

**Joint Doctoral Degree Regulations of Faculty 3  
(Faculty of Humanities I – History and  
Cultural Studies) and Faculty 4 (Faculty of Humanities  
II – Linguistics, Literature and Cultural Studies)  
of Saarland University**

**17 March 2011**

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**Note:** This translation is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between the translation and the original German version published in the Official Bulletin (*Dienstblatt der Hochschulen des Saarlandes*), the provisions of the latter shall take precedence.

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Pursuant to Section 64 of Statute No. 1556 relating to Saarland University (Saarland University Act; hereafter: 'UG') of 23 June 2004 (Official Saarland Gazette, p. 1782) most recently amended by the Act to Cease Charging General Tuition Fees at the Institutions of Higher Education in Saarland of 10 February 2010 (Act No. 1706; Official Gazette, p. 28) and with the consent of the University Senate and the University Board, Faculty 3 (Faculty of Humanities I – History and Cultural Studies) and Faculty 4 (Faculty of Humanities II – Linguistics, Literature and Cultural Studies) of Saarland University hereby issue the following joint doctoral degree regulations of Faculty 3 (Faculty of Humanities I – History and Cultural Studies) and Faculty 4 (Faculty of Humanities II – Linguistics, Literature and Cultural Studies) of Saarland University.

**Section 1  
General information**

Faculty 3 (Faculty of Humanities I – History and Cultural Studies) and Faculty 4 (Faculty of Humanities II – Linguistics, Literature and Cultural Studies) of Saarland University shall confer the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (doctor philosophiae, Dr. phil.) on the basis of doctoral degree studies completed under the standard regulations in one of the subjects offered (cf. Section 7(2)) by the Faculty of Humanities I and II and the honorary Doctor of Philosophy (doctor philosophiae honoris causa, Dr. phil. h.c.) in recognition of outstanding contributions to an academic field or discipline (honorary doctorate).

**I. Doctoral degree studies (standard regulations)**

**Section 2  
Administration of the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase**

(1) Doctoral degree assessment and examination phases are conducted by the joint Doctoral Committee on behalf of the Faculty of Humanities I and II.

(2) The doctoral degree assessment and examination phase may be conducted jointly with another higher education institution if

a) the applicant fulfils the requirements for admission to the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase

b) the other higher education institution has the right to award doctoral degrees pursuant to its specific legal regulations and the degree it would confer is recognized in the Federal

Republic of Germany. The administration of the joint doctoral degree assessment and examination phase should be defined on an individual case basis or generally between the faculties involved. The contractual provisions shall apply in addition to the provisions of these doctoral degree regulations. When agreeing the contractual provisions, the regulations of these doctoral degree regulations shall be taken into account in the requirements and procedures to ensure equivalence.

(3) As part of doctoral research studies, enrolment is possible as a regular student in the doctoral research subject.

### **Section 3 The Doctoral Committee**

(1) The Doctoral Committee consists of the following regular members:

1. one member each from the Dean's office of the Faculty of Humanities I and II respectively pursuant to Section 22(3) of the Saarland University Act (*Universitätsgesetz, UG*), with each of these members holding the position of Chair on an alternating annual basis between the Faculty of Humanities I and II; a member of the Dean's office from the respective other faculty shall perform the role of Deputy Chair if necessary
2. three members from the professorial staff of each of the faculties involved
3. a member of non-professorial academic staff from each of the faculties involved who holds a doctorate.

The deputy of the members specified in sentence 1, item 1 shall be another member of that Dean's office in accordance with Section 22 (3) of the Saarland University Act (*Universitätsgesetz, UG*). Each member pursuant to sentence 1, item 2 and item 3 shall have a personal deputy. The regular members pursuant to sentence 1, item 2 and item 3 as well as their deputies shall be elected by the faculty councils of the Faculty of Humanities I and II for two years after being nominated by the elected representatives of the respective member groups. The regular members may be re-elected at the end of their term. If a member or deputy member of the Board withdraws before the end of their term, a replacement shall be selected for the remainder of the term. Deputy members and replacement regular members may be re-elected at the end of their term.

(2) Examiners who are directly involved in the procedure shall advise on matters concerning them as extraordinary voting members of the Doctoral Committee, providing they are members of Saarland University. Examiners who are not members of Saarland University shall be invited to the meetings of the Doctoral Committee as guests without voting rights.

(3) The tasks of the Doctoral Committee encompass the performance of the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase and shall be performed on its behalf by the Chair of the Doctoral Committee. If a decision made by the Chair is contested either by a doctoral candidate or by a member of the Doctoral Committee, the decision shall be taken by the Doctoral Committee.

(4) The Doctoral Committee shall be quorate if at least the majority of the voting members are in attendance. Decisions of the Doctoral Committee shall be made by a simple majority of the voting members in attendance. In the event of a tie, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall have the casting vote. Abstentions are excluded in decisions made by the Doctoral Committee concerning the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase.

## **Section 4**

### **Admission requirements**

(1) The requirements for admission to the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase are as follows:

1. a) the completion of a relevant degree programme building on the content of a preceding Bachelor's degree programme at a higher education institution or a relevant postgraduate degree programme within the meaning of Section 50(2) of the Saarland Higher Education Institutions Act (*Saarländisches Hochschulgesetz, UG*) or  
  
b) the completion of a relevant university study programme with a standard period of study of at least eight semesters or  
  
c) the completion of a Bachelor's degree programme with distinction followed by appropriate academic study in the doctoral research subject in preparation for the doctoral degree studies in accordance with Section 64(2), sentence 3 of the Saarland University Act (*Universitätsgesetz, UG*), with appropriateness to be decided by the Doctoral Committee, or  
  
d) the completion of a relevant degree programme at a university of applied sciences (*Fachhochschule*) followed by appropriate academic study in the doctoral research subjects in preparation for the doctoral degree studies amounting to a maximum total of three semesters in accordance with Section 64(2), sentence 4 of the Saarland University Act (*Universitätsgesetz, UG*).

A candidate will be deemed to have graduated with distinction if he or she attained a final grade of 1.5 or better.

2. The submission of a dissertation in accordance with Section 9.
3. The application submitted by the doctoral candidate in accordance with Section 5.

(2) A completed programme of study in the doctoral subject is considered to be relevant within the meaning of Section 4(1), item 1. In other cases, admission may be made dependent on evidence of additional subject-specific academic study in accordance with Section 64(2), sentence 3 of the Saarland University Act (*Universitätsgesetz, UG*). Regular enrolment in accordance with Section 2(3) is mandatory for the duration of these academic studies.

## **Section 5**

### **Application for admission**

(1) Admission to the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase must be applied for in writing to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee. The application shall be submitted together with

1. either typed or printed, stapled or bound copies of the paginated dissertation corresponding to the number of examiners plus one archive copy and one copy in electronic form (pdf format), in the case of Section 9(1) sentence 3 additionally one copy of the co-authored work;
2. a curriculum vitae detailing the doctoral candidate's educational background;
3. documentary proof that the requirements specified in Section 4(1), item 1 have been fulfilled;

4. a declaration by the doctoral candidate stating
  - a) whether, and if applicable when and with what success he/she the has previously undergone a doctoral degree assessment and examination phase
  - b) that he/she has written the thesis independently, has not used any sources or aids other than those listed by him/her and has indicated the passages taken verbatim or in terms of content from the works used
  - c) that he/she has only received assistance with selecting and evaluating material and with the content or physical production of the dissertation from the persons named in the respective manner indicated and in particular that he/she has not paid for assistance from agency or consultancy services
  - d) if applicable, whether he/she objects to the oral defence being open to the public in accordance with Section 11(2), sentence 4 and 5.

(2) Upon request by the doctoral candidate, expensive image, map or sheet music may be attached to one copy of the dissertation with the agreement of the Chair of the Doctoral Committee; the same applies to handwritten texts in foreign script.

At the request of the doctoral candidate, illustrations, documentation and material supporting the dissertation may be attached on write-protected electronic data storage media and included in the assessment if they cannot be adequately presented otherwise.

(3) If the doctoral candidate has been accepted by a member of the Faculty of Humanities I and II who is entitled to conduct examinations in accordance with Section 8(2), sentence 1 and has received confirmation from the Chair of the Doctoral Committee, such confirmation must also be submitted with the application for admission. This confirmation serves as the basis for the appointment of the first examiner.

The doctoral candidate may propose an examiner with their consent. In addition, the doctoral candidate has the right to propose a second examiner. If the doctoral candidate does not submit any proposals, the Doctoral Committee shall select the examiners.

4) The application to initiate the assessment and examination phase may be withdrawn as long as the doctoral candidate has not received a letter of admission. The date of the postmark will be deemed as the date of receipt.

## **Section 6**

### **Admission to the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase**

(1) The Doctoral Committee shall decide on admission.

(2) Admission shall be refused if

1. the requirements stipulated in Section 4 in conjunction with Section 5 have not been fulfilled or
2. if circumstances arise such that a doctoral degree, if awarded, could be revoked on the basis of statutory provisions or
3. if the doctoral candidate intends to present and defend a dissertation which he/she has already submitted to obtain another doctoral degree.

(3) Admission may be refused due to insufficient proficiency in German.

(4) The decision of the Doctoral Committee shall be communicated to the doctoral candidate by means of a letter of notification which, in the case of rejection, shall include information on the applicant's right of appeal.

## **Section 7**

### **Assessment and examination of the doctoral research project**

(1) The doctoral research project is examined on the basis of the dissertation itself (Section 9) and the oral defence (Section 11).

(2) The examination subjects that can be chosen as the doctoral subject are the same as the subjects offered by the Faculty of Humanities I and II, which can be viewed on the faculty websites.

## **Section 8**

### **Examiners and Examining Board**

(1) Immediately after admission, the Doctoral Committee shall appoint two examiners for the assessment of the dissertation as well as the Examining Board for the doctoral assessment and examination phase.

(2) The examiners shall be appointed from the members of professorial staff, junior professors, emeritus or retired professors, honorary professors, professors on special contracts (*außerplanmäßige Professorinnen/Professoren*), and senior academics qualified to professorial level from the Faculty of Humanities I and II. The Doctoral Committee may also assign the right to supervise doctoral candidates to a member of the non-professorial academic staff (who holds a doctorate) at the faculty if the Dean of the faculty has assigned such member with the task of independently carrying out research and teaching duties and if he or she has been adjudged by an internal or external evaluation procedure to have academic qualifications comparable to those required of a junior professor. One of the examiners must be a member of the professorial staff of the Faculty of Humanities I and II.

Only a member or former member of the Faculty of Humanities I and II may be appointed as the first examiner. Honorary professors, professors on special contracts and senior academics qualified to professorial level who no longer have teaching duties as well as former members of the Faculty of Humanities I and II who have left Saarland University, may be appointed as (primary) examiners during a period of three years after leaving the faculty. The provisions of Section 5(3) shall remain unaffected.

(3) In justified cases, the Doctoral Committee may, at the request of the doctoral candidate or an examiner, appoint the second or a third examiner from another faculty of Saarland University or from another university; in the case of a degree from a university of applied sciences (*Fachhochschule*) as an admission requirement pursuant to Section 4(1), item 1 d), the Doctoral Committee may also appoint a professor who holds a doctorate at the university of applied sciences where the doctoral candidate completed his/her academic degree programme.

(4) The Examining Board shall be appointed by the Doctoral Committee and consist of

1. a member or deputy member of the Doctoral Committee from the professorial staff of Saarland University as the Chair
2. the examiners

3. one further member from the professorial staff of the Faculty of Humanities I and II
  4. a member of non-professorial academic staff who holds a doctorate.
- (5) The members and deputy members of the Doctoral Committee may participate in the meetings of the Doctoral Committee as extraordinary members with an advisory vote.
- (6) The provisions of Section 3(4) shall apply analogously to the Doctoral Committee.
- (7) The Examining Board shall perform the following tasks:
1. assess the dissertation based on the available examiners' reports and taking into account the statements pursuant to Section 10(5)
  2. conduct the oral defence examination
  3. assess the oral defence and the overall performance of the candidate.
- (8) In the case of joint doctoral studies with another university, the Examining Board shall be appointed with equal representation; in this case, a deviation is permitted from the conditions specified in (3) and (4).

## **Section 9 Dissertation**

- (1) The dissertation shall demonstrate the doctoral candidate's ability to undertake independent scientific research and to present the results of such work in an appropriate manner. The scientific content of the dissertation must justify its publication. An independent named section of a co-authored academic work that meets these requirements may be accepted as a dissertation.
- (2) The dissertation should be written in German or in a language of publication that is usual for the doctoral subject. The usual language of publication shall be determined by the Doctoral Committee. Upon request by the doctoral candidate, the Doctoral Committee may allow another language for the dissertation; if the dissertation is written in a language other than German, a detailed summary in German of at least 5-10 pages must be attached.
- (3) A dissertation, cumulative work or co-authored work that the doctoral candidate has submitted in a university examination, state examination or church examination cannot be recognized as a dissertation.
- (4) A dissertation, cumulative work or co-authored work that has already been published in print may be recognized by the Doctoral Committee as a dissertation. Several but at a minimum three published works that are independently attributed to the author and are together equivalent to a doctorate may take the place of a dissertation.
- (5) The Examining Board shall oversee the dissertation throughout the process and receive regular status reports.

## **Section 10 Assessment of the dissertation**

- (1) Each examiner shall submit a reasoned assessment of the dissertation (examiner's report) and shall recommend whether the dissertation be accepted, returned for revision in

accordance with paragraph 3, or rejected. The recommendation as to whether the dissertation should be accepted is to be combined with a proposed grade as set out in Section 12(1). The examiner's reports must be submitted within a period of three months.

(2) The dissertation shall be accepted unconditionally when it is ready for publication. If only minor amendments are required for the dissertation to be declared ready for publication, the dissertation shall be accepted subject to this condition. In this case, the doctoral candidate shall be informed without unreasonable delay and asked to contact the examiners. The conditions shall be deemed as met by following written declarations from the examiners and the author pursuant to paragraph 5 issued to the Chair of the Examining Board at the latest by the reproduction of the dissertation in accordance with Section 16. In cases of doubt, the Doctoral Committee shall decide on whether the conditions for acceptance have been met.

(3) The dissertation shall be returned to the doctoral candidate for revision if substantial amendments are required to make the dissertation acceptable. If the revised version of the dissertation is not submitted within two years, the dissertation shall be considered rejected. On request, the Examination Board shall enable the doctoral candidate to take applicable statutory periods of maternal leave and periods of parental leave and shall take into account family care obligations (caring for a child or supporting family members with care needs).

(4) If the examiner's reports do not provide an unambiguous assessment of the dissertation or if the proposed grades differ, after consultation with the Examining Board, the Chair shall decide whether a consistent grade can be determined or whether a third examiner should be appointed. If at least one of the examiners assesses the dissertation with the grade *opus eximium*, a further examiner shall be appointed who is proposed by the Examining Board and appointed by the Chair of the Doctoral Committee. The Doctoral Committee shall decide on the appointment of a third reviewer upon request. The reports of the third examiner must be submitted within a period of three months.

(5) The members from the professorial staff and the members (who hold a doctorate) of the Doctoral Committee and the Examining Board shall be informed by the Chair of the Examining Board regarding the receipt of the examiner's reports and granted access to the examiner's reports and copies of the dissertation on which the assessment is based for two weeks. They shall also have the opportunity to submit a written statement. These written statements regarding the dissertation and examiner's reports must be delivered to the Chair of the Examining Board twenty-four hours before the meeting of the Examining Board in which the decision regarding acceptance of the dissertation is to be made.

(6) The Examining Board shall decide on the acceptance and assessment of the dissertation pursuant to Section 12(1), its return for revision, or its rejection. The decision of the Examining Board shall be communicated to the doctoral candidate by means of a letter of notification which, in the case of rejection, shall include information on the applicant's right of appeal.

## **Section 11**

### **Oral defence**

(1) The Examining Board shall determine the date of the oral defence in consultation with the doctoral candidate, usually within two months of the acceptance of the dissertation. Pursuant to Section 64(7) of the Saarland University Act (*Universitätsgesetz, UG*), the entire doctoral degree assessment and examination phase must be completed within six months. The invitation to the oral defence is issued in writing by the Chair of the Doctoral Committee. The notice period and the display period when the thesis is available for consultation is two weeks during the main teaching period and four weeks during the non-teaching period. If the main teaching period and the non-teaching period overlap, the notice period and the display

period when the thesis is available for consultation shall be three weeks. The notice period may be shortened with the consent of the doctoral candidate. Section 10(3), sentence 3 shall apply analogously.

(2) The members of the Doctoral Committee and the Examining Board shall participate in the oral defence. Members of the professorial staff and members of staff of the Faculty of Humanities I and II who hold a doctorate are also entitled to participate. If a doctoral candidate has submitted a section of a co-authored work as set out in Section 9(1), sentence 3 as a dissertation, the oral defence should be conducted in the presence of all those involved in this work. If requested by the doctoral candidate, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee may exclude the public from the oral defence. However, this exclusion does not apply to the professorial staff and members of the Faculty of Humanities I and II qualified to doctoral level.

(3) The purpose of the oral defence is to demonstrate the doctoral candidate's ability to defend the dissertation and to orally present and discuss research problems relating to the doctoral subject in connection with the dissertation. The oral defence shall be conducted in German. The Doctoral Committee shall decide on exceptions at the request of the doctoral candidate.

(4) The oral defence should last a minimum of 60 minutes and at most 90 minutes. As an introduction, the doctoral candidate shall explain the main content of the dissertation, usually for no longer than thirty minutes. The right to ask questions is first granted to the members of the Examining Board, then to the members of the Doctoral Committee, then to professorial staff and members of mid-level academic or research staff qualified to doctoral level of the Faculty of Humanities I and II.

## **Section 12**

### **Assessment of the doctoral research**

(1) The dissertation shall be assessed before the oral defence with one of the following numbered grades (0 to 3) in the order shown below:

0 = opus eximium (distinction)

1 = opus valde laudabile (very good)

2 = opus laudabile (good)

3 = opus idoneum (satisfactory).

(2) If different grades are proposed by the examiners, the Chair of the Examining Board, after consultation with the Examining Board, shall decide whether a consensus may be reached or whether a third examiner should be appointed and the grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

0 = with a mean value up to  $0.\bar{3}$ : opus eximium (distinction)

1 = with a mean value up to  $1.\bar{3}$ : opus valde laudabile (very good)

2 = with a mean value up to  $2.\bar{3}$ : opus laudabile (good)

3 = with a mean value from  $2.\bar{6}$ : opus idoneum (satisfactory).



(3) If one of the two examiners proposes the grade opus eximium (distinction), a third examiner shall be appointed and the grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

0 = with a mean value up to 0.3: opus eximium (distinction)

1 = with a mean value up to 1.3: opus valde laudabile (very good)

2 = with a mean value up to 2.3: opus laudabile (good)

3 = with a mean value from 2.6: opus idoneum (satisfactory).

(4) The oral defence shall receive one of the following numbered grades (1 to 3) in the order shown below or a fail grade:

1 = very good

2 = good

3 = satisfactory

Failed

### **Section 13** **Overall assessment of the candidate's performance**

(1) After the candidate has passed the oral defence and its assessment in accordance with Section 12(4), the Examining Board shall decide on the overall assessment of the candidate's performance. The score for the dissertation is counted twice and the score for the oral defence is counted once in the overall assessment. The final grade shall be calculated as a weighted mean by dividing the resulting total by three.

(2) The final grade shall then be

for a mean value up to 0.3: summa cum laude (distinction)

for a mean value up to 1.3: magna cum laude (very good)

for a mean value up to 2.3: cum laude (good)

for a mean value from 2.6: rite (satisfactory).

(3) If the doctoral candidate has completed the doctoral assessment and examination and is to be awarded a doctorate, he/she shall receive a certificate to this effect stating the title of the dissertation, its evaluation and the final grade of the candidate's performance. The provisions of Sections 16 and 17 shall remain unaffected.

### **Section 14** **Repeat attempts**

(1) If the oral defence is not passed, it may be repeated after three months at the earliest and at the latest after six months. Periods of maternal leave, periods of parental leave and family obligations (in particular caring for a child or supporting family members with care needs)

shall be taken into account. If the oral defence is not passed even when it is repeated, the doctoral research is considered as failed in its entirety and may be repeated.

(2) The doctoral degree assessment and examination phase may be repeated as a whole once.

**Section 15**  
**Withdrawal; Failure to attend;**  
**Deception; Contravention of regulations**

(1) If the doctoral candidate withdraws from the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase or from individual parts of the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase without good cause after admission to the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase, the entire doctoral degree assessment and examination phase shall be deemed to have been failed. Repeat attempts shall be subject to the provisions of Section 14.

(2) If there are credible reasons why a candidate withdrew from or failed to attend an assessment or examination, these reasons shall be submitted in writing and without unreasonable delay to the Chair of the Examining Board. If the doctoral candidate was ill, they are required to present a medical certificate issued by a physician. If a candidate withdraws from or fails to attend an academic assessment or examination because a child cared for by the candidate was ill, the child's illness shall be treated as if the candidate was ill. The doctoral candidate shall demonstrate that it was necessary for him or her to care for the ill child by providing a medical certificate issued by a physician in accordance with Article 45 of Book V of the German Social Welfare Code (SGB V). If the reasons given for the withdrawal or non-attendance are accepted, the doctoral candidate may apply again for admission to the respective doctoral assessment or examination. If the reasons for non-attendance are accepted, the Chair of the Examining Board shall arrange for the doctoral candidate to be invited again to the relevant part of the assessment or examination. Section 10(3), sentence 3 shall apply analogously.

(3) If a doctoral candidate attempts to gain admission to the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase by deception, or if it was erroneously assumed that essential requirements for admission had been satisfied, the Doctoral Committee may decide to nullify the results of previous doctoral assessments or stop the doctoral degree assessment and examination phase. It is then not possible to repeat the doctoral degree assessment and examination. The doctoral candidate shall be consulted before any such decision is taken. The letter of notification regarding the decision shall include information on the right of appeal.

(4) If a doctoral candidate attempts to influence the grading of doctoral assessments or examinations by deception, the assessment or examination in question shall be deemed as not completed. The same shall apply if a doctoral candidate disturbs the orderly conduct of the oral defence and, as a result, the orderly conduct of the oral defence can no longer be guaranteed. In this case, the doctoral candidate may ask the Doctoral Committee to reappraise the decision. If the decision is confirmed, the assessment or examination in question shall be deemed as not completed. Repeat attempts shall be subject to the provisions of Section 14.

(5) In very serious cases of deception (particularly when substantial plagiarism is involved), the Doctoral Committee may, after consultation with the doctoral candidate, decide to revoke the candidate's right to study for a doctorate at the Faculty of Humanities I and II of Saarland University.

## **Section 16**

### **Reproduction of the dissertation**

(1) The dissertation must usually be published in the form declared ready for publication. Any amendments shall require the agreement of the Chair of the Doctoral Committee. If any amendments significantly affect the content of the dissertation, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall obtain the consent of the examiners. Section 10(2) and (3) shall apply analogously.

(2) Within one year after recognition of readiness for publication, presentation copies of the dissertation are to be delivered to the Doctoral Committee free of charge. The number of presentation copies varies depending on the chosen method of reproduction as follows:

1. 80 copies if the dissertation is submitted in photocopied form;
2. six copies if the dissertation is published with a minimum print run of 150 copies as a monograph, in a scientific publication series or journal, or if a previously published essay has been accepted as a dissertation;
3. six copies in copyable typescript as well as delivery of an electronic version, the data format and electronic data storage media of which are to be agreed with the Saarland University and State Library. The Doctoral Committee may approve the use of equivalent publication methods. The presentation copies pursuant to items 1 and 2 and the typescript copies or printouts must be printed on wood-free and acid-free paper that is resistant to ageing and must be bound in a durable manner. In exceptional cases involving expensive image, map or sheet music, the Doctoral Committee may reduce the number of presentation copies in consultation with the examiners.
4. Reproduction methods other than those described in items 1-3 shall require the approval of the Doctoral Committee.

(3) The delivered presentation copies must be marked on the title page as 'Dissertation zur Erlangung des Grades eines Doktors der Philosophie der Philosophischen Fakultäten I und II der Universität des Saarlandes'. The date of the last doctoral assessment or examination as well as the names of the Dean in office at that time and the examiners must be stated on the back of the title page.

(4) If the presentation copies are not delivered within one year of the date on which readiness for publication was recognized, the candidate shall lose all rights acquired from the assessment and examination phase of his or her doctoral studies. The Chair of the Doctoral Committee may extend the deadline at the request of the doctoral candidate. The request must be made before expiry of the deadline. If the publication of the dissertation is delayed by more than three years, the Doctoral Committee may allow a further extension as an exception in particularly justified cases.

(5) A doctoral degree in accordance with Section 17 may be awarded only after the presentation copies of the dissertation have been delivered. In the case of paragraph 2, item 2, exemption from this requirement may be granted by resolution of the Doctoral Committee if the doctoral candidate proves that the dissertation has been accepted for publication and that he/she has done what is necessary to prepare for publication but that publication will take more than one year for reasons beyond his/her control. In addition to the publishing contract, a declaration from the publisher confirming that the manuscript is ready for publication must be submitted as proof. With regard to the delivery deadline, paragraph 4 shall apply analogously.

**Section 17**  
**Conferral of the doctoral degree**

The doctoral degree shall be conferred by the Dean of the responsible faculty by presenting the doctoral degree certificate as soon as the requirements of Section 16 have been satisfied. The official date of conferral shall be the date of the oral defence.

(2) The doctoral degree certificate shall be issued in German. It shall contain the title of the dissertation, its evaluation and the final grade of the candidate's performance. The certificate of graduation shall be signed by the University President and the Dean of the responsible faculty and shall bear the seal of the Faculty of Humanities I and II.

(3) Once they have taken receipt of their doctoral degree certificate, graduates have the right to use the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Dr. phil.).

(4) Women may request to use the female form of the doctoral degree awarded to them in accordance with these regulations.

**Section 18**  
**Revocation of the doctoral degree**

At the request of the Doctoral Committee, the doctoral degree may be revoked by resolution of the Faculty Board of the responsible faculty if it is established that the degree was acquired by deception or that essential requirements for the conferral of the degree were erroneously assumed to have been satisfied.

(2) Before any such resolution is made, the holder shall be given the opportunity to make representations on this matter within four weeks. The letter of notification shall include the reasons for the decision and information on the candidate's right of appeal.

**Section 19**  
**Inspection of examination records**

Up to one year after taking the last examination, the doctoral candidate shall be granted access to the copies of the dissertation on which the assessment is based and examination records at any time. The inspection may be carried out in person at the Doctoral Studies Office or by a legal representative on request. It is not possible to hand over the original examiners' reports or copies.

**II. Honorary Doctorate**

**Section 20**

(1) Professors who intend to submit an application for an honorary doctorate must notify the Faculty Council of their faculty. The applicant shall report to the Faculty Council on the contributions to an academic field or discipline of the person who is to receive the honorary doctorate. Following this report, the Faculty Council shall decide by a simple majority on the appointment of a Board to confer the honorary doctorate.

(2) The Board shall be appointed by the Faculty Council and comprised as follows:

1. seven professors, of which two professors shall be sent from the other Faculty of Humanities by the respective Faculty Council

2. a member of staff at the responsible faculty who holds a doctorate and
3. further members of other higher education institutions as required.

(3) The decision on the honorary doctorate shall be made by the responsible Faculty Council with a majority of three quarters of the votes and shall require the approval of the Doctoral Committee of the Faculty of Humanities I and II.

(4) In order to protect general university interests, the university management shall be given the opportunity to make a statement on the honorary doctorate.

(5) The honorary doctorate shall be conferred by the presentation of a certificate in which the outstanding academic achievements or distinguished service are highlighted. The certificate shall be signed by the University President and the Dean of the responsible faculty and shall bear the seal of the Faculty of Humanities I and II.

(6) Section 17(3) and Section 18 shall apply analogously.

### **III. Final and interim provisions**

#### **Section 21**

(1) This regulation shall come into force on the day after it is announced in the Official Bulletin of the Institutions of Higher Education in Saarland (*Dienstblatt der Hochschulen des Saarlandes*).

(2) Doctoral degree assessment and examination phases that have already been initiated by the granting of admission at the time these regulations come into force shall generally be conducted in accordance with the Doctoral Regulations of 18 January 2001 as amended on 18 April 2002, 11 December 2003, 16 December 2004, 10 July 2008 and 28 January 2009. If the requirements pursuant to Section 4 are satisfied, the doctoral candidate may apply for the application of the new doctoral regulations.

(3) On request, doctoral degree assessment and examination phases of doctoral candidates who have been accepted at the time these Regulations come into force in accordance with Section 5(3) sentence 1 shall be conducted in accordance with the doctoral degree regulations of 18 January 2001 as amended on 18 April 2002, 11 December 2003, 16 December 2004, 10 July 2008 and 28 January 2009.

(4) Doctoral candidates who have commenced their studies with the objective of a doctoral degree as their first academic degree in a subject at the time these Regulations come into force may apply to conduct their doctoral degree assessment and examination phase in accordance with the doctoral degree regulations of 17 April 1996 or 18 January 2001 as amended on 18 April 2002, 11 December 2003, 16 December 2004, 10 July 2008 and 28 January 2009.

Saarbrücken, 10 May 2011

President of Saarland University  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. V. Linneweber