

Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

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Pursuant to § 17 para. 1 item 3 in conjunction with § 16 para. 5 of the Statutes of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (University Gazette of Humboldt-Universität AMB No. 47/2013), the extended Faculty Board of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences decided on the following Doctoral Degree Regulations on 13 December 2017.¹

Table of Contents

§ 1	Principles
§ 2	Doctoral Degree Board
§ 3	Admission requirements
§ 4	Admission and enrolment
§ 5	Thesis supervision and standard completion period
§ 6	Initiation of the doctoral examination process
§ 7	Thesis
§ 8	Doctoral Degree Committee
§ 9	Assessment of the doctoral thesis
§ 10	Decision regarding the acceptance and evaluation of the thesis and the organisation of the thesis defence
§ 11	Thesis defence
§ 12	Assessment of the doctoral degree performance
§ 13	Decision regarding the thesis defence and the overall grade of the doctoral examination
§ 14	Withdrawal, repetition, termination of the doctoral degree procedure
§ 15	Publication of the thesis and delivery obligations
§ 16	Doctoral certificate
§ 17	Honorary doctorate
§ 18	Objections and right of legal appeal
§ 19	Commencement
Annex 1:	Sample application for admission to the doctoral examination process and notice of admission
Annex 2:	Sample application to begin the doctoral examination process
Annex 3 .	Sample thesis title page
Annex 4 .	Sample interim doctoral certificate
Annex 5:	Sample doctoral certificate
Annex 6:	Sample English translation of the doctoral certificate
Annex 7:	Table of the overall grades for the doctoral examination

§ 1 Principles

(1) The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin awards the academic degrees:

Doctor rerum naturalium (Dr. rer. nat.)
Doktor-Ingenieur (Dr.-Ing.)
Doctor philosophiae (Dr. phil.)

on the basis of a doctoral examination process completed in accordance with the following provisions. The academic degree "Dr.-Ing." may be awarded, at the request of the doctoral candidate, if he/she has completed the technical education necessary to complete a technical thesis and only in the subject of Computer Science. The academic degree "Dr. phil." can only be awarded, at the request of the doctoral candidate, in the subject of Geography if he/she has not completed a university degree programme in the natural sciences, and the thesis focuses primarily on the humanities and social sciences.

(2) The doctoral examination provides evidence of the ability to complete in-depth independent academic work, beyond the level of a degree from an institute of higher education. The doctoral degree assignments consist of a doctoral thesis and a thesis defence.

(3) The following may be selected as doctoral subjects:

- Chemistry
- Geography
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Geography Education
- Mathematics Education

Specialisations within the doctoral subjects narrow the focus of the doctoral subject. In the subjects of Physics and Chemistry, the specialisations mentioned below may be chosen.

Chemistry: Physical and theoretical chemistry, organic and bioorganic chemistry, applied analytics and environmental chemistry, inorganic and general chemistry, chemistry education, mineralogy.

Physics: Theoretical physics, experimental physics, physics education.

No specialisations can be chosen for the other doctoral subjects.

(4) The academic degree pursuant to para. 1 may only be awarded once to an individual for a doctoral subject.

(5) The honorary title of "Doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa (Dr. rer. nat. h. c.)" may be awarded for outstanding academic achievements in one of the subjects represented at the Faculty.

§ 2 Doctoral Degree Board

(1) The Faculty Board appoints a Doctoral Degree Board to perform tasks within the doctoral examination process for the duration of the Board's term of office. The office of the Doctoral Degree Board is the Office of Doctoral Affairs of the Faculty.

¹ The Presidential Committee of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin approved these Doctoral Degree Regulations on 30 May 2018.

(2) The Faculty Board appoints the members at the beginning of each term of office. These members are full-time professors, each representing one of the departments.

(3) The members elect a chairperson. They may act on one another's behalf. Individual decisions can be transferred to the chairperson or to individual members of the Doctoral Degree Board, provided a vote has been had on the matter. The departments decide which departmental body is responsible for producing the necessary consultations and statements regarding all doctoral affairs and submitting them to the Doctoral Degree Board for decision.

The Doctoral Degree Board meetings are not public. The Doctoral Degree Board makes decisions based on the simple majority of its members.

(4) The duties of the Doctoral Degree Committee are, above all, making decisions on admission to doctoral studies and the initiation of the doctoral examination process, on changes to the Doctoral Degree Committee as well as prolongation of the standard completion period.

§ 3 Admission requirements

(1) A prerequisite for admission to doctoral studies is a degree in a subject relevant to the doctoral examination from a public university within the jurisdiction of the German Constitution at the level of master's degree, Master of Education, "Diplom" or a degree involving training as a secondary school teacher with natural sciences as the primary subject of examination.

(2) A degree from a foreign university is also a valid degree, within the meaning of para. 1, if its equivalence has been determined by the competent body of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin or the Central Office for Foreign Education.

(3) The Doctoral Degree Board may permit exemptions to para. 1 and 2, provided that the academic qualification required for the doctoral examination can be guaranteed or proven. Admission to doctoral studies may be granted with the stipulation that, by a certain deadline, proof must be provided of certain achievements, the acquisition of which is typical of the university education stipulated in para. 1 and required in order to supplement the skills demonstrated by the application for his/her desired doctoral degree programme. The Doctoral Degree Board decides on the form and content of this proof of achievement at the suggestion of the relevant department.

(4) The doctoral degree programme may only be completed in a subject that is covered (in terms of both research and teaching) by at least one professor or at least one researcher with a university-level teaching qualification working either full-time or part-time at the Faculty.

§ 4 Admission and enrolment

(1) Every researcher who wishes to pursue a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences must submit an application for admission to doctoral studies to the Doctoral Degree Board before beginning work on their thesis (see Annex 1 for application form). This application contains all the relevant declarations from the doctoral candidate. This is also where the legally required information is to be entered. All university transcripts, degree certificates, if required, a confirmation of equivalence, and proof of the required academic background

stipulated in § 3 para. 3 are to be attached to the application. The transcripts and proof can be presented in the form of officially certified copies or in the original with a copy in German or English. Translations must be completed by an officially appointed translator. The doctoral candidate must also provide a copy of the page of their passport or identity card that contains their picture, surname, forename(s), place of birth and date of birth.

(2) The doctoral candidate proposes a supervisor who researches or teaches in the subject area and who must confirm his/her willingness to take on this function in the admission application.

The topic of the doctoral project is chosen by the doctoral candidate in agreement with the supervisor.

(3) In justified exceptional cases (e.g. changing university), a thesis that has already been completed may be submitted at the decision of the Doctoral Degree Board and following successful admission and enrolment. A prerequisite for this is that the thesis has not already been submitted as part of a previous doctoral examination process.

(4) Decisions regarding applications for admission to doctoral studies are made by the Doctoral Degree Board by way of notice. Rejections must be justified in writing and include information for legal appeals.

(5) Once the notice of admission has been handed over, the candidate's doctoral period (thesis completion period) begins. Doctoral candidates are required to enrol or register at the Enrolment Office of Humboldt-Universität pursuant to the General Admission, Study and Examination Regulations of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin currently in force and before the deadline stated therein.

§ 5 Thesis supervision and standard completion period

(1) By admitting the doctoral candidate, the Faculty agrees to ensure the supervision and subsequent assessment of the thesis.

(2) Supervisors are generally professors from within the Faculty. Supervision may also be carried out by a qualified researcher from within the Faculty's full-time and part-time staff. At the decision of the Faculty Board, suitable and equally qualified researchers may also act as supervisors.

(3) The supervision of the thesis is an ongoing obligation and may not be delegated.

(4) Within the framework of structured doctoral degree programmes, the thesis may also be supervised and assessed by professors from other Faculties or research institutes. The appropriate authority is granted, in individual cases, by the Faculty Board, at the request of the department, and is limited to the duration of the programme.

(5) Cross-border doctoral examination processes with double supervision are possible if there is a separate agreement for this process that is signed by the doctoral candidate, both supervisors, the dean and the president of both institutions.

The agreement must be based on the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the partner faculty, but may differ in individual points. In particular, regulations must be made regarding the composition of

the Doctoral Degree Committee, the course of the doctoral examination process, the grading, the form of certification (sample certificate) and the publication.

The legal bases of both countries (higher education legislation) must be specified and the Doctoral Degree Regulations enclosed as the legal basis.

(6) Should the supervisor cease to be a member of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, he or she retains the right for four years to complete the supervision of a thesis that has already been started and to remain an internal member of the Doctoral Degree Committee (see § 8) with a right to vote. This time limit does not apply to retired full-time professors of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. In justified cases, the Faculty Board may, at the suggestion of the Doctoral Degree Board, withdraw the right to continue the supervision.

(7) The standard thesis completion period is limited to four years. This may be extended by the Doctoral Degree Board following a justified request from the doctoral candidate and a statement from the supervisor.

(8) The doctoral period may be ended before the four-year deadline, either by the doctoral candidate notifying the Doctoral Degree Board or upon the request of the supervisor, if, after two years, sufficient progress has not been made, and it is unlikely the degree programme will be completed successfully. A hearing of the doctoral candidate by the Doctoral Degree Board and a departmental board must precede the decision regarding the supervisor's request. The outcome of the request is decided by the Doctoral Degree Board.

This does not rule out the possibility of future admission to doctoral studies.

§ 6 Initiation of the doctoral examination process

(1) The written application to initiate the doctoral examination process must be submitted to the Doctoral Degree Board of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (application form, Annex 2). This application contains all the relevant declarations from the doctoral candidate. This is also where the legally required information is to be entered.

(2) The following must be enclosed with this application to initiate the doctoral examination process:

- at least five printed and bound copies of the thesis (number determined by the departments),
- an email to the Office of Doctoral Affairs containing the thesis as a PDF file,
- a one-page summary of the results of the thesis in German and English,
- a curriculum vitae written in German or English with information, in particular, about the academic career of the applicant,
- a list of the applicant's published scientific papers,

(3) Decisions regarding the application to initiate the doctoral examination process are made by the Doctoral Degree Board on the basis of the vote taken by the departments responsible for the doctoral subject regarding the chosen doctoral subject, the specialisation and the Doctoral Degree Committee. Pursuant to § 8, the Doctoral Degree Board appoints the entire Doctoral Degree Committee within one month. Rejections must be justified in writing and include information for legal appeals.

§ 7 Thesis

(1) The thesis is a paper written by the applicant based on independent scientific work in the chosen doctoral subject, representing a step forward in scientific knowledge. The thesis must be a self-contained representation of the scientific environment, individual research and its results.

(2) The thesis must be written in German or English. The Doctoral Degree Board may permit exceptions to this if there are substantive reasons and if assessment can be guaranteed. If the thesis is not written in German or English, it must contain a ten-page abstract in German or English.

(3) The doctoral candidate must state all of his/her resources and aids and declare that he/she developed and wrote the thesis independently on the basis of these aids. Doctoral candidates are not permitted to submit theses already submitted and assessed as part of an earlier doctoral examination process.

(4) The thesis must include a title page, in accordance with Annex 3, and the statement of authorship. It must be submitted in bound form (not ring-bound).

(5) The thesis can be an unpublished work, one already published in parts or in its entirety, or one submitted for publication.

(5 a) Cumulative doctoral thesis

Publications or texts submitted for publication can form part of the thesis if they are closely linked, in terms of time and content, to the overall concept. The doctoral thesis must demonstrate the overall concept as well as the coherence of its components in an appropriate form and length.

If the published texts or texts submitted for publication within the thesis have multiple authors, the doctoral candidate must specify in writing which parts of the text in question are his/hers. This declaration must then be confirmed by the co-authors in writing.

The Faculty Board can, at the proposal of the departmental boards, enact subject-specific rules and regulations for cumulative doctoral theses with regard to, among other things, the structure of the thesis, the nature and length of publications within the thesis, their publication status, and co-authorships.

(5 b) Monographs

If parts of the thesis are based on results, publications or texts submitted for publication, which have multiple authors, the doctoral candidate must specify in writing which parts of the text in question are his/hers. This declaration must then be confirmed by the supervisor in writing. The Faculty Board may, at the suggestion of the departmental board, enact subject-specific rules and regulations regarding the structure of this declaration for monographs.

(6) The doctoral candidate agrees to independently resolve all legal issues relating to the publication, pursuant to § 15, before applying for the initiation of a doctoral examination process.

§ 8 Doctoral Degree Committee

(1) The Doctoral Degree Committee consists of at least three university professors and one additional member with at least a university-level teaching qualification, and another additional member with at least a doctoral degree.

The chairperson must be a professor within the Faculty. The members of the department in which the doctoral subject is covered shall form the majority of the voting members in the Doctoral Degree Committee. In structured doctoral degree programmes and in interdisciplinary projects, it is possible to deviate from this structure of majority.

The reviewers must be members of the Doctoral Degree Committee, but cannot act as chairpersons.

The Faculty Board may adopt further subject-specific rules for the composition of the Committee at the proposal of the departmental boards.

(2) If the thesis deals with a topic that covers several disciplines or an interdisciplinary project, then the relevant disciplines and, if applicable, departments should be given appropriate consideration when putting together the Doctoral Degree Committee.

(3) The duties of the Doctoral Degree Committee are:

- making decision regarding the acceptance of the thesis on the basis of the available reviewer reports and third-party reviewer statements pursuant to § 9 para. 5
- forming the grade for the thesis pursuant to § 10 para. 1 and para. 2 and § 12,
- initiating, carrying out and assessing the thesis defence pursuant to § 11,
- determining the overall grade for the doctoral degree programme pursuant to § 13 para. 1.

(4) The meetings of the Doctoral Degree Committee are not public.

All votes regarding assessment of performance shall be conducted by open ballot and in accordance with § 10 para. 2, § 11 para. 7, § 12 and § 13 para. 1. Abstentions are not permitted. The Doctoral Degree Committee passes all decisions with the majority of its voting members. When awarding the grade "summa cum laude", § 10 para. 2 shall apply. In a tied vote, the vote of the chairperson shall be the deciding vote.

(5) Decisions regarding requests to change the composition of the appointed Doctoral Degree Committee shall be made by the Doctoral Degree Board.

§ 9 Assessment of the doctoral thesis

(1) At least three reviewers (university professors, researchers with university-level teaching qualifications or researchers authorised to supervise and assess theses by the Faculty Board) are appointed by the Doctoral Degree Board to assess the thesis, one of which may be the supervisor of the thesis. At least one reviewer must be a professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. One reviewer must be from outside Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

(2) The reviewer reports shall be compiled independently and submitted within two months of their request. The reviewer reports may only be used within the framework of the doctoral examination process and are to be treated

confidentially. The reviewer reports must be made available for inspection both to the doctoral candidate and the members of the Doctoral Degree Committee in a secure, preferably electronic, form.

(3) Each reviewer either recommends that the thesis be accepted and assesses it using the grades outlined in § 12, or recommends it be rejected with the grade "non sufficit". The reviewer reports must acknowledge the significance of the thesis and its findings in a wider context and accurately present any shortcomings. The reviewer reports may stipulate the correction of clearly specified shortcomings within the thesis as a condition for acceptance, provided this does not constitute a significant change to the scientific content.

If a reviewer report does not clearly provide the required assessments, the Doctoral Degree Committee shall return the report for revision.

(4) If the reviewers differ in their assessments by at least two grade levels, or if no unanimous decision for a "summa cum laude" can be derived from their reports, the Doctoral Degree Board may, at the request of the Doctoral Degree Committee, appoint an additional reviewer. For the purposes of awarding the grade "summa cum laude", this must be an external reviewer. The final assessment of the thesis is carried out pursuant to §§ 10 and 12.

(5) After completion of the assessment by reviewers, the thesis, including the reviewer reports, must, for at least two weeks, be made available to be viewed confidentially by the Faculty professors in the department where the doctoral subject is covered. During this period, it is possible to make objections to and statements about the thesis and the reviewer reports written about it. These objections and statements must be submitted to the Doctoral Degree Committee in writing.

The objections are to be examined by the Doctoral Degree Committee in consultation with the doctoral candidate. The Doctoral Degree Committee then advises the Doctoral Degree Board in a private meeting and proposes that either the objection be dismissed, a new reviewer be appointed, or the doctoral examination process be terminated. The final decision shall be made by the Doctoral Degree Board.

§ 10 Decision regarding the acceptance and evaluation of the thesis and the organisation of the thesis defence

(1) Once this two-week display period is over, the Doctoral Degree Committee will declare whether the thesis was accepted or rejected. The thesis is accepted on the basis of the reviewer reports. Acceptance is required in order for the doctoral candidate to be admitted to the thesis defence. The decision of the Doctoral Degree Committee can be made by circulation. It must then be communicated to the doctoral candidate.

(2) If the thesis is accepted – if applicable, once objections have been resolved pursuant to § 9 para. 5 – the overall grade of the thesis is then decided before the thesis defence pursuant to § 12. Abstentions in the assessment are not permitted pursuant to § 8 para. 4 item 3. The grade "summa cum laude" ("with distinction") can only be awarded if either all the reviewer reports have rated the thesis as such, or if, in the case of no more than one differing grade, the addition report pursuant to § 9 para. 4 argues in favour of awarding "summa cum laude".

(3) The date of the thesis defence is set in agreement with the doctoral candidate. There should not be no more than two months between the submission of the final reviewer report and the thesis defence. The doctoral candidate must be able to view the reviewer reports two weeks before the thesis defence.

The date and time allotted for the thesis defence is announced two weeks in advance. An invitation is issued by the chairperson of the Doctoral Degree Committee.

(4) If the thesis is rejected, the Doctoral Degree Committee declares the doctoral degree programme as failed. Following confirmation by the Doctoral Degree Board, the decision must be communicated to the doctoral candidate in writing with a justification and information for legal appeals.

§ 11 Thesis defence

(1) The thesis defence is open to members of the University. Decisions regarding exceptions are made by the Doctoral Degree Board upon request. At least half of the voting members of the Doctoral Degree Committee must be present at the thesis defence. Two of the reviewers should be among these members.

(2) The purpose of the thesis defence is to demonstrate the ability of the doctoral candidate to orally present and discuss scientific problems. It is carried out in German or English.

(3) The chairperson of the Doctoral Degree Committee leads the scientific debate and decides on the priority and, if necessary, admissibility of questions. He or she may, if required to properly conduct the thesis defence, exclude the public.

(4) The Doctoral Degree Committee nominates one of its members as the minute taker. The minute taker takes a list of attendees and keeps the minutes on the proceedings of the thesis defence. The list of attendees and the minutes are to be kept in the doctoral records.

(5) The thesis defence begins with a presentation of no more than 30 minutes, in which the doctoral candidate presents and explains the results of the thesis and their significance in a larger scientific context. Then the doctoral candidate defends the thesis against criticism, in particular against objections made by the reviewers, and answers questions from members of the Doctoral Degree Committee. The chairperson of the Doctoral Degree Committee may then allow questions from the public about the topic of the thesis under defence. The discussion should usually last no longer than 60 minutes.

(6) The questions should also refer to how the problems presented in the thesis can be classified into larger scientific contexts, and enable the candidate to demonstrate a high level of knowledge in the doctoral subject beyond the thesis's area of specialisation.

(7) Following the thesis defence, the attending members of the Doctoral Degree Committee evaluate the defence, in a closed meeting, pursuant to the rules and regulations outlined in § 8 para. 4, using the grades outlined in § 12. They determine the overall grade for the doctoral examination pursuant to § 13 para. 1 and Annex 7 "Table of the overall grades for the doctoral examination".

The chairperson of the Doctoral Degree Committee verbally informs the doctoral candidate of the grade he/she has achieved.

He/she informs the doctoral candidate about the rules regarding the adoption of an academic title as well as about the possible correction of shortcomings or the fulfilment of requirements pursuant to § 9 para. 3.

(8) If the doctoral candidate misses the thesis defence without providing proof of serious grounds, the defence will be deemed as failed. In such a case, the failure must be communicated to the doctoral candidate in writing along with information for legal appeals.

(9) If the doctoral candidate does not pass the thesis defence, it may be repeated once within six months. Decision regarding exceptions are made by the Doctoral Degree Board.

If the repeated thesis defence is ultimately not passed, the Doctoral Degree Committee declares the doctoral examination as failed. Following confirmation by the Doctoral Degree Board, the decision must be communicated to the doctoral candidate along with information for legal appeals.

§ 12 Assessment of the doctoral degree performance

The doctoral thesis and the thesis defence shall be deemed accepted/passed if they are ultimately awarded one of the following grades:

- summa cum laude (with distinction)
- magna cum laude (very good)
- cum laude (good)
- rite (satisfactory)

The grade "summa cum laude" can only be awarded for the written assignment pursuant to § 10 para. 2. For the evaluation of the thesis defence, § 11 para. 7 shall apply.

The grade "non sufficit" (insufficient) is awarded for a thesis that was not accepted or a thesis defence that was not passed.

§ 13 Decision regarding the thesis defence and the overall grade for the doctoral examination

(1) The evaluation of the thesis defence shall be carried out in accordance with the regulations in § 12. Taking into account the grade of the doctoral thesis, which was awarded pursuant to § 10 para. 2, the Doctoral Degree Committee ultimately determines the overall grade for the doctoral examination pursuant to the table in Annex 7.

(2) Once the achievements of the doctoral candidate have been confirmed by the Doctoral Degree Committee and the doctoral records have been checked by the Office of Doctoral Affairs, the doctoral candidate receives an interim certificate (cf. Annex 4). This interim certificate does not entitle the candidate to bear the title of "Doctor".

(3) Within one year, the doctoral graduate / former doctoral candidate will have the right to view the doctoral records.

§ 14 Withdrawal, repetition, termination of the doctoral examination process

(1) If the doctoral candidate submits a written declaration of withdrawal before initiation of the doctoral examination process, the documentation he/she submitted shall be returned to him/her. The thesis shall be deemed as not submitted.

(2) At the request of the doctoral candidate, the doctoral examination process may be terminated prematurely, as long as none of the reviewers have submitted a written report. In this case, the submission of the thesis and the initiation of the examination process shall be deemed not to have taken place.

(3) If the thesis was not accepted or the thesis defence not passed (§ 10 para. 4 and § 11 para. 8 and 9), the candidate may apply for admission to a new doctoral examination process and submit a new thesis after half a year at the earliest.

(4) If the doctoral candidate culpably neglects or refuses to comply with a written request from the Doctoral Degree Committee in a timely manner, the doctoral examination process will be terminated with a written statement by the Doctoral Degree Board after consulting with the doctoral candidate. This also applies if the doctoral candidate announces that he/she does not wish to continue with the doctoral examination process after a written reviewer report has already been submitted.

(5) If, prior to delivery of the doctoral degree certificate, it is determined that the doctoral candidate has knowingly violated the rules of good academic practice, the Doctoral Degree Board shall decide whether to terminate the doctoral examination process. In case of doubt, the process is suspended pending clarification. The doctoral candidate must be given the opportunity to comment on the allegations made against him/her.

§ 15 Publication of the thesis and delivery obligations

(1) The doctoral candidate must make the thesis available to the academic public in an appropriate manner (obligation to publish). This obligation to publish must be fulfilled within one year of the date of the thesis defence. Decisions regarding justified requests from the doctoral candidate to extend this deadline will be made by the Doctoral Degree Board.

(2) The conditions specified in § 9 para. 3 must be met for publication. This shall be determined by the chairperson of the Doctoral Degree Committee for the purposes of the doctoral records, after consultation with the supervisor, if necessary.

(3) The doctoral candidate has fulfilled the obligation to publish when he/she, in addition to the copies for the examination file, delivers the following copies, printed on non-ageing wood and acid-free paper and bound (not ring-bound), to the University Library free of charge:

- a) 10 copies, each in letterpress or photographic print for distribution;
- b) 4 complete copies of the doctoral thesis if it is published in a journal (this also applies to cumulative doctoral theses for which all of the contributions are published); or

- c) 4 publisher's copies if the doctoral thesis is published by a commercial publisher and if it is declared on the reverse of the title page that Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin was the place where the doctoral thesis was written; or
- d) 1 copy and an electronic version, the file format and data carrier of which must be agreed upon with the University Library. The specifications of the University's edoc server must be borne in mind for this.

In the cases of (a), (b) and (d), a fully fabric-bound copy intended for archiving by the University Library must be produced by a bookbindery in accordance with RAL RG 495 quality standards.

(4) The doctoral candidate must grant the University Library the necessary rights of distribution and reproduction.

(5) Evidence of successful publication from the University Library must be presented to the Office of Doctoral Affairs. The candidate has to declare in writing that the electronic and printed versions conform with the accepted thesis. This declaration will be included in the doctoral records. The doctoral certificate will then be issued.

(6) If, after the doctoral certificate has been issued, it is determined that the doctoral candidate has violated the rules of good academic practice in connection with the preparation or submission of the thesis, measures will be taken pursuant to the "Statutes of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for ensuring good academic practice and for dealing with allegations of scientific misconduct".

§ 16 Doctoral certificate

(1) A certificate documenting successful completion of the doctoral degree programme is issued in German (see Appendix 5).

(2) It includes:

- the name of the University and of the Faculty,
- the forename(s) and surname of the doctoral graduate, his/her date and place of birth,
- the conferred academic degree, the doctoral subject and specialisation,
- the title of the thesis,
- the date of the oral examination, which is deemed the date of doctoral graduation,
- the overall grade for the doctoral examination
- the date of issue, which is the date on which the doctoral examination process was terminated. It corresponds with the fulfilment of the obligation to publish pursuant to § 15,
- the name and signature of the President of Humboldt-Universität and the Dean of the Faculty,
- the seal of Humboldt-Universität

(3) The doctoral certificate must be issued within four weeks after the delivery obligations have been fulfilled pursuant to § 15. The doctoral certificate entitles the graduate to bear the appropriate academic title pursuant to § 1.

In addition to the doctoral certificate, an English translation is issued (see Annex 6).

(4) The certification of bi-national doctoral examination processes is done in accordance with the sample certificates in the applicable agreements (see § 5 para. 5).

§ 17 Honorary doctorate

(1) The Faculty Council may, at the request of the Dean or of at least three full-time professors at the Faculty, award the honorary title of "doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa" (Dr. rer. nat. h. c.) for outstanding academic achievements in one of the subjects represented at the Faculty. Pursuant to § 8, a Doctoral Degree Committee must be appointed to assess these achievements and present the Faculty Board with a recommendation, taking into account two external reviewer reports. The Faculty Board decides to award an honorary doctorate with a majority of two thirds of its members.

(2) The decision to award an honorary doctorate must be forwarded to the University Senate of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for approval.

(3) The honorary doctorate is awarded by issuing a certificate signed by the President of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Dean of the Faculty, which bears the University seal, and in which the achievements of the doctoral graduate are emphasised.

§ 18 Objections and right of legal appeal

(1) Doctoral candidates may raise objections against decisions made by the Doctoral Degree Board. If the objection cannot be remedied after a hearing, the doctoral candidate has the right to make an appeal to the Berlin Administrative Court.

(2) Decisions made by the Doctoral Degree Board and the Doctoral Degree Committee that adversely affect the doctoral candidate must contain information for legal appeals:

It is possible to file an appeal against this decision. It must be filed with the Berlin Administrative Court within one month after notification of this decision, either in writing, in person through a clerk at the court registry, or in electronic form with a qualified electronic signature pursuant to the Digital Signature Act. The appeal must identify the plaintiff and must be filed against Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, represented by the President, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin.

§ 19 Commencement

(1) These Doctoral Degree Regulations become effective on the day after publication in the *University Gazette of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*. They shall cease to be effective as soon as the extended Faculty Board adopts and publishes new Doctoral Degree Regulations.

(2) With the commencement of these Doctoral Degree Regulations, the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences dated 18 November 2014 (University Gazette AMB No. 126/2014) shall cease to be effective.

(3) Doctoral candidates who were admitted to doctoral studies prior to the commencement of these Doctoral Degree Regulations but have not yet requested initiation of the Doctoral examination process must inform the Doctoral Degree Board within one year if they wish to be examined according to the provisions of the Doctoral Degree Regulations in force at the time of their admission.

(4) Doctoral examination processes that have already been initiated are completed in accordance with the respective Doctoral Degree Regulations in force at the time of initiation. The Doctoral Degree Committees appointed for these examination processes shall continue with their activities.