

## PhD Regulations

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## **I. General Information**

### **§ 1 Doctoral Studies**

- (1) Doctoral studies serve as a proof of an ability to carry out independent scientific research that exceeds the requirements of academic studies for obtaining a professional qualification by demonstrating a significant contribution towards scientific knowledge.

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität of Bonn bestows the title of Doctor of Natural Sciences (Doktor rerum naturalium, short Dr. rer. nat.) after the successful completion of doctoral studies.

- (2) The proof of this ability of handling scientific issues independently has to be demonstrated by the doctoral student by providing
- a scientifically significant written thesis (dissertation),
  - a scientific talk with subsequent discussion about the results of the dissertation (Promotionskolloquium), and
  - an oral exam (Disputation) in the respective discipline. Any of the attached disciplines is admitted.
- (3) For the recognition of exceptional scientific and non-material merits in the natural sciences the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences can bestow through an honorary doctorate the title of a Doctor of Natural Sciences honoris causa. (Doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa, short: Dr. rer. nat. h.c.).

### **§ 2 PhD Committee**

- (1) The PhD Committee conducts all PhD procedures of the faculty. Its members are
- the dean as the chair (can be permanently represented by the vice dean), and
  - the members of the faculty board.
- (2) The PhD Committee
- conducts the examination procedure and keeps the records,
  - decides about the admission to the doctoral examination procedure,
  - appoints the examination committee and its chair as well as the examiners,
  - is responsible for complaints and appeals,
  - decides about exceptional cases,
  - decides according to § 16 of this Regulation about the invalidity of doctoral accomplishments/dissertations and the withdrawal of the doctorate degree,
  - issues the certificate.

The PhD Committee can consult a representative of the respective discipline. In all decisions that refer to the scientific education, in particular regarding the recognition and evaluation of studies and examinations and the appointment of the examination committee, the members of the PhD Committee that do not hold a PhD are not involved. The dean concludes the PhD procedure by handing over the issued certificate.

- (3) The chair schedules the business of the PhD committee and convenes its meetings. The chair is granted the decision-making power in normal cases and reports to the PhD Committee on regular intervals. The PhD Committee makes decisions on appeals in each case individually.
- (4) The PhD Committee's meetings are not public. The PhD Committee's members and their representatives as well as the examination committee's members are required to maintain professional confidentiality. The chair has to oblige them to treat all information as confidential. Confidentiality is to be maintained even after the period of professional duty is completed.

### **§ 3 Examination Committee**

- (1) For each PhD examination procedure the PhD Committee appoints an examination committee. It consists of four members:
  1. first Advisor,
  2. second Advisor,
  3. a member with close relations to the respective subject, and
  4. a member from outside the discipline/external member.

The first advisor is the academic supervisor in the sense of § 4 sections 2. One of the two advisors must represent the respective discipline and must be a full-time professor of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences or one of the affiliated graduate schools according to attachment 2.

The member with close relations to the respective subject represents the subject but is required to be affiliated with another scientific subfield of the doctoral subject. The member from outside the discipline should be affiliated with another division (Fachgruppe) and can represent a subject whose content is related to the dissertation. At least two members of the doctoral committee have to be full-time professors at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences or a professor of one of the affiliated graduate schools according to attachment 2.

The PhD Committee can appoint a further member as a deputy if one of the members is unavailable for the oral examination. The further member has to represent the subject of the member that is unavailable.

All members must be

- full-time professors at a university,

- junior professors,
- hold an extraordinary professorship,
- professors released of their responsibility or retired professors,
- honorary Professors,
- private lecturers (PD), or

hold a qualification that is equivalent to a habilitation. Former members of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences can be appointed as members of an examination committee only if they give their consent. Generally, they should no longer be appointed as members of an examination board more than three years after they have left the Faculty. The same applies to professors that have been released of their responsibility or who have retired.

The second advisor is the chair of the doctoral committee. The doctoral student can make suggestions for the appointment of the examination committee's members but the PhD commission is not bound to them.

(2) The examination committee is responsible for

- the evaluation, the acceptance, the refusal, and the grading of the dissertation,
- for carrying out the "Promotionskolloquium", and
- the approval of the oral examination.

The examination committee keeps minutes of each meeting.

## **II. Doctoral Studies**

### **§ 4 Doctoral Studies and PhD student status**

(1) For doctoral students that are affiliated with any of the graduate schools listed in attachment 2 apply in addition to these PhD regulations, the regulations of the respective graduate schools. For awarding the doctoral degree by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, however, only these PhD Regulations apply.

(2) The admission to doctoral studies requires a written supervision agreement that has been concluded between the doctoral student and his/her supervisor. This agreement has to be presented to the dean together with the application form for doctoral studies.

(3) Advisors of a dissertation can be

- 1) full-time professors,
- 2) junior professors,
- 3) extraordinary professors (außerplanmäßige Professoren),
- 4) professors released of their responsibility or retired professors,

- 5) honorary professors, or
- 6) private lecturers (PD)

of the University of Bonn. The advisor should be a member of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences or a member of a graduate school according to attachment 2. The PhD Committee decides on exceptional cases.

(4) If the advisor is not a member of or affiliated with the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences or, or does not belong to any of the graduate schools mentioned in attachment 2, a co-advisor agreement has to be concluded with a professor who works full time at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The advisor and the co-advisor must hold a qualification as stated in (3) or a qualification that is equivalent to a habilitation.

(5) Before the supervision agreement is settled the following must be presented to the PhD Commission:

- the doctoral student's name, date and place of birth,
- the discipline,
- the dissertation project's title,
- the advisor's name and where applicable the second advisor's name,
- the assignment to an institute, and
- the advisors confirmation that the conditions for admissions according to § 5 subsection 3 and 4 are met. If applicable, an application for recognition of the equivalence of his or her educational qualification must be included
- if applicable, the advisor's recommendations for the educational qualifications yet to be obtained.

The PhD Commission examines, whether according to the future advisor's statement, all conditions according to § 5 section 1 and 2 have been fulfilled, recognizes the equivalence of the educational qualification, and establishes, if applicable, the qualifications to be achieved in a qualification year according to § 5 sections 3 and 4. The PhD Commission issues a written decision to the doctoral student as to whether he or she is admitted to pursue doctoral studies. The managing director of the respective institute subsequently submits the supervision agreement signed by the doctoral student and his/her advisor.

(6) Not relevant

(7) Changes in the supervisory relationship, in particular a change of advisor, an exmatriculation, or the dissolution of the supervisory relationship must be communicated to the PhD Committee without delay.

(8) Research on the topic should be pursued in close collaboration between the doctoral student and his/her advisor. The doctoral student is obliged to report to the advisor regularly and extensively about the progress of his/her research. The advisor is obliged to receive reports from the doctoral student about the progress of his/her research. After two years' interval the doctoral student and his/her advisor should confirm the supervisory relationship and inform PhD Committee accordingly. If after four years after admission to the doctoral studies no request for the initiation of the examination procedure has been made, the dean requests from the supervisor a status report about the course of the proceedings.

(9) Both parties can dissolve the supervision agreement with a period of six weeks notice by stating the grounds or by mutual agreement at any time.

(10) The advisor may terminate the agreement without notice if

- the doctoral student repeatedly disregards the advisor's instructions,
- the doctoral student continually disrupts the relationship of trust (between the advisor and the student),
- the doctoral student commits serious violations against the institute's rules or safety regulations,
- the doctoral student shows a behavior that would lead to a termination of contract without notice if the student were a regular employee.

(11) Before the supervision agreement terminates the dean can be consulted for mediation.

(12) If the termination of the supervision agreement is not within the doctoral student's responsibility, the PhD Committee is obliged by utilizing all options to achieve another supervisor. If the doctoral student is responsible for the termination of the supervision agreement the PhD Committee can give the doctoral student the option to look for a new supervisor within a reasonable period of time.

(13) If no new supervision agreement is settled the status as a doctoral student lapses and so does the right to continue with doctoral studies. The PhD Committee issues a written notification accordingly.

(14) If the doctoral student has used

- the means or premises of the university (besides the means or premises that are accessible to all students), or

- third party means,

then the results of the research must be made available to the advisor free of charge for the purpose of science and research if that does not affect the purpose of the doctoral procedure. The obligation to publish according to § 14 remains unaffected.

## **§ 5 Admission to Doctoral Studies**

- (1) The admission to doctoral studies requires next to the advisor's acceptance as a doctoral student, and university studies completed in mathematics, natural sciences, engineering sciences, medicine, agriculture or economics in the course of which the applicant has demonstrated his or her ability to obtain a further qualification and that leads one to expect that the applicant is capable of conducting independent scientific research with the purpose of writing a scientifically significant dissertation.
  
- (2) As completed university studies according to section 1 are accepted:
  1. diploma studies at a scientific university with a minimum of 8 semesters as the standard period of study and a scientific thesis,
  2. master studies at a university with a standard period of study of 2 or 4 semesters respectively that were preceded by bachelor studies of 8 or 6 semesters respectively that is in total 10 semesters in the respective discipline (consecutive master or interdisciplinary master),
  3. master studies at a university with a standard period of study of at least 4 semesters if not preceded by bachelor studies of the respective field of at least 6 semesters,
  4. diploma studies at a university of at least 6 semesters with a qualifying degree and thereafter adequate studies in preparation of the PhD,
  5. bachelor studies at a university with a standard period of studies of at least 6 semesters and a qualifying degree,
  6. finished studies of medicine, dental medicine or pharmacy,
  7. studies of food chemistry terminated with the First National Examination
  8. Studies terminated with the First National Examination for secondary-level teaching positions or for the German "Gymnasium".
  
- (3) If the preceding studies correspond to 3., 4., or 5., then additional studies are required for the doctoral studies to an extent not exceeding 2 semesters that prepare for the dissertation project and that serve as a proof of qualification according to section 1. If the preceding studies ended without a thesis, a thesis has to be written and presented for evaluation.

The type, the extent, and the length of the qualifications yet to be achieved are determined by the PhD Commission according to the advisor's suggestions. The PhD Commission decides on the form and content of the additional qualification.

- (4) For studies abroad and for final examinations at foreign scientific universities, sections 1 and 3 apply accordingly if equivalence has been demonstrated. The PhD Committee expresses equivalence after consultation and examination (of the foreign degrees). {...}
- (5) The admission to doctoral studies for foreign candidates requires knowledge of German or English. Adequate knowledge has to be proven by DSH 2 (proof of German language necessary to be admitted to a German university) or by the TOEFL or an equivalent exam. This proof is not required from native speakers or from graduates of German or English speaking studies.

### **III. PhD examination procedure**

#### **§ 6 Admission to the PhD examination procedure**

- (1) If the faculty has established obliging doctoral studies, the proof of participation therein have to be presented as stipulated in these PhD rules.
- (2) Admission to the doctoral examination procedure has to be applied for in writing and to be directed to the PhD Commission. The application must contain:
  - the name and the complete address in Germany as required for a court summons,
  - the topic of the dissertation,
  - the discipline,
  - the name of the advisor or advisors and the supervision agreement,
  - suggestions for the 4 members of the PhD examination committee,
  - a declaration whether an audience will be accepted during the oral exam (Disputation),
  - the statement as whether parts or the whole dissertation have been previously published, and
  - a declaration given instead of an oath that:
    1. the presented thesis has been carried out personally and independently apart from the explicitly stated auxiliary material and without the help of any other than the stated auxiliary material,
    2. dates or concepts that have been directly or indirectly copied have been marked as such by stating the sources,
    3. the presented thesis or a similar thesis has not yet been presented as a dissertation and if so a declaration over previous attempts of obtaining a PhD and the respective outcomes has to be added, and



4. for the preparation and writing of the presented thesis no other help or assistance in particular no help for compensated services from matching and counseling agencies was used.

(3) The following has to be submitted together with the application:

- 5 copies of the dissertation together with an abstract and a CV according to § 8 section 3 as well as 5 copies each of previous publications of essential parts of the dissertation,
- one abstract of the dissertation,
- one CV,
- proof of completed university studies and of further studies respectively according to § 5 and the proof of the completion of the obligatory doctoral courses according to § 4 section 1 sentence 2,
- a record of criminal history, and
- a photo and a certified copy of an official photo ID.

(4) The withdrawal of the application is possible only up until the first two evaluation reports have been presented and no final decision has been made.

### **§ 7 Opening the doctoral examination procedure**

(1) The PhD Commission examines whether the admission requirements are met and whether all documents presented are complete and demands for the submission of missing documents are fulfilled within a period of reasonable time.

If the applicant cannot submit some or all documents according to the required form, the PhD Committee can grant each individual document to be provided in another form.

(2) The PhD Committee can decide on the rejection of an application if

- the documents remain incomplete after the additional period granted has expired,
- no supervision can be proven, or
- if the applicant has been convicted of a criminal offence that justifies doubts as to whether independence and objectivity, which are necessary for scientific work, are given by the PhD candidate.

The PhD Committee must reject the application if

- the applicant has already submitted the same or a similar thesis to another university,
- the applicant has already failed twice in a doctoral examination procedure at a German university, or

- forgery or plagiarism have been noticed in a scientific work presented by the applicant.
- (3) The applicant has to be informed about the rejection in writing stating the reason and containing information on legal remedies.
  - (4) When all conditions are met, the PhD Committee appoints the examination commission. The applicant is informed about this in writing including the members and the appointed advisors.

### **§ 8 Dissertation**

- (1) The dissertation has to be scientifically significant and the ability to do independent scientific research as well as the ability to present the results has to be demonstrated. The subject matter (of the dissertation) has to be part of the respective discipline.
- (2) The dissertation has to be written in either German or English language. With the approval of the PhD Commission another language is also possible.
- (3) The dissertation has to be properly printed and bound. It must contain a complete bibliography of the literature used and further sources as well as stating the help obtained and the auxiliary help used. The university's rules concerning the publication of research results remain unaffected. An abstract in German and in English language has to be attached to the dissertation. A short CV stating the education has to be attached to the 5 copies according to § 6 sections 3.

### **§ 8 A Cumulative Dissertation**

- (1) Publications that have already been published or accepted to print in whose production the doctoral student has been significantly involved may also be submitted as a dissertation (cumulative dissertation). Each publication constitutes a chapter that must contain an introduction and a summary. For several chapters the introduction has to state the connection between the different chapters.
- (2) If several doctoral students of one advisor have been involved in the publication, the publications can only be used for one dissertation namely for the dissertation of the doctoral student who has significantly contributed to its publication.
- (3) The examination board decides over the question of significance.

### **§ 9 The Dissertation's Evaluation**

- (1) The PhD Commission sends the dissertation and possible prior publications to the examination committee's members and requests the first and the second advisor to

provide their evaluation reports. In justified cases the PhD Committee can request a third party to write an evaluation report.

- (2) The examiners' reports have to be issued independently of each other, in writing and they must contain a justified recommendation about acceptance, rejection or return of the dissertation for changes. The recommendation for acceptance can be made dependent upon conditional editorial changes before the certificate is issued. If a recommendation for acceptance is made, a justified suggestion for the grade according to the scale of marks according to § 13 has to be made. The evaluation reports have to be back to the PhD Committee at least 4 weeks after being requested.
- (3) After the evaluation reports have been received they are forwarded to the other members of the examination committee who have to submit their written review within a week.
- (4) If all parties agree on the acceptance of the dissertation, the procedure continues according to section 7. If both of the advisors have graded the dissertation as "excellent" a third evaluation report is requested by the PhD Committee from a 3<sup>rd</sup> qualified expert who is not a member of the faculty. The advisor can make 3 recommendations for the selection of the 3<sup>rd</sup> examiner. The PhD Committee makes the final choice. The period for issuing the 3<sup>rd</sup> report is one month.
- (5) If all examiners agree on rejecting the dissertation, the PhD Committee informs the applicant about the negative decision.
- (6) If the examiners' decisions on
  - the acceptance of the dissertation,
  - the rejection of the dissertation, or
  - the return of the dissertation for changes

are diverse or if the suggested grades diverge more than 1.0 the PhD Commission has a mediating and consulting role. It can suggest a further evaluation report. The PhD Commission decides on the basis of the evaluation reports.

If the dissertation is returned for changes the Commission sets a deadline within which the dissertation must be presented again.

- (7) If the Commission has decided on the acceptance of the dissertation, the PhD examination records have to be displayed in the PhD Commission's premises and to be made available for inspection to the habilitated members of the faculty. The display is announced within the faculty together with:
  - name of the doctoral student,
  - the dissertation's title, and
  - the subject.

Additionally, the habilitated members of the respective discipline have to be informed about

- the dissertation's abstract,
- the place of prior publications,
- the names of the examiners and further members of the examination committee,  
and
- the grades proposed by the examination committee.

This information can be communicated electronically. The habilitated members of the faculty can file a protest in writing to the PhD Commission. The protest can result in the rejection, the return of the dissertation for changes, a diverging grade or conditions for editorial changes. The objection period starts on the day the information is sent and expires 2 weeks after. The Commission considers the objection. Independently of their first decision it can decide on the acceptance, rejection or return for changes or to obtain further evaluation reports. The objecting party(ies) can participate in these meeting.

- (8) If no objections have been raised or if the Commission decided under the consideration of all objections and new evaluation reports to accept the dissertation (with a possible change in the grading) the decision is final. It contains the admission to the oral exams.
- (9) If the examiner's committee has demanded editorial changes a copy that has been approved by the advisor has to be included in the PhD examination file.
- (10) If the Commission decided on the rejection of the dissertation by considering all objections and new reports, the Commission informs the doctoral student about the negative decision. This has to be accompanied with information on legal recourse.
- (11) A rejected dissertation remains with all evaluation reports in the faculty. It must not be presented to any other faculty to obtain a doctorate without stating the previous rejection.
- (12) PhD candidates whose dissertation has been rejected are allowed to re-initiate the PhD examination procedure only after the expiration of 1 year.
- (13) A written protocol has to be kept for each meeting. If the final decision is only based on single questions, the decision can be reached by exchange of written correspondence.

## **§ 10 Oral Examination**

- (1) The oral examinations consist of a public scientific talk with a discussion (Promotionskolloquium) and a subsequent non-public oral exam (Disputation). Both take place in front of the examination committee.
- (2) The doctoral student reports about the essential results of his or her PhD in a scientific talk. The duration of the talk shall not exceed 30 minutes. At the end of the talk a discussion will be held that shall not exceed 15 minutes. Questions from the listeners and the commission have to be permitted.
- (3) In the non-public oral exam (Disputation) the doctoral student is examined in a scientific talk to present the subject matter of his/her dissertation and its classification in the respective or close discipline. It shall last at minimum 30 minutes and at maximum 90 minutes.
- (4) The public scientific talk (Promotionskolloquium) and the non-public oral exam (Disputation) can be held in German or English language. With the approval of the PhD Commission and the members of examination committee another language is also permitted.
- (5) The PhD Commission establishes due to the suggestions from the examination committee the time and the place of the oral exam (Promotionskolloquium and Disputation). Finding an appointment is within the chair's responsibility in consultation with the doctoral student. The date has to be announced to the doctoral student at least 2 weeks in advance and shall take place at the latest 3 months after the last evaluation report has been received. The oral exam (Promotionskolloquium) has to be announced within the faculty by stating the doctoral student's name, the title as well as the time and the place. The public notice period is 7 working days.
- (6) Doctoral students of the same field can be admitted as listeners and if seats are available and if the doctoral candidate has agreed. Listeners are not permitted during the examiners consultation and discussion and the announcement of the grade/result. Who as a listener tries to manipulate or interrupt the exam has to be excluded. {...}

## **§ 11 Evaluation of the Oral Exam**

- (1) The examination committee decides non-publicly after the oral exam about
  - passing or not passing the "Promotionskolloquium", which is not graded, and
  - assessment and evaluation of the oral exam "Disputation" by using the grading scale under § 13.

- (2) If a doctoral student does not appear for his or her oral exam without stating a significant reason or withdraws after starting it the oral exam is to be evaluated as failed. If significant reasons are stated for the absence or for the withdrawal the PhD Committee has to be informed about them through the examination committee's chair without delay. Oral announcement must be confirmed in writing without delay. If the doctoral student has fallen sick, the presentation of a medical attestation can be demanded. If the reasons are acknowledged a new date will be scheduled.

## **§ 12 Repetition of the Oral Exam**

Does not apply

## **§ 13 Single Grades and Total Grade**

- (1) As grades for the dissertation and for the oral exam (Disputation) are admitted:
- Excellent (0.0)
  - Very good (1.0)
  - Good (2.0)
  - Satisfactory (3.0)

As well as for the oral exam the evaluation:

- Not passed

The increase or the decrease of a grade by minus 0.3 or plus 0.3 is permitted. The grade "satisfactory" cannot be decreased.

- (2) The dissertation's grade is the arithmetic average of the single grades from the examiners' reports. The grade is determined as follows:

Excellent	for a value of 0.0
Very good	for a value of 0.1 – 1.5
Good	for a value of 1.6 - 2.5
Satisfactory	for a value of 2.6 -3.0

- (3) The arithmetic average for which only the first decimal is counted of the doubly weighted dissertation grade and the simple weighted grade of the oral exam determines as follows the total grade of the PhD:

Summa cum laude:	for a value of 0.0
Magna cum laude	for a value of 0.1 – 1.5
Cum laude	for a value of 1.6 – 2.5
Rite	for a value of 2.6 – 3.0

## **§ 14 Publication of the Dissertation**

The dissertation has to be printed and made available in an adequate way to the scientific public in the version as accepted by the examination committee or in a shortened version that contains all essential results as accepted by the advisor.

Therefore,

- 5 copies have to be lodged with the university's library
- 1 copy has to be handed lodged with the institute's library.

Moreover, the distribution of the thesis has to be ensured in one of the following ways:

1. The delivery of 40 bound or stapled copies in print or photo print
2. The proof of a publication in a journal
3. The proof of a distribution through the book trade through a commercial publisher with a minimum number of copies of 150; on the backside of the title page must be stated that the publication is a PhD thesis by naming the place where the dissertation took place
4. The delivery of a microfiche and further 40 hard copies
5. The delivery of an electronic version whose data format and data carrier have to conform with the university library's requirements

All paper copies have to be printed on non-aging wood-free and acid-free paper and have to have a permanent durable binding.

{...}

- (3) The deposit copies or the proof of the printing of the doctoral thesis or its electronic publication respectively have to be handed in to the PhD Committee within one year after the passed oral exam has taken place. If the doctoral student culpably permits this period to elapse all rights acquired through the passed exam expire. In particular cases the PhD Committee can grant an extension of the period upon the doctoral student's request.

## **§ 15 Certificate and Degree Certificate**

- (1) If all components of the examination in accordance with these PhD regulations have been fulfilled and all grades have been established, the PhD Committee issues a certificate and a degree certificate.
- (2) The certificate provides the following information:
  - the doctoral student's name and his/her date and place of birth,

- the dissertation's title,
- the doctoral subject,
- the names of the examination board's members,
- the dissertation's grade,
- the date of the passed scientific discussion (Colloquium) and the passed oral exam,
- the final grade according to § 13 section 3,
- the dean's signature,
- the faculty's seal, and
- instructions on legal steps.

Upon a justified request by the doctoral student the certificate can include an acknowledged special field of the dissertation's subject. The certificate does not include the authorization to use the doctoral title.

(3) The degree certificate contains the following information:

- the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Bonn as the faculty bestowing the title,
- the designation as Dr. rer. nat. as the degree awarded,
- the doctoral student's name including his/her date and place of birth,
- the dissertation's title,
- the date of the passed scientific discussion (Colloquium) and the passed oral exam,
- the dean's signature, and
- the faculty's seal.

Upon request the degree certificate can be issued in English language.

(4) After the certificate is issued, it will be handed over to the doctoral student. The degree certificate will be handed over after the obligation to publish the doctoral thesis has been fulfilled according to § 14 and confirmation of release from the university library and the respective institute's library have been presented to the PhD Committee.



## **§ 16 Declaration of Obsolescence and Withdrawal of the Doctoral Degree**

- (1) If it turns out during the examination proceeding that the doctoral student is guilty of deceit, the evaluation of the corresponding examination part can be corrected or parts of the examination procedure or the whole examination procedure can be declared null and void.
- (2) If the doctoral student has practiced deceit in one part of the doctoral work and this becomes known only after the doctoral certificate has been handed over, the evaluation of the corresponding part of the PhD can be re-assessed or the doctoral degree can be withdrawn.
- (3) If the doctoral student acquired the admission to the PhD through deceit, threat or bribery, the doctoral degree can also be withdrawn when this becomes known. If the preconditions for the admission to a PhD were not met and the doctoral student did not want to cover this up or to deceive in this matter and if this lack of qualification becomes known only after the PhD certificate has been handed over this lack is remedied by passing the PhD examination procedure.
- (4) If the doctoral degree is withdrawn according to section 2 or 3 or if the evaluation of the PhD changes according to section 1 or 2, the certificate and the degree certificate are collected and if applicable a new certificate and a new degree certificate are issued and presented.
- (5) The doctoral degree can be withdrawn if the doctoral candidate is sentenced to at least one year of imprisonment due to an intentional crime or if he/she has been sentenced due to an intentional crime in whose preparation and commission he or she used the doctoral degree.
- (6) Before a decision is made the affected person has to have the chance to make a corresponding statement.

## **§ 17 Inspection of and Accessing the PhD Files**

After the termination of the PhD examination procedure the doctoral candidate is granted upon request to inspect his/her PhD file. The request has to be made within a month after the certificate has been handed over to the doctoral candidate.

## **§ 18 to § 22 – Do not apply**

These sections have no relevance to IMPRS students