



universität  
wien

# Governance of Doctoral Education

The Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna

## The normative and cultural setting

- Doctoral programs operate within
  - a normative framework defined by state legislation
  - an institutional legacies of previous regulations and practices (at the level of universities)
  - a specific culture of research and education

## Open Access to Higher Education - Questions of membership

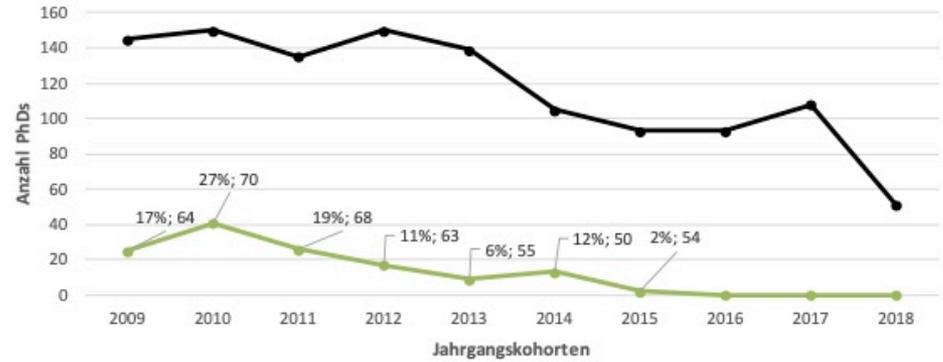
- We cannot fully control membership in doctoral studies
- Decisions on the requirements for recruitment have to be flexible — taking into consideration the diversity of disciplines
- Heterogeneous student body even in doctoral education
  - young high achievers with an interest in academic careers
  - doctoral students who support their existing careers
  - retired students with a passion for research

## Structures, Programs, and Membership

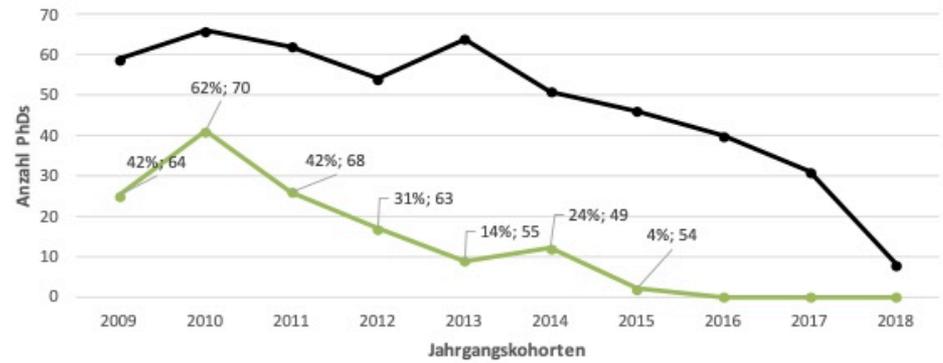
- The heterogenous student body requires a flexible structure
  - we cannot discriminate among the members of the different groups with regard to teaching and supervision
  - rules and procedures need to be flexible enough to be adaptable for different circumstances
    - research and writing time strongly depends on the grant situation - in the Humanities only about 10% of our PhD candidates are fully funded
    - requirements for fully funded and non-funded students must be different - without compromising academic excellence
  - rules and procedures need to be rigid enough to provide guidance and structure for students and supervisors

# Attrition rate and completion time

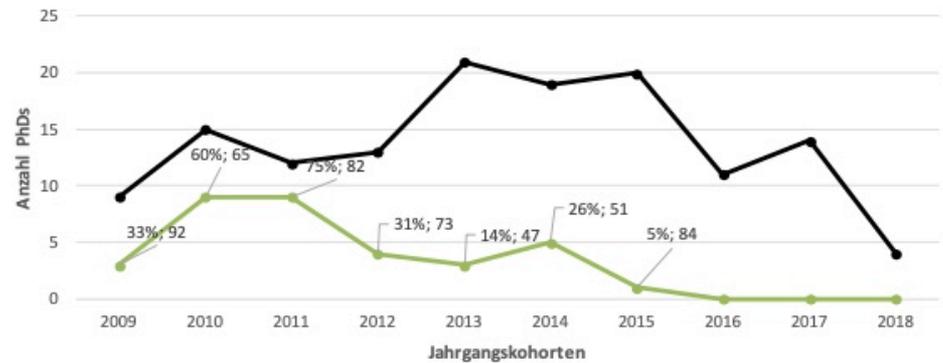
(a) Gesamt



(b) Aktive (+ÖP)



(c) Vollfinanzierte



## Doctoral programs & Doctoral Schools: Teaching

- Doctoral Schools are inserted into existing doctoral programs
  - membership in the program does not imply membership in the school
  - teaching is organised within the school — seminars and general mentoring are open to non-members as well
  - supervision is more collective for fellows of doctoral schools, more exclusively supervisor based for non-members
  - financial support for research and networking is restricted to fellows of doctoral schools

## Doctoral programs & Doctoral Schools: Integration

- Doctoral Schools and Doctoral Programs are connected
  - through the personal union of director of the doctoral program and the head of the doctoral school
  - through shared committees such as the study conference (doctoral program) being almost identical with the steering committee (doctoral school), and the PhD committee
- Doctoral Schools have a more differentiated governance structure than doctoral programs
  - managing team, steering committee, advisory board

## Managing Diversity

- The Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies has a highly diverse research and teaching profile
  - Ancient History, Medieval and Byzantine History, the History of the Habsburg monarchy, European history, the history of the Global South, and the history of Latin and South America.
  - economic, social, cultural, and political history as well as the history of sciences, art history, Egyptology, and archeology.
- Thematic clusters organize joint teaching and supervision within the doctoral school
  - clustering was left to a self organising process of faculty members — there was no attempt to define subfields ‚from above‘

## Definition of Clusters — Role of Clusters

- Eight clusters met the requirements defined by the Dean and the Director of doctoral studies
  - Definitions of Clusters are heterogeneous
    - key topics (state, politics, governance), periods (ancient, byzantine, medieval), approaches (archeology and material culture)
  - Clusters build the machine for delivering doctoral training within the school
  - Speakers of clusters are represented on the management team and have a key role in the governance of the school
- Involving the speakers of the clusters allows for transparency and decentralisation in the allocation of resources