



Announcements of Justus Liebig University Giessen

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Guidelines for Doctoral Regulations

Guidelines for Doctoral Regulations at Justus Liebig University Giessen

19 July 2006

Last amended by resolution dated 22.03.2023.

These guidelines shall enter into force on the date of their publication in the Announcements of Justus Liebig University.

Previous versions: :

	Senate	Presiding Board	Announcement
Original Version	19.07.2006	06.11.2006 (HMWK)	
1st amendment	29.04.2020		30.04.2020
2nd amendment	10.02.2021		18.03.2021
3rd amendment	07.07.2021	13.07.2021	30.08.2021
4th amendment	16.03.2022	29.03.2022	31.03.2022
5th amendment	22.03.2023		04.04.2023

Please note that only the German version of these regulations is official and legally binding. The English version is for informative purposes only.

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At its meeting on 19 July 2006, the Senate of Justus Liebig University Giessen adopted the following guidelines in accordance with Section 40 (2) 2 of the Hessian Higher Education Act:

1. Internationalisation

1.1 Language of the Dissertation

Dissertations may be written in German and/or English. Any other academic language may be permitted, provided that the examination board has sufficient language skills to assess the dissertation. In all cases, the dissertation must be accompanied by a summary in accordance with the International Dissertation Abstract in German, or in English for German-language dissertations.

1.2 Language of the Defense

The defense shall be conducted in German. Upon request, it may be conducted in any scientific language, provided that all members of the examination board agree to the request.

1.3 Conducting the Defense

If special circumstances so require, the defense may also be conducted in the form of a video conference or a hybrid format, subject to a decision by the examination board in agreement with the doctoral candidate.

1.4 Language of the Certificate

In addition to the certificate in German, a translation into English will be provided at the doctoral candidate's request, marked as such and countersigned by the Dean.

2. Admission to Doctoral Studies

2.1 Foreign Degrees, Bachelor's Degree Graduates and Teacher Training Students

The doctoral regulations must stipulate that, on the basis of the guidelines of the Central Office for Foreign Education of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, international academic degrees are recognised as one of the prerequisites for doctoral studies.

The doctoral regulations must stipulate whether and, if so, under what conditions a bachelor's degree qualifies for doctoral studies. The academic level of a full academic degree programme shall be used as a benchmark in this regard. The same applies to degrees in teacher training programmes for primary and secondary schools. Completion of a degree programme for teaching at grammar schools generally entitles the holder to doctoral studies, but doctoral studies may be subject to certain conditions. In such cases, the doctoral regulations must contain provisions specifying the extent to which the Master's phase is integrated into the doctoral phase, the type of study requirements that admission should include, and how the level of study achieved can be certified in the event of discontinuation.

2.2 Awarding Dr. mult.

The doctoral regulations must contain provisions specifying the circumstances under which the acquisition of a further doctorate with the same designation is permitted.

3. Organisation

3.1 Cooperation with Graduate Centers

The doctoral regulations must describe a procedure for informing a subject-specific graduate center by the doctoral committee. The doctoral regulations must contain provisions governing the conditions under which membership of a graduate center is granted.

3.2 Supervision

The doctoral regulations must contain provisions specifying the minimum standards of academic and organisational supervision that must be observed in the doctoral procedure.

3.3 Study Programs

Doctoral regulations should contain rules on the extent to which doctoral candidates are required to participate in structured doctoral programs.

4. Publication

(1) The doctoral candidate is obliged to produce a scientific thesis (dissertation) – where appropriate also in the form of a cumulative dissertation – in written form and to make the results available to the scientific community in an appropriate manner by means of reproduction and distribution. These obligations constitute a single unit in the sense of a scientific achievement.

(2) After passing the examination, the doctoral candidate is obliged to publish the final version of the dissertation, which has been approved by the doctoral body responsible in accordance with the respective doctoral regulations.

(3) The final version of the dissertation shall be deemed to have been made available to the scientific community in an appropriate manner if the author delivers the following mandatory copies to the university library free of charge:

1. 2 printed copies and one electronic version, which shall be published on the Justus Liebig University's publication server, or
2. 4 printed copies of the published version, if a commercial publisher distributes the printed version and/or the e-book through bookshops, the work is assigned an ISBN, the title is listed in the German National Library and is identified as a dissertation accepted at Justus Liebig University Giessen, or
3. 4 printed copies of the dissertation and confirmation of publication in a scientific journal.

(4) In the case of publication in accordance with (3) 1, the printed copies must be identical to the electronic version in form and content.

(5) When publishing a cumulative dissertation in accordance with (3) 1, the individual contributions must be included in full. If a second publication of a contribution is not possible for legal reasons, it must be referenced with bibliographic source information (preferably with a DOI).

(6) The printed copies must be printed on age-resistant, wood-free and acid-free paper, bound in a durable manner and marked as a JLU dissertation. Transparent plastic covers should not be used. Ring binders are not permitted; instead, a durable binding method, e.g. adhesive binding, must be used.

(7) The doctoral body responsible under the relevant doctoral regulations may, upon delivery in accordance with (3) 1, also consider the publication requirement to have been fulfilled if the dissertation is made publicly available with a delay due to a blocking notice relating to a patent application procedure or a planned publication in specialist journals. The prerequisite for this is that the doctoral candidate has fulfilled his or her obligations in accordance with (3) 1 to the extent that the publication can be carried out by the University Library of Giessen

without further action on the part of the doctoral candidate. The metadata of the publication will be made publicly available upon submission. The doctoral candidate may apply to the relevant doctoral body for a blocking notice. The blocking period may not exceed two years and may be extended only once within this period.

(8) The University Library shall confirm delivery of the mandatory copies to the relevant doctoral authority.

(9) If, after publication of the dissertation, alleged or actual legal obstacles arise (e.g. in the event of suspected plagiarism or possible copyright infringements), the President of JLU may decide to restrict public access to the dissertation. The restriction shall be indicated in the metadata with the comment 'For legal reasons, public access is restricted until further notice.' In the event of a legally binding revocation of the doctorate, this comment shall be changed to 'For legal reasons, public access is blocked' and the university thesis notes shall be removed from the metadata. If the dissertation is subsequently amended, the new version will be made publicly available with the addition of 'amended version'. The original digital version will be marked with the comment 'Public access is blocked for legal reasons.'

(10) The rules of good scientific practice for the publication and documentation of research data must be observed. In particular, it is recommended that the research data relevant to the dissertation be documented and published in accordance with the JLU's research data guidelines.