching practice. This includes involvement in a course which is run by one of the participating professors in a BA or MA degree program, as well as specialist and didactic supervision.

Furthermore, the doctoral students are expected to attend events (workshops) from the program of the Graduate Center of the LMU (e.g. academic writing in English, effective reading, didactics workshops, project management etc.). Attendance of at least three such workshops during the course of the doctoral program is generally compulsory.

The doctoral students are encouraged to participate in German or international networks. Participation in external conferences and/or publication of articles is also encouraged.

The individual implementation and organisation of the specifications listed in (a) – (c) is determined in the supervision agreements and the target agreements.

The doctoral students can, if applicable, receive credits equivalent to up to two semesters for stays abroad or activities accomplished during relevant stays abroad.

6. Curriculum

The information listed under point 5 results in the following approximate curriculum:

1st Year		2nd Year		3rd Year	
1st Semester (Winter Semester)	2nd Semester (Summer Semester)	3rd Semester (Winter Semester)	4th Semester (Summer Semester)	5th Semester (Winter Semester)	6th Semester (Summer Semester)
Lecture series: Introduction to Buddhist Studies 2 hours per week	Research seminar (with presentation) 2 hours per week				
Doctoral student and research colloquium 2 hours per week	Doctoral student and research colloquium (with a report on the progress of work) 2 hours per week	Doctoral student and research colloquium 2 hours per week	Doctoral student and research colloquium (with a report on the progress of work) 2 hours per week	Doctoral student and research colloquium 2 hours per week	Doctoral student and research colloquium (with a report on the progress of work) 2 hours per week
If applicable, supplementary courses and/or language courses					
		Symposium (active participation)		Symposium (active or passive participation)	
Key Skills Workshop GraduateCenterLMU	Key Skills Workshop GraduateCenterLMU	Key Skills Workshop GraduateCenterLMU	Teaching practice		
Supervisor team meeting: drawing up of a work plan and timetable	Supervisor team meeting: report and feedback; updating of work plan and timetable	Supervisor team meeting: submission of first chapters and feedback; updating of work plan and timetable	Supervisor team meeting: presentation of further chapters and feedback; updating of work plan and timetable	Supervisor team meeting: presentation of further chapters and feedback	Supervisor team meeting: Concluding meeting; completion and submission of the dissertation

* The completion of courses and activities can in part take place in semesters other than those assigned here.