

Doctoral Degree Regulations of School III: School of Linguistics and Cultural Studies of the University of Oldenburg for the Institutes for English and American Studies, for German Studies, for Dutch Studies and for Slavic Studies

dated 08/12/2006, incorporating the amendments of 14/12/2010 (Official Note 1/2011), of 03/09/2013 (ON 4/2013) and of 01/03/2018 (ON 3/2018).

Section 1

Purpose of the doctorate and the doctoral work

(1) School III: School of Linguistics and Cultural Studies (hereinafter referred to as the School) awards the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Dr phil.) for advanced, independent scholarly accomplishments in the field of linguistics and literature.

(2) Joint doctoral programmes (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. In such cases, the doctoral degree referred to in (1) is awarded jointly by the School and the competent body of the cooperation partner.

The doctorate serves as proof of the ability to carry out in-depth, independent scientific work.

(3) The doctorate requires the following attainments:

- a) A written doctoral thesis with a subject that belongs to the field of linguistics and literature and corresponds with the desired degree. For details, see Section 8.
- b) An oral examination (thesis defence). For details, see Section 11.

Section 2 Competences

(1) The following committees are involved in the doctorate process:

- a) the Doctorate Committee (Section 3),
- b) the Examination Committee (Section 4),
- c) the first assessor (Section 6), who is also the supervisor of the thesis in accordance with Section 5, and
- d) one or more persons as co-assessors (Section 6),
- e) as well as, if applicable, a mentor in accordance with Section 4 (2) (h) and Section 5 (3).

(2) The Doctorate Committee decides on procedural matters, unless the Doctoral Degree Regulations provide otherwise.

(3) The first assessor and the co-assessors will assess the thesis.

(4) The Examination Committee conducts the thesis defence and assesses it.

Section 3 Doctorate Committee

(1) By decision of the Faculty Council, the School will establish a Doctorate Committee from among its members. The Doctorate Committee will consist of five members of the professors' group with full voting rights. Furthermore, the Doctorate Committee should include as an advisor a member of the School with a doctorate, whose responsibilities include promoting young scholarly talent. In addition, two more members from the professors' group and one member of the School with a doctorate (as referred to in Sentence 3) are to be appointed as deputies. The Doctorate Committee will elect from among its members a chair who must be a member of the group of professors.

(2) The Doctorate Committee will take decisions by a majority of votes. In the case of a tie, the chair's vote will decide the matter; the chair may not abstain.

Section 4 Examination Committee

(1) Once the thesis has been accepted, the Doctorate Committee will establish an Examination Committee for each doctoral degree procedure. When carrying out doctorates with international or German

partner universities, professors of the partner university must be adequately considered in the composition of the Examination Committee.

- (2) The Examination Committee will consist of:
- a) a professor or a habilitated member of the Doctorate Committee as the chair,
 - b) the first assessor of the thesis,
 - c) a co-assessor of the thesis,
 - d) a professor as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2 from a subject area that is close to the thesis topic, as well as
 - e) another professor as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2, representing the field of study from which the thesis was chosen. The doctoral candidate has a right to propose the members of the Examination Committee referred to in (d) and (e); the Doctorate Committee will decide on these proposals. At least one of the members listed under (b) to (e) must be one of those proposed by the doctoral candidate.
 - f) If the thesis deals to a significant degree with matters that do not commonly belong to the fields of linguistics and literature, a member is to be added who comes from the group of professors of another institute in the School or another school that deals with the field of study concerned. This member of the Examination Committee may come from a foreign or German partner university if the doctorate is part of such a cooperative venture. If the field of study referred to in Sentence 1 above is not represented in any school of the University of Oldenburg, then an external co-assessor, as defined in Section 6 (2), must be appointed.
 - g) At the request of the doctoral candidate, a representative of the teaching staff in possession of a doctorate can take part in an advisory capacity, provided that this person can be considered an early-career researcher on the basis of the duties associated with his or her position.
 - h) As appropriate, the mentor may also be involved in an advisory capacity, provided that this function is not also performed by one of the members named under (a) to (e).
- (3) The majority of the voting members must be members of the School.

Section 5

Supervision and mentoring, acceptance as a doctoral student

(1) The subject of the thesis should be agreed on with a professor (as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2) of the field of study concerned. The professor will supervise the thesis in terms of content and will serve as the first assessor according to Section 6 (1). By concluding a written supervision agreement as in Annex 5, which needs to be countersigned by the chair of the Doctorate Committee, the doctoral candidate will receive the status of 'accepted doctoral candidate' even before the formal approval of the doctorate concerned, pursuant to Section 7. Section 5 applies accordingly. The candidate may ask the Doctorate Committee to help find a supervisor.

(2) In exceptional cases, if reasons are provided, a professor from a department or school with comparable duties at a different university may be appointed as supervisor. This requires the approval of the Doctorate Committee at the stage of admission to the doctorate. In this case, the supervisor will also enjoy, in the context of the doctoral degree procedure, the rights of a member of the School's group of professors. In general, the external supervisor will also assume the function of the first assessor or the function of co-assessor.

(3) At the request and suggestion of the doctoral candidate, the Doctorate Committee must designate a mentor who is willing to accompany the doctoral degree procedure, unless the supervisor of the thesis undertakes these tasks. Normally, the role of mentor will coincide with that of a supervisor. The mentor will supervise the doctorate in procedural terms and will participate in an advisory capacity in all meetings of the Doctorate Committee and the Examination Committee that deal with the doctorate in question. If the mentor is on other grounds authorized to vote in these two committees, such rights will in all cases remain unaffected. To assume the role of mentor, a person must be a professor, as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2, and a member of the School. The mentor should be closely familiar with the field of studies of the thesis.

(4) If the mentor is unable to continue performing his or her duties, the Doctorate Committee must, at the request and suggestion of the doctoral candidate, appoint a new mentor.

Section 6

Assessors

(1) The Doctorate Committee will appoint the first assessor, who must be a member of the specified institutes of the School, and up to two co-assessors for the assessment of the thesis. In the case of a doctoral degree procedure that is carried out in the

framework of an international or national cooperation, the first assessor or one of the co-assessors should belong to the cooperation partner.

(2) The assessors must be professors. This includes the members of the group of professors, lecturers not on furlough, junior professors, honorary professors and professors who are retired or have been relieved of their duties. At least one of the assessors must be a member of the specified institutes of the School.

(3) The doctoral candidate may suggest the first assessor and a co-assessor. Pursuant to Section 4 (2) (e) Sentence 3, the Doctorate Committee is not bound by this proposal.

Section 7 Admission to the doctorate

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

(2) As a requirement for admission, the application must be accompanied by:

- a) the applicant's curriculum vitae, including a description of his or her educational development and, if applicable, a complete list of scholarly publications,
- b) proof of higher education entrance qualification,
- c) the certificate of the first state examination for teaching at Gymnasium schools (secondary level II), an MA degree from a German university, an equivalent university or college, or an academic Diplom or Magister certificate in a field of study related to linguistics or literature, or evidence of an equivalent degree at a foreign university, the examinations taken and the degrees obtained there,
- d) a statement regarding any previous attempts to obtain a doctorate and admissions to doctoral studies at the University of Oldenburg or elsewhere,
- e) a declaration of consent from the supervisor,
- f) a description of the thesis of at most eight pages, which sets out the problem and question and the theoretical, methodical and empirical basics, as well as an abstract of about half a page; a summary of half a page; in addition, if appropriate, a reference to already published parts of the underlying research that are to be included in the thesis, according to Section 8 (3) Sentence 3,

- g) comments on the merit of the application by a member of the School's professors' group (these comments are generally provided by the supervisor),
- h) if applicable, a request for the appointment of a supervisor pursuant to Section 5 (2),
- i) if applicable, a request for permission to write the thesis in a foreign language,
- j) if applicable, a request for permission to pursue the doctorate in an international or national cooperative venture, naming the partner university,
- k) if the supervisor is not intended to also serve as the mentor, a written request for the appointment of a special mentor, or a declaration of consent regarding the person who has agreed to act as mentor. If necessary, the Doctorate Committee will provide a mentor.

All submitted documents, except for originals and diplomas/certificates, which must be submitted as certified photocopies, become the property of the University.

(3) Applicants who do not hold a degree in accordance with (2) (c) may be admitted to the doctorate by means of the following aptitude assessment procedure. As a requirement for admission, they must enclose with their application:

- a) a certificate of a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field of studies from a German university, an equivalent college or university of applied science, or a Diplom degree from a university of applied sciences, each with a high mark, as well as
- b) proof of their ability to engage in advanced scholarly work. This proof is to be obtained by the following:
 - aa) professional presentation of the scholarly project as contemplated in (2) (f)
 - bb) written course work of an adequate level carried out in a comprehensive Master's degree programme of two semesters and usually 60 ECTS in the subjects required for the scholarly field of study of the thesis and taught in the School (including at least two Master's modules from the core area of the scholarly project), and
 - cc) a final examination of an adequate level.

The Doctorate Committee will determine the content of the two-semester degree programme after consulting the applicant and the supervisor, or another habilitated representative of the subject concerned. The final examination will be conducted by two professors, as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2, who are authorized examiners in the School's degree programmes and are appointed by the Doctorate Committee. The material to be examined is the content of the two-semester programme of study. The exam must be taken no later than in the fourth semester after the candidate has been conditionally admitted to the doctorate. It is oral and has a duration of one hour. It can be repeated once. Upon special request, the Doctorate Committee may reduce the requirements, except for the oral examination.

(4) Applicants who have completed a degree as under (2) (c) but more than 12 years ago are advised to demonstrate their existing ability to engage in advanced scholarly work in the manner described in (3) (b).

(5) If, according to (2) (c), evidence of foreign degrees has been submitted, the Doctorate Committee will examine whether they are equivalent to the German degrees. In doing so, legally binding intergovernmental agreements and the recognition recommendations of the KMK (the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder and its Central Office for Foreign Education, ZAB) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) must be taken as a basis. Recognition may be subject to certain requirements and conditions, such as the completion of a missing Diplom thesis, the passing of knowledge tests or the application of (3) (b).

(6) Foreign applicants who do not have a German school or university degree must provide evidence of German language skills as required for admission to a university degree programme. The Doctorate Committee will decide on exceptions and any conditions.

(7) Doctorates can be pursued in international or national cooperation ventures if a corresponding cooperation agreement exists with the desired university.

(8) The Doctorate Committee will decide on admission to the doctorate. Upon admission, the applicant receives the status of doctoral candidate. This status is lost upon the successful completion of the doctorate or its definitive failure according to Section 15. It shall also be lost if the conditions set out in (3) (b) and (5) are not fulfilled.

(9) There can be no renewed admission to the doctorate after a definitively failed doctoral degree procedure, as in Section 14 and Section 15. The re-

quirement for renewed admission is a completely different topic for the new thesis compared with the previous one.

(10) After admission to the doctorate, doctoral candidates should enrol as doctoral students at the earliest possible date.

Section 8 Doctoral thesis

(1) The thesis must demonstrate the author's capacity for advanced and independent scholarly work and contribute to the advancement of scholarship in a specific field of linguistics and literature. The thesis should be planned thematically in such a way that it can be expected to be completed within two to three years, provided that the candidate can work primarily on the thesis during this time.

(2) The thesis should be written in German. Writing in another language requires the approval of the Doctorate Committee, which must be applied for at admission to the doctorate. The thesis must always contain an abstract and a curriculum vitae in German.

(3) The thesis must present the research work and its results in a well-rounded and consistent manner. However, it is permissible for the thesis research to be disseminated in several publications. These should primarily be published after the approval of the thesis. A collection of essays that are unconnected or have topics that are only loosely related will not be accepted as a thesis.

(4) If it has an appropriate research question, a scholarly work written by several persons - usually no more than two - may be recognized as a doctoral thesis. In such cases, it must be clear without a doubt which parts of the thesis are to be attributed to which applicant in the doctoral degree procedure. Furthermore, these parts must fulfil the requirements of (1). The contributions of the individual participants must be specified and described comprehensively in the declaration referred to in Section 9 (2) (b). The Doctorate Committee will formally decide, upon request and after hearing the applicants, whether a topic is appropriate for group work. This must be done before work on the thesis begins. If several doctoral degree procedures are to be carried out on the basis of joint work, a joint Examination Committee and joint assessors are to be appointed. Each individual contribution will be assessed separately.

Section 9 Initiation of the doctoral degree procedure

(1) The doctoral candidate must apply to the Doctorate Committee requesting the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure. As a rule, the application must be submitted, at the earliest, one year after admission and, at the latest, within five years after admission to the doctorate. Upon request, and after hearing the doctoral candidate, the supervisor and, if applicable, the mentor, the Doctorate Committee may, for reasons that are to be provided, extend the periods specified in Sentence 2 by a reasonable time. If the application for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure is not submitted on time or within the period of grace, the admission to the doctoral programme will be deemed to have expired. The chair of the Doctorate Committee will inform the doctoral candidate and the supervisor of the thesis of this.

(2) The application for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure will be approved if the requirements of Section 7 of these Regulations have been met and the following documents are enclosed:

- a) at least 10 copies of the thesis in print-ready condition, with, if applicable, reprints of previously published parts pursuant to Section 8 (3),
- b) a statement that the applicant has written the thesis independently and that the resources used are fully specified,
- c) if applicable, evidence as described in Section 7 (3) (b),
- d) if applicable, evidence in accordance with Section 7 (4),
- e) if applicable, evidence according to Section 7 (5),
- f) if applicable, a current list of publications,
- g) if needed, an application for the thesis defence to be conducted in a language other than German, in accordance with Section 11 (3),
- h) in the case of a renewed doctoral degree procedure after a first failed attempt, a declaration on the failed doctoral degree procedure as in Section 15,
- i) if necessary, evidence as referred to in Section 7 (10) on enrolment as a doctoral student.

(3) The Doctorate Committee will initiate the doctoral degree procedure by appointing the assessors who will evaluate the thesis in accordance with Section 6.

Section 10 Assessment of the thesis

(1) The assessors will compile written assessment reports within three months. They will recommend either acceptance of the thesis and continuation of the procedure, or, if the prerequisites for acceptance have not been met, revision or rejection of the thesis. In case of acceptance, they also propose a grade. The grades are:

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|---|---------------------------------------|
| ausgezeichnet | = 0 | = | summa cum laude (high distinction) |
| sehr gut | = 1 | = | magna cum laude (with distinction) |
| gut | = 2 | = | cum laude (credit) |
| genügend | = 3 | = | rite (pass) |

(2) If at least one assessor has made reasoned proposals for amendments which, in his or her opinion, are required for the thesis to be accepted, the Doctorate Committee will decide by a simple majority of its members whether the thesis will be returned for revision or the procedure will continue. The chair of the Doctorate Committee will notify the doctoral candidate in writing of the requirements, stating the reasons. A reasonable deadline will be set for the revision. After revision of the thesis, the assessors will again submit their written comments within one month of submission of the revised version. The thesis can only be returned for revision once. Modifications related to the publication of the thesis in accordance with Section 13 (3) will remain unaffected.

(3) If the requirements for the continuation of the doctoral degree procedure have been met, the thesis, the assessment reports and comments will be made available for inspection for two weeks in the office of the Dean of the School pursuant to Section 6 (2). The documents may be confidentially viewed by the School's professors according to Section 6 (2), the members of the Doctorate Committee and the assessors, who may also submit expert opinions. The availability of the documents for inspection referred to in (1) and (2) shall be communicated to the named group of persons by the chair of the Doctorate Committee. During the semester break, the period of inspection is extended to four weeks.

(4) After the expiry of the inspection period, the Doctorate Committee will accept the thesis if all assessors have recommended its acceptance, and three working days after expiry of the period of inspection, the chair of the Doctorate Committee has received no expert opinions according to (3). If the thesis has not been recommended for acceptance by all assessors, at least one additional assessor will be appointed. Subsequently, the Doctorate Committee will decide on the continuation of the procedure.

(5) If all the assessors have proposed the acceptance of the thesis, the grade for the thesis will result from the arithmetic mean of the individual assessments as follows:

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| from 0 to less than 0.5 | = | Ausgezeichnet = | = | summa cum laude |
| from 0.5 to less than 1.5 | = | sehr gut | = | magna cum laude |
| from 1.5 to less than 2.5 | = | good | = | cum laude |
| From 2.5 to 3.0 | = | genügend | = | rite (pass) |

If the thesis was rejected by an assessor, this rejection will enter into the calculation of the final grade as 4.0. If expert opinions have been submitted in accordance with (3), the Doctorate Committee will decide whether and to what extent these will be considered in the grading process.

(6) The chair of the Doctorate Committee will inform the doctoral candidate whether the thesis has been accepted or rejected and at the same time make the documents available to him or her, especially the reports that form the basis for the assessment.

(7) If the thesis has been rejected by the Doctorate Committee, the candidate will have failed the doctorate and the procedure will be terminated. A copy of the rejected work is to be filed, with all the documents on which the decision was based.

Section 11 Thesis defence (disputation)

(1) Once the submitted thesis has been accepted, the Doctorate Committee will appoint the Examination Committee, considering the doctoral candidate's suggestions, in accordance with Section 4. The chair of the Doctorate Committee will inform the doctoral candidate of the composition of the Examination Committee. The chair of the Examination Committee must plan the thesis defence without delay. Unless there are important personal reasons not to do so, the thesis defence should take place, at the earliest, two weeks and, at the latest, within four months of acceptance of the thesis. There is no legal claim to a thesis defence during the semester break.

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

(3) The thesis defence will take place in German. The use of a different language requires the approval of the Doctorate Committee, which must be requested, at the latest, with the application for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure, in accordance with Section 9.

(4) The thesis defence is open to the University community and consists of a lecture lasting a maximum of 30 minutes and a subsequent discussion. In the thesis defence and in the entire defence procedure, the doctoral candidate should demonstrate the ability to justify her or his research results theoretically, to defend them against objections and to deal with contrary views in a theoretically sound manner. The written reports of the assessors should also be included in the thesis defence. The thesis defence will extend to the entire subject area in connection with the topic of the thesis. The duration of the entire defence should not exceed two hours. After a discussion of at least 60 minutes between the doctoral candidate and the members of the Examination Committee, the chair has the right to allow questions from the audience, provided there are no questions from the Examination Committee at this time. However, even at this stage of the discussion, questions from the Examination Committee are to be given priority.

(5) Immediately following the oral examination, the Examination Committee will decide in closed session whether the candidate has passed the oral examination. If the candidate has passed, the Examination Committee will determine the grade of the oral examination in the same way as the grading of the thesis, according to Section 10 (1) and (5). The chair of the Examination Committee will immediately inform the doctoral candidate of the result of the thesis defence. At the request of the doctoral candidate, the reasons for the grade will be given in writing after a maximum of 10 working days by the chair of the Doctorate Committee, on the basis of the record, in accordance with (8).

(6) If the doctoral student has not passed the thesis defence, they will be given the opportunity to repeat it once if they submit a written request to the chair of the Doctorate Committee within one week after the grade has been explained. The oral examination can be repeated, at the earliest, after four weeks and, at the latest, before the end of one year.

(7) The examination is considered failed if the doctoral candidate does not attend the thesis defence and fails to provide an excuse. In the case of an excused absence, a new appointment shall be set in accordance with (1). The Examination Committee will decide whether to accept the excuse.

(8) The chair of the Examination Committee shall arrange for a record to be compiled by the members of the Examination Committee on the course of the oral examination, in which the essential items of the thesis defence will be noted. The record must contain a reason for the grading.

Section 12 Completion of doctoral degree procedure

(1) The doctorate is completed when the Examination Committee determines that the candidate has passed the thesis defence. At the latest after 10 working days, the chair of the Doctorate Committee will determine the completion of the doctorate. The chair will also arrange to issue a certificate in which the grade of the thesis, the grade of the thesis defence and the overall grade are entered. The overall grade results from the arithmetic mean of the grade of the thesis defence, which counts once, and the arithmetic mean of the grades of the thesis, which counts twice. Section 10 (5) applies accordingly. Furthermore, this certificate will state that the doctoral candidate is awarded the degree Doctor of Philosophy (Dr Phil.) if they publish the thesis in accordance with Section 13 of these Regulations.

(2) The doctoral candidate will collect this certificate at the School's office. On request, it can be sent to her or him by correspondence.

Section 13 Publication of the thesis

(1) Within one year of the successful defence, the doctoral candidate shall make the thesis accessible to the scientific public in an appropriate manner by copying and processing it. The thesis will have been made accessible to the scholarly public in an appropriate manner if the doctoral candidate has provided the Library and Information System of the University of Oldenburg with six copies of the thesis printed on age-resistant wood- and acid-free paper, and ensured the distribution of the thesis by:

- a) delivering 60 copies as books or photocopies **or**
- b) proof of the publication of the thesis in a journal, as well as the transfer, free of charge, of 3 printed and durably bound copies of the thesis to the University Library of the University of Oldenburg, or
- c) providing three copies as well as evidence of distribution by a commercial publisher of at least 150 copies (on the back of the title page, the publication is to be identified as a thesis, stating the place where the thesis was accepted), or
- d) delivering an electronic version, the data format and data carrier of which are to be agreed with the University Library, as well as the transfer, free of charge, of five printed and durable copies of the thesis to the University Library of the University of Oldenburg **and**

- e) delivering two short summaries in German and English, each with a maximum of 1000 characters, approved by the first assessor, as well as an affidavit on the identity in content and form of the printed and the electronic versions.

In the cases mentioned in Sentence 2 (a), (d) and (e), the doctoral candidate will transfer to the University of Oldenburg the right to produce and disseminate additional copies of the thesis in print or in electronic networks in order to fulfil the legal obligations of university libraries. The author's copyright will remain unaffected.

(2) The delivered items will have a title page, the front and back of which will follow the model in Annex 2. At the end of the thesis, a short curriculum vitae should be added, describing the scholarly development of the doctoral candidate. It must also include information on the candidate's date and place of birth, nationality and, in chronological order, the candidate's studies at various universities, indicating their duration.

(3) The final draft for publication must be submitted to the chair of the Doctorate Committee. It may include changes and deletions either required by the Doctorate Committee on the recommendation of the Examination Committee, in particular the assessor, or requested by the doctoral candidate. If the changes are made at the request of the doctoral candidate, the Doctorate Committee must decide on the approval of the amendments, paying particular attention to the votes of the assessors. The chair will select one of the assessors from the Examination Committee for the concerned doctoral degree procedure to examine the changes. If this member confirms that the changes have been made in accordance with the approved alterations, and the conditions set out in (2) have been met, the chair will approve publication of the thesis.

(4) The chair of the Doctorate Committee may, in special cases, extend the deadline for the delivery of printed copies. The doctoral candidate must submit a reasoned request for such an extension in good time.

Section 14 Completion of the doctorate; Unsuccessful termination of the doctoral degree procedure

(1) After completion of the doctorate, as well as publication of the thesis in accordance with Section 13, the School will award the degree Doctor of Philosophy (Dr phil.). The doctorate is completed when the Dean of the School issues the doctoral certificate. Before that, the doctoral candidate does not have the right to use the title associated with the doctoral degree.

(2) The doctoral certificate will be issued according to the model of Annex 2. In the case of a bi-national doctoral degree, a certificate in accordance with Annex 3 and a translation in the language of the respective partner university will be issued. The doctoral certificate will bear the date of the oral examination, but will be issued only after the obligation to publish, in accordance with Section 13, has been fulfilled.

(3) In the case of a successfully completed doctorate that was not preceded by a university degree programme (Section 7 (3)), the doctoral degree is regarded as an official professional qualification, but does not entitle the student to the Diplom, Magister, Bachelor's or Master's title of the School.

(4) The doctoral degree procedure is terminated unsuccessfully if either the submitted thesis was not approved as an adequate doctoral attainment or the thesis defence was not considered adequate. The chair of the Doctorate Committee will notify the doctoral candidate in writing of the result.

Section 15

Renewed pursuit of a doctorate

If a doctoral degree procedure is terminated unsuccessfully, a renewed application for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure in the framework of an admission is possible only once, only after at least one year and within a maximum of two years. This also applies if the first unsuccessful doctoral attempt took place at another university. A rejected thesis may not be presented again in the same or a slightly modified form for the purpose of obtaining a doctorate. In the case of a renewed application for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure, the earlier unsuccessful doctoral attempt must always be reported. In this connection, the time of the first unsuccessful pursuit of the doctorate, the university and the department (the school or faculty) to which the thesis was submitted, as well as the topic of the thesis and the reason for failure (rejection of the thesis or failure of an oral component of the exam such as the thesis defence) must be specified.

Section 16

Withdrawal of the doctoral application

An application for the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure can be withdrawn as long as no assessment rejecting the thesis has been received. After that, a withdrawal is only possible for important personal reasons that may not be related to the doctoral degree procedure. The Doctorate Committee will decide on this matter in response to a written request. A re-opening of the doctoral degree procedure can then be requested in the same way.

Section 17

Invalidity of the work by the doctoral candidate

(1) If, prior to the award of the doctoral degree certificate, the doctoral student is found to have used fraud in their doctoral work or with regard to the requirements for admission to the doctorate or the initiation of the doctoral procedure, the Doctorate Committee may, accordingly, correct the grades for the doctoral work that involved deception and declare the doctorate invalid.

(2) If the circumstances mentioned in (1) become known only after the doctoral certificate has been awarded, (1) will apply accordingly and the Faculty Council will decide, on the recommendation of the Doctorate Committee and bearing in mind the legal provisions, whether the award of the doctoral degree is to be revoked or withdrawn. The same applies if the award of the degree was obtained by threat or bribery or in the circumstances described by Section 22 (7) of the Lower Saxony University Act (NHG) in the version of 24/3/1998.

(3) If the prerequisites for admission to the doctorate (Section 7) or the initiation of the doctoral degree procedure (Section 9) have not been fulfilled, but without any deception on the part of the doctoral candidate, 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 shall be given the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Doctorate Committee before a decision on invalidity is taken.

(5) The incorrect doctoral certificate must be retrieved and, if appropriate, replaced by a corrected certificate.

Section 18

Access to the doctoral records

Upon completion of the doctoral degree procedure, the doctoral candidate will be granted access to the doctoral dossier upon their request. This 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 19

Appeal

(1) Negative decisions taken in accordance with these Doctoral Degree Regulations must be substantiated in writing, must provide information on legal remedies and must be announced in accordance

with Section 1 of the Administrative Procedures Act (VwVfG). Appeals against decisions regarding the assessment of an examination can be lodged in writing or orally for the written record within one month of the receipt of the decision in accordance with Section 68 ff. of the Administrative Court Regulations (VwGO), or to the chair of the Doctorate Committee. Regarding other decisions, legal action can be taken following the legal remedies indicated.

(2) The chair of the Doctorate Committee will forward the objection to the Examination Committee for review. If the Examination Committee changes its decision as requested, the Doctorate Committee will have definitively dealt with the objection. Otherwise, the Doctorate Committee will forward the objection to the Faculty Council for a final decision. The Faculty Council will examine the decision, paying particular attention to the following aspects:

- a) whether the examination procedure was carried out properly,
- b) whether the grading was based on incorrect information,
- c) whether common principles of assessment were not observed,
- d) whether a reasonable and well-reasoned answer was judged incorrect,
- e) and whether the examiner was guided by extraneous considerations.

(3) If the objection concerns a decision of an assessor, the chair of the Doctorate Committee shall forward the objection to the assessor in question. Otherwise, (2) applies accordingly.

(4) In the event of a violation as in (2) Sentence 4 letters (a) to (e), if the Examination Committee does not already deal definitively with the objection at this stage of the procedure, or if there are concrete and substantiated objections to examination assessments and professional comments, without the examiner changing his or her opinion as requested, the performance of the candidate in the examination will be re-assessed by other examiners who were not previously involved in the examination, or the thesis defence will be repeated.

(5) The appeal shall be dealt with definitively within three months. If the appeal is not upheld, the negative decision must be substantiated and opportunities for legal remedy must be specified.

(6) The appeal may not lead to a worsening of the examination grade.

Section 20 Honorary doctorate

(1) In recognition of outstanding scholarly achievements in one of its fields of study, the School may award the degree of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy (Dr phil. h. c.) in the appropriate form as a rare distinction.

(2) The nomination for an honorary doctorate shall be submitted by at least three members of the School's group of professors. This nomination shall be treated confidentially pending a positive decision on the application in accordance with the other paragraphs of this section. If the honorary doctorate is to be awarded in an international or national cooperation with a partner university, one of the members must come from this partner university. The nomination must set out the scholarly achievements and include the curriculum vitae and a list of the publications of the person to be honoured.

(3) It will be discussed by an Honours Committee which is appointed by the Faculty Council of the School. The Committee will be chaired by the Dean. At least three other members of the Committee must be professors, as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2. If the honorary doctorate is to be awarded in an international or national cooperation with a partner university, one of the members must come from this partner university. The Committee will draw up a written report on the personality and the scholarly achievements of the nominee. At least two scholarly opinions must be obtained from representatives of other universities who are not directly involved in the procedure.

(4) In the Faculty Council meeting preceding the one at which the resolution will be tabled, the Dean will announce that a decision on a nomination for an honorary doctorate will be required. At this time, the Dean will point out that the application, the expert opinions and the report of the Honours Committee are available in the Dean's office for confidential inspection by the members of the Faculty Council and the School's professors, as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2.

(5) The Faculty Council will conduct the process of awarding an honorary doctorate in at least two readings. All the School's professors, as defined in Section 6 (2) Sentence 2, will be invited as consultants to the first of these two readings. Following the second reading, the Faculty Council will decide on the nomination in a secret ballot. An 80% majority of the attending voting members with a doctorate of the Faculty Council is required for acceptance of the application for the award of an honorary doctorate.

(6) In the case of rejection, only the nominators are to be informed. The refusal of an honorary doctorate is to be treated confidentially.

(7) After the nomination has been accepted, the Dean of the School will award the honorary doctorate by issuing a certificate as in Annex 4. The Dean will send invitations to a celebratory ceremony and select the speaker of the laudatory speech.

(8) The award of the honorary doctorate is to be communicated to the German universities as well as to the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture.

(9) The award of the title Dr phil. h. c. can be withdrawn. Section 17 applies accordingly.

Section 21 Effective date

These examination regulations will take effect after approval by the Presidential Board on the date of their publication in the official notices of the University of Oldenburg. At the same time, the previously valid Doctoral Degree Regulations of Department 11 Literature and Language Sciences of 22/4/2002 (Official Note, vol. 21, p. 97) will expire.

Section 22 Transitional provisions

Doctoral candidates who apply for initiation of the doctoral degree procedure pursuant to Section 9 within three years of the entry into force of these Regulations may request that the previous Doctoral Degree Regulations of the School in the version of 22/4/2002 (Official Note, vol. 21, p. 97) be used.

Annex 1

Re: Section 13 (2)

Model 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

Doctor of Philosophy (Dr phil.)

by Ms/Mr *)
(First name and last name)

born on* in

Overleaf:

Assessor *)

Co-assessor(s):

.....

.

.....

.

Date of thesis defence:

.....

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

Annex 2

Re: Section 14 (2)

School III: School of Linguistics and Cultural Studies of the University of Oldenburg

hereby confers on:

Ms/Mr *)

born on: in

the degree

Doctor of Philosophy (Dr phil.)

after she/he* has successfully and duly completed a doctoral degree procedure with a thesis that was assigned the grade** on the following topic:

.....*) as well as a thesis defence, assigned the grade**, in which he/she* proved his/her* scholarly ability, and for the doctorate as a whole was assigned the overall grade**.

Oldenburg

Dean of the School:* of the University of Oldenburg

Chair of the Doctorate Committee of the School.....*) of the University of Oldenburg

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

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

Annex 3

Re: Section 14 (2)

School III: School of Linguistics and Cultural Studies of the University of Oldenburg

hereby confers on:

Ms/Mr *)

born on: in

the degree

Doctor of Philosophy (Dr phil.)

after she/he* has successfully and duly completed a doctoral degree procedure with a thesis that was assigned the grade** on the following topic:

.....*) as well as a thesis defence assigned the grade ** in which he/she* proved his/her * scholarly ability, and for the doctorate as a whole was assigned the grade**.

The doctorate was carried out in the framework of a joint doctoral degree procedure of the Schools* of the University of Oldenburg and the School/Department* of*. The doctorate is therefore also recognized by the partner institution.

Oldenburg

Dean of the School:* of the University of Oldenburg

Chair of the Doctorate Committee of the School.....*) of the University of Oldenburg

.....
(Place, date)

Dean of the School *)

of*)

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

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

Annex 4

Re: Section 20 (7)

School III: School of Linguistics and Cultural Studies of the University of Oldenburg hereby 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 *)

Oldenburg

Dean of the School *)

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

Annex 5

Re: Section 5 (1)

Supervision agreement

The scholarly supervision of the thesis includes the doctoral candidate's right to guidance and support of the research work by the supervisor and, if necessary, other persons whose counselling may be conducive to the quality of the work. This supervision is conducted especially in regular individual conversations and regular participation in doctoral programme events and/or doctoral colloquia of the department or school. The first supervisor will monitor the quality of the doctoral thesis and support the independent scientific development of the doctoral candidate in word and deed.

At the beginning, the doctoral student will draw up a timeline for the project, which is to be regularly updated and discussed with the supervisor. The doctoral student will regularly present preparatory work or drafts in the above-mentioned colloquia or comparable events.

Ms/Mr _____ (doctoral candidate)

and

Ms/Mr _____ (first supervisor)

and, if applicable,

Ms/Mr _____ (second supervisor)

and, if applicable,

Ms/Mr _____ (third supervisor)

If acceptance (pursuant to Section 5) and admission (pursuant to Section 7) coincide, the following will apply:

With their signature under the Application for Admission, the doctoral candidate agrees and commits to this supervision agreement. By their declaration of agreement pursuant to Section 7 (e) of the Doctoral Degree Regulations, the supervisor confirms their commitment.

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| <p>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!</p> |
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