

**Doctoral Degree Regulations of School II
(Department of Business Administration, Economics
and Law) of the University of Oldenburg, for
Business Administration, Economics, Business and
Vocational Education and Teaching Economics (Dr
rer. pol.)**

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14 November 2017

On 13 September 2017, the Faculty Council of School II of the University of Oldenburg adopted the following Doctoral Degree Regulations in accordance with Section 9 (3) of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) of 26 February 2007, published in Nds GVBl, p. 69, last amended by article 4 of the act, dated 15 June 2017 (Nds GVBl., p. 172). On 17 October 2017, the Presidential Board approved the Regulations in accordance with Section 44 (1) Sentence 3 of the NHG.

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Section 1

Purpose of the doctorate and required doctoral assignments

(1) The School of Computing Science, Business Administration, Economics and Law (hereafter referred to as the School) awards the degree of Doctor of Economics (Dr rer. pol.) as proof of the ability to engage in advanced independent scholarly work in the field of business administration, economics, business and vocational education and teaching economics.

(2) Joint doctoral programmes (leading to a bi-national doctorate) can be carried out in the framework of international doctoral programmes or on the basis of a cooperation agreement with a foreign university or non-academic research institution (Section 7 (7)). The same applies to cooperation with German universities and non-academic research institutions. The doctoral degree will be awarded jointly by the School and the competent institution of the cooperation partner, if the cooperation partner has the right to confer doctorates. Otherwise, the degree will be awarded by the School with reference to the cooperation.

- (3) The doctorate serves to prove a capacity for advanced independent scholarly work.
- (4) The doctorate requires the successful completion of the following doctoral assignments:
 - a) a written doctoral thesis whose subject matter belongs to the field of business administration, economics, business and vocational education and teaching economics, and corresponds to the desired degree. For details, see Section 8;
 - b) an oral exam (doctoral defence). For details see Section 11.

Section 2 Competences

- (1) The following are involved in the doctoral degree procedure:
 - a) the Doctorate Committee (Section 3),
 - b) the Examination Committee (Section 4),
 - c) the first assessor (Section 6), who is the supervisor of the thesis (Section 5), and
 - d) one or more persons as co-assessors (Section 6, Section 10 (2) Sentence 2).
- (2) The Doctorate Committee will decide on the doctorate and matters of procedure, unless the Doctoral Degree Regulations provide otherwise.
- (3) The Examination Committee will conduct the thesis defence and assess it.
- (4) The first referee and the co-assessors will assess the thesis.

Section 3 Doctorate Committee

- (1) By decision of the Faculty Council, from its ranks the School will form a joint Doctorate Committee for the doctorates Dr rer. pol. and Dr iur. This committee usually consists of eight members from the professors' group or habilitated members. A doctoral student, according to Section 7 (10), may also be a member, with an advisory vote. The Doctorate Committee will elect a chair.
- (2) The Doctorate Committee will have a quorum if at least five of its members are present.
- (3) The Doctorate Committee will decide by a majority of votes. In the case of a tie, the matter will be decided by the vote of the chair. Abstentions are not allowed.

Section 4 Examination Committee

- (1) The Doctorate Committee will set up an Examination Committee for each doctoral degree procedure after the thesis has been accepted. The composition of the Committee should adequately cover the fields of study on which the thesis touches. Areas of expertise outside business administration, economics, business and vocational education and teaching economics that are touched on by the thesis should be considered in the composition of the Committee. When carrying out bi-national or other joint doctoral degree procedures (Section 1 (2)), professors from the cooperation partner should be adequately considered in the composition of the Committee.

- (2) The Examination Committee will consist of five members, including:
- a) a member or deputy member of the Doctorate Committee who belongs to the professors' group or has a habilitation, as chair,
 - b) the first assessor, who is the supervisor of the thesis,
 - c) the co-assessors of the thesis,
 - d) a professor from a field adjacent to the thesis topic, and
 - e) unless two co-assessors have been appointed, a further member belonging to the group of professors, from a closely related field.

If the member of the Examination Committee mentioned above under (a) is the same as one of the persons mentioned under (b) to (e), a fifth member of the Examination Committee is to be appointed from the professors' group. At the suggestion of the doctoral candidate, the Committee may, instead of a member as mentioned in points (d) or (e), include a member of the research staff who holds a doctorate and qualifies for independent teaching in a related field. If the chair of the Examination Committee resigns from the Doctorate Committee after the Doctorate Committee has formed the Examination Committee, they will continue to chair the Examination Committee until the end of the doctoral degree procedure.

(3) A majority of the members must belong to the School. In well-justified cases, an exception may be made. Section 3 (3) shall apply accordingly.

Section 5 Acceptance and supervision

(1) The topic of the thesis is to be agreed upon with a supervisor from the circle of persons referred to in Section 6 (2) of the field of studies concerned. She or he will supervise the thesis in terms of professional quality. By concluding a written supervision agreement as in Annex 1, which requires the signed approval of the chair of the Doctorate Committee after examination of the admission requirements according to Section 7 (4) (a) and (c) - (j), the doctoral student will, even before formal admission to the doctorate (pursuant to Section 7), receive the status of 'accepted doctoral student'. The Doctorate Committee shall inform the University office charged with the registration of doctoral students concerning the acceptance. The applicant may apply to the Doctorate Committee for help in finding a supervisor.

(2) The supervisor may also be a professor from another university or cooperation partner, pursuant to Section 1 (2). This requires the approval of the Doctorate Committee at the stage of admission to the doctorate. In this case, the supervisor is entitled to assume the rights of a member of the School's professors' group with regard to the doctoral degree procedure. Furthermore, in this case, the co-assessor must be a member of the School.

(3) If the supervisor of a thesis leaves the School, she or he is allowed to continue supervising the thesis until graduation. In this case, the supervisor will submit to the Doctorate Committee an agreement with the doctorate candidate which sets out how supervision will be provided for the rest of the doctoral degree procedure. There is no need for approval by the Doctorate Committee. However, resignation from the School must be reported to the Doctorate Committee. Section 2 Sentences 3 and 4 apply accordingly.

(4) After careful consideration, the supervisor may dissolve the supervisory relationship for business or personal reasons. She or he must promptly communicate this decision to the doctoral candidate and the chair of the responsible Doctorate Committee, stating the reasons. In this case, the Doctorate Committee will endeavour to provide another supervisor.

(5) In the case of a serious problem in the supervisory relationship, the doctoral candidate can contact the responsible Doctorate Committee. In this case, the Doctorate Committee will mediate between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor and endeavour to find a solution.

Section 6 Assessors

(1) The Doctorate Committee will appoint the supervisor as first assessor for the evaluation of the thesis. They should belong to the School. The Doctorate Committee will also appoint up to two co-assessors. At least one of the evaluating persons must belong to the group of professors (according to Section 16 (2), Sentence 4, no. 1 of the Lower Saxony University Act, NHG) in business administration, economics, vocational and business education or teaching economics. At least two of the evaluating persons must belong to the group defined in (2) Sentence 1 below. In the case of a bi-national or other joint doctoral degree procedure pursuant to Section 1 (2), the first assessor may belong to the cooperation partner organization.

(2) The assessors must be: members of the professors' group according to Section 16 (2), p. 4, no. 1 of the NHG (Lower Saxony University Act), lecturers who are not on furlough, honorary professors, professors who are retired or relieved of their duties, or junior research group leaders with a doctorate engaged in independent research, who belong to the Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law and were appointed after an external evaluation by recognized research or research funding agencies.

(3) The doctoral candidate can suggest assessors. The Committee will follow these proposals unless there are important reasons not to do so, e.g. an unacceptable burden of work for the proposed persons.

Section 7 Admission to the doctorate, enrolment

(1) Admission to doctoral studies requires: a Master's, *Diplom* or *Magister* certificate with very good or good marks that certifies the successful completion of:

- a degree programme in business administration, economics, vocational and business education or teaching economics, or
- an equivalent degree programme that leads to a state examination, or
- an equivalent degree programme in business administration, economics, vocational and economics education or teaching economics at an equivalent foreign university, or
- an unrelated university degree programme in another subject at a German or equivalent foreign university.

Applicants who have a degree as mentioned in Sentence 1 in a non-relevant course of study may be admitted with the proviso that they must prove they have the necessary basic knowledge of economics, vocational and economics education or teaching economics by passing an examination. In consultation with the supervisor of the thesis, the Doctorate Committee will determine the content of the examination and appoint two members of the group of professors as defined in Section 6 (2), who will conduct the exam. The exam will be oral and last between 30 and 60 minutes. It must be taken within one year of admission and can be repeated once during this period.

(2) Applicants are not admitted to the doctoral programme if they:

- a) are already carrying out a similar doctorate at another school or university, or
- b) have already carried out a similar doctorate at another school or university without success (except in well-justified exceptional cases), or
- c) have already successfully completed a similar doctorate at another school or university and have the right to bear the title of doctor associated with the doctoral programme.

(3) The application for admission to the doctorate must be submitted in writing to the chair of the Doctorate Committee.

(4) The application shall enclose:

- a) an outline of the professional and scholarly development of the applicant (curriculum vitae), and, if appropriate, a complete list of scholarly publications,
- b) a detailed description of the plan for the thesis initialled by the supervisor,
- c) proof of higher education entrance qualification,
- d) certificates and evidence according to (1),
- e) a declaration on any grounds for rejection pursuant to (2),
- f) if needed, an application for a bi-national doctorate or another joint doctoral degree procedure (Section 1 (2)) that specifies the cooperation partner,
- g) a declaration affirming that the student is aware of, and complying with, the rules on good scholarly practice at the University of Oldenburg,
- h) a declaration by the supervisor that she or he will examine the thesis as an assessor,
- i) a declaration that no commercial recruitment or consulting services (PhD counselling) have been, are being or will be used in connection with the doctoral project,
- j) a declaration that the applicant has not used major parts of a Bachelor's, Master's, *Diplom* or similar examination paper for the thesis.

The certificates and evidence referred to in (c) and (d) shall be submitted as certified copies. All submitted documents become the property of the University.

(5) Applicants who have not obtained any of the relevant degrees referred to in (1) with the grades *sehr gut* (with distinction) or *gut* (credit) must enclose the certificate of an aptitude assessment test conducted by the supervisor that confirms the applicant's capacity for advanced scholarly work. The Doctorate Committee may require further evidence of this capacity.

(6) If evidence of a foreign degree according to (1) is submitted, the Doctorate Committee will examine whether it is equivalent to the German degrees. This is to be based on legally binding international agreements and the recognition recommendations of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (KMK) and its Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB), as well as the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). If there are real indications that the degree is materially non-equivalent, recognition may be subject to certain requirements and conditions, such as e.g. the writing of a missing final thesis or the passing of knowledge tests.

(7) If an application for a bi-national doctorate or another joint doctoral degree procedure is submitted ((4) (f)), the chair of the Doctorate Committee will seek to conclude a corresponding cooperation agreement with the desired university.

(8) If there is sufficient evidence that the conditions for admission have been fulfilled in accordance with (1) and (5), and the documents and declarations referred to in (4) and (5) have been submitted, the Doctorate Committee shall admit the applicant to the doctorate and accept them as a doctoral student, if this has not already been done in accordance with Section 5 (1) Sentence 3. Admission will be refused if there are grounds for refusal in accordance with (2), or if it is not to be expected that the applicant will be able to provide proof of a capacity for advanced independent scholarly work in the doctoral project. The Doctorate Committee will inform the University office in charge of registering doctoral students about decisions regarding admission. The status of doctoral student will be lost if and when the student successfully completes the doctorate, definitively fails to complete it successfully or withdraws their application.

(9) The Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law offers the opportunity to participate in a doctoral programme leading to the degree of Dr rer. pol. This doctoral programme is governed by specific regulations. Applicants who take part in the doctoral programme can submit a proposal for a doctoral thesis (with a working title), including a short presentation, instead of a detailed description as in (4) (b). The thesis topic and the short presentation should be agreed with the supervisor, and a Supervision Agreement should be concluded. In this case, the applicant will be admitted to the doctoral programme, subject to revocation. If the applicant does not submit the detailed description within a period of six months which, for good cause, can be extended once for a further six months, the Doctorate Committee will revoke the admission to the doctoral programme.

(10) After admission to the doctoral programme according to (8), doctoral candidates must enrol as doctoral students. Proof of enrolment must be submitted to the Doctorate Committee without delay.

Section 8 Doctoral thesis

(1) The thesis must prove the author's capacity for advanced and independent scientific work and contribute to the advancement of scholarship in a specific field of economics, vocational education and business education or teaching economics.

(2) The thesis should be written in German or English. Writing in another language requires the approval of the supervisor and the Doctorate Committee.

(3) A collection of scholarly papers may be accepted as a thesis if they are substantively connected and, in their entirety, comply with the requirements of (1) (cumulative thesis). The substantive connection must be explained in the summary. The Doctorate Committee has adopted concrete guidelines for the submission of a cumulative thesis, and in such cases, these should be requested in good time by the doctoral candidate.

(4) A scholarly work written by several – usually no more than two – persons may be recognized as a doctoral thesis if the topic is suitable. In such a case, the individual contributions to be considered for the doctoral degree procedure must be attributable without any doubt to one of the applicants and must fulfill the requirements of (1). The contributions of the individual contributors are to be specified and described comprehensively in the context of the declaration pursuant to Section 9 (2) (b). In such cases, a cumulative thesis is not allowed. The appropriateness of a topic for group work shall be formally determined by the Doctorate Committee at the request, and after consultation, of the applicants. The application should be submitted before work on the thesis begins. If more than one doctoral degree procedure is to be based on joint work, a joint Examination Committee and joint assessors will be appointed.

Each individual contribution will be assessed separately. The thesis defences (Section 11) will take place on different days.

Section 9 Initiation of the doctoral degree procedure

(1) The doctoral candidate will apply to the Doctorate Committee for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure. As a rule, the application must be submitted, at the earliest, one year after admission and within five years after admission to the doctorate. If the application for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure is not submitted on time, the application for the doctoral programme will be considered withdrawn. The chair of the Doctorate Committee will notify the doctoral candidate, the supervisor of the thesis and the management of the School.

(2) The application for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure must enclose the following documents:

- a) one copy of the thesis for each member of the Examination Committee and one copy for the files of the Doctorate Committee,
- b) proof according to Section 7 (10) of enrolment as a doctoral student,
- c) if applicable, a suggestion for the appointment of a member pursuant to Section 4 (2) Sentence 4,
- d) a declaration of commitment to the code of good scholarly practice of the University of Oldenburg and an affidavit according to Section 9 (3) Sentence 3 in conjunction with Section 7 (4), Sentence 2 of the Lower Saxony University Act (NHG) that the applicant has written the thesis 'independently and without unauthorized external help, without the use of other than the specified resources and with full acknowledgement of thoughts taken directly or indirectly from external sources',
- e) a declaration that no commercial recruitment or consulting services (PhD counselling) were used in connection with the doctoral project.

(3) The Doctorate Committee will open the doctoral degree procedure by appointing the Examination Committee in accordance with Section 4 (2), and the assessors to examine the thesis in accordance with Section 6, taking into account the suggestions and the declaration of the doctoral candidate. The chair will immediately inform the doctoral candidate about the decision and the composition of the Examination Committee.

Section 10 Assessment of the thesis

(1) As a rule, the assessors will submit written reports within two months of the opening of the doctoral degree procedure and will recommend either acceptance of the thesis and continuation of the procedure, modification or non-acceptance of the thesis to the Doctorate Committee. In the first case, they also propose one of the following grades:

<i>ausgezeichnet</i>	(= 0) = high distinction
<i>sehr gut</i>	(= 1) = with distinction
<i>gut</i>	(= 2) = credit
<i>genügend</i>	(= 3) = pass

(2) If an assessor recommends changes, the Doctorate Committee will decide by a majority of votes, and after hearing the doctoral candidate, whether the thesis will be returned for revision, or whether the procedure will continue. The return of the thesis for revision is only possible once. The chair

of the Doctorate Committee will notify the doctoral candidate of the recommendations for revision, stating the reasons, and appoint at least one additional assessor. A reasonable deadline will be set for the revision. After the thesis has been revised, the additional assessor or assessors will produce a report on the fulfilment of the revision requirements within one month of the submission of the revised version. The other assessors will comment on the revised version and the marks assigned to it.

(3) The chair of the Doctorate Committee shall inform the professors of the School, as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2, the members of the Doctorate Committee and the assessors of the submission of the assessments and comments according to (1) and (2). At the same time, the thesis, the expert opinions and statements will be made available in the office of the Dean of the School for a period of two weeks for confidential inspection and the submission of expert opinions. During the semester break, the inspection period is extended to four weeks.

(4) The thesis is accepted if all the assessors have recommended its acceptance and, up to three working days after the expiry of the period of inspection, no expert opinions according to (3) have been received by the chair of the Doctorate Committee. If the thesis has not been recommended for acceptance by all assessors, (2) will apply accordingly. Thereafter, the Doctorate Committee will decide definitively on the acceptance or rejection of the work.

(5) If the thesis was returned for revision or an expert opinion pursuant to (3) was submitted, the Doctorate Committee will decide whether and, if so, to what extent, the return and the special assessments should be considered in the grading process.

(6) The chair of the Doctorate Committee will immediately inform the doctoral candidate whether the thesis has been accepted and, at the same time, make the documents available to them, in particular the reports that form the basis for the assessment. The doctoral candidate must be notified that the Examination Committee may set requirements for the publication of the thesis in accordance with Section 11 (4).

(7) If the thesis has definitively not been accepted, the student will not have passed the doctorate and the procedure is terminated. A copy of the rejected work is to be filed with all the documents forming the basis of the decision.

Section 11 Thesis defence

(1) After acceptance of the thesis, the Doctorate Committee will appoint the Examination Committee in accordance with Section 4. The chair of the Doctorate Committee will schedule the thesis defence and inform the doctoral candidate of the composition of the Examination Committee. The thesis defence should take place within four weeks after acceptance of the thesis.

(2) The chair of the Examination Committee will invite the doctoral candidate and the members of the Examination Committee to a thesis defence and publicly announce the event in the School.

(3) The thesis defence will consist of a 30-minute lecture open to the University community, which presents the aims, methods and results of the thesis and makes them understandable. This is followed by a discussion of about 60 to 75 minutes on the aims, methods and results of the thesis. This is led by the chair of the Examination Committee. During the lecture and discussion, interested listeners can be admitted.

(4) Immediately following the thesis defence, the Examination Committee will decide in closed session whether the oral exam has been passed. If the candidate has passed it, the Examination Committee will determine the overall mark of the oral exam. This will result from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades as follows:

from 0	to less than	0.5 = <i>ausgezeichnet</i>	= high distinction
from 0.5	to less than	1.5 = <i>sehr gut</i>	= with distinction
from 1.5	to less than	2.5 = <i>gut</i>	= credit
from 2.5	to	3.0 = <i>genügend</i>	= pass

The Examination Committee may impose requirements for revision of the thesis prior to its publication. The chair of the Examination Committee will subsequently inform the doctoral candidate of the outcome of the thesis defence.

(5) If the doctoral student has not passed the thesis defence, they shall be informed, along with the result of the thesis defence, that they have the option of a one-time repetition if they request it in writing within two weeks from the chair of the Doctorate Committee. The oral examination can be repeated after four weeks at the earliest and must be repeated before the end of the year at the latest.

(6) If the doctoral candidate fails to attend the thesis defence without providing an excuse, the examination will be considered failed. In the case of absence for good cause, a new event will be scheduled according to (1). The Examination Committee will decide on the acceptance of the important reason presented as an apology.

(7) The chair of the Examination Committee shall keep a record of the course of the oral examination, which shall note the essential items and the results of the oral examination, including grades and any new requirements imposed.

Section 12

Evaluation of the doctoral attainment

(1) Following the thesis defence, the Examination Committee will determine the overall grade for the Doctorate. The overall grade is expressed as: *rite* (pass), *cum laude* (credit), *magna cum laude* (with distinction) and *summa cum laude* (high distinction). The overall grade results from the arithmetic mean of the individual mark for the thesis, which counts twice, and the arithmetic mean of the assessors' marks for the thesis defence, which counts once.

The grade *summa cum laude* is awarded for the doctorate as a whole if the average marks are *ausgezeichnet* (less than 0.5) for both the thesis and the defence. The grade *magna cum laude* is awarded for an overall mark lower than 1.5, the grade *cum laude* for an overall mark between 1.5 and less than 2.5 and the grade *rite* for an overall mark between 2.5 and 3.0.

(2) The chair of the Examination Committee will inform the doctoral student of the grade for the thesis, the defence and the doctorate as a whole.

Section 13

Publication of the thesis

(1) Within a year of the successful defence, the doctoral student must make the thesis appropriately accessible to the scholarly public by means of reproduction and distribution. The thesis will have been made appropriately available to the scholarly public if the doctoral student provides, free of charge to the Library and Information System of the University of Oldenburg, four copies of the thesis, printed on age-resistant wood- and acid-free paper and durably bound. The title page (front and back) of these deliverables shall be designed in accordance with the model in Annex 2. Furthermore, in so far as it is not a cumulative thesis, dissemination must be ensured by:

- a) the delivery of another 60 copies of the thesis, or
- b) proof of distribution via a commercial publisher with a minimum circulation of 150 copies (on the back of the title page, the publication must be identified as a thesis and specify the place where it was approved), or

- c) by submitting an electronic version whose data format and data carrier are to be agreed with the Library and Information System of the University of Oldenburg, and a short summary in German and English of no more than 1000 characters approved by the first assessor, as well as a declaration that the content and format of the printed and electronic versions are the same.

In the case of Sentence 2 (a) or (c), the doctoral student must give the University of Oldenburg the right to produce and disseminate further copies of the thesis or to make them available in data networks in order to fulfil the statutory duties of university libraries. The copyright of the author remains otherwise unaffected.

(2) The definitive manuscript for publication must be submitted to the chair of the Doctorate Committee. They will grant permission to publish the thesis if the prerequisites of (1) are met and the conditions set by the Examination Committee in accordance with Section 11 (4) have been fulfilled. Deviations from the assessed thesis can be approved by the Doctorate Committee.

(3) Upon a justified request, the chair of the Doctorate Committee may extend the deadline for publication mentioned in (1).

Section 14 Completion of the doctorate

(1) After the obligations of Section 13 have been fulfilled, the School will award the degree of Doctor of Economics (Dr rer. pol.). The doctorate is completed by the leadership of the School issuing the doctoral degree certificate. Prior to this, the doctoral candidate does not have the right to use the doctoral degree.

(2) The doctoral certificate is issued according to the model in Annex 3. Upon request, it will also be delivered in English translation as in Annex 4. In the case of a bi-national doctorate, a certificate shall be issued in accordance with Annex 5 and in the translation of the relevant language (French as in Annex 6). The doctoral certificate shall bear the date of the oral examination (thesis defence), but will only be issued after fulfilment of the obligation to publish in accordance with Section 13.

Section 15 Unsuccessful termination of the doctoral degree procedure

(1) The doctoral degree procedure is terminated unsuccessfully if the thesis was definitively rejected or the thesis defence was definitively unsuccessful. The chair of the Doctorate Committee will inform the doctoral candidate of the outcome in writing.

(2) A renewed application for acceptance in accordance with Section 5, or admission pursuant to Section 7 is only permitted once and not before the end of one year. This also applies if the first unsuccessful doctoral degree procedure took place at another university. A rejected thesis may not be submitted again in the same or a slightly modified form for the purpose of seeking a doctorate. In the case of a renewed application for acceptance or admission to the doctorate, the earlier failed attempt must be reported. The date of the first application, the university and the school, faculty or department at which the thesis was submitted, as well as the topic of the thesis must all be stated.

Section 16 Withdrawal of the application for admission

An application for admission to the doctorate can be withdrawn as long as the thesis has not been submitted for assessment. Afterwards, a withdrawal is only possible for important personal reasons, which may not be related to the doctoral degree procedure. This is decided by the Doctorate Committee on request. If an application for the re-opening of the doctoral degree procedure is not filed within one year, the doctoral degree procedure will be terminated.

Section 17 **Invalidity of doctoral assignments**

- (1) If the doctoral candidate is found to have used fraud, threats or bribery in the course of their doctoral studies or with regard to prerequisites for admission to the doctoral programme or the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure, or if information submitted by the candidate was incorrect or incomplete, or if requirements for the doctorate were mistakenly taken for granted, the Doctorate Committee may, after consulting the person concerned, declare the doctoral attainment concerned invalid.
- (2) If the circumstances of (1) become known only after the doctoral certificate has been issued, (1) shall apply accordingly, and the Faculty Council shall decide, having considered the proposal of the Doctorate Committee, whether the award of the degree of a doctor is to be revoked or withdrawn. Sections 48 and 49 of the Administrative Procedures Act (VwVfG) remain unaffected and apply concurrently. The award of the university degree can also be revoked if the holder has seriously violated the dignity conferred by the degree, for example in the case of a final conviction for a criminal offence, or if the holder has misused the scholarly authority associated with a university degree.
- (3) If the prerequisites for admission to the doctorate (Section 7) or the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure (Section 9) were not met, but there was no deception by the doctoral candidate in this matter, and this fact becomes known only after the doctoral certificate has been issued, then this defect will be deemed to have been remedied by the successful completion of the doctorate.
- (4) The person concerned is to be given the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Doctorate Committee before a decision is taken.
- (5) An incorrect doctoral certificate must be retrieved and, if appropriate, replaced by a corrected certificate.

Section 18 **Right to inspect documents concerning the doctorate, retention period**

- (1) Upon completion of the doctoral degree procedure, the doctoral candidate will be granted access to the doctoral dossier upon request. The request must be submitted no later than three months after completion of the doctoral degree procedure. Section 32 of the Administrative Procedures Act (VwVfG) applies accordingly. Section 29 of the VwVfG remains unaffected.
- (2) The doctoral documents are to be kept for 50 years. Even after this point in time, it must be ensured that registers can be used to provide information about the result of the respective promotion.

Section 19 **Appeals**

- (1) Negative decisions made in accordance with these Doctoral Degree Regulations must be substantiated in writing, supplemented with information on legal remedies and published in accordance with Section 41 of the Administrative Procedures Act (VwVfG).
- (2) Examination decisions based on the assessment of a student's performance can be sent to the chair of the Doctorate Committee in writing, or orally for the written record, within one month of the receipt of the decision in accordance with Sections 68 ff. of the Administrative Court Regulations (VwGO). Alternatively, a formal complaint can be made. The objection should be substantiated within one month after filing.

(3) The Doctorate Committee will decide on the objection, as an appeal authority. It is responsible for conducting the appeal and objection procedure. No costs are charged for these procedures.

(4) If the objection is directed against a decision of the Examination Committee, the chair of the Doctorate Committee shall forward the objection to the Examination Committee for review. If the statement of grounds of appeal is directed against the decision of an assessor, the chair of the Doctorate Committee will forward the objection to the assessor. The result of the review is to be communicated to the Doctorate Committee.

(5) If the Examination Committee or the assessor changes their decision as requested by the appeal, the Doctorate Committee will have definitively dealt with the objection. If not, the Doctorate Committee will consider the examination decision in full, paying particular attention to the following matters:

- a) whether the examination procedure was carried out properly,
- b) whether the assessment was based on a misunderstanding of the situation,
- c) whether common principles of assessment were not observed,
- d) whether a reasonable and logically justified solution was deemed wrong,
- e) whether the examiner was guided by extraneous considerations.

(6) The Doctorate Committee can appoint ex officio an assessor for the appeal procedure. If the appellant so requests, an assessor must be appointed. The assessor must have the qualification described in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2.

(7) If the Doctorate Committee identifies a deficiency as described in (5) Sentence 2 but does not remedy the objection at this stage of the procedure, the examinations will be reassessed by examiners not previously involved in the examination, or the thesis defence will be repeated.

(8) The objection should be dealt with definitively within three months of filing. If the objection is not upheld, the negative decision must be substantiated and legal remedies must be specified.

(9) The appeal procedure may not lead to a lowering of the examination grade.

Section 20 Honorary doctorate

(1) In recognition of outstanding personal scholarly achievements, characterized by research that has contributed substantially to the development of one of the School's fields of study, the School may, in the fields for which it is responsible, award an honorary degree of Doctor of Economics (Dr rer. pol. h. c.) as a rare distinction.

(2) The nomination for an honorary doctorate must be submitted by at least three members of the School's professors' group. The application must set out the scholarly achievements and include the professional and scholarly CV and a list of the publications of the person to be honoured.

(3) The application is discussed by an Honour's Committee, which is appointed by the Faculty Council. The Dean has the chair. At least three other members of the Committee must be professors, as defined by Section 6 (2) Sentence 2. The Committee will prepare a written report on the personality and the scholarly achievements of the person to be honoured. At least two external scholarly opinions must be obtained.

- (4) In the Faculty Council meeting preceding the one at which the resolution will be tabled, the Dean shall announce that a decision is needed on an application for an honorary doctorate. At the same time, they will point out that the application, the expert reports and the report of the Committee of commendation are available in the Dean's office for confidential inspection by the members of the Faculty Council and the professors, as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2.
- (5) The Faculty Council will hold two readings. In the first of these readings, all professors of the Faculty as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2 will be invited as advisers. In the second reading, the Faculty Council will decide on the application in a secret ballot. An 80% majority of the members of the Faculty Council who are eligible to vote is required for the acceptance of the application.
- (6) After the application has been approved, the Dean of the School will award the honorary doctorate by issuing a certificate according to the model in Annex 7. The Dean will issue invitations to a celebratory ceremony and appoint the speaker of the eulogy.
- (7) The honorary doctorate is to be communicated to the German universities and the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture.
- (8) The applicants must be informed of a negative decision.
- (9) The conferment of the Dr rer. pol. h. c. can be withdrawn. Section 17 applies accordingly.

Section 21 Entry into force

These Regulations shall enter into force after their approval by the Presidential Board on the day following their publication in the Official Note of the University of Oldenburg. At the same time, the previously valid Doctoral Degree Regulations for Dr rer. pol. of School II of the University of Oldenburg announcement dated 25/2/2010 (Official Note 1/2010, p. 12), last amended by the announcement of 22/9/2015 (Official Note 3/2015, page 392) will expire.

Section 22 Transitional provisions

Doctoral candidates who apply for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure pursuant to Section 9 within one year after the entry into force of these Regulations, or who had already submitted their application prior to the entry into force, can request application of the previously valid Doctoral Degree Regulations: Dr rer. pol. of School II, version of 25/2/2010 (Official Note 1/2010, page 12), last amended by the announcement of 22/9/2015 (Official Note 3/2015, p. 392).

Annex 1

Re: Section 5 (1)

**Supervision Agreement
for doctoral studies in School II –
Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law**

The doctoral candidate and the supervisor have concluded an agreement which is to guarantee the scholarly support required for the success of the doctoral project.

Mr/Ms* (the doctoral student)

Address:*

Email address:*

and

Mr/Ms* (the supervisor)

Address:*

Email address:*

1. School II - Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law:

Doctoral subject area:*

If applicable, name of doctoral programme or Research Training Group:*

2. Planned topic of the thesis (working title):*

Start of the doctoral project (month/year):*

3. At the beginning of the doctoral project, the doctoral student will prepare a project timeline, which is to be regularly updated and discussed with the supervisor. They will report regularly, but at least once a year, to the supervisor on the preparation, development and implementation of the doctoral project (progress report) and present preparatory work or parts of the thesis in the colloquia mentioned below or similar events.

4. Scholarly support will be provided, in particular, in regular individual discussions as well as regular participation in events for doctoral programmes and/or doctoral colloquia. The supervisor will monitor the quality of the work on the thesis and support with help and advice the autonomous scholarly development of the doctoral candidate. They will comment on material submitted on the agreed meeting dates to the extent required in oral and/or written form.

5. The doctoral student must obtain agreement to any changes from the topic of the thesis with the supervisor and report these, as well as any changes of address, to the Doctorate Committee.

6. All scholarly activity is based on the foundations of good scholarly practice as formulated in the guidelines of the German Research Community (DFG) and the corresponding regulations of the University of Oldenburg. The supervisor of the doctoral candidate is available to answer any questions. The doctoral student undertakes to comply with these regulations.

7. The supervisor can dissolve the supervisory relationship for objective or personal reasons, after careful consideration. This decision must be communicated to the doctoral candidate and the chair of the Doctorate Committee immediately, with a specification of the reasons. In the case of serious problems in the supervisory relationship, the doctoral candidate may turn to the Doctorate Committee with a request for mediation or the appointment of a different supervisor.

Everything else is regulated by Section 5 of the Doctoral Degree Regulations for Dr rer. pol./Dr jur.

.....* (Place, date)* (the doctoral student)
.....* (Place, date)* (the supervisor)

Seen by:

.....* (Place, date)* (Chair of the Doctorate Committee of the
Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law)

* Please insert what is needed, sign where appropriate and delete what does not apply

Annex 2

Re: Section 13 (2)

Template for the title page of the thesis

Front:

.....* (title of the thesis)

Thesis approved by the School of* of the University of Oldenburg
in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

.....* (name of degree)

by Ms/Mr* (first name, surname)

born on* in*

Overleaf:

Supervisor:*

Co-assessors:

.....*

.....*

Date of thesis defence:*

- Please insert what is needed and delete what does not apply

Annex 3

Re: Section 14 (2)

Die Fakultät
der Universität Oldenburg verleiht mit dieser
Urkunde

Frau/Herrn *)

Geboren am in

den Grad einer/eines *)

Doktorin/Doktors*) der..... (Dr rer. pol.)

nachdem sie/er *) in ordnungsgemäßem Promotionsverfahren durch ihre/seine Thesis mit dem Thema
..... sowie durch die Thesis
defence

ihre/seine*) wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen und hierfür das Prädikat¹⁾ erhalten hat.

Oldenburg,

Die Dekanin/Der Dekan*)
the faculty

Die/Der*) Vorsitzende des
Promotionsausschusses der Fakultät

.....

*Zutreffendes einfügen

¹⁾ Prädikate: ausgezeichnet (summa cum laude), sehr gut (magna cum laude), gut (cum laude), ge-
nügend (rite)

Annex 4

Re: Section 14 (2)

...
(*englischsprachige Fakultätsbezeichnung*)

**of the
Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg (Germany)**

hereby confers on

Mr./Ms.*

born in

having presented his/her* doctoral thesis entitled*

.....

and having passed the oral examination

the Degree of*

Doctor of ... (Dr. rer. pol.)

Overall grade¹⁾*

Oldenburg,* ... (*Monat, Tag, Jahr*)

Dean of the School of
Computing Science, Business
Administration, Economics and Law
.....

Chair of the Doctoral Committee
.....

Seal

* Please insert what is needed and delete what does not apply

1) Grades: summa cum laude (high distinction), magna cum laude (distinction), cum laude (credit), rite (pass)

Annex 5

Re: Section 14 (2)

The School of

of the University of Oldenburg and

.....*

jointly confer on

Ms/Mr *

born on* in*

the degree

Doctor of(Dr rer. pol.)

In a doctoral degree procedure duly and jointly supervised by our two partner institutions, she/he* has, by writing a thesis, titled:

.....*

and by successfully defending this thesis, proven her/his* scholarly qualities

and has received the overall grade*¹⁾

Seal of the University
of Oldenburg

Seal of the foreign university

Oldenburg,*

Dean of the School*
at the Carl von Ossietzky
University of Oldenburg

Chair of the Doctorate
Committee of the School*
at the University of Oldenburg

.....*
(Place, date)

Dean of the Faculty/School/*
President of the
University*
.....*

¹ Ms/Mr** is authorized to use the title of doctor either in the German or in the foreign form. The names of the two universities that supervised the doctoral degree procedure can be added in brackets.

This doctoral degree requires no further State authorization for use in the Federal Republic of Germany. This certificate is only valid in combination with the doctoral certificate of the foreign Ministry of Education no.* dated

*Zutreffendes einfügen

¹⁾ Grades: *ausgezeichnet* (summa cum laude, high distinction), *sehr gut* (magna cum laude, with distinction), *gut* (cum laude, credit), *genügend* (rite, pass)

¹ Dieser Zusatz ist nur bei einer gemeinsamen Promotion mit einer französischen Hochschule erforderlich.

Annex 6

Re: Section 14 (2)

Diplôme de doctorat obtenu le cadre d'une cotutelle de thèse entre une université ou école française
et une université allemande

L'université ou l'école
(nom de l'établissement français)

et

La Faculté des Sciences Economiques et de Droit
de Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

délivrent conjointement

à M./Mlle/Mme ...

né(e) le à

le grade de docteur
Dr. rer. pol. (Sciences Economiques)

Il/elle a fait la preuve de sa compétence scientifique en obtenant la mention..... pour sa thèse
.....

préparée en cotutelle, conformément à la réglementation, par convention entre les deux établisse-
ments,
ainsi que pour la soutenance du (date)
dans les disciplines
de les Sciences Economiques
et obtenu la note totale (note appréciation).

Fait à le

Le président de (nom de
l'université française)
ou Le Directeur de
.....

Le doyen de la Faculté
des Sciences Economiques
et de Droit de l'Université de
Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

Signature, sceau de
L'établissement français

Signature, sceau de Carl von
Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

Le/la titulaire de ce diplôme est autorisé(e) à porter le grade de docteur sans autre disposition régle-
mentaire en République fédérale d'Allemagne, soit dans sa forme allemande, soit dans sa forme fran-
çaise, les noms des deux établissements partenaires dans la mise en oeuvre de la cotutelle de thèse
pouvant figurer entre parenthèses. Toutefois ce diplôme n'est valide qu'en liaison avec le diplôme de
docteur délivré par l'Etat français.

Annex 7

Re: Section 20 (6)

The School of
of the University of Oldenburg
by this certificate confers on:

Ms/Mr**

born on* in*

the degree:

Honorary Doctor of Philosophy (Dr phil. h. c.)

in recognition of personal outstanding scholarly achievements, characterized by research contributions fundamental to the development of the field of studies* of the School of*,

Oldenburg,*

The Dean of the School:*

*Please insert what is needed, sign where applicable and delete what does not apply

Please note: This is an unofficial translation provided for your convenience only and does not have any legal binding effects! Only the German version is legally binding!