

The President

Announcements of Justus Liebig University Giessen

Issued	7.40.12 No. 1
21.01.2016	Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences

Doctorate Regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences: Department 07 - Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics, Geography and Department 08 - Biology and Chemistry of Justus Liebig University Giessen

Version information

Doctorate regulations: adopted by Faculty Council 07 on 15.07.2015, adopted by the Faculty Council 08 on 22.07.2015, approved by the Executive Committee on 13.01.2016, takes effect as of 21.01.2016.

Tabular representation of the version information

	Resolution	Endorsement	Approval
Doctorate regulation	FBR 07: 15.07.2015 FBR 08: 22.07.2015	Executive board 01.13.2016	21.01.2016

Table of Contents

Version Information	1
Tabular Representation of the Version Information	1
First section: General	3
§ 1 Doctorate and Purpose of the Doctorate	3
§ 2 Official Bodies and Competences	3
§ 3 Joint Doctoral Committee	4
§ 4 Assessment Committee	4
§ 5 Supervision	4
§ 6 Assessment	5
§ 7 Procedural Rules	5
§ 8 Objection and Protest	6
Second section: Doctorate Relationship	6
§ 9 Prerequisites for Acceptance of the Doctoral Candidate	6
§ 10 Application for Acceptance of the Doctoral Candidate	7
§ 11 Decision on the Application for Acceptance	8
§12 Rights and Obligations of the Doctoral Candidate	9
§ 13 Doctorate without Prior Supervision Provided by the Faculty	9
§ 14 Preparation of the Thesis	10
§15 Termination of the Doctorate, Changing the Supervisor or the Topic of the Thesis, W Doctorate Application	
§ 16 The Structured "PreProChem" Pre-doctorate Program	11
Third Section: Examination Procedure	13
§ 17 Opening the Examination Procedure	13
§ 18 Assessment of the Doctoral Thesis, Completion of the Doctorate Procedure	14
§ 19 Evaluation and Display of the Thesis	14
§ 20 Preparation of the Oral Defence	15
§ 21 Oral Defence	15
§ 22 Assessment of the Oral Defence and Doctoral Thesis as well as Determination of the	Overall Grade.16
§ 23 Publication of the Thesis	17
§ 24 Doctoral Certificate	18
Fourth Section: Final Provisions	18
§ 25 Disallowance and Withdrawal of the Doctorate	18
§ 26 Doctoral Fees	19
§ 27 Honorary Doctorate	19
§ 28 Binational Doctoral Procedures	19
8 29 Transitional Provisions and Entry into Force	19

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences 21.01.2016 7.40.12 No. 1 P 3	Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences	21.01.2016	7.40.12 No. 1	Р3
---	--	------------	---------------	----

Departments 07 - Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics, Geography and 08 - Biology and Chemistry have made decisions on 15/07/2015 (FB 07) and 22/07/2015 (FB 08) on the following doctoral regulations:

First Section: General

§ 1 Doctorate and Purpose of the Doctorate

- (1) The faculties of natural sciences at Justus Liebig University Giessen
 - 07 Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics, Geography and
 - 08 Biology and Chemistry

award the degree of Doctor of Science (Doctor rerum naturalium—abbreviated: Dr. rer. nat.) to applicants who have demonstrated their scientific qualifications through a thesis and an oral defence after completing the due doctoral procedure.

- (2) (1) also applies—as far as these doctoral regulations do not deviate—to Faculty 06 Psychology and Sports Sciences as well as Faculty 09 Agricultural Sciences, Nutritional Sciences and Environmental Management for a doctorate containing natural scientific content. The Joint Doctoral Committee decides whether the thesis contains natural scientific content.
- (3) The doctorate demonstrates a special academic qualification beyond the completion of a university degree.
- (4) The acquisition of a further doctorate bestowing the title "Dr. rer. nat." is generally not provided.

§ 2 Official Bodies and Competences

- (1) The following bodies are involved in the doctorate procedure: The Joint Doctoral Committee (§ 3), the Assessment Committee (§ 4), the supervisors (§ 5) and the assessors (§§ 6, 17 (3)).
- (2) The Joint Doctoral Committee prepares changes to the joint doctorate regulations and decides on all doctoral matters, insofar as the doctorate regulations do not stipulate any other regulations. In particular, the committee decides on the candidate's admission to doctoral studies, the opening of the doctoral procedure, and appoints the supervisors on the doctoral candidate's proposal and in agreement with the dean of the responsible faculty.
- (3) The chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee manages the Doctoral Committee's current affairs; he or she is supported by the Natural Sciences Examination Office. He or she renders decisions in those matters that are explicitly assigned to him or her by these doctoral regulations. In particular, he or she, in agreement with the dean of the responsible faculty, appoints the assessors (§ 6) and appoints the Assessment Committee. (§ 4).
- (4) The Assessment Committee decides on suggestions for amendments made by the assessors, conducts the oral defence and finally evaluates the doctoral performance; it decides whether the doctoral candidate is awarded the doctorate and whether the oral defence can be repeated.
- (5) The supervisors advise and support the doctoral candidate in preparing the thesis. They confirm to the applicant in writing that they commit to the supervision of their doctorate (supervisory commitment).
- (6) The assessors assess and evaluate the thesis and, if necessary, suggest amendments. They propose the acceptance or rejection as well as the grade for the thesis.
- (7) Full-time members of the group of professors (professors, junior professors), professors who have been relieved of their duties, retired professors, unscheduled professors, honorary professors, and private lecturers can be appointed as supervisors (§ 5), assessors (§ 6) and members of the Assessment Committee (§ 4). They should be members of or affiliated with Justus Liebig University Giessen. The Doctoral Committee decides on exceptions to this rule. With exception to the full-time professors, they are not required to participate in the doctoral procedure.

§ 3 Joint Doctoral Committee

- (1) The Joint Doctoral Committee is set up by the two faculties of natural sciences as defined in § 1 (1). Each of the two faculties of natural sciences delegates from among its members:
 - 1. the Pro Dean
 - 2. two full-time professors
 - 3. one member from scientific staff with a doctorate
 - 4. and—in an advisory capacity—a doctoral candidate who must be enrolled as a student.

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences	21.01.2016	7.40.12 No. 1	P 4

(2) The members of the Joint Doctoral Committee are each elected by representatives of their group in the respective councils of the two faculties of natural sciences. The appointment should ensure that each subject area (physics, mathematics, geography, biology, chemistry) is represented by a professor.

The members of the group of professors and the scientific staff member are elected for a term of three years, the doctoral candidate for a term of one year; re-election is permissible.

- (3) For each elected member, an alternative shall be elected for deputizing purposes. The deans can be represented by a member of their deanery, who must be a member of the group of professors.
- (4) The term of office of the Joint Doctoral Committee begins on 1st October and ends after 3 years on 30th September. If members or deputy members leave prematurely, a new election must be held for the remainder of the term of office.
- (5) The Joint Doctoral Committee elects one member out of the group of professors to become the chairperson and one to become the vice-chairperson.

§ 4 Assessment Committee

- (1) For each examination procedure, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee sets up an Assessment Committee. It consists of the appointed assessors and two other researchers who are appointed by the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee from among the persons named in § 2 (7) in agreement with the dean of the responsible faculty according to § 1 (1) and (2).
- (2) Not more than two of the members of the committee should share the same discipline. The assignment of the professorships to the respective disciplines is regulated by a handout (Annex 1). In the case of doctoral studies in the subject areas listed in § 1 (2), at least one member of the Assessment Committee must belong to one of the two faculties of natural sciences listed in § 1 (1).
- (3) At the same time as the members of the Assessment Committee, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee, in agreement with the dean of the responsible department pursuant to § 1 and 2, appoints a committee member to the chair of the Assessment Committee and another commissioner as his or her deputy.
- (4) In name and representation of a member of the Assessment Committee and additionally in special cases, the dean of the responsible faculty pursuant to § 1 (1) may be appointed as a member of the Assessment Committee or a member of the Joint Doctoral Committee pursuant to § 3 (1) № 1 and 2.

§ 5 Supervision

- (1) The Joint Doctoral Committee appoints the supervisor or supervisors on the doctoral candidate's proposal and in agreement with the dean of the responsible faculty pursuant to § 1 (1) and (2). When appointing, it must be ensured that the supervisor can supervise the thesis until its expected completion.
- (2) The supervisor, and in the event that there are several supervisors, at least one of them, must be a member of or affiliated with one of the faculties mentioned in § 1, who are technically competent in the subject matter of the prospective topic of the thesis. For doctoral studies in the subject areas listed in § 1 (2), the Joint Doctoral Committee shall, at the suggestion of the primary supervisor, appoint a researcher as defined in § 2 (7) who is a member of or is affiliated with one of the two faculties of natural sciences (§ 1 (1)) and who has consented to acting as second supervisor.
- (3) If a supervisor retires from the service of the Justus Liebig University Giessen by leaving the university, he or she may usually continue supervising for up to four semesters if he or she is involved in the doctoral procedure and has made this commitment in writing to the Joint Doctoral Committee. In this case, the Joint Doctoral Committee, in agreement with the doctoral candidate and the dean of the responsible faculty, will appoint an alternate supervisor who alone will be responsible for supervising after the said deadline has expired. Clause 1 shall also apply mutatis mutandis if the supervisor can no longer provide supervision due to other legitimate reasons.
- (4) The Joint Doctoral Committee may entrust the supervision to another post-doctoral researcher, with the latter's consent, subject to the following conditions: the researcher must be a member of one of the faculties listed in § 1 and must be technically competent in the subject matter of the prospective topic of the thesis. He or she must be able to perform the supervision function based on his or her qualifications and the material resources available to him or her; supervision of the thesis must be ensured until its expected completion.
- (5) In special cases, the Joint Doctoral Committee, in agreement with the dean of the responsible faculty, may

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences 21.01.2016 7.40.12 No. 1 P 5

appoint a supervisor - extending beyond the doctoral candidate's application and after his or her admission to doctoral studies - who is a member of or affiliated with another scientific university, a university cooperating with the faculties mentioned in § 1 (1) or a non-university research institution and who is qualified as defined in § 2 (7).

§ 6 Assessment

- (1) The chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee, in agreement with the dean of the responsible faculty (§ 1 (1) and (2)), shall appoint two researchers as assessors as defined in § 2 (7). One of the assessors must be a full-time professor on one of the faculties listed in § 1 (1), in whose professional competence the proposed topic of the thesis falls.
- (2) If the thesis project has been supervised, the supervisor must be appointed as an assessor, even in cases included under § 5 (4). For doctoral programs in the faculties referred to in § 1 (2), both supervising persons are appointed assessors.
- (3) Researchers may also be appointed as assessors who are members of other scientific universities, a university cooperating with the faculties mentioned in § 1 (1) or non-university research institutions as defined in § 2 (7).

§ 7 Procedural Rules

- (1) The Joint Doctoral Committee and the Assessment Committee do not meet in public. They have a quorum if at least half of their voting members are present. Resolutions are passed with the majority of the voting attendees; in case of a tie, the chairperson's vote is the deciding vote.
- (2) Votes on examination decisions are open; abstentions are inadmissible.
- (3) If a duly convened meeting of the Doctoral Committee fails due to an inability to reach a decision, then the chair of the Joint Doctoral Committee may take urgent action on matters on the agenda. The members of the Doctoral Committee must be informed immediately on urgent decisions. § 8 (1) applies accordingly. Exceptions to these urgent decisions are decisions rendered by the Joint Doctoral Committee pursuant to § 9 (3) to (5), § 11 (1), § 12 (3), § 13 (2) and § 15 (2) and (3).

§ 8 Objection and Protest

- (1) Affected parties as well as each member of the Joint Doctoral Committee may object to decisions made by the chairperson. The Joint Doctoral Committee shall render decisions regarding the objection. Decisions of the Joint Doctoral Committee must be in writing and justified. Rejecting decisions, which are based on objections from doctoral candidates, must also be provided with information regarding legal remedies.
- (2) Doctoral students affected by decisions made by the Joint Doctoral Committee may appeal to the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee. If the Doctoral Committee is not able to find a remedy, then the objection must be submitted to the President of the Justus Liebig University Giessen for a decision.

Second Section: Doctorate Relationship

§ 9 Prerequisite for Acceptance of the Doctoral Candidate

- (1) Graduates who have completed their scientific studies at a university in the Federal Republic of Germany in a subject that is represented in one of the two faculties of natural sciences pursuant to § 1 with
 - 1. a diploma examination of a scientific university or
 - 2. a master's examination or
 - 3. an appropriate state examination for teaching at high schools or
 - 4. an appropriate state examination for food chemistry or
 - 5. a successful completion of the PreProChem program through a successful doctorate qualification

can be accepted as a doctoral candidate for the doctorate in natural science (Dr. rer. nat.) if they have passed the final examination with the overall grade of "good" or better and the topic of the thesis they have envisaged falls within the expertise of one of the two faculties of natural science as defined under § 1 (1).

(2) Applicants who are unable to present an honours-level exam as defined in (1) can only be admitted as doctoral candidates - at the suggestion of the designated supervisor and after a positive opinion rendered by the deanery of the responsible faculty of natural sciences - if the applicants have successfully completed a probationary period of at least six months and have passed an additional final examination of the respective degree program in

accordance with (1) with the grade of at least "good." The chairperson of the Doctoral Committee shall appoint two full-time professors of the faculties of natural sciences as per § 1 (1) to the Assessment Committee for that purpose.

During the probationary period, the doctoral candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate their aptitude for scientific work. The Joint Doctoral Committee, in consultation with the deanery of the responsible faculty, sets the duration of the probationary period. At the end of the probationary period, the committee decides whether the probationary period has been successfully passed based on a written statement from the designated supervisor or supervisors. If the probationary period is deemed to be failed or the additional final examination has not been passed with a minimum grade of "good," acceptance as a doctoral student cannot take place; § 8 (2) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

- (3) The Joint Doctoral Committee decides on the equivalence and recognition of other degrees from academic universities in the Federal Republic of Germany, followed by a conditional acceptance. In these cases, the candidate must demonstrate that he or she has completed at least 12 credit points (CP) in modules relevant to the subject in pre-completed degree programs. If this proof is insufficient, the CP missing to 12 CP must be made up within 24 months from the subject-relevant course offer of the respective master program of JLU with a proof of a successful completion.
- (4) Examinations taken at scientific universities outside the Federal Republic of Germany will be recognized as equivalent by the Joint Doctoral Committee if they are equivalent in the meaning of (1) of the equivalence agreement as approved by The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Conference of German Rectors Conference. If there is any doubt about equivalence, the Central Office for Foreign Education of the Federal Republic of Germany must be consulted.
- (5) Graduates who have completed their studies at a scientific university in Hesse in a subject that is represented in one of the two faculties of natural science, and who have taken their First State Examination for a teaching qualification
 - at primary schools or
 - at secondary schools (Haupt- und Realschule) or
 - at special-need schools or
 - at vocational schools

may be accepted as doctoral candidates if they have passed the state examination with a minimum grade of "very good," are able to present the written commitment of supervision from a professor who is a full-time member of one of the faculties mentioned in § 1 (1), and who is completing a preparatory, minimum two-semester study in the study programs of the faculties of natural sciences (doctoral studies). The doctoral program consists of a complementary scientific study program for graduates of the above-mentioned teaching degree programs, which, together with the completed first-degree program, corresponds to the scope and requirements of studying a major in natural science in the teacher degree program for secondary education. The details are determined by the Doctoral Committee in agreement with the dean of studies and the designated supervisor from the responsible department according to § 1 (1). All modules of the doctoral program have to be completed with a minimum grade of "good." The doctoral program prepares students for their doctorate and serves the systematic teaching of theoretical principles and selected knowledge in one of the study programs offered by the faculties of natural sciences. In the doctoral program, ethical standards for scientific work must be imparted to candidates, as well as the handling of results and working together with other scientists.

- (6) (1) to (5) also apply to graduates with a diploma or master's degree from a scientific university in the Federal Republic of Germany in the subjects of
 - 1. Psychology
 - 2. Agricultural Sciences or
 - 3. Nutritional Sciences

if the proposed topic of the thesis is of natural scientific content. The Doctoral Committee decides on the approval of further degrees from scientific universities upon application.

§ 10 Application for Acceptance of the Doctoral Candidate

(1) The application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate must be submitted in writing to the chairperson of the

Joint Doctoral Committee via the dean of the responsible department. The application includes:

- a CV
- 2. Certificates according to § 9 in officially certified form (no originals, but officially certified copies and, if applicable, officially certified translations into German or English)
- 3. References and certificates for other academic and state examinations that the candidate has passed or failed
- 4. References as to whether and with what result the candidate has applied for acceptance as a doctoral candidate at other universities
- 5. Confirmation of sufficient German or English language proficiency by the proposed primary supervisor for foreign applicants if they have not completed university degrees in the Federal Republic of Germany
- 6. Scientific papers already published by the applicant
- 7. Working title and preliminary work plan for the thesis project—the topic should be drafted in such a way that its processing should not take more than three years
- 8. Suggestion regarding which researcher should supervise the project as the primary supervisor
- 9. Written statement and declaration of consent of the proposed primary supervisor
- 10. Declaration of the candidate to have received and agreed to comply with the "Statute of Justus Liebig University Giessen to ensure good scientific practice" during their work; the rules of good scientific practice are described in detail in the Guidelines for Use of Research Grants of the DFG DFG Forms 2.01 2.02 in the version attached to these Regulations (Annex 2), whose knowledge and compliance is also covered by the Declaration
- 11. It is possible to conclude a mutually binding supervision agreement between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor (for example, in accordance with the DFG, Form 1.90-7 / 08, Annex 3), which must also be enclosed.
- (2) In case material and personnel resources or workspace must be made available for the preparation of the thesis, approval of the provision of these funds by the supervisor and, if applicable, by the board of directors of the institute concerned is required. The consent does not create any legal claims.
- (3) The supervisor is responsible for the lawful framework conditions for the project (e.g. the requirements for working with genetically modified organisms in accordance with the Ordinance on Safety Levels and Safety Measures for Genetic Engineering in Genetic Engineering Facilities [GenTSV] or for work under the Animal Protection Act). The doctoral candidate undertakes to comply with the laws and regulations, in particular according to the GenTSV and Animal Protection Act.

§ 11 Decision on the Application for Acceptance

- (1) The Joint Doctoral Committee shall decide on the acceptance of an application if the requirements for acceptance as defined in § 9 are fulfilled and the documents are submitted in accordance with § 10 (1) to (4).
- (2) For a doctorate in the faculties referred to in § 1 (2), the Joint Doctoral Committee may only agree to the application if the intended primary supervisor (§ 5 (2)) and the secondary supervisor (§ 5 (2), (2)) confirm and justify in writing that the proposed topic of the thesis will be of natural scientific content.
- (3) The Joint Doctoral Committee may reject an application by providing written justification. The application for acceptance must be rejected if the deanery of one of the faculties mentioned in § 1 determines that the special subject area is not adequately represented for the thesis topic proposed by the applicant or if the necessary material or personnel resources (§ 10 (2)) are not granted or will not be available. Refusing the application for acceptance must be justified in writing and communicated to the applicant; § 8 (2) applies accordingly.
- (4) The Joint Doctoral Committee may, in justified cases, and upon the request of the supervisor, determine that without prejudice to the provision in § 9 (2) clause 1 to the acceptance of the doctoral candidate will be decided on after a probationary period during which the ability to carry out scientific work has been demonstrated.

The condition must be substantiated in writing and communicated to the applicant; § 8 (2) and § 9 (2) clause 2 to 5 shall apply mutatis mutandis.

- (5) The Joint Doctoral Committee may as accept the application of a doctoral candidate with reservation or with restrictions, and in particular he may
 - 1. refuse to accept the supervision if no member of the group of professors can be found
 - 2. limit the commitment of material or personnel resources, either in time or in volume, if the institute

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences	21.01.2016	7.40.12 No. 1	P 8

concerned has limited the provision of funds.

The reservations and restrictions must be substantiated and communicated in writing to the applicant; § 8 (2) applies accordingly.

- (6) If the Joint Doctoral Committee agrees to accept the application, the supervision and later review of the thesis must be ensured.
- (7) The Natural Sciences Examination Office informs the full-time members of the group of professors of the faculties mentioned in § 1 of the thesis projects (stating the names and first names of the applicants and the supervisors and the working title of the projects) on the intranet.

The deans of other faculties and the managing directors of scientific centres are to be informed of thesis projects if assigned topics also fall within the academic spectrum of the relevant faculty or centre.

(8) The Joint Doctoral Committee shall keep a list of the registered thesis topics at the offices of the Natural Science Examinations Office accessible for all members of Justus Liebig University.

§12 Rights and Obligations of the Doctoral Candidate

- (1) Supervised doctoral candidates are entitled to receive regular scientific advice and support from the supervising persons. In addition to the methodological skills, they are to be taught ethical standards of scientific work, the handling of results and the collaboration with other scientists. Supervisors must ensure that the thesis is prepared independently and that the doctoral project is completed within a reasonable timeframe.
- (2) Supervised doctoral candidates are required to
 - 1. record, maintain and store complete documentation of their research results for a period of at least ten years in the respective institute (§ 22 (11))
 - 2. work responsibly and cooperatively with colleagues
 - 3. to provide regular written reports on the progress of their research and
 - 4. to participate in internal seminars.
- (3) The written report referred to in (2) № 3 of up to five pages shall be drawn up at least once a year and submitted to the primary supervisor who may provide for exemptions. In the case of doctorates from the faculties listed in § 1 (3) clause 2, the report must also be submitted to the secondary supervisor (§ 5 (2) clause 2); an exception to this rule requires the consent of both persons supervising. The doctoral candidate may be suspended for a limited period of time if this report is not or not properly completed; This is decided by the Joint Doctoral Committee.

§ 13 Doctorate without Provisional Supervision by the Faculty

- (1) Applicants for whom no supervisor has been appointed according to these regulations and who meet the requirements of § 9 may apply for acceptance as a doctoral student simultaneously with the opening of an examination procedure upon submission of a thesis together with the documents mentioned in § 10 (1) clause 2 № 1 to 4, 6 and 7. The applicant must prove that the material is their own work. The application may only be accepted by the Joint Doctoral Committee if the special subject area covered in the thesis is sufficiently represented in one of the two faculties of natural sciences under § 1 (1); in the case of rejection § 8 (2) applies accordingly.
- (2) The Joint Doctoral Committee may hinge the opening of the examination procedure on the participation in a doctoral program or the production of performance records in the responsible faculty of natural sciences.
- (3) Applicants as defined in § 9 (3) to (6) are not eligible for a doctorate without prior supervision.
- (4) If a work submitted pursuant to (1) has been supervised by a researcher who has not been appointed by the Joint Doctoral Committee as the formal supervisor of this work, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee shall not be obliged to appoint this researcher as assessor pursuant to § 6 (2).

14 Preparation of the Thesis

- (1) The thesis must have its focus on a subject area which is represented by research and teaching in the two faculties of natural sciences according to § 1 (1). A thesis from the faculties listed in § 1 (2) must have a natural scientific content and its focus on an area that is represented in research and teaching in these two faculties (§ 1 (2)). In addition, the thesis must meet the following requirements: It must
 - 1. advance scientific knowledge through independent research

- 2. meet the methodological principles of the subject area, which is responsible for the topic;
- 3. contain documentation corresponding to the scientific principles of work on the material evaluated and the specialist literature used;
- 4. In the case of a monograph, it must address the following points:
 - formulate, based on the current state of science, the scientific problem (objective) on which the work is based,
 - based on the current state of science, the doctoral candidate must classify his/her own results and provide appropriate references,
 - show which scientific methods were used to work on the scientific problem,
 - and demonstrate which advances in knowledge can be gained from posing and researching the scientific problem.
- (2) The preparation of the thesis in institutions of a different faculty of JLU than mentioned under § 1 requires the approval of the responsible Faculty Council of the scientific faculties.
- (3) Several works submitted by one author (cumulative thesis) may be accepted as a doctoral thesis upon application to the Doctoral Committee if:
 - 1. the author is the first author of at least two of the works (shared first authorship is proportionately counted)
 - 2. the works represent the gradual processing of a topic
 - 3. they have already been published partially or completely, or at least two papers have been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed international scientific journals,
 - 4. they are in a close temporal and factual context and
 - 5. they comply with the requirements of (1) and (5).

In this case, the publications must be preceded by a scientific classification and discussion (approx. 20 pages), which is comparable to a scientific review article and meets the following requirements:

- 1. based on the current state of science, the scientific problem (objective) on which the work is based has to be formulated;
- 2. based on the current state of science, the own results have to be classified and documented by representative references;
- 3. the thematic context of the publications is clear; the scientific methods used to work on the scientific problem are presented;
- 4. the scientific results achieved and the progress of knowledge gained for the scientific problem are presented;
- 5. if several authors are involved in the publications, the individual performance of the doctoral candidate must be definable and assessable.
- (4) A complete or partially published scientific paper may be accepted as a thesis if it complies with the requirements of (1) and (5) or rather (3) and (5) respectively.
- (5) The thesis is to be written in German or English.
- (6) The thesis shall be accompanied by an abstract in the scope of not more than one DIN A4 page serving the purpose of publication § 23 (3)).

§15 Termination of the Doctorate, Changing the Supervisor or the Topic of the Thesis, Withdrawal of the Doctorate Application

- (1) Doctoral candidates may apply for terminating the doctorate prematurely before the submission of their thesis and giving specific reasons. The chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee will determine the termination in this case. The doctoral work is then considered not failed.
- (2) At the suggestion of the supervisor and in agreement with the dean of the responsible faculty of natural sciences, the Joint Doctoral Committee may terminate the doctorate after a reasonable period of time if, on the basis of the report of the doctoral student (§ 12 (2) no. 3), no progress can be identified or the relationship of trust between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate can be regarded as permanently disrupted. The doctoral candidate is to be heard in advance; § 8 (2) applies accordingly. Termination has to be abandoned if the doctoral student can demonstrate that he or she is not responsible for the lack of continuation of the work.
- (3) Upon a justifiable request by the doctoral candidate, the Joint Doctoral Committee may suspend or dissolve

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences	21.01.2016	7.40.12 No. 1	P 10
			ĺ

the supervisory relationship for a limited period. The chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee decides on the request after having received the opinion of the supervisor. The Joint Doctoral Committee decides on the request for dissolution; prior to its decision to dissolve the supervisory relationship, the Joint Doctoral Committee seeks to find an amicable solution. After the dissolution of the supervisory relationship, the Joint Doctoral Committee may, at the request of the doctoral student, appoint a new supervisor for the thesis within six weeks; a renewed application for acceptance as a doctoral student is then not required.

- (4) Doctoral students may apply for acceptance to doctoral studies by submitting another topic once. If the former supervisor does not agree to supervise the new research project, the Joint Doctoral Committee will appoint a new supervisor in accordance with § 5 (2).
- (5) At the request of the doctoral candidate, the Joint Doctoral Committee may, in agreement with the supervisor, adapt the working title of the thesis according to the work progress.
- (6) In the case of premature termination of the doctorate ((1) clause 1, (2) clause 1) or its dissolution (3), the documents pursuant to § 10 (1) clause 2 No 1, 4 and 5 as well as No 8 to 11 remain with the Natural Sciences Examination Office.

§ 16 The Structured Pre-doctoral "PreProChem" Program

- (1) The pre-doctoral program "PreProChem" is intended to enable excellent graduates of a Bachelor of Science degree programs a doctorate without having to complete a M.Sc. or Diploma degree program. The PreProChem program requires compulsory participation in courses that are equivalent to compulsory courses in the master's program in chemistry, while also being included in the scientific activities of a selected working group.
- (2) The PreProChem can admit anyone who
 - has earned a bachelor's degree at JLU in the following subjects: chemistry, food chemistry, physics, materials science, biology,
 - has obtained a similar degree as a Bachelor of Science and has passed the corresponding degree with a final grade of "very good" and who is in the top 10% of that final year's class—as relevant to the fixed date of 1st October for that year.
- (3) The candidate must direct his or her application for admission to the PreProChem program in writing at the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee and submit it to him or her. He or she must attach the following to the application:
 - 1. a curriculum vitae containing the documents describing their path of education, the diploma obtained, in accordance with (2), and proof of compliance with the criteria set out in (2),
 - 2. the indication of the topic in which he or she intends to prepare the thesis,
 - 3. a statement of whether he or she has already undergone a similar aptitude test at another university for a doctorate or has been tested for suitability for program similar to a PreProChem,
 - 4. the statement of a full-time professor of the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry of Justus Liebig University Giessen, that the scientific work of the PreProChem program and, if applicable, the thesis can be prepared and supervised in his or her field of work.
- (4) The chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee shall notify the applicant of the selection decision and at the same time permits the selected candidate to the PreProChem study program. § 9 (3) and (4) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

During selection, applications are excluded, and admission is therefore refused if

- 1. the applicant is not enrolled in the corresponding M. Sc. Degree program
- 2. the specified subject area of the doctoral project does not belong to the fields of research represented in the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry of Justus Liebig University
- 3. the university degree is not technically equivalent
- 4. the candidate does not have the required grade in accordance with (1)
- 5. the candidate ultimately failed an aptitude test or a similar examination at another university,
- 6. the application for admission does not fulfil the requirements according to para. 2 and 3.
- (5) The PreProChem program comprises the
 - 1. successful completion of the following modules:
 - a) the prescribed compulsory modules of the master's program chemistry of the first academic year

- with the exception of compulsory elective modules amounting to 12 credit points according to the Special Regulations for the master's program in chemistry,
- b) a two-semester introductory laboratory module worth 12 credit points,
- c) a one-semester scientific project module, whereby the topic and task are limited so that the amount of 30 credit points can be met. The project module will be completed with a written report.
- 2. oral doctorate aptitude test.

The modules under 1a. must have been completed with an above average grade (average grade 11 points or better, and 8 points or better in each module). In at most one module, which was not passed with the minimum grade, a further, concluding module completion examination can be taken.

The Special Regulations governing the M. Sc. Study program in chemistry are valid for the PreProChem study program modules.

- (6) In the PreProChem program, the candidate must demonstrate that he or she has the knowledge and skills relevant to a doctorate in the chosen field. In the written report referred to in (5) clause 1 (c), he or she shall show, in particular, that he or she is capable of independently processing a problem in the field, in which the aptitude test is taken, by scientific methods and within a specified period of time.
- (7) If all the modules of the PreProChem program have been successfully completed, the candidate must submit to the oral suitability assessment for the doctorate within three months. Two persons are appointed by the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee from the group of full-time professors of the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry to determine the suitability of the candidate. One of the examiners must be the supervisor of the doctoral project.
- (8) For the purpose of the oral suitability assessment, the candidate will be invited by the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee with a notice period of usually one week. If the candidate does not appear for the oral test for reasons attributable to him or her, the PreProChem program is considered as failed.

The suitability assessment is a private one-to-one interview based on the written report referred to in (5) clause 1 (c) on

- 1. objectives, state of knowledge and theories to be used,
- 2. methods to be used,
- 3. scientific work and time schedule

of the intended doctoral project.

The suitability assessment has been carried out if the presented doctoral concept appears both sufficiently innovative and feasible within the framework of a doctorate.

A protocol must be established on the progress of the suitability assessment. The persons appointed in accordance with subsection (7) clause 2 shall determine whether the applicant's performance meets the requirements of subsection (6) clause 1.

If the performances do not meet the requirements, the PreProChem program is deemed not passed.

- (9) The applicant receives a certificate on the passed PreProChem program, which is signed by or by the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee, to continue with the doctorate.
- (10) Unless otherwise specified, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee shall render the decisions resulting from the PreProChem program.

Third Section: Examination Procedure

§ 17 Opening the Examination Procedure

- (1) The doctoral candidate will apply in writing to the chair of the Joint Doctoral Committee to open the examination procedure.
- (2) The following must be attached to the application:
 - 1. The thesis written by the doctoral candidate, printed and bound, in six copies;
 - 2. an insurance policy with the following wording to be included in the thesis: "Ich erkläre: Ich habe die vorgelegte Dissertation selbstständig und ohne unerlaubte fremde Hilfe und nur

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences	21.01.2016	7.40.12 No. 1	P 12

mit den Hilfen angefertigt, die ich in der Dissertation angegeben habe. Alle Textstellen, die wörtlich oder sinngemäß aus veröffentlichten Schriften entnommen sind, und alle Angaben, die auf mündlichen Auskünften beruhen, sind als solche kenntlich gemacht. Ich stimme einer evtl. Überprüfung meiner Dissertation durch eine Antiplagiat-Software zu. Bei den von mir durchgeführten und in der Dissertation erwähnten Untersuchungen habe ich die Grundsätze guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis, wie sie in der "Satzung der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis" niedergelegt sind, eingehalten."

or in the corresponding English translation:

"I declare that I have completed this dissertation single-handedly without the unauthorized help of a second party and only with the assistance acknowledged therein. I have appropriately acknowledged and cited all text passages that are derived verbatim from or are based on the content of published work of others, and all information relating to verbal communications. I consent to the use of an anti-plagiarism software to check my thesis. I have abided by the principles of good scientific conduct laid down in the charter of the Justus Liebig University Giessen "Satzung der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis" in carrying out the investigations described in the dissertation."

- (3) The chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee commissions at least two researchers to assess the thesis in accordance with § 6. The names of the assessors are to be announced to the doctoral candidate.
- (4) At the same time as commissioning the assessors, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee appoints the Assessment Committee.
- (5) If the doctoral student has not been supervised while working on the thesis (§ 13), he or she can appoint an additional assessor within a period of two weeks after the names of the assessors have been announced (3) and he or she can propose another examiner from the group of researchers named in § 2 (7).

The additional assessor and the other examiner must approve of their nomination and are to be appointed by the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee. (6) remains unaffected.

(6) The Joint Doctoral Committee, after consulting with the supervisors and in agreement with the deanery of the responsible faculty (§ 1, (1) and (2)), may appoint further assessors from the above-mentioned faculties.

§ 18 Assessment of the Doctoral Thesis, Completion of the Doctoral Procedure

- (1) Each report must comment on the theses and include a recommendation as to whether the thesis should be accepted or rejected, or whether the procedure should be suspended until the thesis has been changed. The assessors should submit their reports to the examination office no later than three months after receiving the thesis.
- (2) A recommendation of acceptance must be accompanied by the suggestion of a grade for the thesis and may be accompanied by suggestions for making improvements or supplementing the thesis.

Grades are as follows:

Excellent - summa cum laude (Grade value 0.7)
 Very good - magna cum laude (Grade value 1.0)
 Good - cum laude (Grade value 2.0)
 Sufficient - rite (Grade value 3.0)

The grade "Excellent" should only be awarded if the scientific achievements are exceptionally high. The prerequisite is that all the appraised assessments evaluate the thesis accordingly. In this case, the Doctoral Committee can order a third-party assessment.

- (3) If the recommendations of the assessors with regard to accepting the work or the assessment differ by more than one grade value, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee may appoint an additional assessor.
- (4) If the work is recommended for acceptance in at least one of the assessments, but at the same time suggestions for modification are made, the Assessment Committee has to decide whether the work has to be returned to the doctoral candidate for modification within a specified period of time, or if the procedure continues according to § 19 and the suggestions for modification, which have been approved by the Assessment Committee, are to be fulfilled after the oral defence. If the doctoral student misses the deadline set for him or her without a valid reason, the doctorate will be considered as failed. After the revision of the thesis, the assessors will have the opportunity to respond again within a reasonable period, usually within one month.

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences	21.01.2016	7.40.12 No. 1	P 13
--	------------	---------------	------

- (5) If the majority of the assessments reject the acceptance of the thesis and exclude modifications that might make subsequent acceptance possible, the Assessment Committee will decide whether the procedure is continued in accordance with (3) or if the assessment is deemed not passed.
- (6) The chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee notifies the doctoral candidate about failing stating the reasons; § 8 (2) applies mutatis mutandis. A rejected thesis is kept on file together with all assessments, supplementary assessments and statements in the Doctoral Committee's doctoral files.
- (7) In all other cases the doctoral procedure will be continued according to § 19.

§ 19 Evaluation and Display of the Thesis

- (1) If the conditions for the continuation of the procedure are met according to § 18, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee shall communicate the name of the doctoral candidate, the title of the thesis, and the recommendation of the assessment (grade suggestion) as well as the forthcoming display of the thesis to the members of the Joint Doctoral Committee, the Assessment Committee, the assessors and supervisors. Two days after sending this message, he or she will display the thesis and the assessment for a period of two weeks if the display is wholly or partly during the lecture-free period for a period of four weeks—in the offices of the Natural Sciences Examination Office for inspection.
- (2) The thesis can be viewed by members of the faculties mentioned in § 1 holding a doctorate; the assessments can only be viewed by those members of the group of professors and members of the faculties listed in § 1 holding a postdoctoral education as well as by the supervisors of the work. The Joint Doctoral Committee decides on possible exceptions.
- (3) Each member of the group of professors and each member of the faculties mentioned in § 1 holding a postdoctoral education can attach their own supplementary assessment to the thesis within the display period ((1) clause 2); thereby, the display period will not be extended. These persons, in conjunction with their supplementary assessment, may submit a formal objection to a proposed grade or to the acceptance of the thesis.
- (4) At the end of the display period, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee informs the doctoral candidate of the receipt of the assessment and the supplementary assessments, which the doctoral candidate can examine in the offices of the Natural Sciences Examinations Office.
- (5) After the end of the display period, the Assessment Committee will first decide on any objections that may have been received ((3) clause 2). The decision must be communicated to the person lodging the objection; she or he can file an appeal to the Joint Doctoral Committee within two weeks; the Joint Doctoral Committee definitively decides on the complaint; opposition to this is inadmissible.
- (6) Thereafter, the Assessment Committee decides on the acceptance or rejection of the thesis based on the available assessments, the supplementary assessment and, if applicable, the statements pursuant to § 18 (4) clause 3.
- (7) If the Assessment Committee refuses to accept the thesis, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee informs the doctoral candidate, stating the reasons; § 8 (2) applies mutatis mutandis. A rejected thesis remains with all assessments, supplementary assessments and statements in the doctoral files of the Joint Doctoral Committee.

§ 20 Preparation of the Oral Defence

- (1) At the request of the doctoral student, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee, in agreement with the chairperson of the Assessment Committee and after consultation with its members, sets an appointment for the oral defence.
- (2) If the doctoral student does not file a request under (1) within half a year of the information referred to in § 19 (4) or if he or she declares in writing to forgo the oral defence, the final doctoral examination will definitively be deemed failed. The chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee shall inform the doctoral student of this result, § 8 (2) applies mutatis mutandis.
- (3) At the request of the doctoral candidate, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee may extend the deadline in accordance with (2) in justified exceptional cases.

§ 21 Oral Defence

(1) The chairperson of the Assessment Committee invites the doctoral candidate, the members of the Assessment

Committee and the supervisors, who are not assessors, as well as the researchers who have submitted a supplementary assessment (§ 19 (3), to the oral defence and publicly announces the date one week in advance within the university.

- (2) The chair of the Assessment Committee leads the oral defence. In the oral defence, the doctoral candidate has to defend the thesis. He or she opens the oral defence with a lecture of at most 30 minutes in the form of theses stating the content of his or her thesis. The oral defence refers to the content of the thesis, the assessments and supplementary assessments and apart from this covers selected problems of the subject as well as related fields of other subjects, which are objectively and methodically related to the subject area of the thesis.
- (3) The members of the Assessment Committee as well as the researchers who have been invited according to (1) have the right to question and reply to the candidate. The chairperson of the Assessment Committee must reject questions that contradict the purpose of the oral defence or do not relate to the subject of the oral defence. This decision may be cancelled by decision of the Assessment Committee.
- (4) The oral defence takes place in German or English.
- (5) The oral defence should not last over 90 minutes in total. The minutes of the oral defence are recorded by the chairperson of the Assessment Committee.
- (6) The oral defence takes place in public, film and sound recordings are not permitted. In case of disturbances of the oral defence, the chairperson of the Assessment Committee can exclude the public. Upon a reasoned request by the doctoral candidate or the supervisor, the Joint Doctoral Committee may decide to exclude the public.
- (7) Each doctoral candidate will have their own oral defence.
- (8) A failed oral defence can be repeated once (§ 22 (2)).

§ 22 Assessment of the Oral Defence and Doctoral Thesis as well as Determination of the Overall Grade

- (1) Following the oral defence, the Assessment Committee will grade the oral defence on the basis of the individual assessments of the assessors with a grade which comprises the average of the individual grades (in accordance with § 18 (2)) and which is given to one decimal place.
- (2) If the oral defence is insufficient, the doctoral candidate can repeat it once on application. The chairperson of the Assessment Committee sets a deadline of no more than two months for the application. The doctoral candidate can only apply for the repetition of the oral defence within the prescribed period.
- (3) The Assessment Committee determines the grade of the thesis on the basis of the available assessments. As a rule, the arithmetic average of the individual grades of the commissioned assessments is given to one decimal place. In the case of additional assessments and statements pursuant to § 18 (4) clause 2 3, the Assessment Committee may deviate from this provision.
- (4) If the thesis (3) and the oral defence (1) have each been awarded a minimum grade of 3.0, the Assessment Committee will decide to confer a doctoral on the doctoral candidate.

The averaged grade values for the thesis (3) and for the oral defence (1) are added together to an overall grade (§ 18 (2)). The grade value of the thesis has twice the weight. For the formation of the overall grade (§18 (2)), the average value obtained is commercially rounded.

- (5) The grade "Excellent" (summa cum laude) may only be awarded as an overall grade if the thesis and the oral defence (1) have each been awarded the grade value of 0.7.
- (6) The Assessment Committee may impose conditions for amendments on the doctoral student before the printing of the thesis; these are to be communicated to him or her in writing.
- (7) Following the deliberations, the chairperson of the Assessment Committee announces the result of the examination to the doctoral candidate.
- (8) The deliberations in the Assessment Committee and the announcement of the result of the examination take place in camera.
- (9) After re-opening the oral defence to the public, the chairperson of the Assessment Committee shakes hands with the doctoral candidate and swears him or her to the following: "Ich verpflichte Sie hiermit, die Würde, die Ihnen der Fachbereich und damit die Universität verleiht, alle Zeiten vor jedem Makel zu bewahren und stets der

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences	21.01.2016	7.40.12 No. 1	P 15
			ı

Wahrheit zu dienen – ohne Ansehen der Person und ohne Rücksicht auf äußere Vorteile -, allein um der Sache willen."

or in the respective English translation:

"I hereby charge you with the responsibility at all times to uphold unblemished the dignity conferred upon you by the faculty and thereby the university, and to serve the truth for its own sake, irrespective of person or condition."

- (10) The documents submitted to the Joint Doctoral Committee pursuant to § 10 (1) with the exception of the submitted scientific papers (§ 10 (1) (6)) and § 17 (2) remain with the doctoral files.
- (11) If the work has been supervised and provided with material or personnel resources, or an experimental workstation, the documents created in the course of the research project remain with the supervisor and the institute that provided the resources.

§ 23 Publication of the Thesis

(1) Upon successful completion of the examination, the doctoral candidate must publish the thesis in the version finalized by the Assessment Committee, unless the thesis has already been published in whole or in part (§ 14, (3) and (4)).

The doctoral candidate may modify the thesis from the version approved by the Assessment Committee only for the purpose of printing and with the consent of his or her chairperson.

- (2) If an amendment (shortening, modification or extension) of the accepted version of the thesis becomes necessary because it is to be published in a journal, series of publications or as a book, the doctoral candidate must obtain the prior consent of the supervising persons and announce the publication as a doctoral thesis of Giessen by specifying one of the faculties mentioned in § 1 (sample Annex 4).
- (3) The doctoral candidate is obliged to make the thesis accessible to the scientific public through reproduction and dissemination in an appropriate manner. This shall be done by four alternative forms of publication according to the following detailed specifications: as a book or photo print ((5) clause 2 and (8)), as an electronic publication ((5) clause 3) and (8)), as a publication in a scientific journal ((6) clause 1), or as a publication by a commercial publisher ((6) clause 2 and (8)).

The choice of the form of publication is the responsibility of the doctoral candidate in consultation with the primary supervisor.

The obligation to publish includes the obligation to submit a summary (abstract) of the thesis (§ 14 (6)) in written and in electronic form for the purpose of publication at the Natural Sciences Examination Office (§ 2 (3)). The format and data carrier of the abstract are to be agreed upon with the university library.

- (4) The thesis shall be made accessible to the scientific public in an appropriate manner as soon as the doctoral candidate hands in a copy of the approved version of the thesis to the Natural Sciences Examination Office (§ 2 (3)) and submits the additional copies referred to in (5) and (8) to the places mentioned.
- (5) For the university library, the Natural Sciences Examinations Office must be delivered free of charge:
 - 1. four copies for archiving, which must be printed on age-resistant wood- and acid-free paper and permanently bound,
 - 2. **and**—when publishing the thesis as a book or photo print 40 copies in book or photo print for the purpose of dissemination
 - 3. **or**—in the case of electronic publication—delivery of an electronic version whose data format and data carrier are to be agreed upon with the university library.
- (6) In addition to the four copies for the university library referred to in (5) clause 1 above, no further copies shall be delivered to the university library if:
 - 1. the publication is made in a scientific journal and is identified as a doctoral thesis by mentioning one of the faculties mentioned in § 1, which was academically responsible for the thesis topic, or
 - 2. a commercial publisher undertakes the dissemination among the booksellers, proof of a circulation of a minimum of 150 copies is demonstrated, and on the back of the title page the publication is labelled as a thesis from the University of Giessen, conducted at the faculty specified in § 1, who was responsible for the thesis topic.

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences	21.01.2016	7.40.12 No. 1	P 16
--	------------	---------------	------

- (7) In the cases referred to in (5) clauses 2 and 3, the doctoral candidate shall transfer the right to produce and disseminate further copies of the thesis and, in addition, to make it available on data networks in accordance with the statutory duties of the university library to Justus Liebig University Giessen.
- (8) Three copies shall be provided free of charge to the institute, at which the doctoral studies have been completed, in the cases referred to in (5) clauses 2 and 3 and (6) clause 2.
- (9) Publication must take place within one year in the manner described in (3). In exceptional cases, the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee may, upon a timely and justified request of the Doctoral Candidate extend the deadline for publication, at maximum by one year in general.
- (10) If the doctoral candidate culpably misses a deadline set for her or him, the rights acquired through the doctoral work will cease to exist.
- (11) The further use of the thesis depends on the copyright regulations.

§ 24 Doctoral Certificate

(1) After the thesis has been published in the manner described in § 23 (3) to (6), the responsible natural-scientific faculty (§ 1 (1)) issues the doctoral certificate in accordance with the attached template (Annex 5). The doctorate certificate contains the date of the oral defence, which is considered the date of the doctorate, title and editor of the thesis as well as its grade and the overall grade of the doctorate.

It is signed by the dean of the responsible natural-scientific faculty and is endowed with the seal of the Justus Liebig University and, if applicable, the faculty.

(2) By way of derogation from (1), the doctoral certificate for doctoral candidates from the faculties mentioned in § 1 (2) shall be issued by the natural-scientific faculties represented by the Joint Doctoral Committee together with the responsible faculty according to the attached model (Annex 6). It shall be signed by the dean of the faculty concerned and the chairperson of the Joint Doctoral Committee, and shall be endowed with the seal of the university and, if applicable, the seal of the responsible faculty (§ 1 (2)).

The dean of the responsible faculty may issue a provisional doctoral certificate if the doctoral candidate submits a contract with a commercial publisher for the publication of the thesis. The provisional certificate is valid for one year. The period begins with the delivery of the provisional certificate; the deadline for delivery is to be reported on it.

(3) The doctorate may only be used after the doctoral certificate has been handed out.

Fourth Section: Final Provisions

§ 25 Disallowance and Withdrawal of the Doctorate

- (1) The Joint Doctoral Committee must refuse to award the doctorate if it turns out before the conclusion of the procedure that
 - 1. the doctoral student has cheated to a large extent during the procedure, or
 - 2. essential requirements for the doctorate were not fulfilled.
- (2) After issuing the doctoral certificate, the removal of the doctorate shall be governed by the valid provisions (Statutes of Justus Liebig University Giessen for the assurance of good scientific practice of 14 July 1999 in the current version). The doctorate may only be withdrawn if it turns out that the doctorate was acquired through fraudulent means or other serious scientific misconduct. The decision is made by the Faculty Councils of the faculties of natural sciences (§ 1 (1)).
- (3) Prior to the decision of the Joint Doctoral Committee on the refusal or withdrawal of the doctorate, the person concerned shall be given the opportunity within a reasonable period of time to comment on the allegations. § 8 (2) applies accordingly.

§ 26 Doctoral Fees

- (1) The doctoral fee is 150 Euro. The payment of the doctoral fee is to be proven upon the request to open the examination procedure (§ 17 (1)).
- (2) The fee for the repetition of the oral defence (§ 22 (3) clause 2) is 50 euros. The payment must be shown with the application for reopening the examination procedure.

Doctorate regulations of the Faculties of Natural Sciences	21.01.2016	7.40.12 No. 1	P 17
--	------------	---------------	------

(3) Doctoral candidates may apply in cases of particular hardship to reduce or waive the fees. The decision rests with the Joint Doctoral Committee. It is incontestable.

§ 27 Honorary Doctorate

- (1) Each of the two faculties of natural sciences can award an honorary doctorate (Doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa—abbreviated: Dr. rer. Nat. H.c.) for outstanding scientific achievements or other special services to science.
- (2) The honorary doctoral procedure will be opened by a written request from members of the relevant faculty of natural sciences. The application must be addressed to the dean of this faculty and must be supported by at least one third of the members of the Faculty Council holding a doctorate. The dean submits the application to the Joint Doctoral Committee for comment.
- (3) The dean reads the application and the comment of the Joint Doctoral Committee in a private session of the Faculty Council. At the suggestion of the dean, the Faculty Council appoints at least three rapporteurs who assess the achievements and merits of the nominee.

If the Joint Doctoral Committee has issued a comment against the application, it can only be prosecuted if it is supported by more than half of the members of the Faculty Council holding a doctorate.

(4) In a second private meeting of the Faculty Council, the dean again reads the application and the comment of the Joint Doctoral Committee as well as the assessments received. At this meeting, without prejudice to (3), the Faculty Council will vote on the application for the first time.

The application, the comments of the Joint Doctoral Committee and the assessments must be submitted to the dean's Office for confidential inspection by the members of the Faculty Council one week before the meeting in question.

- (5) A final decision may only be taken in another non-public meeting of the Faculty Council, which may take place at the earliest four weeks after the first vote in the Faculty Council (4).
- (6) The votes on the honorary doctorate according to (3) clause 3, (4) and (5) are secret. The application must be approved by the majority of the voting members of the Faculty Council holding a doctorate.
- (7) The honorary doctorate is award by the dean of the faculty by handing over the honorary doctorate certificate. The certificate is drawn up in accordance with the attached model (Annex 7); It contains the date of the award, which is considered the date of the honorary doctorate.

The certificate recognizes the merit of the honorary doctorate recipient. It is signed by the dean and endowed with the seal of the Justus Liebig University Giessen and, where applicable, the faculty.

§ 28 Binational Doctoral Procedures

For binational doctoral procedures, the statutes of Justus Liebig University on binational doctoral procedures of December 19, 2012, valid as amended, apply.

§ 29 Transitional Provisions and Entry into Force

This doctorate regulation comes into force upon publication.