

**Doctoral Degree Regulations (Rules)  
for the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences  
at Kiel University - 2020  
of 20 July 2020**

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Based on Section 52 (1) in conjunction with Section 54 (3) of the Schleswig-Holstein Higher Education Act (HSG) of 5 February 2016 (GVOBl. Schl.-H., p. 39), last amended by Article 16 of the law of 8 May 2020 (GVOBl. Schl.-H. p. 220), after resolutions were passed by the Convention of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences of 23 June 2020 and 30 June 2020, and a fast-track decision by the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences of 1 July 2020, the following Rules were issued:

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## **Section 1 – General information**

### **§ 1**

#### **Doctoral degrees**

- (1) The Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences awards the title of Doctor of Agricultural Sciences (Dr. sc. Agr.) or the title of Doctor of Ecotrophology (Dr. oec. troph.) on the basis of a doctoral examination consisting of a piece of scientific work (dissertation) and an oral examination (disputation). The title of Dr. sc. agr. acquired at the Faculty prior to the introduction of the title of Dr. oec. troph. can be changed to the title Dr. oec. troph. by request.
- (2) Completion of the doctoral examination shall be accepted as evidence of particular competence for advanced independent scientific work in a specialist field from the area of agricultural sciences or nutritional sciences.
- (3) Until a person has been accepted as a doctoral researcher at the Faculty, they shall be referred to as an applicant. Following acceptance by the Faculty, a person is referred to as a doctoral researcher. Following submission of the application for admission to the doctoral examination, a person is referred to as a candidate.

### **§ 2**

#### **Honorary doctorates**

- (1) In accordance with the University Constitution, the Faculty can confer the title and honour of an Honorary Doctor of Agricultural Sciences (Dr. sc. agr. h.c.) or Ecotrophology (Dr. oec. troph. h.c.).
- (2) The procedure can only be initiated upon a detailed written request by at least one member of the Faculty concerned. An application needs to be filed with the Dean of the Faculty.
- (3) The nomination is to be forwarded to the Convention with a recommendation following review by the standing Habilitation Committee of the Faculty. The Senate must be given the opportunity to comment before the Convention makes its decision.
- (4) The Convention decides on awarding honorary doctorates. The decision requires the agreement of at least 4/5 members of the Faculty Convention.

- (5) The procedure for conferral of an honorary doctorate occurs through presenting the honorary degree recipient a certificate proclaiming his or her accomplishments.
- (6) The honorary doctorate can be withdrawn in accordance with the regulations of § 3.

### **§ 3**

#### **Refusal and withdrawal of the doctorate**

- (1) In severe cases, the Faculty Convention must declare the doctoral studies invalid, if, before handing out the certificate, it turns out that the doctoral researcher is guilty of gross violations against the rules of good scientific practice. In the case of minor violations, the Convention makes a decision on measures for punishment of such behaviour in its discretion following consultation.
- (2) In severe cases, the Faculty must revoke the award of the doctoral degree if, after handing out the certificate, it turns out that the degree has been obtained by means of gross violations against the rules of good scientific practice.
- (3) Before a decision in cases described in (1) and (2) is taken, the doctoral researcher must be heard. As a rule, external opinions are requested for preparation of the decision in cases described in (2).
- (4) If withdrawal of the doctoral degree is established as legally binding, all documents concerning the acquisition of the doctoral degree must be returned.

### **§ 4**

#### **Data collection**

In accordance with § 45 HSG, the Faculty collects such personal data from doctoral applicants and doctoral researchers as is necessary in accordance with these Doctoral Degree Regulations and the Higher Education Statistics Act (Hochschulstatistikgesetz, HstatG) for the legal discharge of its duties.

### **§ 5**

#### **Supervision of doctoral researchers**

- (1) Professors working full-time in the Faculty, assistant professors, extraordinary professors of their own faculty and secondary members, in addition to honorary professors as well as private lecturers who regularly teach at the Faculty are authorised to supervise doctoral researchers. Doctoral researchers are not entitled to decide which particular university lecturer is to supervise them. A university lecturer may complete his/her supervision after retirement from active service; it is not possible for him/her to accept new doctoral researchers.
- (2) In exceptional cases, the Faculty Convention may entitle members of other scientific institutes with which a cooperation agreement has been concluded to provide supervision, if they can otherwise be assigned to the circle of individuals named in (1) or if they can provide evidence of other achievements that are equivalent to the post-doctoral lecture qualification.
- (3) Willingness to provide supervision is documented in the supervision agreement (Annex 2).
- (4) In particular, from the time when the supervision agreement is concluded, the supervisor shall ensure that the doctoral researcher reports on the progress of his/her work in a working group seminar in the presence of his/her supervisor at least twice a year.
- (5) The supervision may be terminated prematurely by both the supervisor or the doctoral researcher. The Dean shall be informed in writing.
- (6) Registration with the Graduate Centre is recommended in order to make use of the services provided by the Graduate Centre.
- (7) The supervisor should be available as first assessor in the later doctoral examination procedure.

- (8) Supervision as a doctoral researcher by a Faculty member authorised to do so does not entitle the applicant to be admitted to the doctoral examination procedure.

## **Section 2 – Acceptance of doctoral researchers**

### **§ 6**

#### **Application for acceptance as a doctoral researcher**

- (1) An applicant who wishes to complete their doctoral degree at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences can apply to be accepted by the Faculty as a doctoral researcher. The application must be submitted to the Dean of the Faculty in writing.
- (2) The application for acceptance is binding and shall take place before starting work on the doctoral dissertation.
- (3) The following must be submitted as the application for acceptance
1. the completed and signed supervision agreement (Annex 2) and
  2. a copy of the relevant qualifying degree certificate in accordance with the regulations of § 7 and § 8 and
  3. a declaration that a dissertation in the same or a related subject has not already been unsuccessfully submitted. If a dissertation in another subject was already unsuccessfully submitted, this must be acknowledged, stating the subject, the university and the faculty.
- (4) If the dissertation according to the supervision agreement is a cross-faculty dissertation, the Faculty declares in the confirmation of acceptance its consent to admission of the dissertation and requests the applicant to confirm in good time and no later than the date of application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure that the dissertation will be completed at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences. If the supervisor is not a full-time member of the Faculty, at the time of acceptance the supervisor must name a full-time member of the Faculty in the supervision agreement who can supervise the content and subject matter of the doctoral topic at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences and can confirm at the time of admission to the doctoral examination procedure that the doctoral degree can be completed in an agricultural and nutritional science subject.

### **§ 7**

#### **Requirements for acceptance of doctoral researchers with a university degree**

- (1) Graduates of a German or recognised foreign university who can provide evidence of a good diploma or Master's degree qualification (grade of 2.5 or better) can be accepted for a doctoral degree upon application.
- (2) The requirements for acceptance are
1. that specialist evaluation by a member of the Faculty authorised to provide supervision in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2) or by a cooperation partner is possible,
  2. that supervision by a person authorised to do so in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2) is ensured,
  3. that a supervision agreement (Annex 2) has been concluded between the supervisor and the applicant,
  4. that evidence of the grade "good" (grade of 2.5 or better) can be provided in a diploma or Master's degree qualification, for a doctoral degree or for a state examination in a degree programme relevant to the doctoral topic from a German or recognised foreign university. Alternatively, evidence can be provided that the applicant completed their scientific studies among the top 25% of their year.

5. that in the case of Master's degree or diploma qualifications, doctoral degrees or state examinations from other subjects, the supervisor has provided a statement justifying the suitability of the candidate.

### **§ 8**

#### **Requirements for acceptance of doctoral researchers with a university of applied sciences degree**

- (1) Graduates of universities of applied sciences who provide evidence of a very good (grade 1.5 or better) diploma or Master's degree qualification in a subject relevant to the doctoral topic may be accepted for the doctoral degree if they can also provide evidence of the same aptitude for scientific work as is required for university degree programmes.
- (2) The requirements for acceptance are
  1. that evidence can be provided of the grade "very good" (grade of 1.5 or better) in a relevant diploma or Master's degree programme at a German or recognised foreign university of applied sciences.
  2. that specialist evaluation by a member of the Faculty authorised to provide supervision in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2) or by a cooperation partner is possible,
  3. that supervision by a person authorised to do so in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2) is ensured,
  4. that a supervision agreement (official form, Annex 2) has been concluded between the supervisor and the applicant,
  5. that the supervisor has provided a statement justifying the suitability of the candidate in the case of Master's degree or diploma qualifications from other subjects.
  6. that evidence has been provided of the same aptitude for scientific work as is required for university degree programmes. The Dean shall appoint at least two full-time professors to hold a suitability interview with the applicant to discuss the written concept for the dissertation to be submitted with the application. The participating professors will then submit a report to the Convention with a statement on the recommendation for admission to the doctoral degree. The first supervisor may not take part in the interview.
- (3) The recommendation for admission to doctoral degrees may be subject to conditions.
- (4) The Dean is to be informed in writing of the recommendation for admission and fulfilment of the conditions. A negative decision must be justified in detail.
- (5) The applicant is to be informed of the result of the suitability test in writing. In the case of a positive assessment, the written notification can be sent together with the acceptance letter from the Faculty, stating the conditions set where applicable.

### **§ 9**

#### **Acceptance of doctoral researchers**

- (1) The Dean decides on the acceptance of applicants for his or her own Faculty based on the application forms submitted in full. The Faculty Convention decides on the acceptance of graduates from recognised foreign universities based on the application forms submitted in full.
- (2) The Convention decides on the acceptance of applicants from universities of applied sciences based on the recommendation from the suitability interview and the application documents submitted in full.
- (3) The acceptance can be withdrawn by written explanation from the Dean if the supervisor declares in writing that he or she is terminating the supervision agreement. Unilateral termination by the doctoral researcher is only permitted in justified cases.

- (4) Acceptance as a doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences does not establish an entitlement to later admission to the doctoral examination procedure.
- (5) Applicants will be informed in writing about their acceptance as doctoral researchers.

### **Section 3 – Doctoral examination procedure and doctoral examinations**

#### **§ 10 Specialist fields**

The specialist field of the doctoral examination must fall within the area of agricultural sciences or ecotrophology. Specialist fields are all those specialist fields listed in Annex 1 insofar as they are represented by a university professor in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2). No other specialist fields are permitted.

#### **§ 11 Application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure**

- (1) Admission to the doctoral examination procedure requires that the candidate has been accepted as a doctoral researcher at the Faculty.
- (2) An application (see Annex 3) must be made to the Dean for admission to the doctoral examination procedure. The application must include:
  1. Five printed copies of the dissertation and one electronic copy in a format determined by the Dean's Office;
  2. In the case of cumulative dissertations, a Declaration of Co-Authorship, Annex 3, in accordance with § 14 (6), incorporated into the dissertation copies;
  3. A declaration stating whether the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) is to be conducted in German or English;
  4. Statement of the specialist field of the doctoral degree in accordance with Annex 1
  5. A sworn declaration in accordance with § 54 HSG that the dissertation was produced independently and without unauthorised assistance;
  6. A written declaration that the work has not been presented to any other faculty;
  7. A written declaration that the work complies with the guidelines for good research practice, as defined by the German Research Foundation (DFG);
  8. A signed Curriculum Vitae written in German or English, stating the applicant's nationality, and providing information on his/her education and vocational training,
  9. The certificate of the degree qualification qualifying the applicant for the doctoral degree in original form or as a certified copy;
  10. A one-page summary of the dissertation in German, approved by the supervisor for publication by the Faculty.
  11. A letter from the supervisor or doctoral researcher containing a suggestion for at least one possible assessor who is prepared to assess the dissertation and work on the relevant Disputation Board.
  12. In the case of cross-faculty dissertations in accordance with § 6 (3), a notification from the first supervisor and the candidate that the doctoral examination will be completed at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences. If the supervisor is not a full-time member of the Faculty, written confirmation is additionally required from the full-time Faculty member appointed in the supervision agreement that the doctoral topic is related to a specialist field of the agricultural and nutritional sciences.

#### **§ 12 Admission to the doctoral examination procedure**

- (1) The Dean decides on admission, whereby in the case of cross-faculty dissertations, he or she must conclusively check and determine the Faculty responsible. In case of rejection, the doctoral researcher shall be notified in writing, with reasons for this decision, along with instructions on the right to appeal.

- (2) Admission must be denied if
  1. the applicant was not accepted as a doctoral researcher by the Faculty,
  2. there are other grounds to justify the withdrawal of an academic title or
  3. an academic title has already been withdrawn,
  4. the documents in accordance with § 11 (2) Numbers 1 to 12 are incomplete or non-existent or
  5. the applicant has ultimately failed a doctoral degree procedure in the same specialist field or is currently involved in such a procedure.
- (3) The application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure can be withdrawn as long as the assessment of the two assessors has not been submitted to the Dean's Office.

### **§ 13**

#### **Appointment of assessors**

- (1) If the requirements for admission to the doctoral examination procedure have been met, the Dean shall appoint two assessors for the dissertation.
- (2) One of the assessors must be a member of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2). The first assessor should be the person who supervised the candidate as a doctoral researcher.
- (3) A former member of the Faculty can be appointed as an assessor if this person has supervised the candidate as a doctoral researcher.
- (4) If the subject of the dissertation falls within the scope of two faculties, the Dean can request that a member of another faculty at Kiel University or another university provide an assessment.
- (5) Members of other universities or universities of applied sciences can also be appointed as assessors, while members of other academic institutions can be requested as additional assessors if they are qualified in a corresponding manner to the circle of individuals listed in § 5 (1) and (2). This applies, in particular, if the candidate is a graduate of a university of applied sciences.
- (6) Before appointing assessors who are not members of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences, the Dean must ensure that this does not cause any delay to the doctoral degree procedure.

### **§ 14**

#### **Dissertations**

- (1) The dissertation must be a considerable academic achievement; it must present an advance in academic knowledge and demonstrate the applicant's ability to carry out independent academic work.
- (2) The subject of the dissertation must be a topic from the field in accordance with § 10 and must be written in German or English.
- (3) Each dissertation must include an abstract in German and English. If the abstract is not translated into the other language by the candidate themselves, this must be noted accordingly.
- (4) The dissertation can be compiled as a monograph or as a cumulative dissertation.
- (5) Several manuscripts previously published, submitted or approved for publication or prepared as such may be submitted as a cumulative dissertation, which must be recognisable as an independent overall accomplishment and contain substantial parts such as an introduction, transitions, methodological section, classification of the research question and conclusion, and turn the dissertation into a holistic paper.
- (6) Where published works are collaborations between several authors, the candidate must document his or her own contribution to these publications by means of a Declaration of

Co-Authorship (Annex 3), which must be confirmed by the other authors and the supervisor (cf. § 11 (2) Number 2).

### **§ 15**

#### **Assessing the dissertation**

- (1) The assessors submit a well-reasoned report to the Faculty Convention recommending the acceptance or rejection of the dissertation.
- (2) The dissertation proposed for acceptance must be graded according to the regulations of § 23 of these Rules.
- (3) If the dissertation is graded "with distinction" by both assessors, the Dean must obtain a third external report. If the work is not graded "with distinction" by all three assessors, it will receive the grade "very good".
- (4) If it is recommended that the dissertation is returned for revision, the assessors are to state a deadline by which the applicant must submit his/her work again for re-examination.
- (5) If the reports are not in agreement in terms of the dissertation's grade, the two assessors shall determine the grade together.
- (6) If the assessors cannot agree on a grade, the Dean shall determine a grade following consultation with the both assessors. The Dean is free to obtain another report to make his/her decision.
- (7) If the assessors disagree with regard to the basic acceptance of the doctoral dissertation, the Dean may call for other reports by members of other faculties or members of another university (cf. § 13 (5)). The Faculty Convention shall then make the final decision.
- (8) A report must always be obtained if the reports submitted differ by more than one grade.

### **§ 16**

#### **Exhibition of the dissertation**

- (1) The dissertation and reports are to be exhibited for viewing in the Dean's Office for two weeks. Each member of the Faculty named in § 5 (1) and (2) of these Rules is authorised to inspect them and submit his/her own well-reasoned report. Such reports can be considered in an appropriate manner in determining the dissertation grade.
- (2) If a member of the Faculty objects to the acceptance of the dissertation in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2), the Dean can call for other reports by members of other faculties or members of another university (cf. § 13 (5)). The Faculty Convention shall then make the final decision.
- (3) If no objection is made against the recommendation by the assessors to accept the dissertation, the Dean shall announce admission to the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) on behalf of the Faculty. The candidate shall be informed of the admission in writing.

### **§ 17**

#### **Rejection of a dissertation**

- (1) If the dissertation is rejected, the Dean shall declare the doctoral examination procedure to be finished and issue a notification to this effect. The dissertation and the reports shall be retained on file by the Faculty.
- (2) The candidate can apply for admission to a second doctoral examination procedure with a different dissertation topic. If this dissertation is also rejected, the candidate has then irrevocably failed the doctoral examination and the doctoral degree procedure is concluded without success.
- (3) If a doctoral dissertation is not rejected but is considered not yet acceptable or is shown to have substantial shortcomings during the defence of the dissertation (disputation), the candidate can be given the requirement to revise and resubmit it within one year. The two

assessors decide in this matter. If the dissertation is not resubmitted within this period, the doctoral degree procedure shall be deemed as concluded without success.

- (4) If a candidate provides credible evidence that, owing to a chronic illness or a disability, he or she is not in a position to resubmit the dissertation within the deadline, the Dean can make a decision on extending the deadline in agreement with the first assessor. The university's representative body for the disabled can be involved when the Dean makes decisions. Chronic illness or disability must be evidenced by a doctor's note.
- (5) The regulations on maternity leave apply for pregnant doctoral researchers.

### **§ 18**

#### **Date for the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation)**

Once the doctoral dissertation is accepted, the Dean shall determine a date and time for the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) and inform the members of the Faculty Convention. The candidate is invited to attend in writing.

### **§ 19**

#### **Defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation)**

In his/her defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation), the applicant must prove that he/she has basic academic knowledge of the specialist fields of agricultural sciences and/or ecotrophology in accordance with Annex 1 of these Doctoral Degree Regulations.

### **§ 20**

#### **The public and the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation)**

- (1) Disputations at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences are open to the university-affiliated public. Upon reasoned request, the Dean may allow a disputation to be held in closed session.
- (2) Consultation on and the announcement of the examination result are not open to the public.

### **§ 21**

#### **Conducting the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation)**

- (1) To conduct the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation), the Dean appoints a Disputation Board consisting of four members, who should include the first and second assessors and at least one other university lecturer. If an external second assessor is unable to join the Board, the Dean may decide to appoint a member of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences or another faculty of Kiel University to act as representative in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2). If the specialist field is represented by more than one member of the teaching staff, the candidate may suggest an examiner from this specialist field to the Dean, but this does not mean the Dean must consider the proposal.
- (2) The defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) consists of a presentation by the doctoral researcher on his/her dissertation lasting 20 minutes, followed by a discussion lasting 60 minutes during which questions from related specialist fields may be addressed.
- (3) The candidate may choose whether to conduct the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) in German or English.
- (4) Each person as defined in § 5 (1) and (2) of these Rules is entitled to attend the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) and pose questions to the candidate. The Chairperson may allow members of the audience to ask questions.
- (5) The minutes are to be recorded for the grading of the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation).

- (6) If a candidate provides credible evidence that, owing to a chronic illness or a disability, he or she is not in a position to meet all or some of the disputation requirements in the prescribed form, the Dean can consult with the first assessor to authorise equivalent examinations in a form appropriate to the candidate's needs. The university's representative body for the disabled can be involved when the Dean makes decisions. Chronic illness or disability must be evidenced by a doctor's note.
- (7) The regulations on maternity leave apply for pregnant doctoral researchers.

## **§ 22**

### **Assessment of the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation)**

- (1) Each member of the Disputation Board grades the examination. Grading is performed in accordance with § 23 (1) of these Rules, whereby inadequate examinations are graded as "failed". If two or more examiners grade the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) as "failed", then the disputation is failed.
- (2) If the examinations are adequate, the examiners involved in the examination of the candidate decide the overall grade for the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation); this is decided by a simple majority vote; in the event of a tie, the Chairperson decides. Abstention is not permitted.

## **§ 23**

### **Grading**

- (1) The grades permitted for a dissertation and defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) must be full grades:
  - with distinction (0)
  - very good (1)
  - good (2)
  - satisfactory (3)
- (2) The overall grade of the doctoral degree examination shall be obtained by calculating the total of the grade for the dissertation weighted by a factor of 0.7 plus the grade for the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) weighted by a factor of 0.3. This result shall determine the overall grade of the doctoral degree examination as follows:

excellent (summa cum laude)	when the result is 0.0
very good (magna cum laude)	when the result is 0.1 to 1.5
good (cum laude)	when the result is 1.6 to 2.5
satisfactory (rite)	when the result is 2.6 to 3.0

## **§ 24**

### **Announcement of the doctoral examination result**

The candidate is notified of the overall assessment, the evaluation of the dissertation and the result of the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) in the form of a certificate as soon as they are determined.

## **§ 25**

### **Absence from the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation)**

If, despite receiving an invitation, the applicant is absent from the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) without an adequate reason, the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) is regarded as failed.

## **§ 26**

### **Repeating the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation)**

- (1) If the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) is not completed successfully, the applicant can repeat it once only.

- (2) The defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) should be repeated on the next available date; defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) dates are normally held twice a semester. The regulations of § 21 (6) and (7) continue to apply.

## **§ 27**

### **Publishing a doctoral dissertation**

- (1) If the doctoral examination is passed and the first assessor grants permission for the dissertation to be printed, the candidate must publish the dissertation within twelve months of the defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) date. If this deadline is not met, all rights obtained through the doctoral degree procedure are forfeited. In special cases, the Dean can extend the deadline, even retroactively. This requires a reasoned request by the applicant.
- (2) The copies to be supplied shall be made identifiable as a dissertation.
- (3) Reasons for rejecting readiness for printing must be explicitly described in the report. If the assessors disagree in this regard, the first assessor decides on the readiness for printing. If permission for the dissertation to be printed is not granted, the dissertation must be improved within twelve months.
- (4) The candidate decides on the type of publication in agreement with the first assessor once permission for printing has been granted, under application of Section (5).
- (5) The following must be provided free of charge for publication of the doctoral dissertation:
1. One copy for the examination files and
  2. 49 copies in letterpress or digital printing (individual prints) for distribution, or
  3. four copies, if the dissertation is to be published in a scientific journal or publication series at an institute, or
  4. four copies, if a commercial publisher will distribute the dissertation via the bookselling trade and evidence is provided of a minimum edition of at least 150 copies, or
  5. four copies, if simultaneous publication in generally accessible electronic media via the University Library takes place (in this case the files to be submitted to the University Library must be formatted according to its specifications). If electronic publication should not be possible for copyright or patent reasons, initially only an abstract shall be published electronically. After three years have elapsed, the entire work must have been published.

## **§ 28**

### **Award of the doctoral degree**

- (1) After all the obligations arising from the doctoral examination procedure have been met, the doctoral degree is completed with the issuing of a doctoral certificate (Urkunde). Once the doctoral degree has been conferred, the applicant is entitled to hold a doctoral degree title.
- (2) The Dean may permit the candidate to hold the doctoral degree title before fulfilling the obligations stated in § 27 (5) if he/she has a publishing contract that ensures publication of the dissertation within a reasonable period.
- (3) The doctoral certificate (Urkunde) must state the name of the primary examiner, the overall grade and the specialist field in which the doctor has attained his/her doctoral degree. The doctoral researcher shall receive a certification from the Dean on the assessment of his/her dissertation upon request. An English translation of the doctoral certificate (Urkunde) can be issued upon request.
- (4) A copy of the doctoral certificate (Urkunde) is to be kept in the Faculty's records.

- (5) Candidates in the fast-track doctoral degree procedure will also be awarded the Master's title upon successful completion if they also meet the requirements of § 32 and § 33 of the fast-track doctoral degree.
- (6) The examination files may be viewed following completion of the doctoral degree. A written application must be made to the Dean to do this.

#### **Section 4: Fast-track doctoral degree with simultaneous acquisition of the Master's degree**

##### **§ 29**

#### **Application for acceptance as a doctoral researcher for a fast-track doctoral degree with simultaneous acquisition of the Master's degree**

- (1) Especially gifted applicants with a very good related Bachelor's degree can apply for admission to a fast-track doctoral degree with simultaneous acquisition of the Master's degree under the conditions set out in § 30.
- (2) The application for acceptance as a doctoral researcher to the fast-track doctoral degree is binding and shall be made before commencing work on the doctoral dissertation and within the first year of the Master's degree programme. The application must be submitted to the Dean of the Faculty in writing.
- (3) The following must be submitted as the application for acceptance
  1. the completed and signed supervision agreement (Annex 2),
  2. a copy of the relevant qualifying degree certificate in accordance with the regulations of § 30 (1) and
  3. a detailed letter of recommendation from the supervisor.
- (4) If the dissertation according to the supervision agreement is a cross-faculty dissertation, the Faculty declares in the confirmation of acceptance its consent to admission of the dissertation and requests the applicant to confirm in good time and no later than the date of application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure, that the dissertation will be completed in full at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences. If the supervisor is not a full-time member of the Faculty, at the time of acceptance the supervisor must appoint a full-time member of the Faculty in the supervision agreement who can supervise the content and subject matter of the doctoral topic at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences and can confirm at the time of admission to the doctoral examination procedure that the doctoral degree can be completed in an agricultural and nutritional science subject.

##### **§ 30**

#### **Requirements for acceptance of doctoral researchers for a fast-track doctoral degree with simultaneous acquisition of the Master's degree**

The requirements for acceptance are

1. that evidence is provided of a very good relevant Bachelor's degree from a German or recognised foreign university (grade of 1.3 or better) or a relevant Bachelor's degree from a German or recognised foreign university of applied sciences with a grade of 1.0,
2. that specialist evaluation by a member of the Faculty authorised to provide supervision in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2) or by a cooperation partner is possible,
3. that supervision is ensured by a person authorised to do so in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2),
4. that a supervision agreement (Annex 2) has been concluded between the supervisor and the applicant,
5. that a detailed letter of recommendation from the supervisor has been submitted,

6. that the applicant has enrolled in a Master's degree programme of the Faculty (evidenced by the registration certificate) and the fast-track procedure is possible in accordance with the degree-specific examination regulations of the relevant Master's degree programme,
7. that the particular aptitude for scientific work has been confirmed by an interview. To this end, the Faculty Convention shall appoint at least two full-time professors to hold a suitability interview to check the applicant's outstanding aptitude for scientific work. The supervisor does not take part in this interview. Minutes shall be taken during the interview. The result must be communicated to the Faculty Convention; a negative decision must be justified in detail.
8. The recommendation from the suitability interview for admission to a doctoral degree can be made subject to conditions which must be fulfilled for acceptance as a doctoral researcher.
9. The applicant is to be informed of the result of the suitability interview in writing. In the event of a positive assessment, notification is given in writing along with the acceptance letter from the Faculty.

### **§ 31**

#### **Acceptance as a doctoral researcher for a fast-track doctoral degree with simultaneous acquisition of the Master's degree**

- (1) The Faculty Convention decides on the application from applicants for acceptance to the fast-track doctoral degree on the basis of the report from the suitability interview and the application documents submitted in full.
- (2) Acceptance as a doctoral researcher on fast-track doctoral degrees at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences does not establish an entitlement to later admission to the doctoral examination procedure.

### **§ 32**

#### **Admission to the doctoral examination procedure and doctoral examinations**

- (1) The regulations of §§ 10 to 28 apply for admission to the doctoral examination procedure and to the components of the doctoral studies to be completed.
- (2) Deviating from § 11, for admission to the doctoral examination procedure, evidence must additionally be provided of all ECTS credits of the compulsory and compulsory elective modules of the relevant Master's degree programme with the exception of the Master's thesis when registering for the doctoral examination procedure.
- (3) Deviating from § 11, for admission to the doctoral examination procedure a report on the successfully completed interim evaluation must additionally be submitted to the Dean's Office when registering for the doctoral examination procedure. The interim evaluation must take place in the doctoral researcher's second year of study. To this end, the Dean convenes an evaluation committee consisting of at least two people in accordance with § 5 (1) and (2) upon request by the doctoral researcher. This evaluation is composed of an exposé to be submitted for grading, as well as a discussion with the doctoral researcher regarding their intended dissertation topic. The exposé and the discussion are graded in accordance with the regulations of § 16 of the Examination Procedure Regulations (PVO) for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes at Kiel University. A negative interim evaluation in the fast-track procedure is not regarded as a failed attempt at a doctoral degree and can be repeated at any time.

### **§ 33**

#### **Completion of the fast-track doctoral degree with simultaneous acquisition of the Master's degree**

- (1) Upon successful completion of the doctoral degree procedure, a Master's degree is awarded in addition to the fast-track doctoral degree. Registration in the corresponding Master's degree programme is necessary. Contrary to § 20 (1) of the Examination Procedure Regulations (PVO), the Master's transcript and Master's certificate will only be

handed out, together with the doctoral certificate, when the module examinations in § 32 (2) have been completed successfully in accordance with the relevant degree-specific examination regulations, as well as the exposé and the discussion in accordance with § 32 (3), as well as all examinations for the doctoral degree in accordance with these Doctoral Degree Regulations.

In the Master's degree programmes at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences in which the Master's thesis consists of two partial examinations, the graded exposé is recognized as equivalent to the "written report" partial examination and the discussion as equivalent to the "defence" of the Master's thesis partial examination.

In the Master's degree programmes at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences in which the Master's thesis does not contain any partial examinations, the evaluation committee gives an overall grade for the exposé and discussion, which is recognised as equivalent to the Master's thesis. This overall grade is determined in accordance with the regulations of § 16 of the Examination Procedure Regulations (PVO) for Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes at Kiel University.

- (2) If the doctoral researcher continues his/her Master's degree programme, a dissertation that is rejected in accordance with § 17 may be submitted as a Master's thesis in a revised form in line with the scope of a Master's thesis.

## **Section 5: Final provisions**

### **§ 34**

#### **Transitional provisions**

Doctoral researchers who have already been accepted as such at the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences at the time these Rules enter into force may complete the doctoral degree according to the new Doctoral Degree Regulations.

Doctoral researchers accepted by the Faculty before 1 March 2012 may complete the doctoral examination in accordance with the Doctoral Degree Regulations applicable up to that point upon written request.

Fast-track doctoral researchers accepted by the Faculty before 1 July 2020 may complete their doctoral degree with simultaneous acquisition of the Master's degree in accordance with the version of the Doctoral Degree Regulations dated 9 December 2011 applicable for them upon request.

### **§ 35**

#### **Entry into force and expiry**

- (1) These Rules enter into force on the day after the date they are published.
- (2) At the same time, the Doctoral Degree Regulations (Rules) of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences at Kiel University of 9 December 2011 (NBI. MWV Schl.-H. p. 10), most recently amended by statute of 12 April 2018 (NBI. HS MBWK Schl.-H. p. 40), cease to be in force.

The University Board of Kiel University granted its approval in accordance with § 54 (3) of the Schleswig-Holstein Higher Education Act (HSG) in its letter dated 17 July 2020.

Kiel, 20 July 2020

Prof. Dr Karl H. Mühling  
Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences  
at Kiel University

## **Annex 1**

### **Specialist Fields in Agricultural Sciences**

Soil Science  
Organic Farming  
Crop Science and Grassland Management  
Plant Nutrition  
Plant Breeding and Genetics  
Phytopathology  
Livestock Physiology  
Animal Nutrition and Feed Sciences  
Animal Husbandry  
Animal Breeding and Genetics of Pets  
Aquaculture  
Agricultural Engineering  
Agricultural Economics  
Agribusiness  
Political Economics  
Agricultural and Nutritional Marketing  
Ecology  
Hydrology and Water Resources Management  
Microbiome in Animals  
Microbiome in Plants

### **Specialist Fields in Ecotrophology**

Human Nutrition  
Nutrition Economics  
Agricultural and Nutritional Marketing  
Nutritional and Metabolic Physiology  
Home and Health Economics  
Food Sciences  
Food Technology  
Molecular Nutrition and Prevention  
Food Toxicology  
Nutrition Informatics  
Systems Biology of Nutrition and Foods  
Metabolomics

## Annex 2

Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences at Kiel University  
Declaration on the assumption of the role of doctoral degree supervisor  
(to be presented to the Dean's Office)

I, (name and title of the supervisor) – please use block letters

intend to accept Ms./Mr

surname, first name	
date and place of birth	
with successfully completed degree (M.Sc., Diploma, Doctorate)	
at the university	
with the major subject	
with the final grade	
registration number CAU (if available)	
at the Institute	
for the doctoral subject (in accordance with Annex 1 of the Doctoral Degree Regulations)	
with the intended Dr title	

as a doctoral researcher.

It is intended to start work on the dissertation on / work on the dissertation started on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

The subject of the dissertation is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The subject of the dissertation crosses Faculty boundaries  yes  no

If yes:

\_\_\_\_\_  
name of the other faculty

If the supervisor is not a full-time member of the Faculty:

appointment of a full-time member of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences for cross-faculty doctoral degrees in accordance with § 6 (4)

I have assumed the role of supervisor. I will keep myself regularly informed of the status and progress of the dissertation (cf. § 5 (4) of the Doctoral Degree Regulations).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the primary examiner + stamp



### Declaration of co-authorship

If a dissertation is based on already published or submitted co-authored articles, a declaration from each of the authors regarding the part of the work done by the doctoral candidate must be enclosed when submitting the dissertation.

#### 1. Doctoral candidate

Name:

#### 2. This co-author declaration applies to the following article:

The extent of the doctoral candidate's contribution to the article is assessed on the following scale:

- A. Has contributed to the work (0-33%)
- B. Has made a substantial contribution (34-66%)
- C. Did the majority of the work independently (67-100%)

3. Declaration on the individual phases of the scientific work (A,B,C)	Extent
<b>Concept:</b> Formulation of the basic scientific problem based on theoretical questions which require clarification, including a summary of the general questions which, it is assumed, will be answerable via analyses or concrete experiments/investigations	
<b>Planning:</b> Planning of experiments/analyses and formulation of investigative methodology, including choice of method and independent methodological development, in such a way that the scientific questions asked can be expected to be answered	
<b>Execution:</b> Involvement in the analysis or the concrete experiments/investigation	
<b>Manuscript preparation: Presentation, interpretation and discussion of the results obtained in article form</b>	

#### 4. Signature of all co-authors

Date	Name	Signature

#### 5. Signature of doctoral candidate

Date	Name	Signature

## **Appendix 1**

(not part of the Rules)

### **Template for request for admission to a doctoral degree**

Surname, first name,

Private address + e-mail

Business address + e-mail

To the  
Dean of the  
Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences  
at Kiel University  
24098 Kiel

Request for admission to a doctoral degree

Dear Dean,

I hereby request admission to a doctoral degree.

The dissertation type is a "dissertation type"<sup>1</sup>.

The defence of the doctoral dissertation (disputation) will take place in German/English<sup>2</sup>.

Please award me the title of Doctor of "Subject"<sup>3</sup>.

The specialist field of my doctoral degree is "specialist field"<sup>4</sup>

With kind regards,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

#### Annexes

Dissertation: five copies, if applicable with incorporated declaration of co-authorship

Declarations for § 11 (2) Numbers 5-7

Curriculum vitae

Degree certificates

Signed summary of the dissertation

---

<sup>1</sup> Cumulative dissertation or monograph

<sup>2</sup> Please select a language: German or English

<sup>3</sup> Agricultural Sciences or Ecotrophology

<sup>4</sup> Only specialist fields listed in the Doctoral Degree Regulations (Annex 1) can be selected. Own creations are not permitted.

**Appendix 2**  
(not part of the Rules)

**Template for declarations**

**Sworn declaration in accordance with § 11 (2) Number 5**

I hereby affirm in on oath that I have produced the submitted dissertation entitled ‘.....’  
independently and without unauthorised assistance.

Kiel, dated

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

---

**Declaration in accordance with § 11 (2) Number 6**

I hereby declare that I have not presented the submitted dissertation entitled  
‘.....’ to any other department or any other faculty.

Kiel, dated

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

---

**Declaration in accordance with § 11 (2) Number 7**

I hereby declare that the submitted dissertation was produced in accordance with the rules of good research  
practice (standard of scientific work pursuant to the recommendations by the DFG).

Kiel, dated

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

---

**Appendix 3**  
(not part of the Rules)

**Template for title page**

From the Institute of .....  
at Kiel University

T i t l e of the W o r k

Dissertation  
in fulfilment of the requirements for the doctoral degree  
of the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences  
at Kiel University  
submitted by

M.Sc. ....  
from (place of birth)  
Kiel, 20xx

---

Dean: Professor XXXXX

1st examiner: Professor XXXXXX

2nd examiner:

Date of the oral examination: