

Study and Examination Regulations for the Doctoral Programme “Natural Sciences” in the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Hohenheim

Section 1 Area of Application

These study and examination regulations apply to the admission requirements as well as the objectives, content, and course of the doctoral programme “Natural Sciences” based on the doctoral regulations of the University of Hohenheim for Dr. rer. nat in the respectively valid version.

Section 2 Programme Objectives

The doctoral programme is to provide structural assistance in completing a dissertation in the context of achieving the degree “Doctor of Natural Sciences” (Dr. rer. nat.) and is to convey in-depth and current subject knowledge, abilities, and methods of natural science research and scientific work.

Section 3 Requirements for Acceptance

(1) The requirement for acceptance in the doctoral programme is acceptance as a doctoral candidate in the Faculty of Natural Sciences according to the provisions in the doctoral regulations for Dr. rer. nat. in the respectively valid version.

(2) Acceptance in the doctoral programme is done with a written request (form in Annex 1) to the Dean’s Office. The decision on acceptance is made by the doctoral committee.

Section 4 Standard Period of Study

(1) The standard period of study is three years and starts with acceptance into the doctoral programme. In this time, the doctoral candidate has the right to examinations to complete the modules according to Sec. 5(3)(A). The deadlines for completing the dissertation and oral examination and additional requirements according to the doctoral regulations remain unaffected.

(2) The deadline in Sec. 4(1) may be extended by up to one year upon request by the candidate to the doctoral committee.

Section 5 Organization and Contents of the Programme

(1) The doctoral candidates first and foremost complete scientific research work.

(2) During the programme, at least four modules totalling at least 30 credits must be completed. They are to be assigned to one of the categories listed under Sec. 5(3)(A). The modules are completed with a module examination and are evaluated with “pass” or “fail”. All modules are open to candidates in any year of the programme and are offered at least once per year.

(3) The doctoral programme is organized into two areas:

(A) Modules from the following categories

- Scientific methods
- Subject-related specialist module
- Elective modules, at least at the Master’s level, that are to be related to the doctoral topic or attendance at summer schools
- Portfolio module(s) in which work as described in Sec. 5(4) can be recognized.

(B) The dissertation and an oral examination totalling 150 credits.

(5) In addition to the module examinations, it is expected that during the doctorate at least one national or international conference is attended at which the results of the doctoral work is presented as a poster or presentation.

In addition to individual research work, the participants of the doctoral programme are to participate in teaching and advising tasks, if possible. The goal is to gather experience in university teaching and to obtain and train important qualifications in conveying information. It should be ensured that it is still possible to finish the doctorate in a timely manner.

(5) The modules according to Sec. 5(3) are typically set upon acceptance into the doctoral programme (see Annex 1) in discussion with the supervisor from the doctoral committee. Modules from previous degree programmes may not be chosen again.

(6) Failed module examinations may be repeated once. If the second attempt is not successful, the module examination is finally failed and admission to the doctoral programme is revoked.

Section 6 Loss of Right of Admission to an Examination

(1) The right of admission to an examination is lost if the modules according to Sec. 5(3)(A) are not successfully completed within the deadline set in Sec. 4. The right of admission to an examination is not lost if the candidate is not at fault for missing the deadline or if protection periods as described in Sec. 7 were taken during this time. With the loss of the right of admission to an examination, the admission to the doctoral programme and the right to receive an examination record for the work already completed in the doctoral programme are revoked. The acceptance as a doctoral candidate in the Faculty of Natural Sciences remains unaffected.

(2) If the doctoral candidate withdraws his or her acceptance request or if the acceptance as a doctoral candidate is revoked by the Faculty, the right of admission to an examination is lost. The regulations in Sec. 5(1)(3 and 4) apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Section 7 Unexcused Absence, Withdrawal, Cheating, and Protection Periods

(1) An examination shall be evaluated as "fail" if the candidate misses an examination date without valid reason or withdraws after the start of the examination without a valid reason. The same applies if a written examination is not completed within the set time period.

(2) The reason given for missing a deadline or withdrawing must be immediately given to the doctoral committee in writing and proof must be provided. If the examined person is ill or a child or relative for whom the candidate is responsible is ill, a medical certificate and, in cases of doubt, a medical certificate from a doctor named by the University is required. If the reason is recognized, the doctoral committee shall set a new date. Any already completed examination results will be counted in this case.

(3) If the candidate tries to influence the result of his or her examination by cheating or the use of prohibited aid, the respective examination shall be evaluated with "fail". Persons who disturb the proper procedure of an examination may be excluded from continuing the coursework or examination by the person examining or the invigilator; in this case, the coursework or examination shall be evaluated with "fail". In serious cases, the doctoral committee may prohibit the examined person from completing any additional examinations.

(4) Within one month, the affected person may request that the decisions according to Sec. 7(3)(1 and 2) be reviewed by the doctoral committee. Affected persons are to be informed immediately in writing of decisions made against them. Reasons are to be provided and information on legal remedies must be included.

(5) Upon request by a candidate, the maternity leave protection periods as set down in the respectively valid Protection of Working Mothers Act (MSchG) are to be taken into consideration. The required proof is to be included with the request. The length of the maternity period interrupts any and all deadlines in these regulations; the length of the maternity period shall not be calculated in the deadlines. The periods of parental leave according to the respective-

ly valid law (BzGG) are also to be taken into consideration upon request. The candidate must inform the doctoral committee of the period of parental leave in writing with the necessary proof at least four weeks before starting parental leave.

(6) Candidates with a child for whom they have custody and who lives in their household have the right to complete individual coursework and examinations or re-sit examinations after the deadlines named in these study and examination regulations. The right expires with the completion of the semester in which the conditions listed in Sec. 7(6)(1) no longer apply. The candidate must include appropriate proof. The doctoral committee sets the extension of the deadlines upon the candidate's request and immediately informs the candidates of the extension.

The same applies for doctoral candidates with relatives needing care in the meaning of Sec. 7(3) of the Home Care Leave Act (Pflegezeitgesetz) as well as for doctoral candidates with disabilities or chronic illnesses. The request is to be submitted informally to the doctoral committee. The required proof is to be submitted with the request.

(7) For activities as an elected member in legally mandated committees or statutory bodies of the University or the Student Services during at least one year, up to one year of study may be left out of consideration when calculating examination deadlines; the decision on this is made by the President upon request by the responsible doctoral committee. Sentence 1 applies mutatis mutandis for activities in the Student Parliament bodies.

Section 8 Certificate

(1) After the successful completion of the doctorate and successful completion of the modules, the doctoral programme graduate receives a certificate of participation in the doctoral programme on which the name of the successfully completed modules, the title and marks of the dissertation including the oral examination, and the ECTS credits of the dissertation including the oral examination are listed.

(2) The certificate is issued in German; an English translation is included.

(3) The certificate is signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. It is dated on the day on which the final examination was completed.

Section 9 Entry into Force

These study and examination regulations shall enter into force on the day after they have been announced in the University of Hohenheim's Official Notifications.



Annex 1

Request for Admission to the Doctoral Programme “Natural Sciences” in the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Hohenheim

First Name: **Surname:**

Address: **E-mail address:**

.....

Accepted as doctoral candidate in the Faculty of Natural Sciences on:

.....

Name of supervisor:.....

If applicable, name of co-supervisor:

Working title of the dissertation:

.....

.....

Modules/Work to be done in the doctoral programme according to Sec. 5 of the study and examination regulations:

Scientific methods:

.....

Subject-related specialist module:

.....

Elective modules / participation in summer schools:

.....

Additional work:

.....

.....
Date, Signature of candidate

.....
Date, Signature of supervisor

Approval of doctoral committee on:

Acceptance in doctoral programme on: