

Doctoral Examination Regulations

of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management,
Justus Liebig University, Gießen, 7 July 2004, last changed 29 May 2019

This is a translation of the "Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen". The English translation serves solely for purposes of information. The German language version of the Special Regulations is the legally binding version.

On 7 July 2004, the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management of Justus Liebig University, Gießen, approved the following Doctoral Examination Regulations in accordance with § 50 paragraph 1 sentence 2 number 1 of the Hessian Hochschulgesetz in the version of 31 July 2000 (GVBl. I p. 374), last revised on 18 December 2003 (GVBl. I p. 513, 518), last changed 29 May 2019.

Table of Contents

Section One: General Information	2
§ 1 Classes and Nature of Doctoral Qualification.....	2
§ 2 Committees and Responsibilities	2
§ 3 Doctoral Committee	3
§ 4 Examining Committee	3
§ 5 Supervisors	3
§ 6 Reviewers	4
§ 7 Rules of Procedure	4
§ 8 Appeals and Objections	5
Section Two: Doctoral Relationship	5
§ 9 Academic prerequisites for admission as a doctoral candidate.....	5
§ 10 Academic prerequisites for admission as a doctoral candidate if a graduate of a university of applied sciences.....	6
§ 11 Application for admission as a doctoral candidate	7
§ 12 Consideration and evaluation of application for admission.....	8
§ 13 Rights and duties of doctoral candidates	8
§ 14 Evaluation of an unsupervised doctoral dissertation.....	9
§ 15 Production of the Dissertation	9
§ 16 Termination of doctoral relationship, change of supervisor or topic, withdrawal of application to be examined.....	10
Section Three: Examination Procedure.....	11
§ 17 Initiation of Examination Procedure.....	11

§ 18 Assessment of dissertation, completion of doctoral examination procedure.....	12
§ 19 Making the dissertation available to the public.....	12
§ 20 Preparing the Defence.....	13
§ 21 Defence and Oral Examination.....	13
§ 22 Evaluating the doctoral degree examinations and determining the overall grade.....	14
§ 23 Publishing the Dissertation.....	15
§ 24 Doctoral Certificate	16
Section Four: Final Provisions.....	17
§ 25 Refusal and withdrawal of doctoral degree	17
§ 27 Honorary Doctorate.....	17
§ 28 Binational doctoral examination procedures.....	18
§ 29 Transitional regulations and coming into effect	18

Section One: General Information

All personal designations used in the regulations apply to both female and male persons.

§ 1 Classes and Nature of Doctoral Qualification

(1) Following the successful completion of the doctoral examination procedure, the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University Gießen awards applicants the following degrees with regard to the field of science in which they completed their dissertation and defence and hence proved their scientific mastery in the respective field:

1. Applicants who proved their scientific mastery in the field of agricultural science or enology are awarded the degree of Doctor of Agriculture (Doctor agriculturæ - Dr. agr.).
2. Applicants who proved their scientific mastery in the field of home economics and nutritional sciences are awarded the degree of Doctor of home economics and nutritional science (Doctor oeconomiae trophologiaeque - Dr. oec. troph.).
3. Applicants who proved their scientific mastery in the field of nutritional sciences are awarded the degree of Doctor of nutritional sciences (Doctor trophologiae - Dr. troph.).
4. Applicants who proved their scientific mastery in the field of natural sciences are awarded the degree of Doctor of natural sciences (Doctor rerum naturalium - Dr. rer. nat.).

(2) The doctoral degree substantiates a special scientific qualification that reaches beyond the standard completion of a university qualification.

(3) All persons mentioned in these doctoral examination regulations are referred to in masculine form. For women, these terms apply in the corresponding female form.

§ 2 Committees and Responsibilities

(1) The following persons and groups are involved in the doctoral examination procedure: The Doctoral Committee (§ 3), the Examining Committee (§ 4), the Supervisor(s) (§§ 5, 17 paragraph 4) and the Reviewers (§§ 6, 17 paragraph 3).

(2) The Doctoral Committee decides on all matters relevant to the doctoral examination procedure, provided the doctoral examination order does not stipulate otherwise.

The Examining Committee in particular decides over who is to be accepted as doctoral candidate, the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure and determines the Supervisor in agreement with the doctoral candidate.

(3) The Chair of the Doctoral Committee conducts the day to day business of the Doctoral Committee. He is supported by the Examination Office. He decides on those matters that have been explicitly allocated to him by the Examining Committee. He appoints the Reviewers (§ 6) and deploys the Examining Committee (§ 4).

(4) The Examining Committee decides on changes suggested by the Reviewers, conducts the defence and evaluates the doctoral examination performance. The Committee decides whether or not the doctoral candidate shall graduate or not and whether the defence may be repeated.

(5) The Supervisor(s) advise(s) the doctoral candidate on all matters regarding the production of the dissertation. The Supervisor(s) confirm(s) in writing that he or they have agreed to act as counsel for doctoral candidate (supervisory agreement).

(6) The Reviewers evaluate and grade the dissertation. They also propose whether it shall be accepted or declined, suggest a grade and make proposals for change if necessary.

§ 3 Doctoral Committee

(1) The Doctoral Committee consists of four members of the group of professors (professors, junior professors and university lecturers), two graduate research assistants and two doctoral candidates that are enrolled in the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University Gießen, which shall serve the function of deliberative vote.

(2) The members of the Doctoral Committee are chosen by representatives of their groups in the Faculty Council. The various departments of the faculty shall be duly considered within the appointment procedure.

The members of the professor group and the research assistants are elected for a period of three years and the doctoral candidates are elected for a period of one year. Re-election of members is permitted. A deputy shall be elected for each member

(3) The Doctoral Committee elects a chairperson (Chair) and deputy Chair from within the group of professors on the Board.

§ 4 Examining Committee

(1) For each examination procedure the Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall deploy an Examining Committee consisting of at least five members. The Committee shall consist of all Reviewers and two additional scholars who are appointed by the Chair of the Doctoral Committee and taken from the group of persons specified in § 5 paragraph 1.

(2) The Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall nominate one of the members of the Doctoral Committee as Chair of the Examining Committee. One department may not be represented by more than two members of the Committee.

§ 5 Supervisors

(1) Fulltime members of the group of professors (professors, junior professors and university lecturers), emeritus professors, retired professors, extracurricular professors, honorary professors

and private lecturers of the Justus Liebig University Gießen may be appointed Supervisors, Reviewers or members of the Examining Committee. Only fulltime members of the group of professors may be obligated to participate in the doctoral examination procedure. § 11, paragraph 2, sentence 5 remains unaffected by this regulation.

(2) The Doctoral Committee appoints the Supervisor(s) upon suggestion by the doctoral candidate. The appointment procedure shall ensure that the Supervisor is able to supervise the dissertation until its planned completion.

(3) If only one Supervisor is employed, then he must be a member of the faculty. If more than one Supervisor is employed, then at least one of the Supervisors must be a member of the faculty. If a Supervisor retires from service at the Justus Liebig University Gießen, then he may continue his supervisory activity for up to four semesters, insofar as he provides the Doctoral Committee with written evidence stating that he has obligated himself to continue his supervisory activity and to continue to participate in the doctoral examination procedure. In this case the Doctoral Committee shall appoint a further Supervisor in agreement with the doctoral candidate who shall be solely responsible for the supervisory task after the stipulated period has ceased. Sentence 3 also applies if the Supervisor cannot continue his supervisory activity due to other justifiable reasons.

(4) The Doctoral Committee may entrust a different scholar who holds a doctorate with the task of supervision, insofar as he agrees to this duty and the following applies: the scholar must be a member of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University Gießen; his qualifications and the material resources at his disposal must allow him to be able to perform the duties of the supervisory task; the ongoing supervision of the dissertation must be ensured until the estimated date of its completion.

(5) The Doctoral Committee may in certain cases – also following the doctoral candidate's application and after the doctoral candidate has been accepted – appoint a further Supervisor who is a member of a different university or an extramural research facility and can provide qualifications in accordance with paragraph 1.

§ 6 Reviewers

(1) The Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall appoint at least two Reviewers. These must be scholars according to the regulations stipulated in §5 paragraph 1.

(2) Further Reviewers from other universities of extramural research facilities may be appointed insofar as these fulfil the characteristics stipulated in §5 paragraph 1. If the production of the dissertation was supervised, the Supervisors shall be made Reviewers. One of the Reviewers must be a fulltime member of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University Gießen group of professors.

§ 7 Rules of Procedure

(1) The meetings of the Doctoral Committee and Examining Committee are not open to the public. The Doctoral Committee may make decisions if at least half of the members that are eligible to vote are present. The Examining Committee shall have a quorum if all members are present. Decisions are made based on the majority of votes cast by the members present. In the case of the numbers of votes being equal, the Chair casts a deciding vote.

(2) Voting on examination decisions shall be held openly. Abstentions are impermissible.

§ 8 Appeals and Objections

(1) Persons affected and each member of the Doctoral Committee may appeal any decision made by the Chair. The Doctoral Committee shall decide on the appeal made. Decisions by the Doctoral Committee are to be recorded in writing and justified. Decisions declining appeals made by doctoral candidates shall be supplemented with information on legal remedies available.

(2) Doctoral candidates affected may lodge objections to decisions made by the Doctoral Committee. These objections shall be addressed to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee. The Doctoral Committee shall decide whether to resolve the objection. If the objection is not resolved, it shall be submitted to the President of Justus Liebig University, Gießen, who shall then reach a decision.

Section Two: Doctoral Relationship

§ 9 Academic prerequisites for admission as a doctoral candidate

(1) Graduates that hold a “Diplom” or Master's degree

1. awarded by a German university for successfully completing a degree course in Agricultural Science may be admitted to the Agricultural Science doctoral examination programme (Dr. agr.) and
2. awarded by a German university for successfully completing a degree course in Nutritional Science may be admitted to the Nutritional Science doctoral examination programme (Dr. oec. troph) and
3. awarded by a German university for successfully completing a degree course in Ecotrophology may be admitted to the Ecotrophology doctoral examination programme (Dr. troph)

insofar as they have completed their “Diplomprüfung” or Master's examination with an overall grade no lower than “Good” and the topic they wish to treat in their dissertation lies within the subject responsibility of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen. If the topic they wish to treat in their dissertation is a natural science subject then the abovementioned graduates may also be accepted for a doctorate for the acquisition of a doctorate in natural sciences (Dr. rer. nat.).

(2) Applicants that are unable to provide said satisfactory qualifying grade in accordance with paragraph 1 may only be accepted as doctoral candidate once they have successfully completed a six-month trial period. The trial period shall provide them with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to work scientifically. The Doctoral Committee shall determine the duration of the trial period and the evidence to be produced. At the close of the trial period, the Doctoral Committee shall decide, on the basis of a written statement by the prospective Supervisor(s), whether or not it was completed successfully. If the trial period is deemed not to have been completed successfully, the doctoral candidate may not be admitted to the doctoral examination procedure. § 8, paragraph 2 applies accordingly.

(3) The Doctoral Committee shall decide on all matters regarding the recognition of other equal degrees conferred by other German universities. In this case, positive statements by at least two scholars according to § 5 paragraph 1 must be produced. These scholars must be members of the Faculty.

(4) Examinations taken at universities outside of Germany shall be deemed equivalent by the Doctoral Committee if they meet the requirements stipulated in paragraph 1 of the equivalence agreement established by the Kultusministerkonferenz and Hochschulrektorenkonferenz. If there are

doubts regarding issues of equivalence, the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland shall be consulted.

§ 10 Academic prerequisites for admission as a doctoral candidate if a graduate of a university of applied sciences

(1) Graduates of appropriate degree courses at German universities of applied sciences may be admitted to the doctoral examination at the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen if

1. the topic they have chosen to address in their dissertation lies within the subject responsibility of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen,
2. they completed their "Diplomprüfung" with a grade no lower than "very good" (up to 1.5);
3. they can provide a positive assessment by a professor relevant to the subject matter of the Faculty of the university of applied sciences responsible that confirms the applicant's ability to work scientifically;
4. they can provide a written supervisory agreement by a professor who is a member of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen, that states that the professor will later supervise the doctorate; and
5. they participate in a preparatory course of study of one semester minimum in the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen, that includes five modules from the following fields of study: "Nutritional Science", "Home Economics", "Food Economics", "Plant Production", "Farm Animal Husbandry", "Agricultural Economics and Farm Management" or "Environmental and Resource Management" (doctoral programme). In accordance with § 10 paragraph 2 of the "Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen for its degree courses conferring the degrees of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Master of Science (M.Sc.)" of 20 June 2001, each of these modules must be completed with a grade of at least "good" (up to 2.7);
6. after successfully completing the doctoral programme (number 5), they have completed a Master's thesis in accordance with § 27 of the examination regulations for the Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) and Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree courses, with a grade no lower than "good" (up to 2.7), in accordance with § 10 paragraph 2 of these regulations;
7. they have not conclusively failed a doctoral examination suitability test or similar aptitude test at a different university.

(2) The doctoral programme is designed to prepare applicants for their doctoral examination. It shall systematically convey theoretical and methodological fundamentals in one of the fields of study featured in paragraph 1 number 5. The doctoral programme consists of five study-accompanying Master's module examinations (three core modules and two profile modules) in the relevant field of study as governed by § 26 paragraph 3 of the examination regulations for Bachelor's and Master's degree courses. The Doctoral Committee shall decide which of the individual modules must be taken in the doctoral programme.

(3) Participation in the doctoral programme is not required if the results that are to be achieved in the course of study and verification of the ability to work scientifically can be provided by other means. The Doctoral Committee shall decide on such matters. Following the Board's positive decision, an aptitude test according to paragraph 4 shall be administered.

(4) The duration of the aptitude test shall be one hour and it shall cover a maximum of three subjects from the fields of study named in paragraph 1 number 5. The Doctoral Committee shall decide which three subjects are to be covered. The aptitude test shall demonstrate whether or not the applicant possesses the knowledge required for the prospective field of the doctoral examination and is able to work scientifically. The aptitude test shall be conducted by an Examining Committee (aptitude test commission) which is to be appointed by the Doctoral Committee. The aptitude test commission shall consist of three professorial members of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen, representing the departments of the relevant fields of study. The professor issuing the assessment of aptitude in accordance with paragraph 1 number 3 may be a member of the commission.

(5) § 9, paragraph 1 and 3 apply accordingly to graduates of accredited Master's degree courses from German universities of applied sciences.

§ 11 Application for admission as a doctoral candidate

(1) The application for acceptance as doctoral candidate shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee.

The application shall include:

1. a curriculum vitae with photograph;
2. officially certified transcripts of records according to § 9 or § 10;
3. declarations and transcripts of records pertaining to other academic or federal examinations;
4. declarations concerning whether applications to doctoral examination programmes have been made at other universities and what the outcome of said application was;
5. if required, a declaration that an academic aptitude test in accordance with § 10 paragraph 4 or similar suitability test has not been passed conclusively at a different university;
6. in the case of foreign applicants, evidence of sufficient proficiency in the German or English language must be provided should no final examination certificate from a German university be produced
7. scientific publications by the applicant;
8. working title and prospective work plan for the intended dissertation – the topic must be so chosen and tailored that it is possible to complete it within the time period of three years;
9. a suggestion regarding which academic member of staff shall act as primary Supervisor for the dissertation;
10. a written statement and declaration of consent by the primary Supervisor;
11. a declaration stating that the "Satzung der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis" has been received and that its principles will be followed during the work on the dissertation;
12. a declaration stating which of the approved languages specified in § 15 paragraph 5 sentence 1 the dissertation will be produced in, or a justification as to why a different language should be accepted.

(2) Insofar as applicants have not yet found a suitable Supervisor, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall endeavour to find a suitable Supervisor. This only applies in the case of applicants who have completed an agricultural or ecotrophological degree course in accordance with § 9 paragraph 1. The written approval of the prospective Supervisor must have been secured in order for him to be accepted. A refusal of supervision must be justified to the Doctoral Committee. By accepting supervisory duties, the Supervisor agrees to evaluate the dissertation at a later point in time.

(3) If material or personnel resources or a workspace are required for completing the dissertation, the agreement to supply said resources must be provided by the Supervisor.

§ 12 Consideration and evaluation of application for admission

(1) If the prerequisites for admission have been fulfilled in accordance with § 9 or § 10 and the documents have been submitted in accordance with § 11 paragraph 1 to 3, the Doctoral Committee shall decide on whether to accept the application. Unconditional acceptance entails that the Supervision and subsequent evaluation of the dissertation are guaranteed.

(2) The Doctoral Committee may reject in writing an application for admission. An application for admission shall be rejected if the dissertation topic suggested by the applicant does not lie within the purview of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen. The applicant shall be informed in writing of the justified rejection of the application for admission, in accordance with § 8 paragraph 2.

(3) In justifiable cases and if requested by the applicant, the Doctoral Committee may decide on the approval of an applicant following the trial period in which his ability to work scientifically is to be demonstrated – notwithstanding the regulation in § 9 paragraph 2. This condition shall be justified in writing and the applicant shall be informed thereof. § 8 paragraph 2 as well as § 9 paragraph 2 sentences 2 to 5 shall apply accordingly.

(4) The Doctoral Committee may conditionally accept the doctoral candidate or accept him with restrictions. In particular, it may

1. reject the assurance of supervision if no member of the group of professors is prepared to carry out this task;
2. reject the assurance of material or personnel resources or limit their duration or scope, if the affected institute has refused to grant or has restricted said resources.

The conditions and restrictions must be justified. The applicant must be informed thereof in writing. § 8 paragraph 2 apply accordingly.

(5) If several applicants apply for a dissertation within the framework of a collaborative research project, then the above paragraphs shall apply by analogy. Applications for acceptance of a dissertation that is to be produced in a collaborative research project that culminates in a joint effort by several authors may only be accepted if the department can ensure that the project can be supervised sufficiently and that the autonomy of the individual performances is assured.

(6) If the Doctoral Committee accepts the application for admission, the supervision and subsequent evaluation of the dissertation is guaranteed.

(7) The Doctoral Committee shall keep a directory of all registered dissertation topics and store it on the premises of the Dean's Office, where it can be accessed by members of Justus Liebig University, Gießen.

§ 13 Rights and duties of doctoral candidates

(1) Supervised doctoral applicants are entitled to regular scientific counselling and support by their Supervisor(s).

Both methodological skills and the fundamentals of good scientific practice shall be conveyed to them in accordance with the applicable statutes of Justus Liebig University, Gießen.

(2) Supervised doctoral candidates are obliged to

1. record and store complete documentation of their research findings;
2. regularly provide written feedback regarding the progress of their research work;
3. participate in internal seminars; and,
4. to a limited degree, participate in routine tasks within their workgroup.

(3) A written progress report (up to five pages in length) shall, in accordance with paragraph 2 number 2, be produced once a year and be addressed to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee via the primary Supervisor. The doctoral relationship may be suspended for a restricted period of time if this report is not submitted or not submitted correctly. The Doctoral Committee shall decide on such matters.

§ 14 Evaluation of an unsupervised doctoral dissertation

(1) Applicants who were not supervised during their work on their dissertation and who fulfil all prerequisites in conformity with § 9 can apply for admission as doctoral candidate while simultaneously initiating an examination procedure by submitting a dissertation along with the documents stipulated in accordance with § 11 paragraph 1 sentence 2 numbers 1 to 7. The Doctoral Committee has the right to reject the application if the specific field dealt with in the dissertation is not sufficiently covered by the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen.

(2) The Doctoral Committee may make initiation of the procedure conditional on participation in the doctorate programme or the successful completion of specific examinations in the department.

(3) Graduation is not possible without prior supervision:

1. if the dissertation was produced within the framework of a collaborative research project and written by several authors; or
2. if the object of research was of experimental nature or
3. in the case of applicants covered by § 9 paragraph 3 and 4 as well as § 10 paragraph 1.

(4) If a dissertation in accordance with paragraph 1 was handed in that was supervised by a scholar who was not formally appointed as Supervisor for this dissertation by the Doctoral Committee, then the Chair of the Doctoral Committee is not obliged to appoint this scholar as Reviewer in accordance with § 6 paragraph 2 sentence 2.

§ 15 Production of the Dissertation

(1) The emphasis of the dissertation must lie in an area that is covered by the teaching and research of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen.

The dissertation must, furthermore, fulfil the following prerequisites: It must

1. demonstrate an advance in scientific knowledge on the basis of independent research;
2. do justice to the methodological fundamentals of the subject to which the topic pertains;
3. contain documentation of the scholarly procedures followed with regard to the material analyzed and the technical literature consulted; and
4. state its objectives clearly and with scholarly rigour.

(2) Parts of a scientific paper that was written by several authors may be accepted as a dissertation in conformity with the following prerequisites:

1. the overall paper must have been supervised;
2. the applicable part of the paper must have been written by the doctoral candidate;
3. it must present a coherent approach to a topical complex;
4. the individual part written by the doctoral candidate must be clearly differentiable and gradable;
5. the prerequisites of paragraph 1 must be met.

The doctoral candidates must provide information about the nature of the collaborative work in a separate work report that must be endorsed by the Supervisor. A separate doctoral examination procedure shall be conducted for each individual doctoral candidate.

(3) Several papers (cumulative dissertation) may be recognized as a dissertation if they represent a step-by-step processing of a topic, have appeared in full or in part in scientific publications, or at least two papers have been accepted for publishing in scientific publications and they fulfil the prerequisites specified in paragraph 1 and 5.

(4) A paper published as a whole may be accepted as a dissertation if it meets the prerequisites of paragraph 1 and 5. § 14 paragraph 3 applies accordingly.

(5) The dissertation must be written in German and/or English. In particular cases, the Doctoral Committee may allow the dissertation to be written in a third language. A subsequent change of the language specified in the application for acceptance must be authorized by the Doctoral Committee.

§ 16 Termination of doctoral relationship, change of supervisor or topic, withdrawal of application to be examined

(1) Doctoral candidates may apply for termination of the doctoral relationship prior to submitting their dissertation. The prerequisite is the submission of a qualified closing report. The Chair of the Doctoral Committee will in this case acknowledge the termination. In this case, the doctoral examination is not deemed to have been failed.

(2) Upon the recommendation of the Supervisor, the Doctoral Committee may decide that the doctoral relationship is to be declared terminated if the report by the doctoral candidate (§ 13 paragraph 3 number 2) does not show that the work is progressing. The doctoral candidate shall be heard first. § 8 paragraph 2 applies accordingly. The relationship shall not be terminated if the doctoral candidate can prove that he is not responsible for the lack of progress on the dissertation.

(3) Upon justified application by the doctoral candidate, the Doctoral Committee may temporarily suspend the supervisory relationship or dissolve it. Prior to dissolving the supervisory relationship, the Doctoral Committee shall duly try to facilitate an amicable solution. After the supervisory relationship has been dissolved, the Doctoral Committee may, upon application by the doctoral candidate, appoint a new Supervisor for the dissertation project within a suitable time period. A new application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate is not required in this case.

(4) Doctoral candidates may withdraw a previously submitted dissertation up until the point in time at which the accepted dissertation has not yet been rejected in accordance with § 18 paragraph 6. The doctoral examination is in this case not deemed to have been failed. The point in time of the withdrawal shall be recorded in writing. If the doctoral candidate intends to revise the withdrawn dissertation, then the revised version must be resubmitted to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee within six months of withdrawal. If the doctoral candidate fails to adhere to this deadline without justifiable cause, the doctoral examination is deemed to have been failed.

(5) Doctoral candidates may reapply once for doctoral examination by submitting a new topic. If the previous Supervisor is not prepared to supervise the new work of research, the Doctoral Committee shall appoint a new Supervisor in accordance with § 5 paragraph 2.

(6) Upon application by the doctoral candidate and with the agreement of the Supervisor, the Doctoral Committee may adjust the working title of the dissertation to suit its progress.

(7) In the case of a premature termination of the doctoral relationship (paragraph 1 sentence 1, paragraph 2 sentence 1), its dissolution (paragraph 3) or the withdrawal of the doctoral examination application (paragraph 4), the documents according to § 11 paragraph 1 sentence 2 numbers 1, 4 to 6 and 8 to 12 shall remain with the Doctoral Committee.

Section Three: Examination Procedure

§ 17 Initiation of Examination Procedure

(1) The doctoral candidate shall supply his written application to open the examination procedure to the Chair of the Doctoral Board.

(2) The following shall be included in the application:

1. The complete typewritten and bound copy in quintuplicate, as considered by the doctoral candidate as ready for publication;
2. an assurance, worded as follows, that is to be included in the dissertation:

“I declare that the dissertation here submitted is entirely my own work, written without any illegitimate help by any third party and solely with materials as indicated in the dissertation. I have indicated in the text where I have used texts from already published sources, either word for word or in substance, and where I have made statements based on oral information given to me. At all times during the investigations carried out by me and described in the dissertation, I have followed the principles of good scientific practice as defined in the “Statutes of the Justus Liebig University Gießen for the Safeguarding of Good Scientific Practice”

(3) In accordance with § 6, the Chair of the Doctoral Board shall appoint at least two scholars in the sense of § 5 paragraph 1 who shall examine the dissertation. The doctoral candidate shall be informed of the names of the Reviewers.

(4) If one of the Supervisors produced parts of a scientific work that has been submitted as a dissertation in the sense of § 15 paragraph 2, the Chair of the Doctoral Board shall appoint a different scholar in the sense of § 5 paragraph 1 as Reviewer. The Doctoral Committee shall decide whether or not a scholar in the sense of § 5 paragraph 1 from a different faculty or a different university may be appointed Reviewer.

(5) If the doctoral candidate was not supervised during the production of his dissertation (§ 14), he may suggest an additional Reviewer and Examiner from the group of scholars named in § 5 paragraph 1 within two weeks after the names of the Reviewers have been announced (Paragraph 3). The additional Reviewer and Examiner must agree to their nomination and will then be appointed by the Doctoral Committee. Paragraph 6 remains unaffected hereby.

(6) The Doctoral Committee may appoint further Reviewers following consultation with the supervisors.

§ 18 Assessment of dissertation, completion of doctoral examination procedure

(1) Every assessment must address the theses of the dissertation and include a recommendation as to whether the dissertation shall be accepted or rejected or whether the procedure shall be put on hold until the dissertation has been changed. The Reviewers shall submit their assessments to the Examination Office no later than three months after having received the dissertation. They shall also supply the doctoral candidate with copies of their assessments for personal use during the doctoral examination procedure.

(2) A recommendation for acceptance must include a suggested grade and may contain suggestions for improvement or supplementation.

The grades are;

Excellent	summa cum laude
Very Good	magna cum laude
Good	cum laude
Sufficient	rite

The grade "Excellent" shall only be rewarded for unusually great scientific accomplishment.

(3) If the Reviewers appointed in accordance with § 17 paragraph 3 unanimously decided to award the grade of "summa cum laude", the Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall appoint a third scholar according to § 5 paragraph 1 who shall conduct a further review of the dissertation.

(4) If the suggestions made by the Reviewers regarding acceptance, grading or changes to the work deviate by more than one full grade, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall appoint a further Reviewer whom the Reviewers appointed according to § 17 paragraphs 3 to 6 shall agree on. If these fail to reach an agreement, the Doctoral Committee shall decide.

(5) If at least one of the assessments suggests that the work be accepted, but at the same time changes are suggested, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall decide whether the work is to be returned to the doctoral candidate for a fixed period of time so that the changes can be effected, or whether the procedure according to § 19 shall be continued and the changes suggested in the relevant assessment shall be effected after the defence has been conducted. In a time period generally not exceeding one month after the dissertation has been reworked, the Reviewers shall be granted the opportunity to once again voice their opinion.

(6) If the majority or all of the assessments suggest that the work shall be rejected and there are no grounds that would suggest that changes may allow for a resubmission at a later point in time, then the examination is deemed to have been failed and the procedure is terminated. The Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall inform the doctoral candidate thereof and provide justifications. § 8 paragraph 2 applies accordingly. A rejected dissertation, including all assessments, additional assessments and statements, shall remain in the doctoral records office of the Doctoral Committee.

(7) In all other cases, the doctoral examination procedure shall be continued in accordance with § 19.

§ 19 Making the dissertation available to the public

(1) If the prerequisites for a continuation of the procedure according to § 18 are fulfilled, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall inform the members of the Examining Committee, the institutes of the Faculty, and the Supervisors and Reviewers who are not members of these groups, what the name of the doctoral candidate is, what the title of his dissertation is and what the grade recommended by

the Reviewers is, and that the dissertation will be put on display shortly. Two days after this notification has been submitted, the Chair shall put the dissertation along with the assessments on display in the premises of the Doctoral Committee of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen, for a period of two weeks. If the period of display lies partly or wholly in a lecture-free period, then the dissertation shall be put on display for a period of four weeks.

(2) The dissertation may be viewed by members of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen, who hold a doctorate. The assessments may only be viewed by the members of the group of professors and habilitated members of the Faculty as well as the Supervisors who supervised the production of the work. Exceptions to this ruling will be decided upon by the Doctoral Committee.

(3) Each member of the group of professors and each habilitated member of the Faculty may add an additional assessment to the dissertation within the stipulated period of display (paragraph 1 sentence 2). This does not increase the period of display. These persons can, on the basis of their supplementary written evaluations, lodge a formal objection to a recommended grade or against accepting the dissertation.

§ 20 Preparing the Defence

(1) Following application by the doctoral candidate, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall determine a date for the defence. He shall, at the same time, also deploy the Examining Committee in accordance with § 4 paragraph 1 and appoint a Chair of the Committee in accordance with § 4 paragraph 2.

(2) If the doctoral candidate does not file an application in accordance with paragraph 1 sentence 1 within half a year of receiving the information in compliance with § 19 paragraph 4, then he must formulate a written waiver of the defence. In this case the doctoral examination shall be deemed as irrevocably failed.

(3) Upon application by the doctoral candidate, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee may, in justifiable cases, increase the duration of the period stipulated in paragraph 2.

§ 21 Defence and Oral Examination

(1) The Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall invite to the defence the doctoral candidate, the members of the Examining Committee, and the Supervisors who are not Reviewers, as well as the scholars who formulated additional assessments (§ 19 paragraph 3); and shall announce the date of the defence throughout the university one week prior to that date.

(2) The Chair of the Examining Committee shall head the defence procedure. During the defence, the doctoral candidate shall defend his dissertation. The defence shall commence with a talk, not exceeding 30 minutes in duration, by the doctoral candidate that addresses the subject matter of the dissertation. The defence shall concern itself with the content of the dissertation and with the assessments and supplementary assessments of it, and shall address selected problems pertaining to the subject matter and adjoining areas of other subjects which are relevant to the dissertation in substance and methodology.

(3) The members of the Examining Committee as well as the scholars invited in accordance with paragraph 1 are entitled to ask questions and raise objections. The Chair of the Examining Committee shall refuse questions that do not correspond to the purpose of the defence or do not refer to the subject matter of the defence. This decision may be overruled by the Examining Committee.

(4) The defence shall be conducted in the German language. Upon request, the defence may be held in English. The Doctoral Committee in conjunction with the Examining Committee shall decide on any exceptions to this procedure.

(5) The duration of the entire defence shall not exceed 90 minutes. The Chair of the Examining Committee shall formulate a written report on the course of the defence.

(6) Members of the university are entitled to attend the defence in a passive capacity. In certain justifiable cases, the Doctoral Committee may bar the public from attending the defence. Should the conduct of the defence be subjected to disturbance or disruption, the Chair of the Examining Committee may exclude the public from further attendance for justified exceptions.

(7) An individual defence must be conducted in the case of each individual doctoral candidate.

(8) If requested by all doctoral candidates involved, all defence procedures must, in accordance with § 15 paragraph 2, be conducted consecutively on the same date and in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 7. The Chair of the Examining Committee shall determine the order in which the talks and defences are to be held. Paragraph 3 sentence 3 shall apply accordingly.

(9) A defence, if unsuccessful, may be repeated once (§ 22 paragraph 4 sentence 3).

§ 22 Evaluating the doctoral degree examinations and determining the overall grade

(1) Following the defence process, the Examining Committee shall first decide upon any objections raised (§ 19 paragraph 3 sentence 2). The person who raised the objection shall be informed of the Committee's decision. This decision is not open to appeal.

(2) The Examining Committee shall then evaluate the dissertation based on the evaluations contained in the assessments submitted, the supplementary assessments, and, where appropriate, statements formulated in accordance with § 18 paragraph 4 sentence 2. The defence shall be assessed on the basis of the individual evaluations made by the Examiners.

(3) The grade of "Excellent" (summa cum laude) may be awarded for the defence only if it was graded as such individually by all Examiners. If the sum of all individual grades results in the defence being deemed not satisfactory, the doctoral candidate may apply to repeat the defence once and once only. The Chair of the Examining Committee shall grant the doctoral candidate a sufficient period of time in which to file this application. The doctoral candidate may only apply for a repeat of the defence within the stipulated period of time.

(4) If the Examining Committee decides that the doctoral candidate is fit to graduate, the overall grade shall be determined in accordance with § 18 paragraph 2. The prerequisite for this is that the dissertation and its defence are each awarded a grade no lower than "sufficient".

(5) The grade allocated to the dissertation and the grade allocated to the defence shall be combined to form an overall grade. If the two grades deviate, then greater emphasis shall be laid on the grade assigned to the dissertation. An overall grade of "Excellent" (summa cum laude) may only be awarded if both the dissertation and the defence have been awarded this grade.

(6) The Examining Committee may stipulate that the doctoral candidate make changes to the dissertation prior to its being printed. The doctoral candidate shall be informed of these changes in writing and shall have six weeks in which to apply them.

(7) Following this period of consultation, the Chair of the Examining Committee shall inform the doctoral candidate of the result of the examination.

(8) The consultations of the Examining Committee and the announcement of the examination results shall take place in camera.

(9) The Chair of the Examining Committee shall publicly obligate the doctoral candidate by employing the following formulation: "I hereby oblige you to preserve the dignity of the title that the faculty and university have granted you and at all times to serve the pursuit of truth – irrespective of personal reputation and external benefits – solely in the name of the greater good"

(10) The scholarly documents submitted to the Doctoral Committee in accordance with § 11 paragraph 1 and § 17 paragraph 2 – not including written scholarly materials submitted in accordance with § 11 paragraph 1 number 8 – shall remain among the doctoral records.

§ 23 Publishing the Dissertation

(1) After the examination has been passed, the doctoral candidate shall publish the dissertation in the final version approved by the Examining Committee and annotated by the Chair of the Examining Committee. The doctoral candidate may only alter the dissertation that was approved by the Examining Committee for print purposes if express consent is given by the Chair.

(2) If the accepted version of the dissertation requires alteration (shortened, changed, or expanded) in order that it can be published in a journal or an academic series or as a book, then the doctoral candidate shall first seek the approval of the supervisors and the Doctoral Committee.

(3) The doctoral candidate is obliged to facilitate the access of the scientific community to the dissertation by producing sufficient copies of the dissertation and putting it into circulation. This may be effected by the four different means of publication stipulated in the following paragraphs: either as a book or a photographic publication (paragraph 5 number 2 and paragraph 8) or as an electronic publication (paragraph 5 number 3 and paragraph 8) or as an article in a scientific journal (paragraph 6 number 1) or as a publication by a commercial publisher (paragraph 6 number 2 and paragraph 8). These obligations form a unit in the sense of their constituting an academic accomplishment. Included here is the obligation to formulate an abstract of the dissertation (included a one-page English-language abstract) for publishing purposes in both written and electronic format that has been approved by the primary supervisor and does not exceed one DIN A4 page in length. The abstract shall be submitted to the Examination Office (§ 2 paragraph 3). The format and type of data medium used shall be coordinated with the requirements of the university library.

(4) The dissertation is deemed to have been made sufficiently available to the scientific community once the doctoral candidate has submitted two copies of the approved version to the Examination Office (§ 2 paragraph 3) and has submitted the further compulsory copies to the locations stipulated in paragraphs 5 and 8.

(5) The following shall be submitted to the university library free of charge:

1. Four copies for archiving purposes that are printed on ageing-resistant wood- and acid-free paper and are durably bound.
2. and – in the case of the publication of the dissertation as a book or photographic document – 40 copies of the book or photographic document for the purpose of distribution.
3. or – in the case of electronic publication – supply of one electronic version whose file format and data medium are to be approved by the university library.

(6) Apart from the four copies for the university library as stipulated in paragraph 5 number 1, no further copies need to be submitted to the university library, if

1. the dissertation was published in a scientific journal or

2. a commercial publisher has assumed the task of distributing the dissertation via the book trade, a minimum circulation of 150 copies can be confirmed, and the back cover of the title page identifies the publication as a Gießen University dissertation produced in the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management.

(7) In the cases stipulated in paragraph 5 number 2, the doctoral candidate shall allow Justus Liebig University, Gießen, to publish and distribute further copies of the dissertation and to allow it to make the dissertation available in data networks within the framework of the university library's legal obligations. In the case of paragraph 5 number 3, the doctoral candidate shall allow Justus Liebig University, Gießen, to publish and distribute further copies of the dissertation and to allow it to make the dissertation available in data networks within the framework of the university library's legal obligations.

(8) In the cases of paragraph 5 number 2 and number 3, and in the cases of paragraph 6 number 2, ten copies of the dissertation shall be submitted to the institute at which the dissertation was produced. This shall be effected free of charge. The Examination Office (§ 2 paragraph 3) shall receive confirmation regarding the submission.

(9) The publication in the manner stipulated in paragraph 2 shall be effected within one year. In certain justifiable cases and if applied for by the doctoral candidate, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee may grant an extension of the publication deadline.

(10) If the doctoral candidate culpably fails to adhere to a set deadline, the rights granted by the doctoral examination shall be rendered null and void.

(11) If the production of the work was supervised, and the supervisor or supervising institution in which the dissertation was produced made material or personnel resources available or provided an experimental workspace, the documentation created within the framework of the research project shall remain with the supervisor or scientific institution. In all circumstances, the use made of the dissertation is subject to copyright regulations.

§ 24 Doctoral Certificate

(1) Once the dissertation has been published in the manner stipulated in § 23 paragraphs 3 to 5 and 8, the Dean shall hand the doctoral certificate over to the doctoral candidate. The doctoral certificate shall contain the date of the defence, which counts as the date of graduation, the title and author of the dissertation, and the overall evaluation of the doctoral examination (sample certificate Dr. agr. – Attachment 1, sample certificate Dr. oec. troph. – Attachment 2, sample certificate Dr. troph. – Attachment 3, sample certificate Dr. rer. nat. – Attachment 4). The certificate shall be signed by the Dean and bear the seal of the university and, if applicable, the seal of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management.

(2) The Dean may issue a temporary certificate regarding the doctoral examination if the doctoral candidate has signed a contract with a commercial publisher regarding publication of the dissertation. The temporary certificate shall be valid for one year. The period shall begin as soon as the temporary certificate has been issued. The date of issuance shall be noted on the certificate.

(3) The doctoral title may only be used after the doctoral certificate has been issued in accordance with paragraph 1.

Section Four: Final Provisions

§ 25 Refusal and withdrawal of doctoral degree

(1) The Doctoral Committee shall deny execution of the doctoral graduation procedure if the following is proven prior to the culmination of the procedure

1. the doctoral candidate has cheated to a significant extent during the examination, or
2. substantial prerequisites for the doctoral examination have not been fulfilled.

(2) The Doctoral Committee may withdraw the doctoral degree if the reasons stipulated in paragraph 1 are proven subsequently or the rights granted in accordance with § 23 paragraph 10 have expired.

(3) Prior to the Doctoral Committee's reaching a decision regarding refusal or withdrawal of the doctoral degree, the person concerned shall be given a reasonable period of time in which to respond to the accusations put forward. § 8 paragraph 2 shall apply accordingly.

§ 26 Fees for Doctoral Examination

(1) The fee for the doctoral examination is 150 Euros. Proof of payment must be made prior to the application to open the examination procedure (§ 17 paragraph 1).

(2) The fee for a repeat of the defence (§ 22 paragraph 4 sentence 3) is 50 Euros. Payment of this fee is to be confirmed at the time the application is made to re-open the examination procedure (§ 22 paragraph 4 sentence 5).

(3) Doctoral candidates may, in cases of hardship, apply for a reduction of the fee or exemption from it. The Doctoral Committee shall decide on such matters. The decision is incontestable.

§ 27 Honorary Doctorate

(1) In cases of distinguished scientific achievements or other outstanding merits the Faculty may

1. award an honorary doctorate in Agriculture (Doctor agriculturæ honoris causa – Dr. agr. h. c.)
or
2. award an honorary doctorate in Home Economics and Nutritional Science (Doctor oeconomiae trophologiaeque honoris causa - Dr. oec. troph. h.c.)or
3. award an honorary doctorate in Nutritional Science (Doctor trophologiaeque honoris causa - Dr. troph. h.c.) or
4. award an honorary doctorate in Natural Science (Doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa - Dr. rer. Nat. h.c.).

(2) The procedure for awarding an honorary doctorate is to be initiated in writing by members of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen. The application shall be addressed to the Dean and must be supported by at least one third of the members of the Faculty Council that have a doctorate and are eligible to vote. The Dean shall submit the application to the Doctoral Committee for further deliberation.

(3) At a meeting of the Faculty Council closed to the public, the Dean shall read out the application and statement by the Doctoral Committee. Upon request by the Dean, the Faculty Council shall appoint at least three Referees who shall acknowledge in written assessments the accomplishments and merits of the nominee. Should the Doctoral Committee reject the application, then it can only be pursued further if it is supported by at least half of the members of the Faculty Council that possess a doctorate and are eligible to vote.

(4) In a second private meeting of the Faculty Council, the Dean shall once again read out the application, the statement by the Doctoral Committee, and the assessments by the referees. At this meeting, the Faculty Council shall vote on the application – the regulation stipulated in paragraph 3 remains unaffected. The application, the statement by the Doctoral Committee, and the assessments by the referees must be submitted to the Dean's Office one week prior to the meeting for confidential perusal by the members of the Faculty Council.

(5) A final decision may only be reached in a further private meeting of the Faculty Council, which shall take place no earlier than four weeks following the first vote in the Faculty Council (paragraph 4).

(6) The procedure for voting on the honorary doctorate shall be by secret ballot, in accordance with paragraph 3 sentence 3, paragraph 4 and 5. A majority of all entitled voters is required for the application to be passed.

(7) The Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management, Justus Liebig University, Gießen, performs the ceremony for conferring the honorary doctorate by handing over the relevant certificate. The certificate shall contain the date of issuance, which shall count as the date of doctoral graduation. The certificate shall acknowledge the achievements of the honorary doctor (sample of certificate Dr. agr. h. c – Attachment 3, sample of certificate Dr. oec. troph. h. c. – Attachment 4). The certificate shall acknowledge the achievements of the honorary doctor (sample of certificate Dr. agr. h. c – Attachment 5, sample of certificate Dr. oec. troph. h. c. – Attachment 6, sample of certificate Dr. troph. h. c. – Attachment 7, sample of certificate Dr. rer. Nat. h. c. – Attachment 8).

§ 28 Binational doctoral examination procedures

As soon as the statute for binational doctoral procedures of Justus Liebig University, Gießen, has been enacted and has come into effect, and the university has signed agreements for its Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management within the framework of agreements of cooperation regarding binational doctoral procedures with equivalent foreign universities, the statute for binational doctoral procedures shall take effect.

§ 29 Transitional regulations and coming into effect

(1) Doctoral candidates whose supervisory relationship began prior to these Doctoral Examination Regulations taking effect may decide whether they wish to conclude their doctoral examination in accordance with the regulations set out in the "Promotionsordnung für die Verleihung des Dr. agr. durch den Fachbereich Agrarwissenschaften, Ökotrophologie und Umweltmanagement der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen" of 19 June 1991 (ABl. 1992 p. 304)" in its version of the "Zweite Änderungsbeschluss" of 3 May 2000 (StAnz. 45/2000 p. 3630) or the "Promotionsordnung für Haushalts- und Ernährungswissenschaften der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen" of 22 June 1977 (ABl. 1978 p. 524) in its version of the "Erste Änderungsbeschluss" of 16 May 1979 (ABl. 1979 p. 498) or whether they wish to conclude their doctoral examination in accordance with these Doctoral Examination Regulations. A relevant declaration must be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee within one year of these Doctoral Examination Regulations taking effect – however, at the latest together with their application to open the examination procedure according to §17 paragraph 1. The declaration is irrevocable. If no declaration is made, these Doctoral Examination Regulations apply.

(2) The Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, Nutritional Science, and Environmental Management of Justus Liebig University, Gießen, at hand from the 7th of July 2004 take effect as soon as they are published in the "Staatsanzeiger für das Land Hessen." Apart

from the transitional regulations stipulated in paragraph 1, the following regulations shall simultaneously cease to be in force: the “Promotionsordnung für die Verleihung des Dr. agr. durch den Fachbereich Agrarwissenschaften, Ökotrophologie und Umweltmanagement der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen” of 19 June 1991 (ABl. 1992 p. 304) in its version of the “Zweite Änderungsbeschluss” of 3 May 2000 (StAnz. 45/2000 p. 3630) and the “Promotionsordnung für Haushalts- und Ernährungswissenschaften der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen” of 22 June 1977 (ABl. 1978 p. 524) in its version of the “Erste Änderungsbeschluss” of 16 May 1979 (ABl. 1979 p. 498).

Gießen, 29 May 2019

Prof. Dr. Joybrato Mukherjee

President

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Text pattern of the doctoral degree Dr. agr.

Attachment 2 – Text pattern of the doctoral degree Dr. oec. troph.

Attachment 3 – Text pattern of the honorary doctorate Dr. agr. h. c.

Attachment 4 – Text pattern of the honorary doctorate Dr. oec. troph. h. c.