

Joint degree with Groningen: Oldenburg procedure

Candidates aiming for a joint degree have to formally go through the procedures at both universities, Oldenburg and Groningen, and have a [primary supervisor at each university](#). **Here, we summarize the procedure that the Oldenburg doctorate committee (Promotionsausschuss) suggests, in order to streamline the process as much as possible.**

NOTE that you also need to familiarize yourself with the general Oldenburg examination regulations and some terms used below. You might want to check the FAQs and other useful documents provided on our download site:

<https://uol.de/medizin/promotion/promotion-zum-dr-rer-nat-phd-drphil-dr-ing>

➤ When applying for admission in Oldenburg

- Use our usual “Admission as a doctoral candidate” form, provided on the above download site. Name your primary Oldenburg supervisor there.
- INSTEAD of our usual “Thesis agreement”, hand in your formal “Agreement for a Joint Supervision of a Doctorate” !! Note that this needs to be signed by a lot of people.
https://uol.de/fileadmin/user_upload/medizin/download/JointDegree_contract_gem_einsame_Promotionen.pdf

➤ At the time of handing in your written thesis in Oldenburg

- Use our usual “Application for opening a doctoral procedure” form, provided on our download site. The default for a joint degree is that you submit a publication-based thesis.
- Your printed thesis can be in A5 format with a colourful cover, as is customary in Groningen.
Inside, it needs to have TWO separate cover sheets, one for each university.
!! Note that the UOL cover sheet must be in German, exactly as specified in the official examination rules !! Templates are provided on our download site.
- Suggest THREE referees of your thesis:
#1 your primary Oldenburg supervisor
#2 a further Oldenburg professor who was not involved in your thesis work (ideally a member of our faculty’s doctorate committee; but this is not mandatory)
#3 another professor who was not involved in your thesis work. This person can be affiliated with Oldenburg or Groningen or another university.
- ! Important: nominate #2 und #3 also as members of your Groningen “Assessment Committee”. These two referees then submit their reports to both Oldenburg and Groningen. [The remaining two members of your Groningen “Assessment

Committee” are only involved in Groningen. Conversely, referee #1 is only a referee in Oldenburg.]

- IF neither referee #1, #2 or #3 is also a member of our faculty’s doctorate committee, you need to suggest one of us IN ADDITION, as “a further member of your examination committee, according to §6(4)”. This person is then not a referee of your thesis but present at the oral defense.

➤ The oral defense takes place in Groningen

- It starts with a 30 minute talk by you (required by Oldenburg regulations), summarizing your work. Members of your Oldenburg examination committee *must* be present here, but all university affiliates are welcome to attend.
- This is followed by the traditional Groningen ceremony “Hora Finita”. The discussion part of this, where you are asked questions, also fulfills the requirements of Oldenburg regulations.
- Finally, the members of your Oldenburg examination committee hold a closed meeting, to vote on the final grade according to Oldenburg regulations.