

Regulations

governing the implementation of the curriculum for the degree of **Doktorat der Bodenkultur (Doctor of Agricultural Sciences)** (Dr. nat. techn.) enacted by the Senate resolution on 5 July 2006.

§3 (3)

The doctoral programme should be fashioned on a project basis (= intended project) and thus guarantee legal certainty for all parties involved, as well as a maximum of transparency within the university and public presence.

The dissertation proposal should refer to the project and include the following information based on the curriculum on maximum 2 DIN A4 pages:

- the dissertation topic (proposal of advisor or student's proposal),
- name of advisor (with *venia docendi*),
- work schedule approved by the advisor including
 - the advisory team
(aside from the advisor formed by one or more expert (persons with a postdoctoral lecture qualification preferred) advisors who – in contrast to current situation – monitor the progress of the candidate; potential reviewers and examiners – with *venia docendi* – may also be part of the advisory team). The (official) selection of a doctoral approach by the advisory team should be recognised university-wide (performance agreement).
 - Time schedule (including deadline)
 - Resource plan
(utilisation of infrastructure, material, necessary salaries, etc.; approval by responsible department head necessary)
- Proposal for doctoral courses (see item §5 (1))

The doctoral project, in particular, the topic, proposed courses and advisors are to be approved unless officially rejected by the Dean within one month after notification (=partial agreement).

A new advisor or topic may be chosen any time prior to submission of the dissertation. In this event, a new project proposal is to be submitted. When coursework is changed the partial agreement is to be adapted accordingly (see below ad § 5(1)).

§5(1) and (3)

The student and his or her advisor are responsible for selecting all courses necessary for completion of the doctoral programme. The advisor shall confirm (as previously) with his or her signature on the "project" proposal the selection of courses.

Courses should be selected in accordance with the following requirements:

1. not more than 50% of all courses should be instructed by the advisor;
2. courses pertaining to bachelor's programs are not acceptable; and
3. "subject specific terminology", "guidelines for scientific research" or "excursions" are not acceptable as part of the doctoral curriculum.

The list of courses is to be approved by the Dean along with an official approval for the entire project (as per previous partial agreement).

The list of courses may be modified any time prior to submission of the dissertation. However, no exams may be taken in modified subjects prior to approval by the Dean (see above § 3 approval).

The Dean may consult with the Chair of the Board of Studies regarding the evaluation of courses ("do they conform to the dissertation topic?").

§6 (1)

Upon approval of the advisor and the Dean, it is permitted to submit several previously published scientific works that pertain to one topic ("cumulative dissertation") and comply with the requirements of (2) in lieu of preparing a graduation paper for a specific project ("monograph"). In this event all pertinent research is to be summarised ("framework paper") including a list of research topics, methods and the scientific and practical relevance of the research.

Based on previous regulations of the Board of Studies for Doctoral Programmes "cumulative" dissertations are to comply with the following requirements: at least 2 publications, a minimum two of which are to be SCI publications and at least 2 produced as main author or equally contributing author (in the event of cooperation with other academic disciplines). Thus, ideally the requirements are adequately met with 2 SCI publications as main author (or equivalent). Publications in journals that are recognised by the Vice-Rector for Research as equivalent to SCI journals, are regarded as SCI publications. Such publications are to have been accepted or at least accepted with minor revisions and the revised version is to be presented.

A total of four copies with fixed-binding bearing the imprint of the names on the spine are to be submitted to the Dean's Office. Each of the two reviewers shall receive one copy; one copy is to be given to the Austrian National Library and one to the University Library (see homepage Dean's Office).

§6 (5)

Along with the submission of the dissertation, the candidate is asked to indicate his or her chosen date for the second part of the *Viva Voce* Examination. Thus, the Dean has sufficient time 1. to obtain evaluations and 2. to appoint an Examination Board.

§6 (6)

Please observe the following changes: no longer is the advisor in charge of reviewing the dissertation, but independent reviewers (including at least one reviewer from another department).

However, the advisor may still conduct the examination of the *Viva Voce* and be a member of the Examination Board.

§7 (1)

When the dissertation is assessed as satisfactory (the reviewers are allotted 4 months for preparing a written evaluation report with the proposed grade), the Dean is responsible for determining a date for the second part of the *Viva Voce* Examination by taking into account preferences of the student and the Examination Board.

§7 (2)

The Examination Board includes at least two examiners and the Chair of the Examination Board.

The Chair is nominated based on the pool of candidates approved by the Senate; currently this pool includes the following candidates:

- KTWW (Kastanek, Strelec)
- AW (Kaul, Sölkner)
- LBT (Glössl, Kneifel, Kosma)
- FWHW (Sterba, Glatzel)
- LAP (Schneider G.)

The second part of the *Viva Voce* may be performed as an examination or defence of the dissertation. Both options should not last longer than 90 minutes.

If the *Viva Voce* is held as a defence of the dissertation, the following time schedule should be observed:

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|------------------------------------|-----------|
| – Presentation of the dissertation | 15-30 min |
| – Defence of the dissertation | 30-45 min |

“Oral examinations” are held publicly, thus an audience is welcome in keeping with the concept of an open university. Based on space requirements admission may be restricted. For oral examinations held before the Examination Board, each member of the Examination Board is required to sit in during the entire examination. All members of the Examination Board may pose questions to the candidate.

Both versions for the second part of the *Viva Voce* allow for the audience and reviewers to ask questions if time permits.

Thus, the examination regulations for each curriculum are not referred to by a separate paragraph but comprise paragraphs 3-7 and are explained in guidelines.

Enacted by the Board of Studies
in a meeting held on 11 January 2006