

JUSTUS-LIEBIG-



UNIVERSITÄT  
GIESSEN

The President

**Announcements of  
Justus Liebig University Giessen**

**24 October 2025**

**7.40.01 No. 1**

Doctorate Regulations of the Faculty of Law

**Doctorate Regulations  
of the Faculty of Law  
Justus Liebig University Giessen  
of 23 July 2025**

*These regulations shall enter into force on the day after their promulgation and shall apply to all doctoral candidates admitted to the 2025/2026 winter semester.*

	Faculty council	Senate	Promulgation
Original version	23 July 2025	03 September 2025	24 October 2025

Pursuant to Section 50 (1) no. 1 of the Hessian Higher Education Act of 14 December 2021, the faculty council of Faculty 01 – Law – adopted the following regulations on 23 July 2025. These regulations use the generic masculine form as a purely grammatical category and apply regardless of the biological or social gender classifications or attributions of the persons concerned. They accordingly assume in particular the equality of women and men pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the HGLG.

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## **Section 1 (Doctorate and purpose of doctoral studies)**

(1) Upon completion of the regular doctoral procedure, the Faculty of Law at Justus Liebig University Giessen shall award applicants who have demonstrated their academic qualifications by means of a dissertation and an oral doctoral examination the degree of Doctor of Law (Doctor iuris – abbreviated: Dr. iur).

(2) The Faculty of Law may also award the doctorate "Doctor rerum politicarum (Dr. rer. pol.)" pursuant to the provisions of these regulations, provided that the supervisor of the doctoral thesis holds the degree to be awarded and the assessors and other members of the examination board have a professional connection to the subject matter of the examination.

(3) Such doctorate certifies a special academic qualification beyond the level of a university degree.

## **Section 2 (Bodies and responsibilities)**

(1) The following shall be involved in implementation of the doctorate: the doctoral committee (Section 4), the supervisor (Section 3), the assessors (Section 3) and the examination board (Section 4).

(2) The doctoral committee shall decide on all procedural matters, unless these Doctorate Regulations provide otherwise.

(3) Supervisors shall advise and support doctoral candidates in the completion of their dissertations. The supervisor is to confirm in writing to the applicant that they will provide supervision (supervision confirmation). A supervision agreement containing a work programme for implementation of the doctoral project may be concluded between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor (see Annex for a sample agreement).

(4) The assessors shall appraise and evaluate the dissertation.

(5) The examination board shall decide on the assessors' proposed amendments, conduct the oral doctoral examination and finally assess the doctoral candidate's performance; it shall decide whether the doctoral candidate should be awarded a doctorate and whether the oral doctoral examination can be repeated.

## **Section 3 (Supervisors and assessors)**

(1) Full-time professors, emeritus professors, retired professors, university lecturers, adjunct professors, honorary professors and private lecturers may be appointed as supervisors, assessors and members of the examination board. They must be members or affiliates (Angehörige) of Justus Liebig University Giessen; subject to subsection 3 and in cases covered by Section 1 (2), the supervisor and members of the examination board must be faculty members. With the exception of full-time professors, they are not obliged to participate in the doctoral procedure.

(2) If there are multiple supervisors, at least one of them must be a faculty member or affiliate (Angehöriger). A supervisor who left Justus Liebig University Giessen more than three years ago or who, for other justified reasons, is no longer able to provide supervision shall nominate a professionally competent successor in agreement with the doctoral candidate. The chair of the doctoral committee must confirm such successor.

(3) The chair of the doctoral committee shall appoint the assessors. Academics within the meaning of subsection 1 who are members of other universities or research institutions may also be appointed as examiners. One of the assessors must be a professor in the Faculty of Law at Justus Liebig University Giessen.

#### **Section 4 (Doctoral committee and examination board)**

(1) The doctoral committee shall consist of the dean, three other professors, a research assistant with a doctorate, a doctoral candidate from the group of research assistants and another doctoral candidate enrolled in the Faculty of Law at Justus Liebig University Giessen. The faculty's various disciplines must be appropriately taken into account when forming the doctoral committee.

(2) The dean shall chair the doctoral committee; he or she may be represented in the chair by the vice-dean or, if the latter is unable to attend, by the dean of studies.

(3) Members of the doctoral committee who do not belong to it by virtue of their office are to be elected by the representatives of their groups in the faculty council; further details shall be regulated by the university's election regulations. Professors and research assistants shall be elected for two years, doctoral candidates for one year. A deputy is to be elected for each member.

(4) The chairperson shall manage the day-to-day business of the doctoral committee and decide on matters expressly assigned to him or her by these Doctorate Regulations.

(5) Those affected may lodge an appeal with the doctoral committee against decisions made by the chair of the doctoral committee. The doctoral committee shall decide on such an appeal. Decisions made by the doctoral committee must be recorded in writing and substantiated. Negative decisions issued in response to appeals by doctoral candidates must also include information on legal remedies.

(6) Objections regarding decisions made by the doctoral committee may be lodged with the chair of the doctoral committee. The doctoral committee shall decide whether to uphold such objections. Should an objection not be upheld, it shall be submitted to the President of Justus Liebig University Giessen for a decision.

(7) The chair of the doctoral committee is to appoint an examination board for each examination procedure. It shall consist of all assessors and two professors appointed by the chair of the doctoral committee from among the persons referred to in Section 3 (1). Only one of the assessors may be appointed as chair of the examination board. The examination board shall comprise one representative each from private law, criminal law and public law.

(8) Votes on examination decisions are to be conducted openly. Abstentions shall count as dissenting votes. Only members of the doctoral committee who hold a doctorate shall be entitled to vote on matters relating to examinations. Resolutions are to be passed by a majority of those present and entitled to vote. The chairperson shall have the casting vote in the event of a tie.

#### **Section 5 (Requirements for acceptance of university graduates as doctoral candidates)**

(1) Admission as a doctoral candidate requires that the applicant has passed the first law examination in line with the German Judiciary Act (Deutsches Richtergesetz – DRiG) or a non-German law examination at a university that qualifies them for a doctorate at that non-German university and is equivalent to the first law examination in line with the DRiG.

The doctoral committee shall decide on equivalence of the foreign examination based on the guidelines of the Central Office for Foreign Education of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs; it may obtain expert opinions from third parties before determining such equivalence. The required evidence must be submitted in certified form and as a certified translation. A bachelor's degree shall not qualify the holder to pursue a doctorate.

(2) The doctoral committee may accept as doctoral candidates applicants who have not completed a law degree pursuant to subsection 1 if they have completed a university master's degree in a law-related subject with a grade that entitles them to pursue a doctorate at the university awarding such degree and if they submit a supervision confirmation pursuant to Section 2 (3) sentence 2. Should the issuing university pursuant to sentence 1 be a non-German university, the non-German degree must be equivalent to a German degree. Subsection 1, sentence 2 shall apply to the determination of equivalence.

Applicants under sentence 1 must also declare that an application they have submitted to any other university for admission as a doctoral candidate has not been rejected. Applicants under sentence 1 may only apply for acceptance as doctoral candidates if they submit a reference from a supervisor confirming their academic qualifications and explaining the legal relevance of their doctoral project. The doctoral committee shall decide on the acceptance of doctoral candidates.

(3) In the cases referred to in Section 1 (2), the legal reference from the university master's programme pursuant to subsection (2), sentence 1, and the explanation of the legal reference of the doctoral programme pursuant to subsection (2), sentence 3, shall not be required.

(4) The examination must be passed with at least a "fully satisfactory" or an equivalent grade. Applicants must also provide substantiation of successful participation in a law seminar; the performance achieved here must have been graded at least "good". The doctoral committee may waive these requirements in justified cases, insofar as a favourable statement has been issued by the supervisor.

(5) Applicants without a German university entrance qualification should have sufficient knowledge of the German language or acquire it during their doctoral studies.

(6) Applicants who already hold a doctorate in law cannot be accepted as doctoral candidates, except in cases pursuant to Section 1 (2).

## **Section 6 (Admission as a doctoral candidate)**

(1) An application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate must be submitted in writing to the doctoral committee's chairperson.

The following must be enclosed with the application:

1. Curriculum vitae with photograph;
2. the completed doctorate application form;
3. certificates and any necessary declarations and references pursuant to Section 5;
4. statements and certificates regarding other academic and state final examinations that the applicant has passed or failed;
5. statements indicating whether and with what result applications for admission as a doctoral candidate have been submitted to other universities;
6. academic or research papers that the applicant has already published;
7. a working title and work plan relating to the dissertation project;
8. supervision confirmation within the meaning of Section 2 (3);
9. in the case of exemption applications, favourable statements from the persons designated as supervisors;
10. declaration of receipt of the "The JLU Code of Good Scientific Practice" and the intention to observe its principles in the academic endeavours;
11. declaration stating the permitted language pursuant to Section 8 (2) in which the dissertation is to be written.

(2) Insofar as a workplace or material or human resources need to be provided to complete the dissertation, the consent of the responsible academic institution shall be required prior to the provision of such resources.

(3) Each doctoral project must be supervised by at least one person pursuant to Section 3 (1).

(4) The chair of the doctoral committee shall decide on acceptance, unless a resolution of the doctoral committee is required. The committee thus ensures supervision and subsequent assessment of the work. Rejection of an acceptance application must be justified in writing. Section 4 (6) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

(5) The doctoral committee may approve admission as a doctoral candidate with reservations or restrictions. These reservations or restrictions must be communicated to the doctoral candidate in writing.

(6) The faculty's professors are to be notified of the doctoral candidate's acceptance.

(7) The doctoral committee is to maintain a register of the topics and dissertation projects registered with it. This is to be accessible in the dean's office to members and affiliates (Angehörige) of Justus Liebig University Giessen.

(8) The dean's office is to notify the Giessen Graduate Centre for Social Sciences, Business, Economics and Law (GGS) of its receipt. Accepted doctoral candidates shall at the same time be members of the GGS.

### **Section 7 (Rights and obligations of doctoral candidates)**

(1) Accepted doctoral candidates shall be entitled to regular academic advice and support from their supervisor or supervisors, which also extends to aspects of academic ethics. There is no entitlement to specific supervision and support measures.

(2) Supervised doctoral candidates are

1. obliged to fully document and store their research results and
2. to work responsibly in a collegiate manner.

### **Section 8 (Completion of the dissertation)**

(1) The dissertation must focus on a subject area that aligns with the faculty's research and teaching. It must meet the following requirements:

1. It must advance academic knowledge through independent research;
2. must adhere to the methodological principles of its subject matter;
3. must contain documentation pursuant to scientific working principles concerning the evaluated material and the specialist literature consulted;
4. must present its subject matter clearly and in a formally correct manner.

(2) The dissertation must be written in German or English. In exceptional cases, the doctoral committee may permit the use of another language if the examination board has adequate language skills to assess the examination performance. A language preference must be specified in the acceptance application. Subsequent changes to this language preference shall require approval by the doctoral committee.

### **Section 9 (Termination of the doctoral relationship and withdrawal of the doctoral application)**

(1) Doctoral candidates may apply to terminate their doctoral studies before submitting their dissertation. In this event, the chair of the doctoral committee shall determine such termination. The doctorate is then considered not to have failed. The doctoral committee shall retain the curriculum vitae with photograph, the declarations and certificates relating to other academic and state examinations, the declarations relating to admission applications as a doctoral candidate at other universities, the working title and work plan for the dissertation project, and the supporting statements from the supervisors or supervisor.

(2) Doctoral candidates may withdraw a dissertation that has already been submitted until such time as the examination board has rejected the dissertation pursuant to Section 10 (10). Subsection 1, sentences 2 and 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis. Should the doctoral candidate wish to revise their dissertation, it must be resubmitted to the chair of the doctoral committee within six months of its withdrawal.

(3) The doctoral committee may, upon recommendation by the supervisor and after a reasonable period of time, declare the doctoral relationship to be terminated if no progress is evident in the doctoral candidate's dissertation. The doctoral candidate is to be consulted beforehand. Section 4 (6) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

## **Section 10 (Commencement of the examination procedure and assessment of the dissertation)**

(1) The doctoral candidate is to apply to the chair of the doctoral committee for the examination procedure to be opened.

(2) The following must be enclosed with this application:

1. The typewritten and bound dissertation, deemed ready for printing by the doctoral candidate, in a single copy and as a text file in a suitable format;
2. written assurance that the text file referred to in no. 1 and the typed and bound dissertation referred to in no. 1 are identical with each other;
3. proof of payment of the doctoral fee pursuant to Section 18;
4. the completed questionnaire on stays abroad during the doctorate;
5. an assurance with the following wording: "I declare that I have written the submitted dissertation independently and without unauthorised external assistance, using only the sources indicated in the dissertation. All passages taken verbatim or in essence from published writings and all information based on oral communications are identified as such. I adhered to the principles of good scientific practice as set out in the 'The JLU Code of Good Scientific Practice' in the investigations I conducted and mentioned in my dissertation".
6. a consent form with the following wording: "I agree that the digital version of my submitted dissertation may be checked using plagiarism detection software."

The declarations relating to nos. 5 and 6 must be appended to the bound dissertation and must be contained in the digital version.

Dissertations that are not written in German or English must include a meaningful summary in German or English that reflects the essential aspects of the dissertation.

(3) The chair of the doctoral committee shall commission two individuals to assess the dissertation pursuant to Section 3 (1).

(4) The supervisor of the doctoral procedure shall be appointed as an assessor. If there are multiple supervisors, one of them shall be appointed as an assessor. The doctoral committee may decide to appoint an assessor other than the supervisor at the request of the doctoral candidate. If a person from another faculty or another university or research institution is to be appointed as a second assessor pursuant to Section 3 (1), the doctoral committee must be notified and may submit a statement on the involvement of an external assessor within one week. The names of the assessors must be disclosed to the doctoral candidate.

(5) The chair of the doctoral committee shall appoint an examination board consisting of the assessors referred to in subsection 3 and two individuals referred to in Section 3 (1), and shall appoint one of the board members as chair of this board. This board shall comprise one representative each from private law, criminal law and public law.

(6) The doctoral committee may appoint additional assessors after consulting the supervisor(s).

(7) Each assessment shall contain a recommendation as to whether the dissertation should be accepted or rejected, or whether the procedure should be suspended until the dissertation has been amended. An acceptance recommendation must include a suggested grade for the dissertation and may be accompanied by suggestions for improvement or additions. Assessments should be submitted no later than six months after the dissertation has been presented to the assessors. Should this deadline be exceeded, the chair of the doctoral committee shall send a written reminder to submit the assessment.

(8) Should the assessors' recommendations differ with regard to acceptance or amendment of the dissertation, the examination board may consult a further assessor who shall be agreed upon by the assessors appointed pursuant to subsections 3, 6 and 7. The doctoral committee shall decide if no agreement can be reached.

(9) If at least one of the assessments recommends acceptance of the dissertation albeit another assessment proposes amendments, the examination board shall decide whether the dissertation is to be returned to the doctoral candidate for revision within a specified period, whether the procedure is to be continued pursuant to § 11, or whether amendments deemed justified by the board are to be implemented only after the oral doctoral examination. Once the dissertation has been amended, the assessors shall have the opportunity to comment again within a reasonable period of time, usually within one month of the examination board's decision.

(10) The examination shall be deemed failed if all assessments decline acceptance of the dissertation and no positive assessment has been received by the end of the assessment period. Should at least one assessment be positive, the examination board shall decide whether to continue the procedure pursuant to subsection 9 or whether the examination has been failed.

(11) In all other cases, the doctoral procedure shall continue pursuant to Section 11.

### **Section 11 (Presentation of the dissertation and preparation for the oral doctoral examination)**

(1) Should the requirements for continuing the procedure pursuant to Section 10 be met, the chair of the doctoral committee shall notify the members of the examination board, the faculty professors and the supervisors and assessors who are not part of this group with the name of the doctoral candidate, the title of their dissertation and the assessors' recommendation, and shall make the dissertation and assessments available for inspection at the doctoral examination premises for a period of two weeks.

(2) The dissertation may be inspected by members with doctorates and affiliated members (Angehörige) of the participating faculties; the assessments can only be inspected by professors and the dissertation's supervisor(s). The doctoral committee shall decide on any exceptions. Each faculty professor may submit an additional assessment of the dissertation within a specified period.

(3) Once this deadline has expired, the chair of the doctoral committee shall notify the doctoral candidate of receipt of the assessments, which the doctoral candidate may view and photocopy in the office of the chair of the doctoral committee.

(4) At the request of the doctoral candidate, which must be submitted within six months of the notification referred to in subsection 3, the chair of the doctoral committee shall set a date for the oral doctoral examination.

(5) This examination shall be deemed failed if the doctoral candidate does not submit an application pursuant to subsection 4 within six months of receiving the information referred to in subsection 3, or if he or she declares in writing that he or she is waiving the oral doctoral examination.

(6) In justified exceptional cases, the chair of the doctoral committee may extend that deadline at the request of the doctoral candidate.

### **Section 12 (Oral doctoral examination)**

(1) The chair of the doctoral committee shall invite the doctoral candidate, the members of the examination board and the supervisors who are not assessors, as well as the faculty professors, to the oral doctoral examination and announce the date publicly at the university one week in advance. The chair of the examination board shall chair the oral doctoral examination.

(2) The doctoral candidate must vindicate their dissertation during the oral doctoral examination. He or she is to open the oral doctoral examination with a presentation lasting no longer than 15 minutes in which he or she provides theses regarding the content of their dissertation. The oral doctoral examination shall relate to the content of the dissertation, the assessments and any supplementary assessments, and also extend to selected aspects within the subject and links to other subjects. The entire oral doctoral examination should not take longer than one hour. The examination committee may in agreement with the doctoral candidate decide to hold the oral doctoral examination in the form of a video conference or in a hybrid format if special circumstances so require.

(3) Members of the examination board as well as the supervisors and professors invited pursuant to subsection 1 shall have the right to ask and respond to questions. The chair of the examination board shall reject questions that contradict the purpose of the oral doctoral examination or do not relate to its subject matter. Such decision may be overturned by resolution of the examination board.

(4) The oral doctoral examination is usually to be held in German. In consultation with the examination board, the oral doctoral examination may also take place in another language if all members of the examination board agree.

(5) Minutes shall be taken during the course of the oral doctoral examination. The examination board may impose amendments on the doctoral candidate for publication purposes; these must be communicated to him or her in writing and be appended to the minutes in writing. Minutes without a requirement for amendments shall be deemed to constitute publication approval.

(6) University members and affiliates (Angehörige) are permitted to attend the oral doctoral examination as listeners. The chair of the examination board may exclude the public in the event of disruptions to the oral doctoral examination.

(7) A separate oral doctoral examination is to be conducted for each doctoral candidate.

### **Section 13 (Assessment of doctoral performance)**

(1) Following the oral doctoral examination, the examination board shall decide whether the doctoral candidate should be awarded a doctorate in light of the assessments, any supplementary assessments and the results of the oral doctoral examination. The candidate may only be awarded a doctorate if the dissertation and oral doctoral examination have each been graded at least "satisfactory".

(2) The examination board shall assess the doctoral performance in light of the assessments and award one of the following grades

Excellent – Summa Cum Laude  
Very good – Magna Cum Laude  
Good – Cum Laude  
Satisfactory – Rite  
Unsatisfactory – Insufficient

The grade "Summa Cum Laude" should only be awarded for unusually high academic achievement.

(3) Should the oral doctoral examination be graded unsatisfactory, the doctoral candidate may repeat it once upon application. The chair of the examination board shall set a reasonable deadline for such application. A doctoral candidate may only apply to repeat the oral doctoral examination within the set time limit.

(4) The examination shall be deemed failed if the dissertation is graded unsatisfactory.

(5) The grades for the dissertation and the oral doctoral examination shall be combined to form an overall grade. The grade for the dissertation shall determine the overall grade if the grades differ. The overall "Summa Cum Laude" grade can only be awarded if the examination board decides to award the dissertation the "Summa Cum Laude" grade with three quarters of the votes.

(6) Following the deliberations, the chair of the examination board shall notify the candidate of the result of the

examination and notify the dean's office of completion of the doctoral procedure.

### **Section 14 (Publication of the dissertation)**

(1) After passing the examination, the doctoral candidate must publish their dissertation in its final version as approved by the examination board and marked accordingly by the chair of the examination board. This final version must contain any amendments recorded in the minutes. The doctoral candidate may only amend the dissertation for publication compared to the version accepted by the examination board with the consent of its chairperson.

(2) The doctoral candidate is obliged to make the dissertation available to the scholarly public in an appropriate manner. He or she must therefore submit the following copies to the university library free of charge via the doctoral examination office:

1. Four printed copies of the publisher's edition; if a commercial publisher distributes the publisher's edition and/or the e-book via bookshops, the dissertation 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
2. two printed copies and an electronic version, which will be published on the Justus Liebig University Giessen publication server.

In the case of publication pursuant to subsection 2 no. 1, the printed copies must be identical in form and content to the electronic version. The doctoral candidate must confirm this in writing to the doctoral examination office when submitting the copy for the examination files. The printed copies must be printed on age-resistant, wood-free and acid-free paper, bound in a durable manner and identified as a JLU dissertation. Transparent film should not be used as cover sheets. Ring binding must not be used; a durable binding method such as adhesive binding must be selected instead.

(3) The examination files must be accompanied by a summary pursuant to the International Dissertation Abstract in German or in the case of German-language dissertations in English.

(4) Publication must take place within one year in the manner described in subsection 2. In exceptional cases, the chair of the doctoral committee may extend the publication deadline upon timely and justified request by the doctoral candidate, generally by no more than one year.

(5) The rights acquired through the doctoral performance shall expire if the doctoral candidate culpably fails to meet a deadline set for him or her.

### **Section 15 (Doctoral certificate)**

(1) The dean shall present the doctoral candidate with their doctoral certificate once the dissertation has been published in the manner described in Section 14 (2). This doctoral certificate shall contain the date of the oral doctoral examination, which is considered the date of the doctorate, the title and author of the dissertation, and the overall assessment of doctoral performance. It is to be signed by the dean.

(2) The dean can issue a provisional doctoral certificate if the doctoral candidate submits a contract with a commercial publisher pursuant to Section 14 (2) no. 1. This provisional certificate shall be valid for a period of two years.

(3) At the request of the doctoral candidate, a translation into English shall be produced in addition to the German certificate, identified as such and countersigned by the dean.

(4) The doctor title may only be used after the doctoral certificate has been issued pursuant to subsections 1 and 2.

## Section 16 (Honorary Doctorate)

(1) The faculty may in recognition of outstanding academic achievements or other special services to academia award an honorary doctorate in law (Doctor iuris honoris causa – abbreviated: Dr. iur. h. c.).

(2) The faculty may in recognition of outstanding academic achievements or other special services to academia award an honorary doctorate in law (Doctor iuris honoris causa – abbreviated: Dr. iur. h. c.).

(3) The Dean shall read out the motion and the statement of the doctoral committee in a closed session of the faculty council. On the recommendation of the dean, the faculty council shall appoint at least three rapporteurs who are to produce assessments to evaluate the nominee's achievements and merits. If the doctoral committee has issued a statement on the motion, it can only be pursued if it is supported by more than half of the voting members of the faculty council who hold a doctorate.

(4) The motion and statements of the doctoral committee as well as the rapporteurs' assessments shall be read out by the dean in a closed meeting of the faculty council. The faculty council shall vote on the motion for the first time at this meeting. The motion, the statements by the doctoral committee and the rapporteurs' assessments must be available for inspection by the members of the faculty council in the dean's office one week prior to the relevant meeting.

(5) A final decision can only be made in a second closed meeting of the faculty council, which may take place no earlier than four weeks after the initial vote in the faculty council (subsection 4).

(6) Voting on honorary degrees pursuant to subsection 3, sentence 3, and subsections 4 and 5 shall be by secret ballot. The motion must be approved by a majority of the voting members of the faculty council who hold a doctorate.

(7) The honorary doctorate shall be conferred by the dean of the Faculty of Law who is to present the honorary doctorate certificate. The certificate is to contain the date of presentation, which is considered the date of the honorary degree. The certificate shall recognise the achievements of the honorary doctorate recipient. It shall be signed by the dean of the Faculty of Law and bear the seal of Justus Liebig University Giessen and that of the Faculty of Law.

## Section 17 (Refusal and revocation of a doctorate)

(1) The doctoral committee must refuse to award a doctorate if it becomes apparent before conclusion of the procedure that

1. the doctoral candidate has committed substantial deception in the proceedings, or
2. that essential requirements for the doctorate were not met.

(2) The doctoral committee shall revoke the doctorate if the reasons specified in subsection 1 subsequently become apparent or if the rights acquired through the doctorate have expired pursuant to Section 14 (5). A dissertation supervisor or assessor who is a member of the doctoral committee shall be excluded from the procedure for revoking a doctorate.

(3) If deception is present, but not to a significant extent within the meaning of subsection 1, no. 1, the doctoral committee may issue a reprimand and demand the publication of a correction.

(4) The person concerned shall be given the opportunity to comment on the allegations within a reasonable period of time before the doctoral committee decides to refuse or revoke the doctorate and before the decision pursuant to subsection 3 is made.

(5) Appeals may be lodged against decisions made by the doctoral committee pursuant to subsection 3. Section 4 subsections (5) and (6) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

**Section 18 (Doctoral fees)**

(1) The doctoral fee is 200 euros. This doctoral fee must be paid into the Justus Liebig University Giessen account before the examination procedure is initiated, stating "Doctoral fee FB 01" as the reason for payment.

(2) The fee for repeating the oral doctoral examination (Section 13 (3) sentence 1) is 50 euros. Proof of payment must be provided with the application for reinstatement of the examination procedure.

(3) Doctoral candidates may apply for a reduction or waiver of fees in cases of hardship. The doctoral committee shall decide on this matter. Their decision shall be final.

**Section 19 (Transitional provisions and entry into force)**

(1) Doctoral candidates whose supervisory relationship was established before these Doctorate Regulations came into force may decide whether to complete their doctorate pursuant to the procedural rules of the "Doctorate Regulations relating to the Faculty of Law at Justus Liebig University Giessen" dated 19 February 2003 (StAnz. No. 16/ 21 April 2003) or the procedural rules of these Doctorate Regulations. A corresponding declaration must be submitted in writing to the chair of the doctoral committee within one year of these Doctorate Regulations coming into force, but no later than with the application pursuant to Section 10 (1). This declaration is irrevocable. Dissertations that are already in progress when these Doctorate Regulations come into force shall be registered by the doctoral committee.

(2) The Doctorate Regulations relating to the Faculty of Law dated 23 July 2025 entered into force on the day after their publication in the University of Giessen's notifications. At the same time, with the exception of the transitional provision in subsection 1, the Doctorate Regulations of 19 February 2003 (StAnz. No. 16/ 21 April 2003) shall cease to have effect.

Giessen, 23 July 2025

Professor Lena

Rudkowski, dean

**Annex****Sample Supervision Agreement**

## SUPERVISION AGREEMENT

### 1. Preamble

This Agreement serves to support and promote doctoral candidates by explicitly setting out mutual rights and obligations. These are derived from the Doctorate Regulations relating to the Faculty of Law at Justus Liebig University Giessen.

This Supervision Agreement does not replace acceptance as a doctoral candidate pursuant to the applicable provisions in the Doctorate Regulations relating to the Faculty of Law at Justus Liebig University Giessen.

By signing this Agreement, [doctoral candidate] and [supervisor] undertake to comply with the DFG's principles for ensuring good scientific practice and the guidelines set out in "The JLU Code of Good Scientific Practice", as amended.

One copy of the Supervision Agreement shall remain with [supervisor] and one with [doctoral candidate].

### 2. Parties

This Supervision Agreement is concluded between

Doctoral candidate \_\_\_\_\_

and

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Supervision

[Supervisor] undertakes to supervise [doctoral candidate] and to provide support with the completion of their dissertation. The parties may by mutual agreement involve additional persons as necessary, such as a mentor who can provide additional advice and support with the doctoral project based on his or her academic expertise.

### 4. Support from the supervisory team

[The supervisor] and [doctoral candidate] are to regularly discuss the progress of the doctoral project.

[The supervisor] shall introduce the [doctoral candidate] to the germane academic environment, establish contacts with relevant research institutions as necessary, and promote academic development and networking through research trips, conference participation, or other activities useful to the doctoral project such as doctoral seminars.

Together with [doctoral candidate], [supervisor] shall develop concepts for financing the doctoral project and funding its implementation.

[Doctoral candidate] has the right to request an appointment with [supervisor] at any time to discuss the project. At the same time, [supervisor] has the right to be informed by [doctoral candidate] at any time about the current status of the work.

[Supervisor] undertakes to ensure that the period between submission of the dissertation and the oral doctoral examination does not exceed six months.

#### 5. Work schedule and timetable

By mutual agreement, the parties involved have developed the following schedule for implementation of the doctoral project:

The agreed time frame for the doctoral project is as follows: [Semester, year] to [semester, year].

The duration of the doctoral project may be adjusted by mutual agreement between [supervisor] and [doctoral candidate] if there are valid reasons (professional or personal circumstances, such as family commitments or health problems).

Supervision meetings and progress reports are to take place at least once per semester. [The doctoral candidate] and [supervisor] shall discuss the dissertation's progress based on the exposé, interim reports and individual chapters.

From around the beginning of the third semester of the doctoral phase, [doctoral candidate] should begin to submit written results, such as individual chapters to [supervisor] for discussion.

#### 6. Academic development

During the doctoral phase, [doctoral candidate] shall participate in academic development courses to promote their academic and personal development, for example as part of the training and academic development programme offered by the Giessen Graduate Centre for Social Sciences, Business, Economics and Law (GGS).

[Supervisor] shall facilitate and support such training and academic development.

#### 7. Conflict situations

The chair of the doctoral committee at the Faculty of Law, the Giessen Graduate Centre for Social Sciences, Business, Economics and Law (GGS) and the Justus Liebig University Giessen ombudsperson are available as contact persons in conflict situations.

#### 8. Termination of this Supervision Agreement

This Supervision Agreement may be amended or terminated by mutual agreement at any time, or terminated by either party for good cause. Violation of the rules of good scientific practice shall in particular be considered as good cause.

#### 9. Severability clause

Should individual provisions of this Agreement be invalid in whole or in part, the Agreement shall remain valid in its entirety.

Doctoral candidate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature, place, date)

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature, place, date)