

**General Doctorate Regulations of the  
Ruhr University of Bochum**  
of November 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

Owing to Section 2 Par. 4 in conjunction with Section 67 Par. 3 and 4 of the Universities Act of the Federal State of North-Rhine Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz - HG) of 31 October 2006 (Legislative Decree NRW. p. 474), last amended by the law of 3 December 2013 (Legislative Decree NRW. p. 723), the Ruhr-University of Bochum has issued the following General Doctorate Regulations:

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**Preamble**

At the Ruhr-University of Bochum there is the possibility to study for a doctorate in all subjects and the main focuses of research represented at the university.

With these General Doctorate Regulations the Ruhr-University of Bochum expresses its responsibility for all doctorate studies by

- guaranteeing a high level of transparency and quality of the procedure and thus contributing to the quality assurance;
- setting both university-wide standards as well as taking the requirements for subject-specific regulations into account;

- facilitating planned interdisciplinary and cross-university conferral of doctorates.

Within the framework of the regulations of these General Doctorate Regulations of the Ruhr-University of Bochum the structure of the doctorate studies and the execution of the doctoral proceedings the involved faculties or institutions which conduct doctoral procedure. The faculties or institutions which conduct doctoral procedure take these regulations over into their specific Doctorate Regulations by specifying and supplementing the regulations of these General Doctorate Regulations by subject-specific provisions.

The Research School supported by all faculties submits an interdisciplinary and extracurricular qualification offer to all doctoral candidates and enables each doctoral candidate to accordingly structure the doctoral studies according to subject-specific provisions and their own preferences.

Doctoral candidates will be seen as junior researchers.

The Ruhr-University of Bochum considers itself committed to a high supervision culture, which becomes visible by a supervision agreement signed by the doctoral candidates and their supervisors.

All doctoral candidates are obliged to enrol at the university according to Section 67 Par. 5 HG. The enrolment presumes the acceptance as a doctoral candidate by the involved faculty(faculties) or institution(s) conducting the doctoral procedure.

### **Section 1 Doctoral degree**

- (1) The Ruhr-University of Bochum confers the doctoral degree through its faculties or institutions which conduct doctoral procedure.
- (2) The doctoral degree can be conferred as a “Dr.“ or as a “Philosophiae Doctor“ (Ph.D.).
- (3) The following doctoral degrees can be acquired at the Ruhr-University of Bochum:
  - Doctor of Theology (Dr. theol.) in the Faculties for Evangelical Theology and for Catholic Theology
  - Doctor of Philosophy (Dr. phil.) in the Faculties for Educational Studies and Philosophy, for Studies of History, for East Asian Studies, for Philology, for Sport Studies, for Psychology and for Geosciences
  - Doctor of Law (Dr. iur.) in the Faculty of Law
  - Doctor of Economics (Dr. rer. oec.) in the Faculty for Economics
  - Doctor of Social Studies (Dr. rer. soc.) in the Faculty for Social Studies
  - Doctor of Sport Studies (Dr. Sportwiss.) in the Faculty for Sport Studies
  - Doctor of Engineering (Dr.-Ing.) in the Faculties for Construction and Environmental Engineering Studies, for Electrical Engineering and Information Technology and for Mechanical Engineering
  - Doctor of Natural Sciences (Dr. rer. nat.) in the Faculties for Sport Studies, for Psychology, for Mathematics, for Physics and Astronomy, for Geosciences, for Chemistry and Biochemistry and for Biology and Biotechnology
  - Doctor of Medicine (Dr. med.) and Doctor of Dental Medicine (Dr. med. dent.) in the Faculty of Medicine
  - “Philosophiae Doctor‘ (Ph.D.) in Neuroscience“ in the International Graduate School of Neuroscience IGSN
  - “Philosophiae Doctor‘ (Ph.D.) in International Development Studies” in the doctoral study course “International Development Studies“
- (4) The Ruhr-University of Bochum can confer further doctoral degrees in addition to those

stated through its faculties or institutions which conduct doctoral procedure.

- (5) An already conferred doctoral degree cannot be acquired once more.
- (6) At the Ruhr-University of Bochum a doctoral degree can also be conferred as an honorary degree for special scientific services or for services to science as a Doctor honoris causa (Dr. h. c.) or as a Philosophiae Doctor honoris causa (Ph.D. h.c.).

### **Section 2 Purpose of the doctoral studies**

An ability for independent scientific work, which goes beyond the general study target according to Section 58 Par. 1 HG is proven through the doctoral studies. The ability is determined based on a written work (dissertation), which extends the status of knowledge in its specialist subject area, and an oral examination.

### **Section 3 Doctorate committee**

- (1) The doctorate committee of the faculty or the institution which conducts the doctoral procedure will decide about the execution of the doctoral proceedings as well as about all questions concerning the compliance with the doctorate regulations. The doctorate committee can assign the settlement of the regular business to its chairman or chairwoman. In line with the subject-specific provisions of the faculties or institutions which conduct doctoral procedure either the doctorate committee or the faculty council is the instance for objections within the meaning of the Administrative Court regulations.
- (2) The following members of the faculty or the institution which conducts the doctoral procedure can belong to the doctorate committee:
  1. all full-time professors,
  2. all junior professors,
  3. all persons who are qualified as professors, private lecturers and non-scheduled professors,
  4. members from the group of the research assistants, of whom at least one should have a doctorate,
  5. members from the group of doctorate candidates.

The faculties or the institutions which conduct doctoral procedure can appoint further members as members of the doctorate committee as well as stipulate the periods of office. Members from the groups according to Subclauses 4 and 5, who do not have a doctorate, have no voting right with decisions, of which the object is the assessment of scientific contents.

- (3) The specific doctorate regulations determine the electorate procedures and stipulate the composition of the doctorate committee. It is to be ensured hereby that the doctorate committee is formed from the the groups stated in Par. 2 Subclauses 1 to 5 by safeguarding the majority of the votes of the groups stated in Par. 2 Subclauses 1 to 3.
- (4) The chairman or chairwoman of the doctorate committee is either the dean or a representative named by her or him or she or he will be elected from amongst the members of the doctorate committee, as well as one representative. The chairman or the chairwoman and the deputy chairman or chairwoman must be a member of the groups stated in Par. 2 Subclauses 1 to 3.

- (5) The members according to Par. 2 Subclauses 4 and 5 shall respectively be elected with the majority of the votes by the members of their group represented in the faculty council or the corresponding executive bodies of the institutions which conduct doctoral procedure. A re-election is permitted.
- (6) The meetings of the doctorate committee are not public. They will be convened by the chairman or the chairwoman. The doctorate committee shall have a quorum if the majority of its members are present. It shall make its decisions in all concerns with the majority of the members who are present and entitled to vote. Other forms of voting are also permitted and will be stipulated by the specific doctorate regulations. In case of an equal number of votes the vote of the chairman or chairwoman will be decisive. Resolution minutes are to be prepared for each meeting under the responsibility of the chairman or chairwoman.
- (7) The doctorate committee in particular has the following tasks:
  1. Decision about the acceptance of the doctoral candidate,
  2. Decision about the admission to the doctoral proceedings,
  3. Appointment of the reviewers,
  4. Stipulation of studies to prepare for the doctoral procedure according to Section 5 Par. 1 Letter b,
  5. Stipulation of further study performances as well as other performances according to Section 5 Par. 2,
  6. Opening of the doctoral proceedings with the appointment of the doctoral board according to Section 10,
  7. Stipulation of the date for the oral examination, if the examination is not passed the setting of a deadline for the repeat examination,
  8. Stipulation of the unsuccessful termination of the doctoral proceedings.
  9. Further tasks can be stipulated by the specific doctoral regulations.
- (8) The decisions of the doctorate committee concerning the unsuccessful termination of the doctoral proceedings are to be notified to the candidate in writing by stating the reasons. The notification is to be issued with instructions on rights to appeal.
- (9) The doctorate committee can delegate individual tasks for execution according to Par. 7 to the chairman or chairwoman.

#### **Section 4 Interdisciplinary doctorate committee**

- (1) In case of interdisciplinary doctoral proceedings a joint doctorate committee can be installed at the proposal of the first reviewer or the first supervisor by the doctorate committees of the involved faculties or institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure, which consists of the doctorate committee chairman of the involved faculties or institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure of the Ruhr-University of Bochum and at least four further members from the respective faculties or institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure. This interdisciplinary doctorate committee will only exist for the duration of the doctoral proceedings.
- (2) The further members of the interdisciplinary doctorate committee will be elected by the doctorate committees of the involved faculties or institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure for the duration of the proceedings and will be recruited from the status groups stated under Section 3 Par. 2.
- (3) As a rule the degree of "Philosophiae doctor" (Ph.D.) is granted in case of interdisciplinary

doctoral proceedings. Upon application one of the other degrees of the involved faculties stated in Section 1 Par. 3 can also be granted.

- (4) In the event of interdisciplinary doctoral proceedings the deans of the faculties or institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure concerned will independently regulate the administrative responsibilities for the proceedings by mutual agreement.
- (5) Section 3 Par. 6, 7 and 8 as well as Section 19 shall apply accordingly.

### **Section 5 Pre-requisites for the doctoral studies**

- (1) A person will be admitted to the doctoral studies who
  - a) is conferred a qualification after relevant university studies with a standard study period of at least eight semesters, for which another degree than “Bachelor” is conferred, or
  - b) proves a qualification after relevant institute of higher education studies with a standard study period of at least eight semesters and subsequent appropriate studies in the doctoral subjects which prepare for the doctoral procedure, or
  - c) a qualification of a Master study course within the meaning of Section 61 Par. 2 Sentence 2 HG.
- (2) The admission to the doctoral studies depends on the proof of a suitable qualification. More detailed regulations are determined in the specific doctorate regulations of the faculties or the institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure. They can request proof of further study performances as well as other performances, which allow the recognition of suitability for doctoral studies. Candidates with a qualification of a university of applied sciences and a university are to be treated equally with the admission for the doctoral studies.
- (3) If preparatory studies are to be stipulated for the doctoral studies these will be proposed according to an individual stipulation of the status of knowledge by coordination with the candidates and the supervisors. More detailed regulations in this respect can if applicable be regulated by regulations for doctoral preparatory studies of the faculties or the institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure.
- (4) The same pre-requisites shall apply to candidates, who have acquired their study qualification in countries outside of the European Union, insofar as the equivalence of the qualification has been determined. The doctorate committee shall decide about the equivalence of the qualifications based on intrastate agreements, the classification of the institute of higher education, at which the qualification was acquired, and owing to agreements with partner institutes of higher education. In case of doubts about the equivalence the central department for foreign education systems should be heard.
- (5) For the admission to the doctoral studies at the Ruhr-University of Bochum the doctorate committee must have determined that the candidate has sufficient knowledge in a customary academic language – e.g. German or English. More detailed specifications are regulated in the specific doctorate regulations.

### **Section 6 Acceptance of the doctoral candidate**

- (1) An application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate is to be sent to the chairman or

chairwoman of the specialist responsible doctorate committee in writing by stating the working title of the planned dissertation. The matriculation as a doctoral candidate at the Ruhr-University of Bochum as well as the admission to the RUB Research School is associated with the acceptance.

- (2) The following are at least to be enclosed with the application:
1. a curriculum vitae with the details of the educational path,
  2. a final certificate according to Section 5 Par. 1 or who is endeavouring to achieve a doctorate in medicine, the successful qualification of the first state examination in medicine,
  3. a certificate which entitles to study at a German institute of higher education or another admission authorisation for an institute of higher education,
  4. a supervision agreement according to Section 7 Par. 6,
  5. the acknowledgement of the “guidelines of good scientific practice” in the respective actual version documented with a signature.

More detailed specifications are regulated in the specific doctorate regulations.

- (3) The doctorate committee will decide about the acceptance of the doctoral candidate. The acceptance must be refused if
- a) the formal pre-requisites for the doctoral studies do not exist,
  - b) no competent member is available at the Ruhr-University of Bochum in order to act as one of the two supervisors,
  - c) the provision of the work equipment and/or the workplace is not secured.
- (4) The doctorate committee can neither induce a member of the Ruhr-University of Bochum to accept or refuse a candidate as a doctoral candidate, nor can doctoral candidates be allocated to a member of the Ruhr-University of Bochum for supervision against their will.
- (5) The decision will be notified to the candidate in writing. If applicable, conditions will be formulated herein according to Section 5 Par. 2 and 3. A rejection is to be substantiated. The candidate will be included in the directory of doctorate candidates with the acceptance. The acceptance as a doctoral candidate is not connected with a decision about the admission to the doctoral proceedings.

### **Section 6a Doctoral study courses and programmes**

Should faculties or institutions which conduct doctoral procedure structure the doctoral studies by doctoral programmes or doctoral study courses they have the possibility to express this in an additional Section 6a:

The doctoral candidates are enrolled in the doctoral study course of the faculty (name) or the institution which conducts the doctoral procedure (name). More detailed specifications are regulated in the doctoral study regulations of the faculty or the institution which conducts the doctoral procedure.

### **Section 7 Supervision and supervision agreement**

- (1) With the acceptance of the doctoral candidate an entitlement will be established to the occupation by the doctorate committee and the supervision by at least two supervisors as well as authorisation according to Section 9 for the expert review of the dissertation. The first

supervisor must be experts in the subject area which is relevant for the planned doctoral procedure. The further supervisor can represent another specialist subject field than the first supervisor.

- (2) Only doctors can be appointed as a supervisor of planned doctoral procedure. More detailed specifications are regulated in the specific doctorate regulations.
- (3) A supervisor according to Par. 2 can also be a member of another domestic and foreign institute of higher education. If a supervisor is a member of another institute of higher education the other supervisor must be a member of the faculty or an institution which conducts the doctoral procedure of the Ruhr-University of Bochum, in which the doctoral proceedings are carried out.
- (4) With the existence of an important reason the doctorate committee can appoint other suitable academics as supervisors over the course of the doctoral studies at the application of the supervisor or the doctoral candidate. An important reason exists in particular in the irretrievable breakdown of the relationship of trust of the parties involved.
- (5) In cases of conflict the responsible doctorate committee and – for doctoral candidates – the ombudsman of the RUB Research School as well as – for the supervisors – the ombudsman of the RUB will be available as contacts.
- (6) The rights and duties of doctoral candidates as well as of supervisors are regulated in a supervision agreement, which must at least contain the following elements:
  1. Name of the doctoral candidate, name of the first supervisor and the start of the planned doctoral procedure,
  2. Working title of the intended dissertation,
  3. The setting of a deadline for the submission of an exposé after or at the start of the planned doctoral procedure, which describes the research questions of the intended dissertation, the status of the literature as well as the research methods. More detailed specifications are regulated in the specific doctorate regulations.
  4. Signatures of the doctoral candidates and the supervisor. The name and the signature of the second supervisor can be submitted subsequently by no later than twelve months after the application has been filed.
  5. Details of the intended doctoral title according to Section I.

### **Section 8 Structuring of the doctoral studies**

- (1) The Ruhr-University of Bochum offers doctoral candidates the possibility for the structuring of their doctoral studies. Depending on the requirements the doctoral candidates can acquire a qualification profile which is coordinated to their individual research project by using the qualification offers of the faculties or the institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure of the RUB Research School.
- (2) The specific doctorate regulations can make binding stipulations for subject-specific formats of the structured doctoral studies.
- (3) Events from graduate schools, doctoral study courses or other subject-specific formats of the structured doctoral studies and events of the RUB Research School can be mutually recognised according to the binding stipulations.

## **Section 9 Admission to the doctoral proceedings**

- (1) After completion of the dissertation the doctoral candidate will file a written application for the opening of the doctoral proceedings to the chairman or the chairwoman of the responsible doctorate committee. The following are to be enclosed with the application:
1. printed copies of the dissertation,
  2. the dissertation in an electronic form as a document which can be searched through in the full text,
  3. supplementary documents, insofar as necessary according to Section 5,
  4. a signed declaration enclosed with the work with the following or corresponding wording: "I assure in place of an oath that I have written the submitted dissertation independently and without any inadmissible external help, not used any other literature than that stated in the dissertation and that I have marked all fully or approximately taken over text parts as well as used graphics, tables and evaluation programmes. In addition I assure that the submitted electronic version of the dissertation corresponds with the written version and that the treatment in this or a similar form has not been submitted and assessed yet elsewhere as a doctorate performance.",
  5. the declaration that digital diagrams only contain the original data or a clear documentation of the type and scope of the image processing which changes the contents,
  6. the written assurance that no commercial mediation or advice was used,
  7. proposal of the academic title which is to be conferred according to Section 1,
  8. if applicable, a declaration of the candidate concerning the exclusion of the university public with the oral examination within the meaning of Section 63 Par. 4 HG, if applicable to be subsequently submitted by the end of the display period according to Section 12 Par. 6.

More detailed specifications with regard to the annexes Subclauses 1 to 8 and further annexes which are to be enclosed with the application will be defined by the specific doctorate regulations.

- (2) The doctorate committee will decide owing to the submitted documents about the opening of the doctoral proceedings and appoint the doctoral board. The opening can be refused if the candidate
- a) has not or not fully submitted the documents by the fixed deadlines,
  - b) he or she has applied for the admission at another university at the same time,
  - c) did not write parts of the dissertation himself/herself or has not clearly marked the take-over of thoughts of third parties.

The opening can also be refused if one of the reasons stated in Section 17 Par. 4 exists for the withdrawal of the doctoral degree with the candidate.

- (3) The decision will be notified to the candidate in writing. A rejection is to be substantiated and issued with instructions for rights of appeal.

## **Section 10 Doctoral board**

- (1) For each doctoral proceedings the doctorate committee will appoint a doctoral board with one chairman or chairwoman. The chairman or chairwoman of the doctoral board will be determined by the doctorate committee from the among the members of the faculty or institution which conducts the doctoral procedure stated in Section 3 Par. 2 under Subclauses



- 1 and 2. The doctoral board is the body which is responsible for assessing the doctoral performances as well as for the execution of the oral examination.
- (2) The doctoral board should consist of at least the chairman or the chairwoman and the reviewers of the dissertation. More detailed specifications will be regulated in the specific doctorate regulations. Should the supervision and the expert reviewing not be carried out by one person, the supervisor can also be a member of the doctoral board. They are to be selected from the group of persons named under Section 7 Par. 2 and 3.
  - (3) Each dissertation will be assessed by at least two expert reviews, of which one can be created by a reviewer, who is not a member of the Ruhr-University of Bochum. More detailed specifications are regulated by the specific doctorate regulations. The reviewers are obliged to submit independent written expert's reviews.
  - (4) All members of the doctoral board have a voting right. The doctoral board shall pass resolutions with a simple majority of the votes. In case of an equal number of votes the vote of the chairman or the chairwoman will be decisive or, depending on the specific doctorate regulations, the vote of the first supervisor or the first reviewer. An abstention is not permitted.
  - (5) Should an already appointed member of the doctoral board not be in the position to carry out the doctoral proceedings (e.g. due to failure owing to illness) then the chairman or the chairwoman of the doctorate committee will appoint a substitute member.

## **Section II Dissertation**

- (1) With the dissertation the doctorate candidate must prove the ability for the independent research work in his or her research field. The dissertation must contain own new scientific results, which satisfy scientific demands in their presentation.
- (2) The dissertation may not have been used or be used in any other doctoral proceedings or comparable proceedings at a university at home or overseas insofar as not otherwise derived from these regulations.
- (3) An advance publication of dissertation results is possible. Results published in advance are to be marked in the dissertation.
- (4) If the dissertation was produced from joint research work then the individual contribution of the candidate must be documented or elaborated accordingly.
- (5) The specific doctorate regulations regulate whether and under which standards a publication-based or cumulative dissertation is possible.
- (6) The dissertation can be withdrawn by the doctoral candidate as long as no expert's review is available. In this case the dissertation will be deemed as not submitted and the doctoral proceedings as not opened. If the doctoral candidate withdraws the dissertation at a later time then the doctorate proceedings will be ended unsuccessfully.
- (7) One copy of the dissertation will be stored according to the "guidelines concerning the storage, separate selection, archiving and destruction of files", even if the proceedings are ended unsuccessfully.
- (8) The design and the scope of the dissertation as well as more details relating to Paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 will be regulated by the specific doctorate regulations.

### **Section 12 Assessment of the dissertation**

- (1) The dissertation will be forwarded to the reviewers by the doctorate committee. They will recommend the acceptance, supplementation, revision or rejection of the work to the doctorate committee as a rule within three months after the forwarding of the dissertation respectively in independent written expert's reviews. In the event of the acceptance they will at the same time propose an assessment.
- (2) The doctoral board or the doctorate committee will stipulate the doctor title, which is to be granted, owing to a proposal of the doctoral candidate, the submitted dissertation and the specialist field of the dissertation.
- (3) The return of the dissertation and the re-submission in line with Section 11 Par. 6 are only possible one time. In case of re-submission the dissertation is a a rule to be submitted to the same reviewers as before it was returned.
- (4) The reviewers can combine their assessment with conditions for the supplementation and revision of the dissertation for the printing.
- (5) The dissertation and the expert's review will be made accessible to the members of the doctoral board of the involved faculties as well as all members of the doctorate committee by a suitable procedure which secures the confidentiality by the dean's office.
- (6) All members of the faculty or the institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure, who have doctorates, are entitled to make a statement regarding the dissertation and the expert's review, whereby the statement must be reported during the display period and as a rule submitted to the dean within the display period.
- (7) A decision will be made about the final acceptance or rejection of the dissertation based on the expert's reviews and possible statements.
- (8) If the dissertation is rejected then the doctoral proceedings are ended. Another work or a fundamentally revised version of the previous work with the same subject can be submitted after half a year at the earliest. If this is rejected once again then further attempts at a doctorate are not permitted at the Ruhr-University of Bochum.
- (9) The type of the assessment, the handling of assessment differences between the expert's reviews, the right to make a statements regarding the dissertation and the expert's reviews as well as more detailed specifications relating to Paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be regulated by the specific doctorate regulations.

### **Section 13 Oral examination**

- (1) If the dissertation has been accepted the doctorate committee will stipulate the date for the oral examination at the proposal of the chairman or chairwoman of the doctoral board by mutual agreement with the candidate. The oral examination is to be carried out within six months after the submission of the dissertation. The date is to be notified to the doctoral candidate by no later than two weeks in advance. If the candidate misses an examination date or if the examination is interrupted then the examination will be deemed as not passed unless there is an important reason, which must be reported immediately in writing and substantiated. For the event of the illness a medical certificate is to be submitted. If the doctoral board acknowledges the reason a new examination date will be fixed.

- (2) At least one part of the oral examination must refer to the specialist field, in which the dissertation was produced. In addition, the type and scope of the oral examination will be regulated in the specific doctorate regulations.
- (3) The oral examination is open to the university public according to Section 63 Par. 4 HG. If a declaration according to Section 9 Par. 1 Subclause 8 is available then the public is to be excluded. Guests can be invited. The doctorate committee is not counted as public.
- (4) Minutes are to be kept concerning the oral examination that are to be signed by the members of the doctoral board.
- (5) If the oral examination is assessed as not passed then it can be repeated one time. A further repetition is only possible in substantiated exceptional cases after the approval by the doctorate committee. Section 13 Par. 1 shall apply accordingly to repeat examinations.

#### **Section 14 Assessment of the doctoral procedure**

- (1) Directly after the termination of the oral examination the doctoral board shall decide in a non-public meeting whether the performance of the doctoral candidate in the oral examination also satisfies the requirements stated in Section 2.
- (2) In case of a positive decision the doctoral board will assess the oral examination with a grade.
- (3) The doctoral board will then stipulate an overall grade for the doctoral procedure by taking the awards of the dissertation and the oral examination into consideration. The type and specific weighting of the individual grades will be regulated by the specific doctorate regulations.
- (4) In an excellent exceptional case and by assessing the overall impression the doctoral board can award the overall grade of “with distinction” or “summa cum laude”. More details in this respect are regulated by the specific doctorate regulations.
- (5) The chairman or chairwoman of the doctoral board shall inform the doctoral candidate under the exclusion of the public of the results of the deliberations directly after the decision of the doctoral board.
- (6) In case of a passed examination the doctoral procedure is completed and the chairman or chairwoman of the doctorate committee shall issue a provisional certificate in this respect at the request of the doctoral candidate. This certificate does not yet entitle to use the doctor title.

#### **Section 15 Legal remedies**

- (1) Rejecting decisions, which are made according to these regulations, are to be substantiated in writing, issued with instruction for rights to appeal and announced to the doctoral candidate.
- (2) An objection can be filed against decisions of the doctoral board and the doctorate committee in writing or for the record with the chairman or the chairwoman of the doctorate committee or the faculty council according to the regulations of the Administrative Court regulations within one month after the announcement insofar as the notification relates to the assessment of an examination performance.
- (3) The doctorate committee or the faculty council can change decisions, against which an

objection is filed. If the objection is directed against the assessment of a doctorate performance by the doctoral board then an amending decision can only be made with the consent of that doctoral board, which decided the contested assessment. If the objection is not remedied then an objection notification will be issued by the chairman or the chairwoman of the doctorate committee or the faculty council. The objection notification is to be substantiated, issued with instructions for rights to appeal and served.

- (4) After the completion of the doctoral proceedings the candidate or an agent authorised by him or her is entitled to inspect all written doctoral procedure documents. The doctoral procedure files are not accessible to third parties.

### **Section 16 Mandatory copies and publication**

- (1) After a passed oral examination the chairman or the chairwoman of the doctoral board or the doctorate committee shall notify the doctoral candidate whether and, if applicable, which change conditions are to be satisfied before the publication of the dissertation according to Section 12 Par. 1 and 4. The correspondingly revised manuscript is to be submitted to at least one reviewer for approval before the production of the mandatory copies.
- (2) The doctoral candidate is obliged to make her or his dissertation accessible to the scientific public in a reasonable manner. This obligation will be satisfied by delivery
  - a) of printing copies, if a publisher takes over the distribution through the book trade, or the submission of a corresponding publishing house contract or
  - b) of an electronic version, the data format of which and its data carriers are to be coordinated with the university library and at least two printed copies for the university library or
  - c) of mandatory copies or
  - d) by the documentation via microfiche and at least two printed copies for the university library.

More detailed specifications are regulated in the specific doctorate regulations.

### **Section 17 Doctorate deed and doctorate certificate; use and withdrawal of the doctoral degree**

- (1) The doctorate deed will be handed over as soon as the doctoral candidate has satisfied the obligations according to Section 16. The doctorate deed shall only contain the overall grade. It is to be signed by the dean of the involved faculty(faculties) or the head of the involved institution(s) conducting the doctoral procedure. In case of interdisciplinary doctoral proceedings Section 4 Par. 4 shall apply accordingly. The subject-specific provisions of the faculties or institutions which conduct the doctoral procedure can envisage the additional hand-over of a doctorate certificate and regulate the corresponding contents.
- (2) With the hand-over of the doctorate deed the now qualified doctor is entitled to use the acquired doctor title according to Section 1 Par. 1 to 4.
- (3) If it is determined before the doctorate deed is handed over that the doctoral candidate was guilty of deceit in the doctoral proceedings then the doctorate committee can refuse the conferral of the doctorate and declared the proceedings to be invalid.
- (4) The withdrawal of the doctoral degree and the collection of the doctorate deed and, if

applicable, the doctorate certificate can be carried out if the qualified doctor

- a) obtained the doctoral degree by scientific misconduct, deceit or essentially incorrect information or if the pre-requisite for the admission to the doctorate procedure has been assumed as existing by mistake,
  - b) has been sentenced to imprisonment of at least one year owing to a wilful criminal offence,
  - c) has been sentenced owing to a wilful criminal offence, with the preparation or commitment of which he or she abused the doctoral title,
  - d) if the holder of the doctoral degree proves to be unworthy for using the doctoral title by subsequent scientific misconduct.
- (5) The decision about the withdrawal of the doctoral degree shall be made by the doctorate committee or the faculty council or the corresponding body of the institution which conducts the doctoral procedure with the majority of its members who are qualified doctors. The decision will be made by the dean or the head of the institution which conducts the doctoral procedure.
- (6) The vice chancellor of the Ruhr-University of Bochum shall inform the responsible Ministry of the withdrawal of the doctoral degree.

#### **Section 18 Cross-university doctoral proceedings**

The doctorate committees can agreed upon the execution of joint doctoral proceedings or the joint conferral of a doctoral degree with other, in particular foreign universities. Corresponding contracts are to be passed by the involved faculty(faculties) or institution(s) which conduct(s) doctoral procedures; it is possible to deviate from these regulations in such contracts.

#### **Section 19 Honorary doctorate**

A faculty or institution which conducts doctoral procedures can confer to persons, who have provided exceptional scientific services or merits for science and who are not university lecturers of the Ruhr-University of Bochum, as a special distinction the title and dignity of a doctor in an honorary capacity according to Section 1 Par. 6. More detailed specifications are regulated in the specific doctorate regulations.

#### **Section 20 Renewal of the doctorate deed**

- (1) The doctorate deed can be renewed in the 50th anniversary year from when it was acquired at the proposal of the responsible faculty or institution which conducts the doctoral procedure in a festive form ("Golden conferral of a doctorate").
- (2) Paragraph 1 will apply accordingly to the 25th anniversary year ("Silver conferral of a doctorate").
- (3) The conferral will be carried out as far as possible centrally in the university within the framework of a festive event.

#### **Section 21 Entry into force, transitional provisions, changes**

- (1) The General Doctorate Regulations shall come into force on the day after their publication in

the official announcements of the Ruhr-University of Bochum.

- (2) The issue of as well as changes to the General Doctorate Regulations shall be carried out by coordination with the conference of faculties.
- (3) With the entry into force of these General Doctorate Regulations, by no later however than within one year after they come into force, the faculties or the institutions which conduct the doctoral procedures –with the exception of the Evangelical Theological Faculty – of the Ruhr-University of Bochum will change their specific doctorate regulations. This change shall be carried out by the take-over of the regulations recorded in these General Doctorate Regulations and their supplementation and specification by subject-specific provisions.

Engrossed owing to the resolution of the Senate of the Ruhr-University of Bochum of 17.7.2014.

Bochum, dated November 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

The Vice-chancellor  
of the Ruhr-University of Bochum  
University professor Dr. Elmar W. Weiler