

Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of History, Philosophy and Theology of the  
University of Bielefeld from 10 January 2017  
in conjunction with the Amendment from 17 February 2017  
– Version with the  
amendments  
included –

The English version merely serves as a guideline. Legally binding are the German texts published in the Announcements of the University of Bielefeld – Official Bulletin. The German versions shall in any event prevail.

Pursuant to section 2 (4) and section 67 (3) of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz – HG*) from September 16, 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547), as last amended by the law dated 14 June 2016 (GV. NRW. p. 310), the Faculty for History, Philosophy and Theology of the University of Bielefeld, pursuant to section 1 (1) sent. 3 of the General Doctoral Degree Regulations of the University of Bielefeld (*Rahmenpromotionsordnung, RPO*) dated 15 June 2010 (Announcements of the University of Bielefeld – Official Bulletin – year 39 no. 12 p. 98), has issued the following Doctoral Degree Regulations:

### **1. Doctoral Degree (section 2 RPO)**

(1) The Faculty of History, Philosophy and Theology of the University of Bielefeld, hereinafter referred to as the Faculty, grants the academic degree of a doctor philosophiae (Dr. phil.) on the basis of a written dissertation and an oral examination (disputation).

(2) For outstanding achievements and merits, the Faculty can also confer the degree “honoris causa” (Dr. phil. h.c.) (section 18 RPO).

### **2. Purpose and Forms of the Doctorate (section 3 RPO)**

In the fields of history and art history, the doctorate is carried out in the scope of the international doctoral study programme or as doctoral studies independent of study courses. Details on the doctoral study programme in history are governed in the study regulations of the international doctoral programme in history. In the field of theology, the doctorate is carried out in the scope of structured doctoral training or as doctoral studies independent of study courses. In the field of philosophy, the doctorate is usually carried out in the scope of structured doctoral training pursuant to section 5 c. In exceptional cases, doctoral studies independent of study courses are also possible. This situation applies in particular if job-related reasons verifiably render participation impossible, for periods spent abroad, or in the event of social hardship cases. The Philosophy Departmental Committee shall decide on exceptions.

### **3. Competences (section 4 RPO)**

(1) The Doctoral Committee is responsible for the tasks and decisions referred to in Sec. 4 (1) RPO. For the duration of the doctorate it ensures supervision, and arbitrates and mediates should disputes arise during the doctoral examination procedure. The Doctoral Committee is responsible for decisions pursuant to section 10 (8) sentences 3 and 5 RPO and for decisions on objections raised by the doctoral candidate.

(2) The Doctoral Committee consists of: the Dean, one member each of the group of professors from the three departments of the Faculty, one member of the group of academic staff authorised to be an examiner, one member of the group of technical and administrative staff, and one doctoral student. The members are each selected by the Faculty Council for two years, with the exception of the student member, whose term in office is one year. The Dean is the chairperson. Only members of the Committee with doctorates have the voting right for decisions relating to examinations. The Doctoral Committee decides by simple majority of the voting members present in an open vote; in the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote. The Doctoral Committee has a quorum if more than half of its members are present.

(3) The Doctoral Committee can confer decisions on admission to the doctorate and acceptance as doctoral candidate, documentation of the number of doctoral students, ensuring supervision, resolving disputes, and opening the doctoral examination procedure to the responsible committee of the respective department. Said committee can in turn entrust its Chairperson with the tasks referred to.

(4) For the history department the Faculty Council will elect a Committee for Doctorates that is responsible for doctorates in the fields of history and art history and consists of nine members: five members from the group of professors of the history department, two members from the group of academic staff of the history department authorised to be examiners, and two doctoral students in the field of history. From the circle of their respective status group, the members of the Faculty Council will name candidates for election to the Committee for Doctorates for two years each. The Committee for Doctorates elects one of its members as the manager for the term of two years.

(5) The respective departmental committees are responsible for doctorates in the fields of philosophy and theology.

#### **4 a. Admission Requirements in the Fields of History and Art History (section 5 RPO)**

(1) As a general rule, a course of studies is relevant in the meaning of section 5 (1) RPO if it was completed with a degree in the field of history or art history. The Committee for Doctorates decides whether the candidate has the special ability and motivation for academic work necessary for the doctoral degree in the field of history or art history. If necessary, the decision shall take place on the basis of an admission interview.

(2) In the case of section 5 (1) b RPO, a qualifying degree with an overall mark of at least 1.3 is also necessary. Academic studies preparing for doctoral studies are usually to be completed in the scope of relevant master's programmes and should usually have a scope of 60 *Leistungspunkte* (course credits). The Committee for Doctorates decides on the type and scope of the studies preparing for doctoral studies according to the circumstances of the individual case. The committee's decision will be included in the notification on acceptance as a doctoral candidate pursuant to section 6 (4), (6) RPO and is to be satisfied before the opening of the doctoral examination procedure.

(3) Upon application, the Committee for Doctorates of the history department can grant a partial or complete exemption from the prerequisites of (1) sentence 1 and (2) sentence 1, subject to restrictions if applicable. If the doctoral candidate has completed a different course of study than one that is relevant in terms of (1) sent. 1, an additional prerequisite for admission is a support of acceptance according to section 5 by a member of the responsible department authorised to be an examiner who has proposed the dissertation or will support it. The decision is to be documented. Where applicable, the committee may request additional documents from the applicant. As needed, the decision shall take place on the basis of an admission interview.

(4) The applicant must, at the latest upon applying for the opening of the doctoral examination procedure (section 7), prove knowledge of three foreign languages that qualify him or her to grasp and use sources and scholarly literature in the field of history. These languages are usually Latin, English and French. Two of these foreign languages can be substituted for by others if they are practicable for the specialization. The decision on deviations from the stipulations on the proof of the proficiency in foreign languages is made by the Committee for Doctorates. The proficiency is usually to be proven by means of written achievements during studies or by means of examinations that have already been taken. Foreign doctoral students must prove comparable language proficiency; section 18 c (1) sent. 2 remains unaffected.

(5) If the equivalence of foreign academic degrees is not met after consultation with the Central Office for Foreign Education [*Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen*] pursuant to section 5 (5) RPO, admission can be granted subject to conditions. The Committee for Doctorates decides on the achievements necessary for equivalence.

#### **4 b. Admission Requirements in the Fields of Philosophy and Theology (section 5 RPO)**

(1) As a general rule, a course of studies is relevant in terms of section 5 (1) RPO if it was completed with a degree in the field of philosophy or theology. The respective departmental committee decides whether the applicant's professional suitability for the doctoral degree in the field of philosophy or theology is proven.

(2) In the case of section 5 (1) b RPO, a qualifying degree in the field of the doctorate with an overall mark of at least "good" is necessary, as well as subsequent studies preparing for doctoral studies in the field of the doctorate, with a scope generally of 60 *Leistungspunkte* (course credits). The departmental committees of philosophy or theology determine in detail the scope, focal areas and performance requirements for the studies preparing for doctoral studies in consultation with the doctoral candidate and the supervisor.

(3) The departmental committees of the fields of philosophy and theology can, upon application, grant a partial or complete exemption from the prerequisites of 1) sentence 1 and (2) sentence 1. If the doctoral candidate has completed a different course of study than one that is relevant in terms of (1) sentence 1, an additional prerequisite for admission is a support of acceptance or admission pursuant to section 5 by a member of the responsible department entitled to be an examiner who has proposed the dissertation or will support it. The decision is to be documented.

(4) For foreign academic degrees, the Doctoral Committee decides on the equivalence, taking into account the equivalency agreements approved by the Standing Conference of Education Ministers and the German Rectors' Conference; in case of doubts, the Central Office for Foreign Education [*Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen*] can be consulted. If the equivalence is not met, admission can be granted subject to conditions. The Doctoral Committee decides on the achievements necessary for equivalence.

(5) The applicant must, at the latest upon applying for the opening of the doctoral examination procedure (section 7), prove proficiency in two foreign languages that qualify him or her to grasp and use sources and scholarly literature in the fields of philosophy and theology. These are usually English and Latin or English and French. The respective departmental committee decides on exceptions. The proficiency is usually to be proven by means of written examinations during the studies or by means of examinations that have already been taken. Foreign doctoral students must prove comparable language proficiency; section 18 c (1) sentence 2 remains unaffected.

(6) If not all prerequisites pursuant to sections 1 to 5 have yet been met, admission can be granted on condition that the corresponding substantiation must be presented upon submitting the application for the opening of the doctoral examination procedure.

#### **5 a. Acceptance as a Doctoral Student in the Fields of History and Art History (section 6 RPO)**

(1) These documents, in addition to the documents referred to in section 6 (3) *RPO*, are to be attached to the application for acceptance as doctoral candidate:

- a) a synopsis of the doctoral research project (max. 4,000 words including bibliography)
- b) provision of two references (name, function and address for each)
- c) where applicable, indication of previously published academic papers.

(2) The Committee for Doctorates can require revision of the synopsis, setting out its reasons in writing. The synopsis must show the scientific quality and feasibility of the doctoral research and convey the impression that the candidate will be able to successfully conclude the doctorate. Upon re-submission, the committee decides again on acceptance.

#### **5 b. Acceptance as a Doctoral Student in the Fields of Philosophy and Theology (section 6 RPO)**

(1) These documents, in addition to the documents referred to in section 6 (3) *RPO*, are to be attached to the application for acceptance as doctoral candidate:

- a) a documentation of the course of study or courses of studies completed thus far and copies of the university diplomas obtained,
- b) a synopsis of the doctoral research project,
- c) provision of two references (name, function and address for each).

(2) The responsible departmental committee can require revision of the synopsis, setting out its reasons in writing. The synopsis must show the scientific quality and feasibility of the doctoral research and convey the impression that the candidate will be able to successfully conclude the doctorate. Upon re-submission, the committee decides again on acceptance.

#### **5 c. Admission to Structured Doctoral Training in the Fields of Philosophy and Theology (section 6 RPO)**

(1) Besides the doctoral studies independent of study courses, in the field of theology the doctorate is also possible in the scope of a structured doctoral training. In the field of philosophy the doctorate generally takes place in the scope of a structured doctoral training (see section 3 (2) *RPO*). The content and scope of the structured doctoral training deviate from a doctoral programme. In the structured doctoral training the doctoral candidates are offered research-based studies and the acquisition of key skills is facilitated. The departmental committee of the specific field decides on admission to structured doctoral training on the basis of the application. The selection of candidates is made by determining the degree of special ability and motivation for academic work.

(2) These documents, in addition to the documents referred to in section 6 (3) *RPO*, are to be attached to the application for acceptance to the structured doctoral training:

- a) a documentation of the course of study thus far and copies of the university diplomas obtained,
- b) a synopsis of the doctoral research project,
- c) provision of two references (name, function and address for each).

The responsible departmental committee can require revision of the synopsis, setting out its reasons in writing. The synopsis must show the scientific quality and feasibility of the doctoral research and convey the impression that the candidate will be able to successfully conclude the doctorate. Upon re-submission, the committee decides again on acceptance.

(3) In the scope of the structured doctoral training the following components are to be rendered in particular:

- a) regular participation in a relevant research colloquium usually held by the supervisor where the doctoral project is presented twice in the second and third years after admission. This research colloquium can also be a pertinent workshop seminar in the master's degree programme;
- b) other academic activities and key qualifications through
  - participation in events from the area of key qualifications of the international doctoral programme in history or other relevant higher educational offerings,
  - activities in research like the organisation of and/or contributions to workshops and conferences or publications,
  - collaboration in running courses.
  - the respective required performance components will be determined by the responsible departmental committee in consultation with the candidate and the supervisor, taking into account the individual educational curriculum and the topic of the dissertation, and are to be substantiated when opening the examination procedure.

## **6. Supervision (section 7 RPO)**

(1) Upon the acceptance of a doctoral candidate, the Doctoral Committee assigns at least one supervisor who takes on primary supervision. The doctoral candidate has a right to propose a supervisor. The supervisor is usually a member of the group of professors or a university lecturer of the Faculty entitled to vote. In justified cases the supervisor can be a member of the group of academic staff of the Faculty with a doctorate. The Doctoral Committee decides on exceptions and justified cases. For interdisciplinary research or cooperative doctoral research projects, supervisors from other Faculties or other universities can also be appointed. A supervisor appointed in the scope of a cooperative doctoral research project with a University of Applied Sciences must be habilitated or have achievements equivalent to a qualification to teach at professorial level. For this, a formal confirmation by the Faculty is necessary. The confirmation is valid for five years.

(2) The rights and obligations in conjunction with the supervision that are assigned to the professors pursuant to these Regulations also apply for habilitated individuals working at the Faculty, for emeritus and retired professors, honorary professors and for academic staff who supervise doctorates.

(3) A supervision agreement will be concluded between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor that conforms to the template of the respective department. The supervision relationship established by the supervision agreement can only be terminated by the supervisor for good cause.

## **7. Opening the Examination Procedure (section 8 RPO)**

(1) The doctoral examination procedure is opened upon request of the doctoral candidate as per a decision of the Doctoral Committee. The request is to be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee.

(2) The following are to be attached to the application to open the examination procedure:

- a) notification about acceptance as doctoral student;
- b) if applicable, proof of fulfillment of the studies preparing for the doctorate or further requirements;
- c) a curriculum vitae;
- d) if applicable, list of the scientific papers and academic lectures published thus far;
- e) five copies of the dissertation;
- f) in case of a group effort, names, academic degrees and addresses of those involved in the group work; a joint report by the authors on the progress of the collaboration, particularly about the share of the doctoral candidate in the joint work as well as whether the others involved in the group work have applied for or concluded a doctoral examination procedure and in so doing have used parts of the work presented for their own examination procedure. In case of group work pursuant to section 9 (3) of these Regulations, proof of the methodological and objective usefulness must be provided.
- g) a declaration stating
  - that the doctoral candidate is aware of the valid Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty,
  - that the doctoral candidate prepared the dissertation him- or herself (declaration of independent work), did not take over any text passages from third parties or his or her own examination papers without designating them accordingly and that he or she has indicated all tools and sources used in the paper (the Doctoral Committee reserves the right to demand this declaration, if applicable, in the form of a declaration in lieu of an oath pursuant to section 63 (5) *HG* [*Hochschulgesetz*, Higher Education Act]),

- that third parties have not received either directly or indirectly contributions in kind from the doctoral candidate for procurement of information or research or for work connected with the content of the dissertation presented,
  - that the doctoral candidate has not yet submitted the dissertation as an examination paper for a state or other academic examination and
  - whether the doctoral candidate has submitted the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, or a different paper at another university as dissertation and, if so, what the result was.
- h) proposals for the appointment of the reviewers of the dissertation;
- i) if there were any earlier doctoral procedures, a declaration about the place, time and Faculty, as well as the topic of the dissertation;
- j) proof of the admission requirements for the doctorate (proof of admission to the university, proof of university degrees)
- l) if relevant, a declaration that the doctoral candidate objects to the admittance of listeners at the oral examination. This declaration can be submitted or withdrawn up to one week before the oral examination;
- m) proof of foreign language proficiency pursuant to section 4 a (3) or 4 b (5).

(3) The Doctoral Committee examines the application and the documents to determine their completeness and decides on the opening of the examination procedure. If the prerequisites are not satisfied, after hearing the doctoral candidate the Committee rejects the application. The rejection is to be justified in writing and a notification to be issued with information on legal remedies.

(4) The examination procedure enables utilisation of the statutory maternal protection periods and the periods of parental leave.

## **8. Examination Committee (section 9 RPO)**

(1) The Examination Committee consists of the two reviewers (first reviewer and second reviewer) of the dissertation and an additional examiner for the oral examination. After consulting with the representatives from the field of the doctorate, the Doctoral Committee appoints the members of the respective Examination Committee for the individual examination procedure. The proposals of the doctoral candidate are to be taken into account when appointing the reviewers, whereby the Doctoral Committee can deviate from the proposals with justification. If a member of the group of professors or a senior lecturer of the Faculty entitled to vote proposed and/or supervised the dissertation, then he or she is to be appointed as reviewer. The first reviewer is generally a member of the group of professors or a senior lecturer of the Faculty entitled to vote. The second reviewer is generally a member of the group of professors or a habilitated member of the Faculty; in exceptional cases, a member of the academic staff of the Faculty with a doctorate can be appointed as second reviewer pursuant to paragraph 2. For art history, interdisciplinary or cooperative doctorates or doctorates across Faculty "borders", a reviewer can belong to another Faculty and, where appropriate, also another university. If a person is to be appointed as reviewer in the scope of a cooperative doctoral research project with a University of Applied Sciences, section 6 (1) sentences 7-9 apply accordingly. Appointing the first reviewer and the second reviewer by the Doctoral Committee assumes they have given their consent; consent can only be declined for good cause that is to be designated. The Doctoral Committee also determines from the members of the Examination Committee its chairperson, who is a member of the group of professors at the Faculty for History, Philosophy and Theology. The supervisor of the dissertation may not be the chairperson of the Examination Committee.

(2) The members of the Examination Committee must be professors or habilitated; in exceptional cases, a member can also be academic staff of the Faculty with a doctorate. The decision is made by the Doctoral Committee. At least two members of the Examination Committee are professors. Members of the Faculty must be in the majority in the Examination Committee.

(3) The members of the Examination Committee generally are part of the University of Bielefeld. If a supervisor or a reviewer switches universities, he or she can continue the supervision and evaluation and be a member of the Examination Committee. The same applies for emeritus or retired professors. The Doctoral Committee decides on the authorisation as examiner of external reviewers and examiners who may be consulted. Sub-section 2 is to be heeded in so doing.

(4) The doctoral candidate can lodge an appeal against decisions of the Examination Committee and the Doctoral Committee pursuant to section 3 (1).

## **9. Dissertation (section 10 RPO)**

(1) The dissertation must be attributable in terms of subject and method to one of the fields represented at the Faculty.

(2) The dissertation is a monographic work that is usually unpublished. In exceptional cases it can integrate academic papers already published, as long as there is a thematic association and a consistent set of questions. The Committee for Doctorates governs the exceptions in the fields of history and art history; for the fields of philosophy and theology, this is handled by the respective departmental committee.

(3) In appropriate cases an essential contribution to group work can be recognised as a dissertation. Upon presenting the group work, proof of its methodological and objective usefulness is to be provided. For the report, the individual components must be clearly demarcated and assessable and corresponding in scope and quality to the requirements posed to an independent examination.

(4) The dissertation is as a general rule to be written in German; in the fields of history and art history, the dissertation can be written in English or French; in the fields of philosophy and theology, the dissertation can be written in English; writing the dissertation in other world languages requires prior consent from the Committee for Doctorates in the fields of history and art history, from the Philosophy Departmental Committee for Doctorates in the field of philosophy, and from the Theology Departmental Committee in the field of theology.

(5) The reviewers shall each, independently of each other, prepare a written report on the dissertation recommending acceptance, rejection or return for revision of the dissertation. The deadline for submitting the reports is six weeks. A dissertation submitted at the end of the lecture period should be assessed by the beginning of the next lecture period.

(6) If the reviewers propose acceptance of the dissertation, they assess it with a grade. The grades are:

- summa cum laude (with distinction),
- magna cum laude (very good),
- cum laude (good),
- rite (satisfactory).

(7) The reports are to be made accessible to the doctoral candidate. He or she can take a stand on them in the form of a statement within 14 days.

(8) The dissertation will be displayed together with the reports and, if relevant, the statement of the doctoral candidate for two weeks within the lecture period and for four weeks during the semester break when there are no classes. Each member of the Faculty who is authorised as an examiner can issue a written statement on the dissertation and the reports within three weeks after the display period begins. The reports and, if relevant, the doctoral candidate's statement are to be handled confidentially by all those who become aware of it.

(9) If a vote against acceptance, rejection, report, or return for revision of the dissertation is submitted by a member of the Faculty who is authorised as an examiner pursuant to paragraph 8, the Doctoral Committee shall decide whether an additional reviewer should be appointed according to the procedure provided for in section 8 (1). This reviewer must be a professor. The time period referred to in sub-section 10 applies for presenting the additional report. The Examination Committee decides, taking into account all reasoned reports with a majority of votes in an open vote; the additional reviewer becomes a voting member of the Examination Committee. The doctoral candidate is to be notified of the decision with the reasoning behind it within a time period of 14 days.

(10) Upon acceptance of the dissertation, the Examination Committee, subject to the procedure pursuant to sub-section 9, and before the disputation determines the grade of the dissertation on the basis of the reports and, if relevant, the statements or objections. In case of inconsistent recommendations for the report, the Examination Committee decides by voting. In the event of a tie, the chairperson shall have the casting vote. In case of inconsistent recommendations that differ by two grades or more, as well as in the event of unanimous recommendation by all reviewers of the grade "summa cum laude", a professor who is generally not a member of the University of Bielefeld will be appointed by the Doctoral Committee as third reviewer. The doctoral candidate's proposals should be appropriately taken into account when appointing the third reviewer. The third reviewer

will become a voting member of the Examination Committee. The report of the third reviewer should be present within two months after he or she was appointed. A third report requested at the end of the semester break when there are no classes should be presented by the beginning of the next lecture period. Sentences 1 to 3 apply accordingly after appointing the third reviewer. The grade "summa cum laude" can be given only if all reviewers evaluate the dissertation with this distinction.

(11) In the event of return of the dissertation for revision, the Examination Committee shall impose a reasonable deadline within which a revised version is to be presented that meets the requirements it has formulated. If the doctoral student allows this deadline to pass without good cause, the dissertation is to be treated as rejected. The doctoral examination procedure is suspended until presentation of the revised version within the set deadline.

(12) If the Examination Committee refuses the dissertation, the doctorate has been failed. The doctoral candidate retains the possibility to present his or her rewritten dissertation once within an appropriate deadline that is to be determined by the Examination Committee.

(13) One copy of the dissertation is to remain with all reports and, if relevant, statements and objections in the Faculty's files.

#### **10. Oral Examination (section 11 RPO)**

(1) The oral examination takes place in the form of a disputation and will be conducted by the Examination Committee.

(2) The oral examination takes place as a general rule at least one week and at most eight weeks after the end of the display period for the dissertation, the reports, and, if relevant, the doctoral candidate's statement pursuant to section 9 (7). The oral examination is intended to serve to prove the ability of the doctoral candidate to perform competent and independent explanation of scientific problems. The doctoral candidate is to be consulted when setting the dates.

(3) The oral examination usually lasts 90 minutes. Each doctoral candidate will be examined individually; doctoral candidates who have written a group thesis can be examined in a joint session. The duration of the examination is then extended accordingly. The doctoral candidate can deliver a presentation of the most important results of his or her work. This presentation can last up to 15 minutes.

(4) The Dean can take part in the oral examination in an advisory capacity. The Dean can appoint a professor to carry out his or her obligations on a deputy basis.

(5) Minutes will be kept on the essential topics and results of the oral examination. The keeper of the minutes should have a doctorate and work at the University of Bielefeld. The minutes are to be signed by the members of the Examination Committee and the keeper of the minutes. The minutes can also be taken by a member of the Examination Committee.

(6) The Examination Committee decides after the oral examination by simple majority in open voting whether the oral examination was passed or failed.

(7) If the doctoral candidate fails to appear at the oral examination without an adequate excuse, the examination is deemed to be failed.

(8) If the oral examination has not been passed, it can be repeated once in the framework of the examination procedure. The repeat examination usually takes place at the earliest three months and at the latest twelve months after the failed oral examination. If this time period is exceeded, the doctorate has failed, unless exceeding the deadline is due to circumstances for which the doctoral candidate is not responsible.

#### **11. Overall Grade of the Doctorate (section 12 RPO)**

(1) If the oral examination has been passed, the Examination Committee evaluates the result with one of the following ratings:

- summa cum laude (with distinction),
- magna cum laude (very good),
- cum laude (good),
- rite (satisfactory).

(2) After a passed oral examination the Examination Committee decides by simple majority in open voting on the overall evaluation of the components of the examination with one of the following ratings:

- summa cum laude (with distinction),
- magna cum laude (very good),
- cum laude (good),
- rite (satisfactory).

The assessment of the components of the doctorate overall can only differ from the evaluation of the dissertation if the result of the oral examination differs from that of the dissertation by at least two marks. The chairperson of the Examination Committee notifies the doctoral candidate of the overall grade with the reasoning on which it is based immediately after the decision.

## **12. Conferral of Doctorate and Certificate (section 13 RPO)**

The Dean will hand the doctoral candidate a provisional certificate on passing the examination within one week after the decision of the Examination Committee.

## **13. Publication of the Dissertation (section 14 RPO)**

(1) The doctoral student is obligated to make his or her dissertation accessible to the scientific public in an appropriate manner by duplicating and disseminating it, by delivering to the Faculty deposit copies pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 in a version to which the reviewers have consented. These obligations form a unit in terms of an academic achievement. If special requirements were given in the reports for publication, the reviewers are obligated to take special care to ensure implementation of the requirements.

(2) The dissertation has been made accessible to the scientific public in an appropriate manner if, besides the copies required for the Faculty for archiving pursuant to sub-section 3, the doctoral student hands over three copies to the university library free of charge; these must be printed on permanent, wood- and acid-free paper and in a permanent binding. In addition, he or she is to ensure dissemination by either

- a) delivering 50 additional copies, each in letterpress or photo printing or
- b) proof of publication in a journal or
- c) proof of dissemination via bookshops by a commercial publisher with a minimum print run of 150 copies; here, the publication is to be identified on the back of the title page as a dissertation indicating the place of the dissertation or
- d) delivering an electronic version, the data format and its data carriers of which are to be agreed with the University Library of the University of Bielefeld.

In case a), the university libraries are obligated to store the surplus exchange copies for four years in a reasonable quantity. In cases b) and c) the obligation of publishing is deemed to have been met if three copies of the dissertation have been submitted and there is a contract with a publisher or publishing house from which results that the dissertation is being published. In cases a) and d), the doctoral candidate transfers to the university the right within the scope of the university libraries' statutory tasks to produce and disseminate additional copies of his or her dissertation or make them available in data networks. If a dissertation is distributed by a commercial publisher and if printing subsidies are granted from public funds, a reasonable quantity of copies is to be made available to the university library for exchange purposes.

(3) The doctoral candidate is to deliver to the Faculty free of charge three copies of the published dissertation.

(4) The sample and deposit copies are to be delivered to the Faculty within two years after the passed oral examination. The delivery period can, in justified cases, be extended by one year each, in total, however, not for longer than at most five years. If this deadline is not complied with, the Dean will, upon proposal of the Doctoral Committee, determine the lapsing of all rights acquired through the examination. The Doctoral Committee will decide on an appeal of the doctoral candidate pursuant to section 3 (1).

## **14. Fraud and Withdrawal of the Doctoral Degree (section 15 RPO)**

- omitted -

## **15. Inspection (section 16 RPO)**

- omitted -

## **16. Objection to Decisions Taken in the Doctoral Examination Procedure (section 17 RPO)**

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## **17. Honorary Doctorate (section 18 RPO)**

(1) The Faculty can confer the degree of a doctor philosophiae "honoris causa" (Dr. phil. h.c.) for outstanding academic achievements and merits.

(2) The Faculty Council decides on granting the doctoral degree h.c. upon request of at least two members of the Faculty Council with doctorates by a three-fourths majority of all voting members of this committee with doctorates.

(3) The honorary doctorate will be implemented by presenting a certificate prepared for this purpose and signed by the Dean, in which the academic achievements of the individual receiving the PhD are recognised.

#### **18 a. Joint Doctorate with Other Universities (section 19 RPO)**

(1) The Faculty for History, Philosophy and Theology also confers the title of a doctor philosophiae (Dr. phil.) in cooperation with a partner university or department within Germany or abroad. It also co-operates in granting a corresponding academic degree of the partner university or department.

(2) Proof of the scientific qualifications required for the doctorate is to be provided by the doctoral candidates by means of the various components of the examination. These consist of a scientifically substantial publication (dissertation) and an oral examination (disputation).

#### **18 b. Corresponding Application**

For the examination procedure pursuant to section 18 (1) sent. 1, the provisions of the *RPO* and of sections 2 to 16 apply accordingly, unless otherwise determined below. For the cooperation pursuant to section 18 (1) sentence 2, the provisions contained in the agreement apply.

#### **18 c. Admission to Doctoral Examination Procedure**

(1) Sections 4 a and 4 b apply subject to the proviso that the doctoral candidate must prove that he or she holds a degree permitting access to doctoral studies at a university of the country in which one of the two partner universities or departments is domiciled. Section 4 a sub-section 5 applies subject to the proviso that the doctoral candidate must prove proficiency in two foreign languages, including the foreign language referred to in the agreement.

(2) Sections 5 a to 5 c apply subject to the proviso that the following is also attached to the application:

- a) a declaration from the partner university or department that supports admission to the examination procedure;
- b) a declaration from a member of the partner university or department that he or she is willing to supervise the dissertation;
- c) if applicable, proof of studies at the partner university or department pursuant to section 18 e (2).

#### **18 d. Dissertation**

The dissertation is to be written in German or in a language named in the partnership agreement. A summary in the other language is to be attached.

#### **18 e. Supervision and Enrolment**

(1) The supervisors of the dissertation are one each: a member of the Faculty who is authorised to be an examiner, and a member of the partner university or department who is authorised to be an examiner.

(2) While working on the dissertation, the doctoral candidate must be enrolled for at least one semester as a regular student and/or doctoral candidate at the partner university or department. An individual who has already completed a course of study of the corresponding duration can be exempted from this prerequisite.

#### **18 f. Reviewers**

(1) The dissertation will be assessed by both a reviewer determined by the partner institution and a member of the Faculty who is authorised to be an examiner.

(2) The Doctoral Committee usually defines the supervisors as reviewers of the dissertation.

(3) Section 18 applies accordingly for the language of the reviews.

#### **18 g. Oral Examination**

(1) For the oral examination section 10 applies accordingly, unless otherwise regulated in the partnership agreement.

(2) For the language of the oral examination, section 18 d sentence 1 applies accordingly.

#### **18 h. Examination Committee**

The Examination Committee consists of at least four examiners. Two examiners should be authorised to be examiners for the Faculty, and two should be authorised to be examiners for the partner university or department. Each department must be represented with at least one examiner.

#### **18 i. Conclusion of the Doctoral Examination Procedure**

(1) Section 13 *RPO* applies for the conclusion of the doctoral examination procedure with the proviso that reference is made in the doctoral diploma to the cross-border doctoral examination procedure.

(2) The diploma contains the conferring of one sole doctoral degree; the title may be used in the form conferred by the partner university or department or in the form conferred by the Faculty for History, Philosophy and Theology. The certification can occur either a) in a joint diploma that is signed and sealed by the Dean of the Faculty and the competent representative of the partner university or department or b) in two diplomas in the individual country languages. The Dean of the Faculty signs and seals the German part. In an accompanying letter, the doctoral student is instructed that the title may be used either only in the German language or in the language named in the partnership agreement pursuant to section 18. The partner university or partner department issues their part of the doctoral diploma in accordance with the stipulations that apply there and ensures, if necessary, state certification of the jointly supervised doctorate.

#### **19. Coming Into Effect and Transitional Provisions**

These Doctoral Degree Regulations come into effect on the day after their announcement in the Announcements of the University of Bielefeld – Official Bulletin. At the same time, the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty for History, Philosophy and Theology from 10 January 2012 (Announcements of the University of Bielefeld – Official Bulletin – year 41 no. 1 p. 11), last amended by the Second Order on the Amendment of the Doctoral Degree Regulations from 18 July 2014 (Announcements of the University of Bielefeld – Official Bulletin – year 43 no. 14 p. 296), cease to be in force; they continue to apply for all doctoral candidates who applied for acceptance as doctoral candidate before these Doctoral Degree Regulations went into effect. Upon application, these Doctoral Degree Regulations may be applied in this case too; the application is irrevocable.

Issued in accordance with the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of History, Philosophy and Theology from 2 November 2016.

Bielefeld, 10 January 2017

The Rector  
of the University of  
Bielefeld

University Professor Dr.-Ing. Gerhard Sagerer