

Doctoral Privatissima

What they are: Doctoral privatissima are in-depth, small courses intended especially for students pursuing a doctorate. They should only be available to a handful of students at once so that meetings could conceivably take place in the faculty member's office. The course should have a strong collaborative component and require active participation by everybody involved. Ideally the outcome of such a course is not just mastery of the material but also understanding and appreciation of the thinking of the other course participants and their respective approaches to the material.

Contents: Any topic sufficiently close to research.

Format/Duration: Any sensible format is admissible, ranging from an intensive block schedule over a few weeks during the semester break to a schedule that does not collide with core requirements drawn out over a whole semester. The amount of work should correspond to 6 ECTS credit points.

Audience: Doctoral privatissima are intended exclusively for students pursuing a doctorate. For the most part, these will be students in the preparatory phase, but students in the dissertation phase may also participate given enough open spaces. Masters students should only be permitted to attend if it is very clear that they will subsequently pursue a doctorate.

Formalities: A doctoral privatissimum can only be offered by a member of the Graduate School's faculty assembly, i.e. by someone with the official right to advise doctoral students. Students required to complete the entire preparatory phase must take at least two such privatissima. These must be in different research groups. A doctoral privatissimum counts for 6 ECTS points, ungraded. Upon completion of the privatissimum the lecturer must send the list of successful participants to the Graduate School office.

Announcement: A description of the privatissimum should be sent to the Graduate School office which will announce it to all doctoral candidates.