



**Doctoral examination regulations  
of the Faculty of Biological Sciences,  
Friedrich Schiller University Jena,  
as at 23 September 2019**

In accordance with section 3 subsection 1 in conjunction with section 38 subsection 3 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act (*Thüringer Hochschulgesetz, ThürHG*) from 10 May 2018 (published in the journal of legal notices of the Free State of Thuringia GVBl., p. 149), amended through section 128 on 18 December 2018 (GVBl., p. 731, 749), the Friedrich Schiller University Jena issues the following Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Biological Sciences. The regulations were approved by the faculty council on 13 May 2019 and agreed by the Senate of the University on 17 September 2019.

The president authorized the regulations on 23 September 2019.

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## I. Right to confer doctoral degree

### § 1

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The University, represented by the Faculty of Biological Sciences, confers the doctoral degree “doctor rerum naturalium (Dr. rer. nat.)”. <sup>2</sup>Upon prior request from the doctoral candidate within the opening of the doctoral examination procedure, the faculty council may confer the doctoral title “Doctor of Philosophy” (PhD) if the decision is reached by the majority of the present members holding a doctorate.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Represented by the Faculty, the University can also confer an honorary doctorate (“doctor honoris causa”, Dr. h. c.) for its disciplines in accordance with section 19. <sup>2</sup>The doctoral degree (“Dr. rer. nat.”) shall be appended “honoris causa” (h. c.).
- (3) With the exception of honorary doctorates, any doctoral degree of the same title may be conferred only once.

### § 2

- (1) The conferment of a doctoral degree shall serve as a certification of the competence to perform advanced scientific work in one of the research (sub)disciplines represented by the Faculty (“Promotionsfach”).
- (2) Except in the case of an honorary degree, the certification will be granted upon successful submission of a written scientific thesis (“Dissertation”) in accordance with section 8, and upon a thesis defence (“Disputation”) in accordance with section 9.

## II. Admission requirements

### § 3

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Admission to a doctoral programme usually requires the successful completion of the following degrees: *Diplom* degree, *Magister* degree, state examination (“Staatsexamen”), or a master’s degree at a university or university of applied sciences in the field in which the doctorate is to be pursued. <sup>2</sup>The applicant’s intended research discipline (“Promotionsfach”) must be part of the teaching or research activities at the Faculty.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Degrees earned at institutions of higher education abroad may be recognized if they are considered equivalent to the degrees mentioned in subsection 1. <sup>2</sup>The equivalence shall be examined by the dean or the authorized vice dean based on the agreement on equivalence approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (*Kultusministerkonferenz*, KMK) and the German Rectors’ Conference (*Hochschulrektorenkonferenz*, HRK).



- (3) <sup>1</sup>If applicants aim for earning a doctoral degree in a discipline having been a minor subject before their graduation or in a discipline which differs from their degree already earned, the applicants' achievements of that degree shall be examined in accordance with the doctoral examination regulations. <sup>2</sup>Doctoral candidates are admitted to a doctoral programme if the majority of the present members of the faculty council holding a doctorate approves it and the candidates can prove that the prior education is equivalent. <sup>3</sup>Applicants may be required to acquire additional coursework and examinations in particular disciplines. <sup>4</sup>The additional requirements shall be documented in a letter of admission as a doctoral student in accordance with section 4 subsection 7. <sup>5</sup>Applicants must fulfil these requirements before the opening of the examination procedure. <sup>6</sup>If applicants do not meet the regular requirements, sentences 1–5 shall apply accordingly.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>Particularly qualified graduates of bachelor's programmes may be admitted to a doctoral programme upon prior approval from the majority vote of the present members of the faculty council holding a doctorate provided that the graduates proved that they possess the qualification for scholarly work within the given research discipline. <sup>2</sup>As a general rule, the applicants should be admitted to a recognized doctoral programme. <sup>3</sup>Subsection 3 sentences 2–5 shall apply accordingly.
- (5) If, in accordance with the doctoral examination regulations of the Faculty, the applicants are required to meet additional requirements for admission to a doctoral programme, these are also considered met if the applicants complete one of the recognized doctoral programmes of the Graduate Academy being supervised by professors, associate professors serving in a temporary capacity, or by the leaders of junior research groups at the Faculty.
- (6) As a general rule, applicants cannot be admitted if they already applied for a doctoral programme within the same discipline elsewhere or failed any other doctoral examination procedure of doctoral studies.



### III. Admission as a doctoral candidate and supervision

#### § 4

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Anyone who meets the admission requirements as defined in section 3 and intends to produce a doctorate shall apply for admission as a doctoral candidate at the Faculty before starting to work on doctoral thesis project. <sup>2</sup>They shall apply for admission via the online portal of the University. <sup>3</sup>In their application, applicants shall provide the intended topic of their doctoral thesis project and the research discipline. <sup>4</sup>The written application, which shall be confirmed by the supervisor, must include the following supporting documents:
1. documents regarding the admission requirements as defined in section 3, i.e. copies of final certificates and degree certificates (Applicants who earned their degree at other universities must provide officially certified copies.);
  2. the supervision agreement or the qualification agreement pursuant to subsection 5;
  3. a current CV presenting personal and professional development;
  4. a declaration of all existing or previous applications for admission as a doctoral candidate each of which should include the date and topic of the application, the name of the given faculty, and the information whether a doctoral examination procedure has been initiated or is already completed. If the applicant already earned a doctorate, a copy of the doctoral degree certificate shall be attached, too.
- <sup>5</sup>The applicant must prove his/her identity by means of a valid identity document.
- (2) The admission is only possible if, firstly, at least one research supervisor has assured the supervision of the doctoral thesis project; secondly, if the equipment required to conduct the project has been ensured; thirdly, if the Faculty is able to assess the completed doctoral thesis as a scientific paper.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>Supervisors may be professors, associate professors serving in a temporary capacity ("Privatdozent"), or leaders of junior research groups if they are members of the Faculty. Leaders of junior research groups may only be supervisors if their scientific competence was reviewed by an external scientific assessment procedure whose quality criteria were confirmed by the Research Committee of the Senate. <sup>2</sup>If the case is equivalent to the quality criteria accepted by the Research Committee of the Senate, a leader of a junior research group may be a supervisor, too. <sup>3</sup>It is the faculty council which decides in such cases.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>If the supervision is conducted in cooperation with other scientific institutions, in particular institutions of higher education and non-university research institutions, additional persons may also be supervisors who have equivalent scientific qualifications as those defined in subsection 3. <sup>2</sup>As a rule, the cooperation is based on a respective agreement between the University and the cooperating institution. <sup>3</sup>In such cases, at least one supervisor must be a member of the Faculty. <sup>4</sup>Exceptions are possible, however, only when the faculty council grants its approval.



- (5) The research supervisor and the doctoral candidate shall conclude a supervision agreement prior to admission, which shall include at least these aspects:
- the responsibility of the doctoral candidates to report to their supervisors regularly on the progress of their doctoral thesis project;
  - the responsibility of the supervisors to ask for the doctoral candidates' regular progress reports on the doctoral thesis project;
  - the type of the collaboration (if applicable);
  - the type of the doctoral thesis project planned (monograph/cumulative doctoral thesis);
  - the participation in a structured doctoral programme (if applicable).
- (6) The admission does not guarantee any legal rights to begin the doctoral examination procedure.
- (7) <sup>1</sup>It is the dean or the authorized vice dean who decides on the application, usually within two months. <sup>2</sup>The applicant shall be informed about the decision on the application in writing. <sup>3</sup>A rejection of the application must also provide valid reasons for the rejection and information on legal remedies. <sup>4</sup>The letter of admission must include the field of the doctoral thesis project, the topic, and the research supervisor. If necessary, additional requirements as defined in section 3 subsections 3 and 4 shall be included, too.
- (8) Upon request, the doctoral relationship (i.e. doctoral thesis project and status as a doctoral candidate) may be suspended temporarily if the doctoral thesis project cannot be conducted in a reasonable manner due to particular family-related burdens, illness, pregnancy, parental leave, intense care for relatives, due to disabilities, or for any other valid reason.
- (9) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral candidate shall inform the faculty immediately about any changes of data having been provided in the application for admission as a doctoral candidate. <sup>2</sup>Upon request, the doctoral candidate must confirm his/her continued work on the doctoral thesis project yearly. <sup>3</sup>From the fourth year after admission on, a confirmation from the responsible supervisor(s) is required.
- (10) <sup>1</sup>The admission as a doctoral candidate may be revoked if there is no prospect of completing the doctoral thesis project in due time successfully or if the supervision agreement was terminated in accordance with subsection 5. <sup>2</sup>Prior to any decision, the doctoral candidate shall be given the opportunity to be heard by the faculty council. <sup>3</sup>Furthermore, the doctoral candidate may terminate the supervision relationship.



#### IV. Opening of the doctoral examination procedure

##### § 5

<sup>1</sup>The application for the opening of the doctoral examination procedure shall be submitted to the dean in writing. <sup>2</sup>The application shall include the following documents:

1. the confirmation that any additional requirements as defined in section 3 subsections 3 and 4 have been met;
2. four copies of the doctoral thesis, including one electronic copy as a PDF file each;
3. 20 copies of the thesis;
4. a declaration in which applicants:
  - 4.1 confirm that they are familiar with the valid doctoral examination regulations;
  - 4.2 confirm that they produced the doctoral thesis project themselves (statement of authorship), they neither did use any text passages from third parties nor their own previous final theses without citing those; in addition, they also confirm they cited the tools, personal communication, and sources having been used;
  - 4.3 provide names of the persons who assisted the applicant in selecting and analysing materials, and supported them in writing the manuscript;
  - 4.4 confirm that they did not receive any assistance from specialized consultants and that any third party did not receive either direct or indirect financial benefits from the applicants for work connected to the doctoral thesis submitted;
  - 4.5 confirm that they have not already submitted the doctoral thesis project as their final thesis for a state examination or other scientific examination;
  - 4.6 state whether or not they submitted the same, a substantially similar, or another scientific paper to any other institution of higher education or to any other faculty as a doctoral thesis and, if they did it, which mark they might have achieved;
5. an official certificate of good conduct if the applicants are not employed in the public sector;
6. the proof of payment of the submission fee for a doctorate; the fee is determined by the valid version of the General Fees Regulations of the University;
7. a CV containing information on their education and scientific progress;
8. a list of scientific publications and presentations;
9. the signed form on animal protection, genetic engineering, protection of species and of biotopes;
10. the confirmation signed by the supervisors that the doctoral candidate informed them about the submission of the doctoral thesis.

<sup>3</sup>The doctoral candidate is responsible for ensuring that the electronic version of the dissertation submitted matches the printed version.

##### § 6

- (1) The faculty council shall decide on the opening of the doctoral examination procedure and on the composition of the doctoral committee in the first meeting after the submission of the application; the decisions shall be reached by the majority vote of the present council's members holding a doctorate.



- (2) The dean or the authorized vice dean shall inform the applicant about the opening of the doctoral examination procedure in writing.
- (3) The withdrawal of the application for the opening of the procedure is permissible until either the date for the thesis defence has been fixed or the procedures have been closed due to the rejection of the doctoral thesis.

## V. Doctoral committee

### § 7

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The faculty council appoints a doctoral committee which conducts the doctoral examination procedure. <sup>2</sup>It is composed of:

- the chairperson
- three reviewers
- at least one further member.

<sup>3</sup>The members of the committee may be professors, persons holding the "Habilitation" postdoctoral teaching qualification, or leaders of junior research groups. <sup>4</sup>If a reviewer from abroad does not meet these requirements, the faculty council shall decide on the qualification equivalence. <sup>5</sup>At least one of the reviewers must be a member of the faculty. <sup>6</sup>The doctoral committee shall be composed of at least one representative of another research discipline (as listed in the Appendix 1). <sup>7</sup>If the doctoral thesis is supervised by two persons who are relatives or are in an official relationship, only one of them may act as a supervisor; in justified cases, the faculty council may decide on exceptions. <sup>8</sup>At least one external reviewer shall be appointed. <sup>9</sup>This shall neither be, or have been in the last five years a member or associate of the University, a member of any other scientific institution in Jena nor have produced any joint publications with the doctoral candidate or the supervisor in the last three years. <sup>10</sup>In justified cases, the faculty council may decide on exceptions regarding joint publications with external reviewers as being acceptable. <sup>11</sup> The majority of the committee members shall be professors.

- (2) The chairperson of the doctoral committee must be a professor at the faculty.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral committee meeting is quorate if at least four members are present. <sup>2</sup>Decisions may only be reached by a majority vote of the present members of the committee.
- (4) In case of short-term absence of one or more members, or of the chairperson of the doctoral committee and, if the doctoral committee is not able to perform its duties, the dean or the authorized vice dean shall be authorized to re-establish the work of the doctoral committee by appointing substitute members as determined in subsection 1.
- (5) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral committee decides on the acceptance, grade, or rejection of a doctoral thesis. <sup>2</sup>The committee also conducts the oral examination ("Disputation") in accordance with section 9 and evaluates the candidate's performance.
- (6) <sup>1</sup>Meetings of doctoral committees are not open to the public. <sup>2</sup>All decisions of the doctoral committee shall be put on record.



- (7) <sup>1</sup>The members of the committee shall treat the information disclosed in non-public meetings of the committee as confidential. This does not apply to the information that is already public. <sup>2</sup>Confidentiality obligations of the committee members originating from their official and employment relationships, remain unaffected.
- (8) <sup>1</sup>The rights of supervisors, reviewers, and those of the committee members to participate in examination procedures remains unaffected in case of their retirement. <sup>2</sup>It is the faculty council which shall decide on other rights to participate, in particular of those persons who are or are about to be employed by another institution.
- (9) The dean and vice dean have the right to attend the meetings of the doctoral committee in an advisory capacity.

## VI. Doctoral thesis

### § 8

- (1) In the doctoral thesis, doctoral candidates demonstrate their ability to obtain results which serve the development of the discipline on which the doctoral thesis is based.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral thesis may be submitted as a monograph or as a combination of previous publications (co-)authored by the doctoral candidate (cumulative thesis). <sup>2</sup>A cumulative thesis must include an introduction and a concluding discussion. <sup>3</sup>In addition, it shall include a presentation of the individual contribution and the contributions of other authors to the submitted publications. <sup>4</sup>Additional provisions shall be determined in specific regulations to be approved by the faculty council.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral thesis shall be written either in German or in English, and be submitted in a bound form as well as in an electronic version. <sup>2</sup>In justified cases, the faculty council may also allow another language. <sup>3</sup>The doctoral thesis shall include an abstract in German and in English.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral thesis shall include: a title page, a short CV outlining the candidate's scientific educational background, and the statement of authorship. <sup>2</sup>The objectives and the essential results of the work shall be summed up as brief statements on a separate sheet that is enclosed with the submitted doctoral thesis.
- (5) <sup>1</sup>The reviewers evaluate the submitted dissertation in detail and independently of each other, and decide whether it can be accepted as doctoral thesis. <sup>2</sup>They evaluate the scientific achievements described in the submitted doctoral thesis in a written review and mark it according to the following scale:

with distinction	1.0
excellent	1.3
good	1.7; 2.0, 2.3
satisfactory	2.7; 3.0
insufficient	4.0





- (6) <sup>1</sup>The reviews shall be submitted to the dean or authorized vice dean no later than two months after the opening of the doctoral examination procedure. <sup>2</sup>Any delays shall be justified. <sup>3</sup>If reviewers are not able to submit their reviews in due time, the faculty council may appoint other reviewers.
- (7) <sup>1</sup>The dean or the authorized vice dean shall inform the faculty's professors and other faculty members having a postdoctoral *Habilitation* qualification about the doctoral thesis and the reviews being available in the dean's office to be viewed for two weeks. <sup>2</sup>Within this period, faculty members as determined in sentence 1 are eligible to provide their opinion on the given doctoral thesis.
- (8) <sup>1</sup>If all reviewers recommend the doctoral thesis be accepted, the overall mark of the doctoral thesis shall be calculated based on the arithmetic average of the marks given in the reviews. <sup>2</sup>The average value shall be rounded off to two decimals. <sup>3</sup>While rounding the marks, the usual rules shall apply.
- (9) <sup>1</sup>If the numeric marks given in the reviews differ by at least two marks (2.0), the doctoral committee may recommend the faculty council to commission another external review (as defined in section 7 subsection 1) that can also be viewed by the doctoral candidate. \*The decision on commissioning a new review shall be made by the faculty council.
- (10) <sup>1</sup>Should one reviewer recommend the rejection of the doctoral thesis, the faculty council may request additional reviews. <sup>2</sup>The decision on the acceptance or rejection shall be reached taking all reviews into account. <sup>3</sup>Both decisions must be reached by a majority vote of the members of the faculty council present at the council meeting and holding a doctorate. <sup>4</sup>If the doctoral thesis is rejected by two reviewers, the examination procedure is considered as failed leading to the termination of the procedure. <sup>4</sup>If the doctoral thesis is rejected, the candidate may re-apply only once for a doctoral examination in the same field.
- (11) In case of a terminated examination procedure, a copy of the doctoral thesis and the reviews shall be included into the file at the faculty.
- (12) <sup>1</sup>The dean or the authorized vice dean shall notify the doctoral candidate about the termination of the doctoral examination procedure in writing. <sup>2</sup>In this case, the doctoral candidate is allowed to view the examination files.
- (13) If the examination procedure is continued after the acceptance of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral candidate may view the reviews after the date of the thesis defence has been set.

## VII. Thesis defence

### § 9

- (1) <sup>1</sup>After the doctoral thesis has been accepted, a public thesis defence shall take place. <sup>2</sup>The date of the thesis defence shall be determined by the chairperson of the doctoral committee who shall take into account the two-week period available to view the files in accordance with section 8 subsection 7. <sup>3</sup>The doctoral candidate, the members of the doctoral committee as well as the public shall be informed about the date of the thesis defence. <sup>4</sup>The dean's office shall send the theses to the members of the doctoral committee.



- (2) <sup>1</sup>The thesis defence shall be conducted by the chairperson of the doctoral committee. <sup>2</sup>The thesis defence shall be attended by at least three further members of the doctoral committee, including at least one representative of another discipline (refer to the disciplines listed in the Appendix 1).
- (3) The thesis defence in German or in English consists of a presentation (of up to 30 minutes) of the central results of the doctoral thesis, followed by a scientific discussion (usually between 30 and 60 minutes); in the discussion, doctoral candidates shall defend the results of their doctoral thesis and demonstrate their knowledge proving their ability to engage in the respective research discipline independently (refer to the Appendix 1) as well as that they have an overview of the state of the art in the given discipline.
- (4) The members of the doctoral committee shall be the first to pose questions.
- (5) <sup>1</sup>The chairperson of the doctoral committee shall provide minutes of the thesis defence which shall sum up the procedure, the central questions of the discussion, and the final mark of the thesis defence. <sup>2</sup>The thesis defence shall be marked in accordance with the scheme determined in section 8 subsection 5.
- (6) <sup>1</sup>Should doctoral candidates fail the thesis defence, they may apply once to repeat the thesis defence within 12 months; however, the second attempt shall not take place earlier than two months after the first one. <sup>2</sup>Should they not repeat the defence or fail it again, the doctoral examination procedure shall be considered unsuccessful and thus terminated. <sup>3</sup>The dean or the authorized vice dean shall send a corresponding notification to the doctoral candidate in accordance with section 18 subsection 1.

## VIII. Final mark of the doctorate

### § 10

- (1) Immediately after the thesis defence and taking the written statements as defined in section 8 subsection 7 into account, the doctoral committee shall consult on the mark for the thesis defence, the doctoral thesis, and on the overall final mark of the doctoral thesis project.
- (2) The following marks shall be used to determine the overall final mark:
- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| summa cum laude | = an outstanding performance in accordance with subsection 4; |
| magna cum laude | = a very good performance (1.0, 1.3);                         |
| cum laude       | = a good performance above average (1.7, 2.0, 2.3);           |
| rite            | = a performance meeting average requirements (2.7, 3.0).      |



- (3) <sup>1</sup>The overall final mark of the doctoral thesis project shall be based on the mark of the doctoral thesis (section 8 subsection 8) and on the mark of the thesis defence (section 9 subsection 5) in the relation 2/3 versus 1/3.

<sup>2</sup>The overall final mark of the doctoral thesis project shall be rounded to two decimals taking the usual standards for rounding off decimals into account. <sup>3</sup>As a result, the following scheme for determining the overall final mark shall be applied:

Overall final mark of the doctoral thesis project	Results in accordance with the calculation (see above)
1.0	smaller than 1.15
1.3	1.15 to <1.50
1.7	1.50 to <1.85
2.0	1.85 to <2.15
2.3	2.15 to <2.50
2.7	2.50 to <2.85
3.0	from 2.85.

- (4) The overall final mark of the doctoral thesis project of “summa cum laude” may only be conferred by the faculty council if the doctoral thesis and the thesis defence are marked 1.0 both, and there is a corresponding proposal from the doctoral committee.
- (5) The marks of the thesis defence and of the reviews as well as the proposed overall final mark shall be stated in the minutes of the doctoral examination procedure and submitted by the doctoral committee to the faculty council as a proposal for the overall final mark.
- (6) The chairperson of the doctoral committee shall inform the doctoral candidate about the mark of the thesis defence in person directly after the thesis defence.
- (7) <sup>1</sup>In its next meeting, the faculty council shall decide on the overall final mark of the doctoral thesis project and on the conferment of the doctoral degree by the majority vote of its members present and holding a doctorate. <sup>2</sup>With regard to the regulations on temporary contracts the doctoral examination procedure is then considered completed. <sup>3</sup>If the doctoral committee orders additional requirements to be fulfilled in accordance with section 11, the faculty council shall reach a corresponding decision after the requirements have been fulfilled.

## IX. Conferment of the doctorate and doctoral degree certificate

### § 11

<sup>1</sup>Upon request of the reviewers, the doctoral committee can demand from the doctoral candidate to remove any errors or deficiencies before the publication of the doctoral thesis. <sup>2</sup>It is the dean or the authorized vice dean who shall reach a decision regarding demands having been met.

### § 12

The dean or the authorized vice dean shall inform the doctoral candidate about the decision of the doctoral committee in writing and, given that all requirements are met, also about the obligation to publish the doctoral thesis and about the regulations on the completion of doctoral studies.



### § 13

- (1) After the acceptance of the doctoral thesis and the successful thesis defence, the doctoral candidate shall publish the doctoral thesis in an appropriate manner and submit the publication in accordance with subsection 2.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The obligation to publish the doctoral thesis is considered met if, in addition to four submitted copies of the doctoral thesis for the examination files, doctoral candidates submit compulsory copies to the Thuringian State and University Library (section 10 subsection 7) within two months after the faculty council has decided on the completion of the doctoral examination procedure in accordance with the corresponding provisions in the General Doctoral Regulations of the University. <sup>2</sup>Upon application by the doctoral candidate and upon the dean's or the authorized vice dean's approval, the submission deadline may be extended due to reasons related to data protection and copyright. <sup>3</sup>The submission deadline shall not be extended by more than two years. <sup>4</sup>In such cases, the doctoral candidate is allowed to use the doctoral title temporarily provided that at least a summary of the doctoral thesis has already been published.

### § 14

- (1) <sup>1</sup>When the requirements set in section 11 subsection 1 are met and the obligation to publish the doctoral thesis in accordance with section 13 is fulfilled, the doctoral candidate is conferred a doctoral degree certificate which shall be signed by the president and the dean, and include the seal of the University. <sup>2</sup>The date of the oral examination shall be marked as the date of completion of the doctoral programme.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Having received the doctoral degree certificate, doctoral candidates may use the doctoral degree as a title. <sup>2</sup>Applicants may be given a temporary consent to use the title before the conferral of the doctoral degree certificate, provided the fulfilment of all other requirements is proven. <sup>3</sup>This decision shall be issued by the dean.
- (3) Upon request, the doctoral candidate may receive the doctoral degree certificate in English.
- (4) In case of joint doctoral examination procedures which are part of collaborations in accordance with section 15, a doctoral degree certificate shall be conferred in accordance with the provisions of the General Doctoral Regulations.

## **X. Joint doctoral examination procedure with other institutions of higher education**

### § 15

Regarding joint doctoral examination procedures with other institutions of higher education, the provisions as defined in sections 15–19 of the General Doctoral Regulations of the University shall apply accordingly.



## **XI. Deception and revocation of the doctorate**

### **§ 16**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral degree shall be revoked if the doctoral candidate deceived when providing supporting documents for admission or during the doctoral examination procedure. The same applies if any facts might be given that would have prevented the conferral of the doctoral degree. <sup>2</sup>The decision to revoke the doctoral degree shall be accepted by majority vote of the council's members holding a doctorate; prior to decision, the doctoral candidate shall be given the opportunity to be heard.
- (2) If the admission requirements were not met, this being known after the doctoral degree certificate was already conferred, and the doctoral candidate did not obtain the status by deception, the lack of requirements shall be considered remedied through successful completion of the doctoral examination procedure.
- (3) In addition to the provisions above, the revocation of the doctorate is subject to the general legal provisions.

## **XII. Right of inspection**

### **§ 17**

After the completion of the examination procedure, the doctoral candidates have the right to view the documentation of the procedure. Section 8 subsections 9 and 13 remain unaffected.

## **XIII. Right of appeal in the doctoral examination procedure**

### **§ 18**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The applicant shall be informed about the decisions on the admission to a doctoral programme and on the acceptance or rejection of the doctoral thesis in writing. <sup>2</sup>The faculty council and/or the doctoral committee must give the reasoning for each adverse decision, and inform the candidate about their right to legal redress.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>Within a month after the date of notification, the concerned party may file a written appeal to the president of the University. <sup>2</sup>Upon obtaining a statement from the University's Legal Office, the faculty council shall decide on the appeal with a majority vote of its members holding a doctorate. <sup>3</sup>After obtaining the dean's counter-signature, the notification on the objection shall be issued by the president.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>Appeal and the appeal procedure shall be governed by the relevant administrative court procedures. <sup>2</sup>Section 133 of ThürHG shall apply accordingly.



#### **XIV. Honorary doctorate and jubilee doctorate**

##### **§ 19**

- (1) To praise outstanding scientific achievements or other special merits, the University may award honorary degrees. Being a rare distinction, these may be conferred by the faculty for any of the fields that it represents in accordance with section 1 subsection 2.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>In order to confer an honorary doctorate, at least three professors of the faculty must submit a written statement on the nominee. <sup>2</sup>In addition, an external review is required.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>Upon appraisal of all opinions submitted, the faculty council shall decide on the nomination of an honorary doctorate with a three-fourths majority vote of its members holding a doctorate. <sup>2</sup>Prior to its decision, the Senate shall be given the opportunity to comment.
- (4) As a rule, the president and the dean shall award an honorary doctorate at a celebratory event to which the members of the Senate and of the Faculty are invited. The honorary doctorate presents the achievements of the nominee in form of a certificate which is signed by the president and the dean.

##### **§ 20**

- (1) The doctoral degree certificate may be renewed on the 50th anniversary of the date of its initial conferral if this is considered appropriate in light of the scientific merits or the close ties of the recipient with the University.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The anniversary certificate shall be awarded upon the proposal from the dean and the approval from the faculty council. <sup>2</sup>It should be signed by the president and the dean.

#### **XV. Mediation with ombudspersons**

##### **§ 21**

Regarding the mediation with ombudspersons, section 25 of the General Doctoral Regulations shall apply accordingly.

#### **XVI. General provisions**

##### **§ 22**

Unless these regulations shall specify otherwise, the General Doctoral Regulations of the University shall apply.



## XVII. Coming into effect and transitional provisions

### § 23

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Applicants who were admitted to doctoral programmes before the present regulations, i.e. based on the Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Biology and Pharmacy from 4 December 2012 (journal of legal notices of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, *Verkündungsblatt*; no 1/2013, p. 2) have the right to complete their doctoral programme in accordance with the former version of the regulations. <sup>2</sup>The right to vote expires after six months from the date on which the regulations came into effect.
- (2) For applicants who have been accepted or supervised as doctoral students at another university, and whose scientific adviser has recently been appointed to a position at the University, the requirements for admission to apply to an examination procedure and to begin the examination procedure of the original university shall also apply at the University.
- (3) As a general rule, the doctoral examination procedure shall be conducted in accordance with subsection 1, however, always in accordance with the doctoral examination regulations of the faculty.

### § 24

<sup>1</sup>These doctoral examination regulations shall come into effect on the first day of the month following their announcement in the journal of legal notices of the University. <sup>2</sup>At the same time, the General Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Biology and Pharmacy adopted on 4 December 2012 (announced in the journal of legal notices of the University, no. 1/2013, p. 2) cease to be in force.

Jena, 23 September 2019

Prof. Dr Walter Rosenthal

President of the Friedrich Schiller University  
Jena

Prof. Dr Frank Hellwig

Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences



## Appendix 1

Research (sub)disciplines for doctoral thesis projects

1. biochemistry
2. biophysics
3. bioinformatics
4. botany
5. didactics in biology
6. nutritional sciences
7. genetics
8. history of natural sciences
9. immunology
10. microbiology
11. molecular biology
12. molecular biomedicine
13. chemistry of natural compounds
14. ecology
15. pharmacy
16. cellular biology
17. zoology