



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

DOCTORAL PROGRAM
IN BUDDHIST STUDIES



Guidelines

September 2017

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, Japanese Studies, Study of Religion, 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.

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 (15 September 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. 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 digital copy of the master's 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 (no more than 5 A4 pages or 2600 words);
- proof of knowledge of one or more Buddhist source languages.

Instead of the documents listed above, it is recommended that applicants 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 can be submitted at any time.

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, Japanese Studies, Study of Religion, 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:

- Semester meetings: At the beginning of each semester there is a meeting of all doctoral students and staff. Regular attendance is mandatory.
- Research seminars (active participation in one research seminar is, as a rule, mandatory).
- Colloquia for doctoral students or research colloquia (participation is, as a rule, mandatory).

(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 an international conference or workshop or to actively take part in the conference or workshop by giving a talk. Alternatively, a paper can be presented at an external conference.

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 transferable skill workshops (e.g. academic writing in English, giving academic presentations in English, effective reading, didactics, project management etc.). Attendance of two such workshops during the course of the doctoral program is generally mandatory.

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. Sample Curriculum

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

1 st Year		2 nd Year		3 rd Year	
1 st Semester	2 nd Semester	3 rd Semester	4 th Semester	5 th Semester	6 th Semester
Semester meeting (once) (with presentation)	Semester meeting (once)	Semester meeting (once)	Semester meeting (once) (with presentation)	Semester meeting (once)	Semester meeting (once)
	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 2 hours per week
If applicable, supplementary courses and/or language courses					
		Conference/workshop (active participation)		Conference/workshop (active or passive participation)	
	Workshop: Giving Academic Presentations in English	Transferable Skills Workshop	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. Depending on the student's individual situation, activities mentioned here might be replaced by others.



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Appendix 1

Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies

Supervision Agreement

Note: The contents of this agreement are to be determined in accordance with the doctoral degree regulations of the LMU for faculties 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 (dated September 15th, 2016).

A supervision agreement is concluded between the following persons:

	(Doctoral student)
	(Primary supervisor)
	(Other supervisor)
	(Other supervisor)

The doctoral student is writing a dissertation with the working title:

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at the Faculty for the Study of Culture at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

The following period is agreed upon for the completion of the dissertation:

..... (start of the dissertation) to (expected completion date of the dissertation).

- (1) In consultation with the primary supervisor, the doctoral student will draw up a work schedule and timetable (“agreement on objectives”). He/She undertakes to inform the supervisor promptly of any significant changes to the schedule.
- (2) Once a semester the doctoral student will submit a short report (approximately one to two pages long) to the supervisors. This report describes the stages of work completed during the period under report, the progress made with regards to the content of the dissertation and, if applicable, the student’s participation in courses, conferences, guest lectures, doctoral students’ days and events for further interdisciplinary training. In accordance with the work

schedule and timetable, the doctoral student will also submit interim results (e.g. chapters, draft publications etc.).

- (3) At the same time as the submission of the short report, a meeting involving, if possible, all the supervisors will take place to discuss the progress of the work and to review the timetable and work schedule and, if necessary, to adjust and further develop them.
- (4) The content of the discussion will be noted by the doctoral student or a supervisor in brief, informative minutes (approximately one page in length). These minutes will be countersigned by and distributed to all parties.
- (5) The doctoral student undertakes to report on the progress of his/her work at least once a year within the framework of a doctoral student colloquium.
- (6) The supervisors undertake to support the progress and success of the PhD project and to give the doctoral student specialist advice.
- (7) Both parties make these undertakings on the principles of good academic practice.

Additional agreements (if applicable)

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Date and signatures

	(Doctoral student)
	(Primary supervisor)
	(Other supervisor)
	(Other supervisor)