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# **Subject-Specific Doctoral Degree Regulation of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Passau**

**of 12 May 2022**

On the basis of Art. 13(1) sentence 2 in conjunction with Art. 64(1) sentence 5 of the *Bayerisches Hochschulgesetz* (BayHSchG; the Bavarian Higher Education Act), the University of Passau lays down the following statute:

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## **§ 1 Scope**

<sup>1</sup>This Subject-Specific Doctoral Degree Regulation applies to all procedures at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Passau for the award, revocation and withdrawal of doctoral degrees and supplements the General Doctoral Degree Regulation (APromO) of the University of Passau as amended. <sup>2</sup>Where a provision of this statute is inconsistent with the General Doctoral Degree Regulation, the provision set forth in the General Doctoral Degree Regulation will take precedence over the provisions of the present statute.

## **§ 2 Further eligible persons**

In addition to the persons mentioned in § 4 sentence 1 APromO, honorary professors are also eligible to participate in the doctoral procedure.

### **§ 3 Composition of bodies**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards consists of five professors, two postdoctoral staff (assistant professors or graduate research and teaching assistants) from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities as well as the postdoctoral women's representative. <sup>2</sup>If the women's representative does not hold a doctorate, he or she shall serve as an advisory member to the Board.

(2) The Doctoral Awards Assembly consists of

- the members of the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards and
- the postdoctoral professorial members of the Faculty Council.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards consists of the referees for the thesis and the chairperson of the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards or a deputy who is authorised to take up the role of examiner and has been duly appointed in accordance with the *Bayerisches Hochschulgesetz* (BayHSchG; Bavarian higher education act) and the *Hochschulprüferverordnung* (HschPrüferV, higher education examiners ordinance). <sup>2</sup>All referees must represent a faculty to which the subject of the doctoral thesis can be attributed. <sup>3</sup>If a referee is prevented from attending, the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards can appoint a replacement subject to the candidate's approval.

### **§ 4 Admission requirements at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities**

(1) Acceptance as a doctoral candidate at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities is conditional upon the applicant having duly completed:

1. a related university degree programme pursuant to Art. 64(1) sentence 2 BayHSchG with above-average grades in the assessments, having passed with the final grade of *gut* ("good") (2.5 or better),  
or
2. a full degree programme of at least six semesters at a university with above-average grades in the assessments as set forth in the relevant examination regulation; proof of having completed this full degree programme can be provided by passing a bachelor's programme with a final grade of *sehr gut* ("very good") (1.3 or better) and selecting, as the doctoral subject, a specific subject that is represented by a university teacher at the Faculty of the Arts and Humanities and has previously been covered by the bachelor's dissertation. When the First Examination or First State Examination for a teaching post at public schools has been passed, assessments shall be deemed to be above average also if the written assignment required for admission to the First Examination or First State Examination for a teaching post at public schools and the academic examinations in the relevant subject have been completed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the teacher examination regulations applicable to the candidate in the intended doctoral subject and awarded a final grade of at least *gut* ("good");  
or
3. a relevant *Diplom* degree programme at a university of applied sciences with a final grade of 1.5 (or better) and having selected, as the doctoral subject, a specific subject

that is represented by a university teacher at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and has previously been covered by the *Diplom* examination at the university of applied sciences.

(2) <sup>1</sup>On receipt of a written and reasoned request by the applicant's supervisor, the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards can reduce the mark threshold set forth in subsection 1 by up to 0.3 points if proof can be provided of the candidate's outstanding academic achievements in the doctoral subject. <sup>2</sup>Proof of outstanding academic achievements in the doctoral subject as set forth in sentence 1 above can be provided by earning a grade of *sehr gut* ("very good") (1.3 or better) on the graded dissertation/thesis or earning a *sehr gut* ("very good") (1.3 or better) on each of two written assignments or seminar papers or excellent research work/publications after completion of the degree in the intended doctoral subject. <sup>3</sup>In this case, the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards can stipulate additional requirements for acceptance.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The applicant must provide proof of having completed previous qualification in the doctoral subject in the form of three advanced seminars/master's colloquiums/research seminars or equivalent assessments that can be shown to have covered material related to the doctoral subject. <sup>2</sup>Such proof may be submitted at a later date within a reasonable time period, as indicated in the acceptance notice. <sup>3</sup>The bachelor's thesis, master's thesis, *Magister* thesis, *Diploma* thesis or paper for admission to the State Examination are each recognised as equivalents of an advanced seminar.

## § 5 Subject areas

The doctoral subject can be any subject area represented by a professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, including Mathematics Didactics and European Studies.

## § 6 Format of the doctoral thesis

(1) <sup>1</sup>As a rule, the doctoral thesis must be completed as an unpublished monograph or in an equivalent publication-based format. <sup>2</sup>A doctoral thesis is publication-based when a number of publishable articles or articles previously evaluated by an expert reviewer and published in related journals or anthologies or articles accepted for publication are submitted. <sup>3</sup>Their inner coherence must be outlined in a complementary summary that critically assesses the publications from an overarching perspective; the doctoral supervision agreement must define a minimum number of articles. <sup>4</sup>If articles have been co-authored, the doctoral candidate's own contribution must be identified in a statement of authorship in accordance with § 9(1) sentence 2 no. 6 APromO.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral thesis can, moreover, be part of a jointly authored paper (joint doctoral thesis). <sup>2</sup>Where, in the case of topics that are suitable for a joint doctoral thesis, several doctoral theses are written on one shared topic, usually by no more than two persons, they must not have been previously published. <sup>3</sup>The Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards must formally confirm the suitability of a topic for a joint doctoral thesis at the applicant's and the supervisor's request

and after hearing them; this must be done before commencing work on the thesis. <sup>4</sup>The contributions of any one of the authors to be considered in the doctoral procedure must be unequivocally attributable to this applicant. <sup>5</sup>The contributions made by the individual eligible parties must be identified in detail and described in the assurance to be provided in accordance with § 9(1) sentence 2 no. 6 APromO. <sup>6</sup>For doctoral procedures where a joint doctoral thesis is to be written, a joint doctoral examining committee will be appointed that must include all supervisors in the doctoral procedure; this shall be without prejudice to § 3(3) sentence 1. <sup>7</sup>In the case of a joint doctorate, each individual thesis will be evaluated separately within the context of the joint paper. <sup>8</sup>The referees must write separate reports for each of the candidates.

## **§ 7 Oral examination at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The oral examination usually takes place in the form of a viva voce examination ("Disputation" in German). <sup>2</sup>It can be held in German or, subject to an agreement between the candidate and the Doctoral Examining Committee, in English or another language. <sup>3</sup>The oral examination is open to university members. <sup>4</sup>In addition to the Doctoral Examining Committee, postdoctoral members of the university have the right ask questions during the examination. <sup>5</sup>The chairperson of the Doctoral Examining Committee must refuse any questions that defeat the purpose of the viva voce examination. <sup>6</sup>All examiners must be in attendance at all times of the oral examination. <sup>7</sup>At the beginning of the viva voce examination, the doctoral candidate is expected to lecture about his or her thesis (approximately 15 minutes). <sup>8</sup>He or she can use this as an occasion to comment on the referees' reports drawn up and on the appeals brought. <sup>9</sup>The viva voce examination starts out from the doctoral thesis, takes into account the referees' reports and, furthermore, covers problem issues in the subject and in related areas of other subjects connected with the doctoral thesis. <sup>10</sup>The viva voce examination gives the doctoral candidate an opportunity to demonstrate his or her familiarity with state-of-the-art research in his or her subject and in related areas. <sup>11</sup>The duration of the viva voce examination should be approximately one hour.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The Doctoral Examining Committee can determine, in consultation with the doctoral candidate, that instead of a viva voce examination, a lecture on the thesis with colloquium be held as an oral examination assessment that is open to university members. <sup>2</sup>The doctoral candidate must submit two topics for the thesis lecture to the Doctoral Examining Committee, which will then select one and announce the topic in the letter of invitation. <sup>3</sup>The thesis lecture shall take about 30 minutes; the subsequent colloquium in the form of a scholarly discussion regarding the thesis lecture and related areas shall take another 30 minutes.

(3) <sup>1</sup>In the case of a joint doctoral procedure, all candidates must sit a joint viva voce examination consisting of two parts: a presentation by each candidate about their own thesis, each lasting approximately 15 minutes, and a discussion lasting approximately 45 minutes. Every candidate will be given a separate mark; subsection 2 shall not apply. <sup>2</sup>Subsection 1 shall apply accordingly. <sup>3</sup>The examinations can be held separately if the chairperson of the Examining Committee is requested to do so by the doctoral candidate.

## **§ 8 Latin honours**

(1) Latin honours are awarded as follows (corresponding grades in brackets):

summa cum laude = excellent (1*)	an outstanding achievement that is far above the average and deserves the highest recognition
magna cum laude = very good (1)	an achievement that is above the average and deserves special recognition
cum laude = good (2)	an above-average achievement
rite = satisfactory (3)	an average achievement
insufficenter = unsatisfactory (4)	the work suffers from significant deficiencies and is, on the whole, unusable (a fail grade)

(2) Each referee will mark the doctoral thesis and each examiner will mark the oral examination individually using the following Latin honours (corresponding grades in brackets):

summa cum laude = excellent (1*)
magna cum laude = very good (1)
cum laude = good (2)
rite = satisfactory (3)
insufficenter = unsatisfactory (4)

(3) The Latin honours (corresponding grades in brackets) for the doctoral thesis, oral examination and the doctoral procedure taken together are awarded as follows:

if all three are awarded a "summa cum laude" (1*/excellent) = summa cum laude
from 1.0 to 1.5 = magna cum laude
over 1.5 and up to 2.5 = cum laude
over 2.5 and up to 3.5 = rite
over 3.5 = insufficenter (fail).

## **§ 9 Publication of the doctoral thesis**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral candidate must make the thesis available to the academic public by way of duplication and dissemination. <sup>2</sup>For this purpose, he or she is obliged to supply the following deposit copies:

1. six copies if the thesis is published in a journal or series or

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2. six copies if a commercial publisher ensures dissemination as a book for sale by booksellers, if proof can be provided for a minimum print run of 150 copies or availability through a print on-demand service and if the reverse of the title page indicates publication as a thesis and specifies the place of doctoral study or
3. three copies and an electronic version; in this case, the data format and data medium must be agreed with the University Library (publication in the document system of the University of Passau, OPUS), or
4. three photocopiable and typed copies together with the original and thirty additional copies in microfiche format.

<sup>3</sup>In the case of sentence 2 number 3, the doctoral candidate will grant the university the right to produce and disseminate, or make available in data networks, additional copies of the doctoral thesis for the purpose of ensuring that the university libraries can fulfil their legal mandate. <sup>4</sup>Duplication and publication of a doctoral thesis written as a monograph, or a thesis completed within the scope of a joint doctoral procedure, require the lead supervisor's prior written permission (*Druckerlaubnis*; permission to print). <sup>5</sup>The permission to print is granted after successful completion of the doctoral procedure if the required changes outlined in the referees' reports have been incorporated into the copy of the doctoral thesis to be reproduced or published for the delivery of the deposit copies. <sup>6</sup>The referees must obtain confirmation of this from the chairperson of the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards. <sup>7</sup>Any refusal of confirmation must be justified in writing. <sup>8</sup>At the request of the candidate, the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards can be heard for a decision; after the second refusal, the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards shall decide. <sup>9</sup>For good cause, the chairperson of the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards, in agreement with the referees, may authorise a deviation of the printed version from the submitted text. <sup>10</sup>In case of a publication-based doctoral thesis, the individual parts may be published at different times; sentences 5 through 9 will apply accordingly. <sup>11</sup>The copy for the archives of the faculty must always be the whole doctoral thesis.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The deposit copies must be submitted to the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards within two years of passing the examination. <sup>2</sup>On receipt of a reasoned request, the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards can grant reasonable extension of the time limit. <sup>3</sup>If the time limit – no more than five years after the oral examination – is not observed, all rights acquired through the examination will lapse.

## **§ 10 Degree certificate**

In addition to the information required by § 14(1) APromO, the doctoral degree certificate of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities lists all individual Latin honours achieved and, where the doctoral procedure was carried out under a contractual cooperation agreement, the name of the respective partner university.

### **§ 11 Procedure for the award of honorary doctoral (Dr. h.c.) degrees**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The procedure for an honorary doctorate is initiated on submission of a reasoned proposal by at least three faculty professors. <sup>2</sup>The proposal must be addressed to the Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The Board of Examiners for Doctoral Awards assigns the task of appraising the requirements in accordance with § 2(2) sentence 1 APromO to a minimum of two professors, whose remit extends to the relevant subject area. <sup>2</sup>The proposal and the appraisals must be presented to the members of the Faculty Council and all faculty professors. <sup>3</sup>They have one month to present a written response.

(3) Giving due consideration to the proposal and the appraisals as well as the responses submitted, the Faculty Council decides on whether to grant the honorary doctorate.

(4) The Dean awards the honorary doctoral degree by handing the certificate over to the honoured personality.

### **§ 12 Effective date, superseded regulation and transitional provision**

(1) This Subject-Specific Doctoral Degree Regulation enters into force on 1 May 2022.

(2) At the same time, the Doctoral Degree Regulation for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Passau of 5 September 2013 (vABIUP p. 94) is repealed.

(3) By way of derogation from subsection 2, the doctoral degree regulation referenced there continues to apply to doctoral students who at the time of entry into force of this statute had already been accepted as doctoral students until completion of their doctoral procedure.

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Passau, 12 May 2022

UNIVERSITY OF PASSAU  
The President

Professor Ulrich Bartosch

The statute was issued by the University on 12 May 2022 and announced on 12 May 2022 by posting on the noticeboards of the University.

The date of promulgation is 12 May 2022.