The Faculty of Educational Science
confers the following doctoral degree with an individual doctorate:

“Doktor der Philosophie” (Dr. phil.), doctor philosophiae

Admission requirements
Admission to the doctoral examination procedure requires having completed successfully
a) relevant university studies in a standard period of study of at least eight semesters for which a degree
other than “Bachelor” is conferred, or
b) relevant university studies in a standard period of study of at least six semesters and appropriate
subsequent studies in the doctoral subjects in preparation for the doctorate, or
c) a relevant Masters degree course in accordance with § 61, para. 2, sent. 2 of the HG.
University studies completed in foreign countries are to be recognized by the doctoral examination board.
Recognition requires the equivalence with university studies completed in Germany. When deciding on
the equivalence of university studies completed in foreign countries, the equivalence agreements ap-
proved of by the Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (= Kultusministerkonferenzen)
and the Conference of University Presidents (= Hochschulrektorenkonferenz) or corresponding legal
provisions are to be taken into account. If there are any doubts as to equivalence, the Central Office for
Foreign Education (= Zentralstelle für Ausländisches Bildungwesen) shall be consulted.

Step 1: Find a supervisor
The doctoral regulation of the faculty provides for the assignment of a prime supervisor. The following
persons can, in general, act as supervisors: members of the professorial body, other persons qualified as
professors or other members of the faculty who are authorized examiners as well as associate profes-
sors. The doctoral regulation provides for a supervisory agreement between the academic supervisors
and the doctoral candidate.
Those who intend to write a thesis have to contact a potential supervisor directly and ask for supervisory
agreement.

Step 2: Apply for the acceptance as a doctoral candidate
Those who found a professor who supports them and meet the admission requirements have to apply for
the acceptance as a doctoral candidate by the doctoral examination board (= Promotionsausschuss). The
following documents are to be enclosed with the application:
a) evidence of meeting the admission requirements,
b) indication of the proposed subject of the thesis and of the supervisor as well as the declaration of the
supervisor stating that he or she agrees to supervise the candidate,
c) a CV detailing personal and professional development,
d) a declaration about current or previous applications for the doctoral examination procedure, indicating
the point of time, the subject and the faculty/university department where the candidate applied to
commence the doctoral examination procedure,
e) exposé.

Enrolment
Those who have been accepted as a doctoral candidate by the faculty can remain enrolled as doctoral
candidate at the University of Bielefeld until the completion of the doctoral examination procedure.
Further information: www.uni-bielefeld.de/(en)/International/Students/

Doctoral Examination
The doctoral examination procedure consists of a piece of academically significant written work (thesis,
german or english, 200-300 pages) and an oral examination in form of a thesis defence (90 minutes).