

Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Health Sciences in the Course of Formation, a Joint Faculty of the University of Potsdam, the Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane, and the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus – Senftenberg

**Dated March 18, 2020
- non-official version¹ -**

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences in course of formation, joint faculty of the University of Potsdam, the Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane, and the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus – Senftenberg (hereinafter referred to as “Faculty of Health Sciences”) has decreed the following Doctoral Degree Regulations in accordance with Section 31 subsection 3 sentence 4 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act (*Brandenburgisches Hochschulgesetz, BbgHG*) of April 28, 2014 (Law and Ordinance Gazette GVBl. I/14, [no. 18]), last amended by Article 2 of the Act of June 5, 2019 (GVBl. I/19, [no. 20]) in conjunction with the Cooperation Agreement for the Establishment of the Faculty of Health Sciences (*Kooperationsvertrag zur Errichtung der Fakultät für Gesundheitswissenschaften*) of June 25, 2018, in accordance with Section 6 subsection 2 in conjunction with Section 11 subsection 4 no. 2 of the founding faculty regulations (*Gründungsfakultätsordnung*) of September 2, 2019:

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Section 1 Scope of the Right to Confer a Doctorate and the Right to Supervise

(1) The Faculty of Health Sciences confers the doctoral degrees

a) Doctor medicinae (Dr. med.) and
b) Doctor rerum medicinalium (Dr. rer. medic.)
after completion of a doctoral examination procedure to doctoral candidates who, as defined in Section 8, have demonstrated on the basis of a dissertation, in addition to the written academic work of at least one publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal and an oral examination (thesis defense) that they are capable of in-depth scientific work and of producing independent research achievements.

(2) In principle, all professors and holders of a post-doctoral qualification (*Habilitation*) at the cooperating universities are entitled to supervise doctoral projects.

a) Section 1 subsection 4 of the Framework Regulations for Doctoral Degrees (*Rahmenordnung für Promotionsverfahren*) at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg – hereinafter referred to as BTU – in conjunction with Section 6 subsection 5 of the Act to Further Develop the Lausitz University Region (*Gesetz zur Weiterentwicklung der Hochschulregion Lausitz – GWHL*) applies with regard to the individual right to supervise of professors of application-oriented degree programs at the BTU.

b) The Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane – hereinafter referred to as MHB – is officially recognized as a university pursuant to Section 83 of the BbgHG. Provided that the MHB has awarded the academic title of “professor” to full-time or part-time teaching staff members with the approval of the supreme state authority responsible for higher education institutions in accordance with Section 85 subsection 5 of the BbgHG, they are entitled to supervise without restriction.

¹ This English version is a non-official translation for information purposes. Only the German version published in the official announcements of the University of Potsdam is legally binding.

Section 2 Committees and Responsibilities

(1) The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences shall have all decision-making powers in connection with doctoral examination procedures and procedures for awarding honorary doctorates in accordance with Section 20. The Faculty Council is responsible, in particular, for:

- a) decisions on admission to a doctoral degree program,
- b) decisions on the commencement of the doctoral examination procedure,
- c) providing the Dean with a recommendation on the completion of the doctoral examination procedure,
- d) electing the members of the Doctoral Examining Board, including the appointment of the reviewers for the evaluation of the doctoral dissertation,
- e) decisions on exceptions to the page limit in accordance with Section 8 subsection 2,
- f) recommendations on exceptional regulations in case of a bi-national doctorate in accordance with Section 18 subsection 2,
- g) decisions on the extension of deadlines for reviewers in accordance with Section 12 subsection 2,
- h) approval of the decisions of the Doctoral Examining Board on objections in accordance with Section 13 subsection 5.

(2) For the deliberation of legal issues relating to doctoral programs and degrees and to accompany all doctoral examination procedures, the Faculty Council shall appoint a Doctoral Committee. The Doctoral Committee is made up of nine academics who hold a doctorate degree and are employed full-time in accordance with Section 39 BbgHG, at least five of whom must hold a professorship or post-doctoral qualification. All nine members of the Doctoral Committee are members of the Faculty of Health Sciences. BTU, MHB and the University of Potsdam – hereinafter referred to as UP – are represented in the Doctoral Committee with three members each. The chairperson of the Doctoral Committee shall be elected by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The chairperson shall suggest the other members of the committee who will then need to be confirmed by the Faculty Council. A deputy shall be named for each member. The members of the Doctoral Committee shall elect a deputy chairperson from their midst. The term of members of the Doctoral Committee shall be two years. Re-election is permitted. The Doctoral Committee is responsible, in particular, for:

- a) verifying if all general and individual admission requirements are met,
- b) appointing a primary supervisor in consultation with the doctoral candidate,
- c) appointing a secondary supervisor and a mentor in consultation with the doctoral candidate. The appointment of a mentor can be waived in consultation with the doctoral candidate if it can be assumed that the tasks of the mentor can be adequately performed by the secondary supervisor.
- d) proposing the members of the Doctoral Examining Board, including reviewers.

The Doctoral Committee shall hold a meeting every two months. Urgent issues can be decided by means of a resolution by circulation unless they concern personnel matters or matters of interest for the whole university community. The Doctoral Committee reaches decisions with a simple majority of the votes cast. It shall have a quorum if at least five voting members are present.

(3) The Doctoral Examining Board is appointed by the Faculty Council and conducts the doctoral examination procedure. The Doctoral Examining Board consists of the reviewers, the primary supervisor and four other members, of which three shall be members of the Faculty of Health Sciences with a *habilitation* or equivalent qualification. At least two of these members must also be members of a faculty of medicine. The majority of the members must be authorized to supervise doctoral projects without restriction in accordance with Section 1 subsection 2. The members of the board must hold the degree to be awarded by the examination or an equivalent qualification themselves. The tasks of the Doctoral Examining Board are:

- a) making decisions on accepting, rejecting or calling for a revision of the dissertation in accordance with Section 13,
- b) conducting the oral defense,
- c) assessing the overall quality of the doctoral project based on the *votum informativum*, the evaluation reports and the oral defense and
- d) making decisions on objections in accordance with Section 13 subsection 5.

Section 3 Supervisors and Mentors

(1) Professors and holders of a post-doctoral qualification (*Habilitation*) of the Faculty of Health Sciences² can be appointed as primary supervisors of a

² Faculty members are defined in the Cooperative Agreement dated June 25, 2018, and thus in the Faculty Regulations

dated September 2, 2019, as follows: "Members of the faculty are the professors and junior professors, academic staff members, and other

doctoral project. Among the tasks of the primary supervisors are, in particular:

- a) defining the dissertation topic in consultation with the doctoral candidate,
- b) offering subject-specific advice and support for the dissertation project,
- c) continuously reviewing the progress made on the doctoral project,
- d) participating in regular progress meetings that deal with the discussion of results obtained within the context of the doctoral project and
- e) drawing up a *votum informativum*. The *votum informativum* provides information on the independent academic work and achievements of the doctoral candidate. If the doctoral candidate is a co-author of a publication, the *votum informativum* will also provide information on the share of work done by the doctoral candidate for the publication. The *votum informativum* is to be submitted to the Doctoral Examining Board two weeks before the oral defense.

(2) Professors and holders of a post-doctoral qualification (*Habilitation*) can be appointed as secondary supervisors. They are to be members of the Faculty of Health Sciences. Decisions on exceptions to this are made by the Faculty Council.

(3) For doctoral projects leading to the conferral of the academic degree Dr. med., the primary supervisor or the secondary supervisor must have been awarded the academic degree of Dr. med. or an equivalent qualification themselves. For doctoral projects leading to the conferral of the academic degree Dr. rer. medic., the primary supervisor or the secondary supervisor must have been awarded the academic degree of Dr. rer. medic. or Dr. med. or an equivalent qualification themselves.

(4) Scholars who have successfully completed a doctorate can be appointed as mentors. The mentor does not have to be a member of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The mentor's duties, if not already performed by the supervisors, include in particular:

- a) offering advice that reaches beyond the specific subject to the doctoral candidate with regard to their dissertation project and
- b) consulting with one or both supervisors if requested by the doctoral candidate.

Section 4 Admission Requirements for Doctoral Programs

(1) Admission requirements for doctoral programs with the intended academic degree of Dr. med. are:

- a) the successful completion of a degree program in human medicine at a university in Germany or
- b) the successful completion of a degree program in human medicine at an institution of higher education abroad, if the coursework and examinations to be completed for the degree do not essentially differ from degree programs in human medicine in Germany or if the applicant holds a license to practice medicine in Germany (*Approbation*).

(2) Admission requirements for doctoral programs with the intended academic degree of Dr. rer. medic. are the successful completion of a non-medical master's degree program, state examination or a university diploma degree (*Diplomstudium*) at a university in Germany or abroad provided that the coursework and examinations to be completed for the degree do not essentially differ from the coursework and examinations to be completed at institutions of higher education in Germany.

(3) The Faculty Council decides on the admission of applicants who have a foreign university degree but no license to practice medicine in Germany within the framework of the applicable law. In particular, the council shall obtain an assessment of the equivalence of the foreign qualification from the Central Office for Foreign Education of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in Bonn or another body authorized to determine the equivalence of the qualification.

(4) By way of derogation, persons may be admitted to the doctoral program within the framework of a fast track doctoral program if they have completed a university or university of applied sciences degree program with a standard period of study of at least six semesters with a final academic examination (bachelor's degree, 180 credit points) with a minimum grade of 1.3 or were among the top 5% of the year's graduates and have completed supplementary coursework corresponding to 60 credit points of an accredited master's degree program. Further details on the assessment of suitability are regulated by the respective study regulations of the fast track doctoral program in accordance with the respective regulations of the cooperating universities.

employees assigned to the faculty by the employing institution of higher education." If these members are already assigned to another faculty, they remain at their home faculty and are also members of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the same time (co-opted members). Students in a degree program operated by the faculty, including doctoral

students, the dean, and the assistant deans are also considered members." and "During voting membership on the Founding Faculty Council/Faculty Council, the membership rights of co-opted members shall be suspended in their home faculty.". Secondary membership (co-option) is thus not linked to the transfer of voting rights.

Section 5 Declaration of Intent to Pursue a Doctoral Degree

(1) Those who have successfully completed the first part of the state medical examination or can present and equivalent certificate can declare their intent of pursuing a doctoral degree with the Doctoral Committee and submit the necessary documents for acceptance as a doctoral candidate in accordance with Section 6 subsection 1 sentence 2 letter b) and c).

(2) The Declaration of Intent to Pursue a Doctoral Degree shall be returned if the applicant has definitively failed the state medical examination.

(3) The admission procedure will be initiated once the candidate passes the state medical examination. The applicant must submit appropriate evidence of passing the state medical examination.

Section 6 Acceptance/Rejection as a Doctoral Candidate

(1) The application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate is to be addressed in writing to the Faculty Council. The application must include:

- a) proof of fulfillment of the requirements in accordance with Section 4 subsection 1 letter a) or b),
- b) names and written confirmations of two persons entitled to supervise the doctoral project and
- c) a signed supervision agreement in accordance with Section 7.

(2) The Faculty Council shall decide on the acceptance or rejection as a doctoral candidate. A written justification including information on the right to appeal the decision is to be included in case of rejection. The faculty can reject the application, in particular, if:

- a) admission requirements are not or partially not fulfilled,
- b) the subject area relevant for the evaluation of the dissertation is not represented by a professor or junior professor at any of the cooperating universities,
- c) a commitment to supervise has not been made or adequate supervision of the applicant cannot be guaranteed due to a lack of material and/or personnel resources,
- d) the applicant has been unsuccessful in a doctoral examination procedure more than once,
- e) a doctoral degree had to be revoked due to serious scientific misconduct or a doctoral procedure had to be suspended for this reason.

Section 7 Agreement of Supervision

(1) A written supervision agreement shall be concluded in writing between the supervisors, the mentor and the doctoral candidate.

(2) At a minimum, the supervision agreement must contain:

- a) last name, first name of the supervisors, mentor and doctoral candidate,
- b) pursued academic degree,
- c) name of the faculty,
- d) cooperating university of the Faculty of Health Sciences,
- e) working title of the dissertation,
- f) a structured time and work schedule in terms of content or a more detailed version of it,
- g) the tasks and obligations of the doctoral candidate: regular reporting obligations (for example: proof of academic achievements, continuing scientific education), regular submission of partial results in terms of content,
- h) the tasks and obligations of the supervisor: offering regular subject-specific guidance, assistance in facilitating early academic independence, career development, regular progress reviews, etc.,
- i) information on the material resources to be provided to the doctoral candidate, insofar as they are assigned to the material resources of the professorship,
- j) declaration of the doctoral candidate to comply with the guidelines for safeguarding good research practice of the respective statutes of the cooperating university as well as
- k) signatures of the supervisors, mentor and doctoral candidate,
and it should also contain
- l) provisions in the event of conflicts, and
- m) if necessary, special measures or provisions for the compatibility of family and academic activities.

Section 8 Requirements for Obtaining the Doctoral Degree

(1) The doctorate is contingent upon completion of a written thesis based on independent research activities (dissertation), at least one publication in accordance with Section 3 or Section 4 and an oral examination (thesis defense). In the case of a publication-based dissertation in accordance with Section 9, no further publication is required in addition to the publications accepted as dissertations.

(2) The dissertation must

- a) document the advancement of scientific knowledge based on independent research,
 - b) describe the methods used to solve problems in a comprehensible way,
 - c) present the results clearly and interpret and discuss them in the context of the relevant current state of knowledge
- and
- d) contain complete documentation of literature and other supporting resources used for the dissertation.

The dissertation is to be written in German or English and its length shall not exceed 100 pages in total. Exceptions to this page limit may be granted due to subject-specific particularities.

(3) One of the requirements for a Dr. med. degree is an original publication as first author or second author in a peer-reviewed scientific journal or, in exceptional cases, an equivalent academic achievement. The Doctoral Examining Board shall decide on the equivalence of the academic achievements.

(4) One of the requirements for a Dr. rer. medic. degree is a publication as first author in a peer-reviewed scientific journal or, in exceptional cases, an equivalent academic achievement. The Doctoral Examining Board shall decide on the equivalence of the academic achievements.

Section 9 Publication-based (cumulative) thesis

Several publication-based scientific papers may be submitted as a dissertation if they are connected in terms of content. This must include at least three scientific papers that have appeared or have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal for the field in question. As a whole, they must meet the requirements for a monograph. The contents and the internal connection between the publications should be presented in an overarching introduction and a discussion section, the length of which should not exceed 25 pages. Exceptions to this page limit may be granted due to subject-specific particularities. There must be at least one paper with first authorship and a second with at least second authorship. If one of the publications was written by more than one author, the doctoral candidate's share of the work must be stated in terms of content and scope.

Section 10 Commencement of the Doctoral Examination Procedure

(1) The doctoral candidate shall submit an application to commence the doctoral examination procedure to the chairperson of the Faculty Council.

(2) In order to commence the procedure, the following documents must be provided in the case of submission of a monograph.

- a) four printed copies of the dissertation and a digital copy,
- b) for dissertations in English, an abstract in German,
- c) a declaration of consent to having the work checked for any textual similarities (plagiarism) by suitable software,
- d) the original or a certified copy of the supervision agreement in accordance with Section 7,
- e) a curriculum vitae in tabular form signed by the doctoral candidate, providing information on the scientific career, in particular,
- f) a list of manuscripts or other scientific achievements published or accepted for publication, professional assessments, opinions and reviews available about them,
- g) certificates issued for academic degrees and university degrees. If the doctoral candidate is licensed to practice medicine, a certified copy of the medical license (*Approbationsurkunde*) will need to be submitted.
- h) an affirmation in lieu of oath declaring that the work was compiled independently and only with the help of the listed resources,
- i) a declaration confirming that the work has not previously been submitted to another institution of higher education,
- j) proof of participation in an interdisciplinary qualification program and
- k) an extended certificate of good conduct (*erweitertes Führungszeugnis*), which must not be older than two months at the time of submission.

(3) In order to commence the procedure, the following documents must be provided in the case of submission of a publication-based dissertation:

- a) four reprints or copies of the printed version of the publications,
- b) an introduction and discussion section including the presentation of the substantial new results of the research achievement and an explanation of the connection between the individual publications in terms of content and
- c) the documents listed in subsection (2) letters b) to k).

(4) In the case of a bi-national doctorate, documentation of the cooperation agreement on a joint doctoral project between one of the cooperating universities of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the university abroad, confirmed by the Faculty Council, must also be submitted.

(5) The Doctoral Examining Board will check the dissertation for any textual similarities with other publications with the help of suitable software.

(6) The Faculty Council shall decide on the commencement of the doctoral examination procedure at its next meeting, provided that the complete application was submitted not later than fourteen days before the meeting. The doctoral candidate will be informed of the decision in writing by the chairperson of the Faculty Council. A written justification is to be included in case of rejection.

(7) The Faculty Council makes decisions regarding appeals to a rejection of the commencement of the doctoral examination procedure.

Section 11 Doctoral Examining Board and Reviewers

(1) At the commencement of the procedure, the Faculty Council elects the Doctoral Examining Board in accordance with Section 2, subsection 3. As a rule, the dissertation must be evaluated by two professors or scholars with a post-doctoral qualification (*Habilitation*) qualified for the subject acting as reviewers. In justified exceptional cases, a third reviewer may be appointed. A third evaluation report must be obtained if the results of the two evaluation reports differ by more than one grade level. The primary supervisor and secondary supervisor may not act as reviewers. At least one reviewer must not be a member of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the UP, the BTU or the MHB.

(2) The reviewers each issue an independent evaluation report on the dissertation, which must contain a recommendation on the acceptance, revision or rejection of the dissertation as well as a grade.

(3) Before appointing the reviewers, possible reasons for concern about a conflict of interest regarding the doctoral candidate are to be inquired about and evaluated by the Doctoral Examining Board. Should a conflict of interest be identified, one or more other persons shall be appointed as reviewers.

Section 12 Evaluation Reports

(1) The reviewers shall independently evaluate the dissertation within a period of three months after the

commencement of the procedure in accordance with Section 10 subsection 6. They shall state whether the requirements for a dissertation in accordance with Section 8 subsection 2 sentence 1 letters a) to d) are fulfilled.

(2) If an evaluation report is not submitted in due time, the Faculty Council decides whether an extension of the deadline is to be agreed upon or whether another reviewer is to be appointed.

Section 13 Acceptance of the Dissertation

(1) The reviewers each issue a recommendation on the acceptance, revision or rejection of the dissertation to the Doctoral Examining Board.

(2) If both reviewers or, in the case of more than two reviewers, the majority of the reviewers recommend rejection of the dissertation, the Doctoral Examining Board shall declare the doctoral examination procedure unsuccessfully concluded. If a reviewer recommends rejection or if the assessment of the reviewers differs by more than one grade level, the Doctoral Examining Board will appoint an additional reviewer.

(3) If a reviewer recommends a revision, the doctoral candidate will be given the opportunity to make changes. This does not apply if, in the case of more than two reviewers, the majority of the reviewers recommend rejection of the dissertation. The chairperson of the Doctoral Examining Board must inform the doctoral candidate of this. These changes require the approval of all reviewers. If the doctoral candidate rejects the proposed revision or if the revised dissertation is not resubmitted within a year, the dissertation is considered rejected and the doctoral examination is considered unsuccessfully concluded.

(4) If the dissertation is rejected, a copy of the rejected dissertation containing the evaluation reports shall remain with the Faculty of Health Sciences. Doctoral candidates whose dissertation has been rejected may apply for re-admission with another dissertation or a substantially modified version of their dissertation after one year at the earliest.

(5) Two weeks prior to the oral examination date, a copy of the dissertation shall be publicly displayed by the Faculty Council. The display of the work must be announced within the Faculty of Health Sciences. All members of the Faculty of Health Sciences who hold a doctorate have the right to submit objections to the dissertation in writing to the Faculty Council up until the end of the display period. The Doctoral Examining Board shall decide on any objections.

These decisions of the Doctoral Examining Board are subject to approval by the Faculty Council.

(6) If all reviewers recommended the acceptance of the dissertation and no objections are lodged pursuant to subsection 5, the dissertation is accepted. The doctoral candidate is typically informed of the evaluations, the grade and the name of the reviewers.

Section 14 Oral Defense

(1) Once the dissertation has been accepted, there shall be an oral defense in front of the Doctoral Examining Board that is open to members of the cooperating universities. The Doctoral Examining Board shall decide on a time and place for the oral defense and announce them to the university community at least 14 days before the date, stating the topic of the dissertation.

(2) At least one reviewer or the primary supervisor and at least three other members of the Doctoral Examining Board must be present at the oral defense. If the required number of members is not reached due to the inability of individual members to attend, a substitute must be appointed by the chairperson of the Doctoral Examining Board or, in the event of his/her absence, by the Dean. The requirements for the composition of the Doctoral Examining Board laid out in Section 2 subsection 3 apply accordingly with regard to the number and qualifications of substitutes.

The doctoral candidate shall present the results of the scientific work in a presentation that usually lasts 20 minutes. The presentation shall outline:

- a) the scientific problem dealt with in the dissertation,
- b) the methodology used to find a possible solution and
- c) the most important results of the work and its role in relation to the current state of knowledge. Afterwards, the doctoral candidate is questioned by the members of the Doctoral Examining Board about the dissertation and how it relates to the scientific context. This questioning section may not last longer than 60 minutes.

(4) Minutes shall be kept of the oral defense and its results, containing the main contents of the examination. The Chairperson of the Doctoral Examining Board can delegate the keeping of minutes to an academic staff member with a doctorate.

Section 15 Evaluation and Grades

(1) In the doctoral examination procedure for the degrees of Dr. med. and Dr. rer. medic. one of the following grades is to be awarded for the academic achievements:

- a) *summa cum laude* (excellent, 0), if the independently conducted work is of exceptionally high scientific significance and contains excellent elaborations in terms of methodology and form. The doctoral candidate has made independent contributions to the formulation of the problem and methodology. The doctoral candidate must be the first author of an original work on the dissertation topic that has been published in an internationally recognized peer-reviewed journal,
- b) *magna cum laude* (very good, 1), if the independently conducted work has considerable scientific significance and contains very good elaborations in terms of methodology and form. The doctoral candidate has made independent contributions to the formulation of the problem and methodology. The doctoral candidate should at least be the co-author of an original work on the dissertation topic that has been published in an internationally recognized peer-reviewed journal,
- c) *cum laude* (good, 2), if the independently conducted work is of some scientific significance and contains good elaborations in terms of methodology and form.
- d) *rite* (sufficient, 3), if the dissertation meets the minimum requirements,
- e) *non sufficit* (not sufficient, 4), if the dissertation does not meet the minimum requirements.

(2) Prior to the oral defense, the Doctoral Examining Board shall decide whether the changes made on the basis of a reviewer's recommendation for revision in accordance with Section 13, subsection 3, have an effect on the grade.

(3) Immediately after the oral defense, the Doctoral Examining Board shall assess the doctoral examination achievement.

(4) The grades of the oral defense shall reflect:

- a) the quality of the presentation,
- b) the capacity to engage with questions and critical comments, and
- c) the role of the work in relation to the current state of knowledge

(5) The oral defense is considered failed if the majority of the examiners have graded the presentation or the questioning section as "non sufficit". A failed oral defense can only be repeated once. The second oral defense shall take place after a maximum of six

months. If the doctoral candidate fails again, the doctoral examination procedure shall be considered unsuccessfully concluded.

(6) Once the doctoral candidate has passed the oral defense, the Doctoral Examining Board shall determine the grade for the doctoral dissertation as a whole. The board can deviate from the calculated reviewers' evaluation by a maximum of one grade level. In case of deviations, a simple majority of the participating members of the Doctoral Examining Board must agree. The grade *summa cum laude* may only be awarded if there is a maximum of one dissenting vote.

(7) The decision of the Doctoral Examining Board shall not be made in public. The doctoral candidate shall be informed of the grade received for the doctoral examination and the reasons for it immediately afterwards, under exclusion of the public.

Section 16 Publication of the Dissertation

(1) The dissertation shall be made available to the academic public in an appropriate manner by the library of the cooperating university responsible as determined by the Faculty Council in each individual case, which shall apply the respective university's own regulations for publication. The doctoral candidate must also provide the Faculty of Health Sciences with the required number of deposit copies of his or her dissertation free of charge in accordance with subsection 2.

(2) Delivery of deposit copies to the Faculty of Health Sciences may be carried out in a variety of ways, specifically by:

- a) transfer of an electronic version in accordance with the specifications of the libraries of the cooperating universities, or
- b) delivery of a complete deposit copy printed on aging-resistant, wood-free and acid-free paper and bound in a durable manner.

(3) Publication must take place within six months of passing the examination and after the chairperson of the Doctoral Examining Board has declared the dissertation ready for printing. Before the deadline expires, a substantiated request for an extension may be submitted to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examining Board.

§ 17 Doctoral Certificate

(1) The doctoral examination procedure will be concluded once the Dean hands over the doctoral certificate. The certificate must include:

- a) name of the faculty and the names of the three cooperating universities,
- b) last name, first name, date of birth and place of birth of the doctoral graduate,
- c) the doctoral degree conferred,
- d) the grade,
- e) place and date of issuance and
- f) signature of the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

(2) The certificate will only be handed over after the doctoral candidate has fulfilled his or her publication obligation. After the doctoral certificate has been handed over, the candidate has the right to use the title of doctor.

§ 18 Bi-National Doctorate

(1) The requirements for the procedure and content of doctorates resulting from these regulations shall also apply to bi-national doctorates.

(2) An individual cooperation agreement on a joint doctoral project will be concluded for every doctoral candidate between one of the cooperating universities of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the university abroad. In the contract, exceptions can be made for individual cases and within the framework of the applicable law, insofar as this is required due to the particular procedure of a bi-national doctorate. Any exceptions agreed upon require approval from the Faculty Council. The Doctoral Committee shall make recommendations to this effect at the request of the primary supervisor.

(3) It is a prerequisite for a bi-national doctorate that substantial parts of the doctoral research are carried out at both institutions. The Faculty Council will decide in case of doubt.

Section 19 Cooperative Doctorate

(1) Doctorates for the degree of Dr. rer. medic. can also be carried out in cooperation with a university or, according to Section 31 subsection 5 BbgHG, with a university of applied sciences. The dissertation is to be supervised by a scholar with the right to supervise from the Faculty of Health Sciences and by a professor or junior professor from the partner institution. If the doctoral candidate proposes a professor or junior professor with a restricted right to supervise according to Section 1 subsection 2 letter a), an additional supervisor with unrestricted right to supervise is required.

(2) In cooperative doctoral procedures, the Faculty of Health Sciences may also appoint professors from

a university of applied sciences as reviewers and examiners, provided that they in turn hold a doctorate and are also qualified in the subject. Section 2 subsection 3 sentence 4 shall apply accordingly.

Section 20 Honorary Doctorate

(1) The Faculty of Health Sciences may confer the degree and dignity of honorary doctor (doctor honoris causa) in recognition of outstanding scientific and academic merit.

(2) A proposal to this effect including detailed reasons shall be jointly submitted to the Dean by at least three members of the group of professors and junior professors of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

(3) The Faculty Council shall form a commission (Honorary Commission) to examine the scientific and academic merits of the person to be honored. The commission shall consist of at least five professors or junior professors and one academic staff member. All members of the Doctoral Committee must be notified of the formation of the commission. Upon his or her own request, any member of the Doctoral Committee may serve on the Honorary Commission in an advisory capacity. The Honorary Commission shall prepare a written report on the personality and scientific and academic achievements of the person nominated to be honored. With a two-thirds majority, the commission can make a recommendation to the Faculty Council to decide on the proposal.

The Dean shall announce to the members of the Faculty Council in a timely manner that a proposal for an honorary doctorate is to be discussed. At the same time, members of the Faculty Council shall be notified of the fact that the proposal and the report of the Honorary Committee are available for confidential inspection in the office of the Dean.

(5) A two-thirds majority vote of the Faculty Council members present at the meeting shall be required to pass an honorary degree resolution. The participation rights of the responsible bodies at the cooperating universities are governed by the basic constitutions of the respective universities.

(6) An honorary doctorate shall be conferred by presenting a certificate acknowledging the merits of the honoree. The certificate is to be signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

(7) The regulations on the revocation of the academic degree in Section 21 shall apply accordingly to the revocation of the honorary doctorate.

Section 21 Declaration of Invalidity and Revocation

If, before the doctoral certificate is issued, it becomes apparent that the candidate was guilty of deception in fulfilling the requirements for his or her doctoral project, or that he or she was deceptive with regard to the requirements for admission to the doctoral examination procedure, or that essential requirements for admission to the doctoral examination procedure were erroneously assumed to be met, the Faculty of Health Sciences, via the Faculty Council, shall declare the doctoral achievements to be invalid. The same applies in the event of serious scientific misconduct.

(2) The Faculty of Health Sciences may also withdraw the academic degree if the reasons specified in subsection 1 become apparent at a later date.

(3) Requests for a declaration of invalidity of the doctoral achievements or revocation of the academic degree must be submitted to the Doctoral Committee. The Doctoral Committee shall conduct an assessment and then submit its recommendation to the Faculty Council. The declaration of invalidity or revocation shall be resolved by the Faculty Council.

(4) Before the Faculty Council adopts a resolution, the person concerned must be heard.

Section 22 Entry into Force

These doctoral regulations will be published in the official announcements of the UP and the BTU and publicly announced by the MHB. These regulations shall enter into force on the day after the last publication.