

DRAFT

Regulations Governing the Doctoral Representatives' Council at Saarland University

Pursuant to Section 13(3), first sentence, Section 69(10), third sentence, of the Saarland Higher Education Institutions Act (Saarländisches Hochschulgesetz, SHSG) of 30 November 2016 (Official Gazette, p. 1080), most recently amended by Article 1 of the Act of 10 July 2024 (Official Gazette of Saarland I, p. 555) the Senate of Saarland University hereby issues the following Regulations Governing the Doctoral Representatives' Council at Saarland University:

Section 1

Scope

(1) These regulations govern the duties and rights, composition and election of the Doctoral Representatives' Council at Saarland University.

(2) For the purposes of these regulations, 'doctoral students' refers to all persons who have been admitted to a doctoral degree programme by their faculty and who are either enrolled or centrally registered (Section 69(8) of the Saarland Higher Education Institutions Act, Section 1(9) of the Regulations Governing Student Enrolment at Saarland University (Immatrikulationsordnung) of 16 April 2025, Official Bulletin, p. 130). Admission to a doctoral degree programme is governed by the doctoral degree regulations of the individual faculties.

Section 2

Duties and rights

(1) The Doctoral Representatives' Council represents the interests of doctoral students at Saarland University. It shall advise on matters relating to doctoral students and may submit recommendations and assessments on these matters to the university's bodies and committees. The Chair is entitled to attend Senate meetings in a guest capacity.

(2) The faculty councils shall give the Doctoral Representatives' Council the opportunity to comment in particular on the doctoral degree regulations of the faculties. The council member of the respective faculty and their deputy are entitled to attend faculty council meetings as guests.

(3) Rights arising from membership of a particular member group (students/academic staff) shall remain unaffected in accordance with Article 5(2), third sentence, of the Fundamental Principles and Rules Governing Saarland University (Grundordnung der Universität des Saarlandes) (Official Bulletin 2025, p. 71).

Section 3

Composition, chair and term of office

(1) The Doctoral Representatives' Council consists of at most one member and one deputy member from each faculty. Vacant seats shall remain vacant provided that at least three members have been elected. This has no effect on the composition or ability of the council to function. Members and deputy members are entitled to attend meetings of the Doctoral Representatives' Council and have the right to propose items for inclusion in the agenda and to speak.

(2) The term of office for members and deputy members of the Doctoral Representatives' Council is one year. Re-election is permitted.

(3) The Doctoral Representatives' Council shall elect a chair and a deputy chair from among its members by a simple majority.

(4) If a member or deputy member leaves the council prematurely, for example upon completion or termination of their doctorate, the candidate who received the next highest number of votes in the respective faculty constituency in the last election shall take their place. If there is no such person or if they decline to become a council member, a new election may be held for the respective faculty constituency. The Electoral Office shall decide whether a new election is to be held and initiate the election process.

Section 4

Election

(1) The election for the Doctoral Representatives' Council shall take place on a day during the main teaching period of a semester. The Electoral Office shall announce the election date at least six weeks in advance.

(2) All registered or enrolled doctoral students at Saarland University are eligible to vote and stand for election.

(3) The Admissions Office shall transmit the data required for the compilation of the electoral register to the Electoral Office. The electoral register shall be made available for inspection at least six weeks before the election begins. Objections to the electoral register may be filed with the Electoral Office up to two weeks before the election. The Electoral Office shall decide on whether objections are upheld.

(4) Doctoral students wishing to stand on the council may only represent the faculty in which they have been admitted to their doctoral programme. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the Electoral Office no later than three weeks before the first election day. All nominations must include the candidate's electronic consent. The Electoral Office shall announce the nominations via the appropriate channels.

(5) Doctoral students from each faculty shall elect one member and one deputy member to the Doctoral Representatives' Council. The candidate with the most votes shall be elected; the person with the next highest number of votes shall be elected as their deputy. In the event of a tie, final ranking positions shall be determined by drawing lots.

(6) The election shall be conducted electronically. The Electoral Office shall ensure that the election is open to all eligible doctoral students, is free from undue influence, gives each voter an equal vote, is held by secret ballot, and is carried out directly without intermediaries.

(7) The organizational preparation for the election, the voting process and the counting of votes are the responsibility of the Electoral Office of the Doctoral Representatives' Council. The Electoral Office shall be appointed by the incumbent Doctoral Representatives' Council prior to the start of each election period and shall consist of at least three registered or enrolled doctoral students who are not standing for election. The Electoral Office may appoint a person to act as Electoral Administrator for the purpose of carrying out specific tasks. The Electoral Administrator shall ensure that the election is conducted in accordance with the principles set out in these regulations.

(8) The Electoral Office may appoint polling clerks to provide assistance and assign tasks to them. The Electoral Office may request technical support from relevant IT departments at the university.

(9) The Electoral Office shall confirm the ballot result immediately after the count has been completed and publish the results for all university members to view. Objections to the validity of the election may be filed in writing with the Electoral Office within two weeks of the publication of the results. The Electoral Office shall decide whether to uphold the objection; its decision shall be final.

Section 5

Organizational structure

(1) The Doctoral Representatives' Council shall meet at least once a semester. It may adopt its own rules of procedure.

(2) All doctoral students who are eligible to vote have the right to propose items for inclusion in the agenda and to submit these in writing to the Doctoral Representatives Council.

(3) The Doctoral Representatives' Council may convene a General Meeting of doctoral students which is open to all registered or enrolled doctoral students. The General Meeting may make recommendations to the Doctoral Representatives' Council.

Section 6

Commencement, regulations for the transitional phase

(1) This regulation shall come into force on the day after it is announced in the Official Bulletin of Saarland University (Dienstblatt der Universität des Saarlandes).

(2) For the first election following the entry into force of these regulations pursuant to Section 4, the Electoral Office shall be appointed by the Graduate Office of Saarland

University. The term of office of the first Doctoral Representatives' Council shall begin with its inaugural meeting.