

Framework Regulations for Doctorates at Julius-Maximilians University Würzburg

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§ 1 Purpose of the Framework Regulations

These framework Regulations summarize the general principles for doctoral research at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg. They thus express the university's responsibility for the doctoral process. They apply together with the doctoral regulations of the faculties and graduate schools.

§ 2 Responsibilities for Doctoral Affairs

(1) The University of Würzburg confers doctoral degrees through its faculties and graduate schools in accordance with the applicable doctoral degree regulations.

(2) Each faculty and graduate school establish a thesis advisory committee responsible for all decisions within the process unless the respective doctoral degree regulations provide otherwise.

(3) The faculties, their graduate centers, if applicable, and the graduate schools are responsible for qualification measures and the design and implementation of the administrative processes of the doctoral procedure. They keep track of all data required for the doctoral procedure and keep it up to date for the University of Würzburg.

(4) The faculties and graduate schools ensure the quality of the doctorates under their authority. All parties involved must observe the principles of good scientific practice of the University of Würzburg.

§ 3 Purpose of the Doctorate

(1) The doctorate proves the ability to conduct in-depth scientific work. Graduates meet the standards of the highest level of the European Qualifications Framework.

(2) The qualification is acquired through independent scientific research activity and related qualification measures within the framework of a structured doctorate.

(3) Proof of qualification is provided by a dissertation and an oral examination; the oral examination should be held in public. The doctoral degree regulations may allow publication-based dissertations.

§ 4 Degrees

The specific doctoral regulations govern which doctoral degrees are awarded.

§ 5 Admission to Doctoral Research

(1) The admission requirements must be fulfilled in accordance with the respective doctoral degree regulations.

(2) The doctoral degree regulations specify which university degrees generally qualify for acceptance as a doctoral candidate. These include, in particular, relevant master's degrees from German universities or universities of applied sciences, state examinations and "Diplom" degrees (university). The doctoral degree regulations also specify alternative access routes (e.g.

fast track), any necessary qualification phases, as well as Cotutelle procedures with foreign universities, and cooperative doctorates with universities of applied sciences.

(3) Degrees obtained at foreign universities must be recognised for admission to doctoral research unless they differ significantly differences in the skills acquired (learning outcomes). The decision lies with the respective doctoral committee. In cases of doubt, the advice of the Central Office for Foreign Education may be sought.

(4) The faculties and graduate schools assess whether the requirements for acceptance as a doctoral candidate have been met in accordance with the applicable doctoral regulations. The prospective doctoral candidate must submit the documents specified in the respective doctoral degree regulations.

(5) The faculties and graduate schools should stipulate a maximum duration in their doctoral regulations within which the doctoral projects must be completed. The maximum duration is measured from acceptance as a doctoral candidate until the last completed examination. It is defined as at least twice the usual duration of doctoral procedures at the respective faculty or graduate school. The doctoral regulations must allow for extending the maximum duration up to two times upon request from the doctoral candidate to the respective doctoral committee. Extension requests must be substantiated. The application for a second extension should concentrate on explaining the reasons for the further extension. The doctoral degree regulations also stipulate a maximum duration for the extensions.

§ 6 Acceptance as a Doctoral Candidate

(1) The doctoral procedure begins with acceptance as a doctoral candidate by the faculty or the graduate school. Once eligibility for a doctorate has been determined and a suitable topic and supervisors have been found, the prospective doctoral candidate and the primary supervisor draw up a supervision agreement. The latter is a prerequisite for acceptance as a doctoral candidate, for enrolment and, if applicable, for employment as a doctoral candidate. Acceptance must be recorded centrally.

(2) A “Supervision Agreement for Qualification Projects at the University of Würzburg” that fulfils the requirements for structured doctorates includes information on at least the following points:

1. Determination of the supervising persons
2. Brief description of the planned dissertation with a provisional working title and timetable, and, if applicable, a qualification plan
3. Planned funding

A sample supervision agreement with the minimum requirements is attached as Annex 1.

(3) The doctoral degree regulations may stipulate further details. A copy of the agreement and any updates must be deposited with the responsible faculty or graduate school.

(4) Once the supervision agreement has been concluded and all necessary documents have been submitted, the responsible faculty or graduate school certifies acceptance as a doctoral candidate at the University of Würzburg.

(5) In case of an extension of a doctoral project, the parties involved in the supervision agreement must conclude an extension agreement regarding further supervision and, if applicable, continued employment as a doctoral candidate.

This extension agreement refers to the original supervision agreement and contains information on at least the following points:

1. Title

of the dissertation and names of the persons supervising the dissertation

2. Brief justification for the extension

A sample extension agreement is attached to these regulations as Annex 2.

§ 7 Matriculation

After acceptance, the doctoral candidate must enrol at the University of Würzburg at the earliest possible date within the specified enrolment deadlines and

submit any further documents that may be required. The faculty or graduate school must be notified of the enrolment. Termination of enrolment in accordance with Art. 49 (3) sentence 2 BayHSchG does not affect the acceptance of the doctoral candidate or the further process of the doctorate.

§ 8 Doctoral examination

The doctoral degree regulations govern the examination procedure and the fulfilment of its requirements.

§ 9 Publication obligation and degree conferral

The faculties and graduate schools regulate the obligation to publish and the final conferral of the doctoral degree in their doctoral regulations.

§ 10 Revocation of doctoral degrees

(1) Decisions on the revocation of doctoral degrees are made by the responsible doctoral committee.

(2) At least one external expert opinion is required to prepare the decision.

§ 11 Special regulations for doctoral candidates with special needs

The doctoral regulations of the faculties and graduate schools regulate special measures to support doctoral candidates with children or close relatives to be cared for and doctoral candidates with doctorate-relevant sick leave/absences or with special needs, for example in the case of existing disabilities.

§ 12 Entry into force

These Framework Regulations enter into force on the day following their publication; they apply to all qualification projects commenced after the enforcement. The applicable principles of the Bavarian state universities for dealing with fixed-term contracts under the WissZeitVG and for promoting career prospects for young academics remain unaffected.

This English translation represents the key regulations for doctoral research as outlined in the official German document. The exact wording of the official publication, however, is always binding. The translation was assisted by ChatGPT and deepL