

**Cover page**

**Doctoral Degree Regulations  
of the Faculty of Science  
of Paderborn University  
From 31 March 2021**

**Please Note: English translations of the "Doctoral Degree Regulations" are intended solely as a convenience to non-German-reading members of the University. Only the German text of these regulations, as published in the official announcements of Paderborn University ("Amtliche Bekanntmachungen"), its structure, meaning, and interpretation is legally binding.**

On the basis of section 2 subsection (4) and section 67 subsection (3) of the higher education act of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz, HG) of 16 September 2014 (Law and Official Gazette of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt für das Land Nordrhein-Westfalen, GV. NRW. p. 547), last amended by article 1 of the act of 1 December 2020 (GV. NRW, p. 1110), Paderborn University has issued the following doctoral degree regulations:

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## **Section 1**

### **Right to Confer Doctorates and Doctoral Degrees**

- (1) On the basis of a doctoral examination procedure, in which the candidate has proven their ability to carry out independent academic work, the Faculty of Science is to confer one of the following degrees:
- the Doctor of Science degree (Dr. rer. nat.) in the subjects Physics, Chemistry, Nutritional Science and Training/Neuroscience,
  - the Doctor of Philosophy degree (Dr. phil.) in the subjects of Home Economics, Sports Science, and Science, Social and Technology Education at the Primary Level,
  - and the Doctor of Medical Sciences degree (Dr. rer. medic.) in Sports Medicine.

Allowances can be made for deviations from this rule for doctoral theses with corresponding focal points. The Faculty Board reaches this decision on the basis of a justified request from the doctoral candidate, which must be submitted along with the application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure.

The Faculty of Science may also confer the degree of Dr. rer. nat., Dr. phil., or Dr. rer. medic. honoris causa (h.c.) in recognition of outstanding research achievements in one of the Faculty's represented fields. The details of the procedure are specified in section 25.

## **Section 2**

### **Bi-national Doctorate**

- (1) The doctoral examination procedure may be conducted in cooperation with an international higher education institution if
- a) the doctoral dissertation was supervised by professors or junior professors of both higher education institutions,
  - b) the applicant meets the admission requirements for the doctoral examination procedure at both higher education institutions,
  - c) the international higher education institution holds the right to award doctoral degrees in accordance with its national legislation or if the academic degree the institution awards can be recognised within the scope of the higher education act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz, HG NRW).
- (2) The implementation of a joint doctorate will be contractually stipulated, either on a case-by-case basis, or between the faculties or departments involved. In addition to the

stipulations of these doctoral degree regulations, the contractual provisions also apply. In order to ensure equivalence, the provisions of these doctoral degree regulations are to be taken into account before the requirements and procedures can be agreed upon.

### **Section 3**

#### **Doctoral Examinations Board**

- (1) The Faculty Board appoints a Doctoral Examinations Board for each department (“Chemistry”, “Physics”, “Exercise and Health”). This Board will be responsible for carrying out the doctoral examination procedures.
- (2) The Doctoral Examinations Board consists of four professors or junior professors, one academic staff member with a doctorate, and one master’s student of the respective department. The members are elected separately by their respective Faculty Board representatives. The provisions on gender equality according to section 11b HG (Hochschulgesetz Nordrhein-Westfalen) are to be observed.
- (3) The term of office for elected members of the Doctoral Examinations Board is two years. Students hold office for one year. Re-election is permitted.
- (4) The Doctoral Examinations Board appoints its chairperson and deputy chairperson from amongst the professors and junior professors.
- (5) The Doctoral Examinations Board is an authority in accordance with administrative procedure and administrative process law.
- (6) The Doctoral Examinations Board’s meetings are not open to the public. Its members are subject to official secrecy. Provided they are not employed in public service, they are sworn to secrecy by the chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board. The Doctoral Examinations Board makes decisions with a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the chairperson has the casting vote; if the chairperson is absent, the deputy chairperson has the casting vote. The Doctoral Examinations Board has a quorum if at least three professors or junior professors and at least one other member are present.

### **Section 4**

#### **Responsibilities of the Doctoral Examinations Board**

1. It decides whether to accept doctoral candidates (section 6).
2. It accepts applications for admission to the doctoral examination procedure (section 10).

3. It determines whether the doctoral requirements have been fulfilled and, if necessary, determines which academic work and achievements still need to be completed (section 5).
4. It opens the doctoral examination procedure (section 11).
5. It appoints the reviewers and the other members of the Doctoral Committee for each doctoral examination procedure (section 13). Suggestions made by the applicant may be taken into account.
6. It appoints the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee (section 13).
7. It supervises the course of the doctoral examination procedure and, if necessary, determines its discontinuation (section 22).
8. It decides on the potential appointment of a further reviewer (section 16).
9. It decides on appeals.

## **Section 5**

### **Access Requirements**

- (1) Admission to the doctoral examination procedure is granted to individuals who
  - a) have obtained a degree after relevant higher education studies with a general standard study period of at least eight semesters, for which a degree other than “Bachelor” is awarded, or
  - b) have achieved a qualified degree with a minimum grade of 2.0 (“good”) after relevant higher education studies with a standard period of study of at least six semesters and have completed subsequent adequate courses that prepare the candidates for the doctorate, or
  - c) have completed a relevant master's degree programme in accordance with section 61 subsection (2) sentence 2 HG.
- (2) If there are actual indications that the candidate is capable of undertaking independent academic work, the Doctoral Examinations Board of the respective department may, in the case of a justified request, grant exemption from the required minimum grade as mentioned in subsection (1) letter b).
- (3) The Doctoral Examinations Board of the respective department determines the scope and content of the studies still to be completed and the examinations still to be sat. This includes the possibility of re-sitting exams, in consultation with the doctoral supervisor. The Board will take into account both the applicant’s completed studies and the topic of

the planned dissertation. It also decides on the recognition of presented final theses of higher education studies.

- (4) Degrees from state or state-recognised international higher education institutions can be recognised, provided that there is no significant difference with regard to the competences acquired in a German degree in accordance with subsection (1). The respective Doctoral Examinations Board will decide on the existence or non-existence of significant differences, taking into account the equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (Ständige Konferenz der Kultusminister) and the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz). In this case, the applicant has to present a statement of the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen).

## **Section 6**

### **Admission as Doctoral Candidate, Enrolment**

- (1) Anyone intending to obtain a doctoral degree in a doctoral subject at the Faculty of Science may submit an application for formal recognition as a doctoral candidate to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board of the respective department. Such an application is strongly recommended. Applicants must provide proof of their higher education entrance qualification, present prior academic education in accordance with section 5 subsection (1), and indicate the topic or working title of the planned dissertation as well as the desired supervisor. The Doctoral Examinations Board and the supervisor decide on the acceptance in consultation with each other. There is no right to acceptance.
- (2) The applicant will receive written notification if they have been accepted as a doctoral candidate. This confirmation of supervision must be signed by the chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board and countersigned by the supervisor.
- (3) A written supervision agreement is to be concluded between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor. The agreement should, in particular, contain a structured time and work plan, regulate the tasks and duties of both the doctoral candidate and the supervisor, and, if possible, name a second supervisor. The supervisor will keep the supervision agreement. The existence of the supervision agreement needs to be confirmed on the application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate.



- (4) Doctoral candidates must enrol in accordance with Paderborn University's enrolment regulations (Einschreibeordnung) (available in German only).

## **Section 7**

### **Doctoral Dissertation Preparation and Supervision**

- (1) The doctoral dissertation is to be supervised by a full time professor or junior professor, or by a junior research group leader recognised by Paderborn University with outstanding research achievements and an obligation to teach at the Faculty of Science (the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Science decides whether the present research achievements can be considered as outstanding achievements), a group leader holding a doctoral degree of the Faculty of Science with outstanding research achievements and an obligation to teach at the Faculty of Science (the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Science decides whether the present research achievements can be considered as outstanding achievements), or post-doctorates holding a habilitation degree with an obligation to teach at the Faculty of Science. Each doctoral candidate should participate in the respective courses of the doctoral degree programme, provided that such a programme has been established.
- (2) If the respective supervisor leaves the University, the responsible Doctoral Examinations Board is to ensure that the supervision is continued by a person entitled to supervise in accordance with subsection (1). This procedure is to be carried out upon request of the doctoral candidate.

## **Section 8**

### **Accomplishments Required for a Doctoral Degree**

The accomplishments required for a doctoral degree include a dissertation completed by the candidate and the oral examination.

## **Section 9**

### **Doctoral Dissertation**

- (1) The doctoral dissertation must represent an independently developed, appropriately formulated, and academically independent, significant contribution to research in one of the subjects mentioned in section 1. The dissertation may be written as a monograph. With the consent of the supervisor and the responsible Doctoral Examinations Board, the candidate may also submit a cumulative dissertation.

- (2) A cumulative dissertation is generally based on at least one previously published article and two articles that have been submitted for publication by the doctoral candidate. Contributions made by co-authors must be clearly identified. A cumulative dissertation must correspond to a monographic dissertation in terms of length and internal logic, containing an appropriate overarching introduction outlining the objective of the dissertation, a comprehensive summary of the results, as well as a documentation of the methodology and data.
- (3) If the research results presented in the dissertation have fully or partly been obtained in cooperation with other participating researchers, the doctoral candidate is to specifically indicate their own contribution.
- (4) The publication of partial results does not preclude recognition as doctoral work. In all cases, the doctoral dissertation is to be published once it has been accepted as doctoral work (section 20 subsection (1)).

## **Section 10**

### **Application for Admission to the Doctoral Examination Procedure**

- (1) The candidate submits the application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board.
- (2) The application must contain the following documents:
  - a) a declaration stating that the candidate is familiar with the current doctoral degree regulations,
  - b) if applicable, a confirmation of admission as doctoral candidate in accordance with section 6 subsection (2),
  - c) a certificate of enrolment,
  - d) certificates of previous education as defined in section 5, if applicable, proof of successful completion of predoctoral studies according to section 5 subsection (1) letter b),
  - e) a CV in table form with a description of the academic career,
  - f) four copies of the dissertation in typewritten or printed form,
  - g) an electronic, computer-readable and searchable version of the dissertation in a file format and on a storage medium, which is to be agreed on with the chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board,
  - h) an abstract of the doctoral dissertation (max. 1,500 characters) in German and English, outlining the objectives, methods, and results of the dissertation in a generally comprehensible manner,

- i) a declaration by the candidate stating that they have independently completed the dissertation and listed all sources and means of support used for the dissertation,
  - j) a declaration by the candidate as to whether they have previously or simultaneously submitted an application to a doctoral examination procedure of another department or faculty, including complete details concerning the outcome of said application.
- (3) The candidate has the right to propose reviewers for the dissertation and members of the Doctoral Committee. These proposals are to be included in the application documents.
- (4) A doctoral dissertation that has been rejected by another department or faculty may not be submitted again with essentially the same content for the purpose of obtaining a doctoral degree.

## **Section 11**

### **Initiation of the Doctoral Examination Procedure**

The Doctoral Examinations Board decides on the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure. The procedure is to be initiated if the candidate has submitted all documents in accordance with section 10 subsection (2). The doctoral candidate is to be informed immediately if the application has been rejected. In case of rejection, the reason for the decision must be given in writing, including information on rights.

## **Section 12**

### **Withdrawal from the Doctoral Examination Procedure**

The candidate submits the application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board. The doctoral application may be withdrawn in writing by the candidate once within six weeks after the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure if no reviews are available at the time of withdrawal. In this case, the procedure is deemed not to have been opened and will therefore not be counted as a failed attempt. If the withdrawal from the examination procedure takes place more than six weeks after the decision on the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure or after the first review has been submitted and received in the Dean's office, the procedure is counted as a failed attempt.

## **Section 13**

### **Doctoral Committee**

- (1) Generally, the Doctoral Committee consists of four members (a minimum of four and a maximum of six). Aside from professors and junior professors, the committee may include a junior research group leader recognised by Paderborn University with outstanding research achievements and an obligation to teach at the Faculty of Science (the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Science decides whether the present research achievements can be considered as outstanding achievements), a group leader holding a doctoral degree of the Faculty of Science with outstanding research achievements and an obligation to teach at the Faculty of Science (the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Science decides whether the present research achievements can be considered as outstanding achievements), or post-doctorates holding a habilitation degree with an obligation to teach at the Faculty of Science, or an academic staff member holding a doctoral degree.
- (2) The Doctoral Examinations Board generally appoints two reviewers (a minimum of two and a maximum of four), the other members of the Doctoral Committee, as well as its chairperson. The Examinations Board may consider the candidate's proposals for the Doctoral Committee (section 10 subsection (3)). The chairperson must be a professor or junior professor. The chairperson is not permitted to act as a reviewer. In case of an interdisciplinary dissertation, the Doctoral Examinations Board should generally appoint three reviewers (a minimum of three and a maximum of four) as members of the Committee.
- (3) The reviewers must either be professors or junior professors, post-doctorates holding a habilitation degree with an obligation to teach at the Faculty of Science, junior research group leaders recognised by Paderborn University for outstanding research achievements possessing an obligation to teach at the Faculty of Science, or group leaders holding a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Science. At least one reviewer has to be a professor or junior professor of the respective department. No more than half of the reviewers may be professors or junior professors at another higher education institution.
- (4) The Doctoral Committee is to be composed in such a way that the members can make a responsible assessment decision. Generally, at least three members should belong to the respective department, two members should belong to the subject area of the dissertation and at least one member should represent a different subject area within or outside of the department.

- (5) Professors or junior professors who have been released from their duties or are retired, remain authorised to supervise dissertations and act as reviewers.
- (6) In the case of a joint doctorate with an international higher education institution (section 2), the Doctoral Committee and the reviewers are to be appointed jointly. The Doctoral Committee and the reviewers must generally be appointed on a parity basis; at least two members of the Doctoral Committee must be employed at Paderborn University. In case of a joint doctorate with an international higher education institution, the provisions according to subsections (1) to (5) may be partially or completely waived.
- (7) The Dean's office notifies the university public on the initiation of the doctoral procedure.

## **Section 14**

### **Responsibilities of the Doctoral Committee**

- (1) The Doctoral Committee has the following responsibilities, in particular:
  1. It decides whether to accept the doctoral dissertation (section 16) and conducts the oral examination (section 17).
  2. It determines the grade of the doctoral dissertation (section 16) and of the oral examination (section 18), as well as the overall grade (section 19).
  3. The chairperson of the Doctoral Committee sets the dates for the sessions of the Doctoral Committee and for the oral examination.
- (2) The Doctoral Committee decides in an open vote with a simple majority. In case of a tie, the chairperson has the casting vote. Abstentions in votes are not permitted.

## **Section 15**

### **Review and Display of the Doctoral Dissertation**

- (1) The time period from the initiation of the doctoral procedure to the completion of the reviews must be no longer than six weeks. In justified exceptional cases, the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee may extend this period for up to three months. The assessment of the doctoral work and examination should be completed no later than six months after the submission of the dissertation.
- (2) If the reviewers do not agree on the acceptance of the dissertation, an additional review must be obtained by the Doctoral Examinations Board. The additional reviewer becomes a member of the Doctoral Committee.

- (3) After completion of all reviews, the doctoral work is displayed in the Dean's office for two weeks. The Dean's office notifies the university public on the display of the doctoral dissertation and announces the display period.
- (4) During the display period, the dissertation is accessible to all members of the University. The reviews are accessible to holders of doctoral degrees at the faculty and to all faculties that have appointed reviewers to the Doctoral Committee, as well as to the candidate, to the members of the Faculty Board, and to the members of the University Senate during the display period. The Dean's office must document in writing the day the candidate inspects the reviews. The review contents are to be treated confidentially. The individuals specified in sentence two have the right to submit a statement by the end of one week after the display period. This statement is to be attached to the documents of the doctoral procedure.

## **Section 16**

### **Acceptance and Assessment of the Doctoral Dissertation**

- (1) Each reviewer evaluates whether the submitted dissertation can be accepted as doctoral work and assesses it in a written report as "very good" ("sehr gut"), "good" ("gut"), "sufficient" ("genügend"), or "insufficient" ("ungenügend"). If the review assesses the dissertation as "very good", the reviewer may propose an overall assessment "with distinction" ("mit Auszeichnung").
- (2) The Doctoral Committee decides on the acceptance and assessment of the doctoral dissertation within three weeks of the submission deadline of the statements (section 15 subsection (4)). During the semester break, the decision must be made within six weeks of the end of the display period.
- (3) The Doctoral Committee decides on the acceptance of the doctoral dissertation in an assessment on the basis of the reviews and under consideration of received statements of non-reviewers. In justified cases, the Committee may make the approval for publication of the dissertation subject to conditions.
- (4) The Doctoral Committee determines the grade of the dissertation by simple majority on the basis of the reviewers' assessment in accordance with subsection (1). Abstentions in votes are not possible. If the dissertation is assessed as "very good" and, in addition, if all reviews propose an assessment "with distinction", the Doctoral Committee decides whether the dissertation represents a particularly outstanding achievement and therefore may qualify for the award of the overall grade "with distinction" pursuant to section 19.

- (5) If the dissertation is assessed as “insufficient”, it is rejected.
- (6) If the dissertation is rejected, the doctoral candidate has not passed the doctoral examination procedure. The chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board notifies the candidate immediately in writing, stating the reasons for this decision along with information on rights to appeal. One copy of the rejected dissertation remains in the Dean’s office along with all reviews.
- (7) If the dissertation is rejected, re-admission to the doctoral examination procedure in the same subject at Paderborn University is only possible one more time. For this purpose, the doctoral dissertation must be entirely or substantially rewritten.
- (8) If the doctoral candidate has submitted an application pursuant to section 1 subsection (1), the Faculty Board decides whether the degree applied for can be awarded after receiving a statement from the Doctoral Committee.

## **Section 17**

### **Oral Examination**

- (1) The oral examination is comprised of a defense of the doctoral dissertation and an examination discussion on factual and methodical issues of the discipline and associated areas related to the dissertation.
- (2) The chairperson of the Doctoral Committee sets the date for the oral examination. The oral examination is to be held after the assessment of the doctoral dissertation. The examination is open to the public. The university public is to be notified about the date of the oral examination. The doctoral candidate and the members of the Doctoral Committee and the Doctoral Examinations Board must be given at least one week’s notice.
- (3) The oral examination is conducted before a panel of examiners by the Doctoral Committee. One of the examiners takes minutes of the examination. The examination is led by the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee. They may admit questions from the university public.
- (4) The oral examination must last for a minimum of one hour, but should not exceed one and a half hours. It begins with the candidate’s presentation of their dissertation, which generally lasts twenty minutes.
- (5) Candidates who do not appear at the oral examination without due cause will be considered to have failed the examination. Reasons for absence must be submitted immediately. Decisions on such matters are made by the Doctoral Examinations Board.

## **Section 18**

### **Assessment of the Oral Examination**

- (1) Immediately following the oral examination, the Doctoral Committee decides on the grade in accordance with section 16 subsection (1). If the oral examination is graded “very good” and the dissertation was graded “very good” and assessed as a particularly outstanding achievement, the Doctoral Committee is to decide whether the oral examination also constitutes a particularly outstanding achievement.
- (2) If the oral examination is graded “insufficient” or is failed, the doctoral candidate may repeat the examination once. The doctoral candidate may repeat the examination no earlier than four weeks and no later than one year after the initial examination. If the oral examination is still graded “insufficient” even after it has been retaken, the doctoral procedure is considered definitively failed. The chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board notifies the candidate immediately in writing, stating the reasons for this decision along with information on rights to appeal.

## **Section 19**

### **Overall Grade of the Doctoral Degree**

If the oral examination is passed, the Doctoral Committee determines the overall grade of the doctoral degree immediately after the oral examination. In principle, the grades of the doctoral dissertation and of the oral examination are generally weighted at a ratio of 2:1 when determining the overall grade. The possible grades are: “with distinction (summa cum laude)”, “very good (magna cum laude)”, “good (cum laude)”, “sufficient (rite)”, “insufficient (insufficenter)”. The grade “with distinction (summa cum laude)” may only be awarded if the individual grades of the thesis and the oral examination are assessed as “very good” and as particularly outstanding achievements. The chairperson of the Doctoral Committee is to immediately notify the doctoral candidate about the individual grades and the overall grade of the doctoral degree.

## **Section 20**

### **Mandatory Copies**

- (1) The doctoral candidate must make the doctoral dissertation accessible to the academic public in an appropriate manner in a version accepted by the Doctoral Committee as part of their doctoral degree requirement. The doctoral dissertation is made accessible to the



academic public in an appropriate manner if, in addition to the copy required for the faculty's examination files, which must be printed on age-resistant, wood-free, and acid-free paper and permanently bound, the doctoral candidate provides the University Library the mandatory/sample copies specified under a) and b) at no charge:

- a) submitting proof of distribution in bookshops by a commercial publisher with a minimum circulation of 150 copies (and indication of the publication as a dissertation by specifying the location of the dissertation on the back of the title page), of which two sample copies are to be provided to the University Library, or
- b) delivering an electronic version (including an abstract in German and in English; max. 1,500 characters) whose data format and storage medium have to be agreed upon with the University Library, together with a mandatory printed copy for the University Library in the same format as the copy for the examination file.

In case of option b), the doctoral candidate transfers the right to produce and distribute copies of the dissertation on data networks (e.g., the Internet) to the University Library (including conversion into another data format). The German National Library in Frankfurt/Leipzig and all other publicly accessible libraries in Germany and abroad are authorised to store the dissertation on their servers and make it available for use.

- (2) If the version of the mandatory copies does not correspond to the version accepted by the Doctoral Committee, it needs to be approved. Approval is granted by the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee in consultation with at least one reviewer after prior examination of both versions.
- (3) The mandatory copies are to be submitted within one year after the oral examination. In special cases, the Dean can extend the period twice by one year upon justified request.
- (4) The doctoral examination procedure is deemed to have been cancelled if the candidate does not meet the deadlines for submitting the mandatory copies.

## **Section 21**

### **Conclusion of the Doctoral Examination Procedure**

- (1) If the doctoral dissertation has been accepted and the oral examination has been passed, the chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board arranges for a doctoral certificate to be issued. The certificate contains the grade of the doctoral dissertation, the name of the reviewers, the grade of the oral examination, and the overall grade of the doctoral degree.

- (2) The certificate is issued on the day of the oral examination. It is signed by the President and the Dean and includes the University's seal.
- (3) The Dean presents the certificate to the candidate as soon as proof is received that the mandatory copies in accordance with section 20 have been supplied, or that their delivery is secured.
- (4) The award of the doctoral certificate represents the completion of the doctorate and entitles the candidate to use the academic title of doctor. Hence, the doctoral examination procedure is deemed to be concluded.
- (5) The Dean's Office notifies the Faculty Board of the conclusion of the procedure. The conclusion of the procedure is announced to the university public.

## **Section 22**

### **Invalidity of the Doctoral Degree**

- (1) If the candidate is found to have made misleading statements regarding section 10, the Doctoral Committee decides whether the doctoral examination procedure may be continued. The candidate must be given the opportunity to comment on these accusations.
- (2) If, before the award of the certificate, evidence is brought forth that the candidate was guilty of deception in the doctoral work or that essential requirements for the doctorate were erroneously assumed to have been met, the Doctoral Examinations Board may annul the doctoral degree. In particular, cheating is deemed to have occurred if someone has bought their doctoral dissertation, falsified research results, or has not provided full details of all sources and aids used.
- (3) If the procedure is cancelled or declared invalid, the chairperson of the Doctoral Examinations Board notifies the members of the Doctoral Committee, the Faculty Board, as well as the doctoral candidate and justifies this decision.

## **Section 23**

### **Revocation of the Doctoral Degree**

The doctoral degree may be revoked if it is revealed at a later date that the doctoral degree was obtained by means of deception, threats, bribery, or if essential requirements for the award of said degree were erroneously assumed to have been met. The Faculty Board decides on the potential revocation of the doctoral degree after hearing the doctoral candidate.

## **Section 24 Doctoral Degree in Cooperation with Universities of Applied Sciences**

In the case of a doctorate in cooperation with universities of applied sciences, one professor or junior professor from the university of applied sciences should be involved in supervising the doctoral candidate. In addition to a supervisor from Paderborn University, the doctoral candidate is also supervised by a professor or junior professor from the university of applied sciences as an additional co-supervisor. Generally, a professor or junior professor from the university of applied sciences must be one of the reviewers and a member of the Doctoral Committee.

The scope and content of the coursework and examinations to be completed in accordance with section 5 subsection (1) letter b), subsection (3) including the possibility of re-sits are to be determined by the Doctoral Examinations Board of the respective department in consultation with the supervisor and the co-supervisor of the university of applied sciences and must be regulated in an agreement between the supervising professors or junior professors.

Further details on the doctoral examination procedure can be specified in a cooperation agreement.

## **Section 25**

### **Honorary Doctoral Degree**

A proposal to confer an honorary doctoral degree “honoris causa” for outstanding research achievements in the fields represented in the faculty must be submitted by at least two professors or junior professors of the Faculty of Science. The professors or junior professors are to submit the proposal along with assessments from at least three recognised researchers. The Faculty Board makes the final decision on the proposal in two sessions on the basis of a recommendation of the responsible Doctoral Examinations Board. The first session is solely intended for consultation. With the approval of a three-quarters majority of all present members of the Faculty Board, the proposal is accepted. The minimum time between the first and the last session is six days. The individual being honoured must not be active full time at Paderborn University.

## **Section 26**

### **Entry into Force**

- (1) These doctoral degree regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in the official announcements of Paderborn University (Amtliche Mitteilungen, AM.Uni.Pb).
- (2) At the same time, the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Science from 12 November 2012 (AM.Uni.Pb. 50/12), most recently amended by the regulations from 20 February 2020 (AM.Uni.Pb. 09.20) cease to be in force.
- (3) According to section 12 subsection (5) HG, violations of the procedural or formal regulations of the higher education act, or regulatory or other legal provisions of Paderborn University may no longer be asserted against these doctoral regulations, unless
  1. these regulations have not been properly announced,
  2. the Executive Board has previously objected to the resolution by the body adopting these regulations,
  3. the University has previously been notified of the formal or procedural deficiency, indicating the legal provision that has been violated and the facts leading to the deficiency, or
  4. no reference was made to the legal consequences of the exclusion of objections when the order was publicly announced.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Science from 24 February 2021 and the legal verification by the Executive Board of 24 March 2021.

Paderborn, 31 March 2021

The President of Paderborn University

Professor Dr. Birgitt Riegraf