



INVITATION

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

Universities Austria and the EUA-Council for Doctoral Education have the pleasure of inviting you to the **international conference “How to Assure Quality in New-Style Doctoral Studies?”** taking place at the Vienna **University of Economics and Business** on **Thursday 29 October 2009**. This conference is organised by Universities Austria in cooperation with the EUA-Council for Doctoral Education and the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

The conference aims at discussing the importance of quality assurance in new-style doctoral studies. Improving quality of doctoral education in Europe has been the main objective of a number of initiatives at national and European levels in recent years. However, the special character of doctoral education, and diversity of its organisational types make the setting-up of standards for quality in doctoral education more complex and difficult compared to the first and second cycles. The conference will focus on three questions related to the quality of doctoral education, which can be found below.

In order to apply for the conference please fill in the **registration form** and send it to **Karin Hofer** either by email karin.hofer@uniko.ac.at or by fax **+43-1-310-5656-22** until **15 October 2009**. For further information please contact **Elisabeth Westphal +43-1-310-5656-33** or **Nadine Jauk +43-1-310-5656-31**.

Room contingents have been reserved for the conference participants in the following hotels: *Arcotel Boltzmann*, *Hotel Bellevue* and *Hotel & Palais Strudlhof*. Reservation forms can be found at: http://www.uniko.ac.at/bologna_projekte/workshops_konferenzen/?lang=EN#A3533

We would like to thank the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, the EUA-Council for Doctoral Education as well as the Vienna University of Economics and Business for supporting and enabling the Bologna project of Universities Austria.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the conference!

Yours faithfully,

Elisabeth Westphal
Policy Advisor for the Bologna Process, Higher Education in Europe and Teaching,
Universities Austria

Further information on the three Bologna-Projects and the events conducted by Universities Austria can be found at: http://www.uniko.ac.at/bologna_projekte/index.php?lang=EN



International Conference: How to Assure Quality in New-Style Doctoral Studies?

Vienna, 29 October 2009

Universities Austria is organising this conference in cooperation with the EUA-Council for Doctoral Education and the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

Background

The recent global economic and financial crisis has even more highlighted the importance of research and education as crucial drivers of sustainable economic and social development. High quality doctoral education is a key to strengthening research capacity and competitiveness of each country. Improving quality of doctoral education in Europe has been the main objective of a number of initiatives at national and European levels in recent years. However, the special character of doctoral education, and diversity of its organisational types make the setting-up of standards for quality in doctoral education more complex and difficult compared to the first and second cycles.

The conference will focus on three questions related to the quality of doctoral education:

1. *What kind of internal institutional quality policies and procedures are in place in your institution?*
2. *How do quality standards and procedures in the third cycle differ from the first and second cycles?*
3. *What indicators do internal quality assurance procedures follow?*
 - standards and transparency of access and selection procedures
 - unity and cohesion of educational and research parts of the doctoral programme/ school;
 - offer of non-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transferable skills training;
 - training of supervisors;
 - evaluation of supervisors;
 - regular monitoring of student progress;
 - support of internationalisation of doctoral studies by encouraging students' mobility, participation in conferences and publishing in international journals
 - standards of the process of the thesis defence
 - time to degree and completion rates