

# Regulations for the award of a doctoral degree of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

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On 30 June 2014, in accordance with s 17(1)(3) read with s 16(5) of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Constitution (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Official Gazette No. 47/2013) the extended Faculty Committee of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin adopted the following regulations for the award of a doctoral degree.<sup>1</sup>

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## § 1 General

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

Doctor of Natural Sciences (RNDr)  
 Doctor of Engineering (EngD)  
 Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil)

on the basis of a proper doctoral degree procedure in accordance with the following provisions. The academic degree Dr.-Ing. may, on application by a candidate having completed engineering training, only be awarded for a doctoral thesis in engineering sciences in the discipline of computer sciences. The academic degree Dr. phil. may, on application by a candidate, only be conferred in the discipline of geography if the studies are not in natural sciences and the doctoral thesis is of a predominantly social science or humanities character.

(2) Conferral of a doctoral degree is evidence of an ability to engage in more profound individual academic work through one's own research efforts, going beyond the level of a university degree. The doctoral assessment comprises an academic work (doctoral thesis) and an examination panel (doctoral viva voce).

(3) The following disciplines may be selected for doctoral studies:

- Chemistry
- Geography
- Information technology
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Didactics of geography
- Didactics of mathematics

The specialisations in the various disciplines are determined by the Extended Faculty Committee on the advice of the competent departmental committees. The list of specialisations is kept with the dean's office.

(4) The academic degree pursuant to subsection 1 may only be conferred on a person once for any given doctoral subject area.

(5) The academic degree Doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa (Dr. rer. nat. h. c.) can be conferred in recognition of outstanding scientific achievements in a field represented at the Faculty.

<sup>1</sup> The Senate of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin approved the Regulations for the award of a doctoral degree on 11 November 2014.

## § 2 Doctoral Degrees Committee

(1) The Faculty Committee delegates the doctoral degree procedure to the Doctoral Degrees Committee.

(2) The Faculty Committee shall appoint the members at the beginning of its tenure. The members shall be full-time university teaching staff, each representing one of the departments. The members shall elect a chairperson.

(3) The Doctoral Degrees Board shall make decisions on the basis of a resolution of the relevant Departmental Committee regarding the admission and the commencement of a doctoral procedure. Meetings of the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall not be public.

(4) In cases of doubt, any member of the Doctoral Degrees Committee may request that the decision be referred to the Faculty Committee.

## § 3 Requirements for acceptance

(1) A requirement for acceptance into a doctoral procedure is the completion of a course of study in a field which is of key relevance to the doctoral degree; the course of study must have been completed at a state university within the scope of the Basic Law [the German Federal Constitution, *Grundgesetz*] at a master or *Diplom* level, in teaching with natural sciences as the first examination subject or as a Master of Education.

(2) A tertiary degree within the meaning of subsection 1 includes a degree conferred by a foreign tertiary institution, subject to a positive determination of its equivalence by the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin or the central office for foreign education institutions. Where there is any doubt, the Doctoral Degrees Committee representative responsible for that discipline shall, after consulting with the departmental committee, make a recommendation to the Doctoral Degrees Committee.

(3) The Doctoral Degrees Committee may authorise an exception to subsections 1 and 2 where the scholarly qualifications necessary for the doctoral procedure are fulfilled or proven. Conditional acceptance to the doctoral procedure may be issued subject to a requirement to provide by a certain date proof of achievements which are generally a part of the academic education required under subsection 1 and which are required to supplement the proposer's proven knowledge for the purposes of the intended doctoral degree programme. The respective departmental committee shall determine the form and content of the end-of-semester certificate.

## § 4 Admissions procedure

(1) All scholars who wish to work for a doctorate at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences must, before commencement of the doctorate, lodge an application for acceptance to the doctoral procedure (see Appendix 1). The application must be accompanied by the complete university academic transcripts, university degree certificates, a declaration of equivalence (if applicable) and the proof of qualifications required under s 3(3) regarding the applicant's required previous education. Academic transcripts and certificates may be filed in German or English as certified copies or as originals with an uncertified copy.

(2) The applicant can only carry out doctoral research in a subject area in which at least one faculty teaching staff

member and one post-doctorate teaching academic from the pool of full-time or part-time Faculty personnel are engaged in research and teaching. The doctoral candidate shall suggest an academic adviser who represents the subject area in research and teaching; this person must, on the admission application, confirm his/her willingness to take on the position.

(3) In certain exceptional cases, which must be justified (e.g. changing universities, procedure pursuant to s 14(3)) and subject to agreement by the Doctoral Degrees Committee, a completed doctoral thesis paper may, following acceptance and registration, be submitted. As a prerequisite, this doctoral thesis must not have already been submitted in an earlier doctoral procedure.

(4) The Doctoral Degrees Committee shall decide on applications for acceptance into a doctoral procedure. Rejections shall be accompanied by written reasons for the decision which must bear a notification regarding the rights and methods of appeal.

(5) The doctoral candidate's doctoral studies shall commence on delivery of the Letter of Admission. The doctoral studies are limited to a period of four years, but may be extended by the Doctoral Degrees Committee on application by the doctoral candidate accompanied by a statement from the candidate's academic adviser. The doctoral candidates shall be under an obligation to enrol or register with the Humboldt-Universität student registration office in accordance with the Humboldt-Universität Admissions Regulations by the deadline provided for under the Regulations.

(6) The doctoral studies may be terminated before the end of the four year period: either by notification by the doctoral candidate to the Doctoral Degrees Committee or by application from the academic adviser if sufficient results have not been achieved after two years, and it can no longer be expected that the doctoral studies will be successfully completed. The academic adviser's application shall be preceded by an interview of the doctoral candidate by the Doctoral Degrees Committee and a decision by the departmental council. The application shall be decided on by the Doctoral Degrees Committee. This shall not prevent a renewed acceptance into the doctoral procedure.

## § 5 Supervision of the doctoral thesis and standard research period

(1) By acceptance of the doctoral candidate into the doctoral degree programme, the Faculty undertakes to guarantee the supervision and eventual evaluation of the doctoral thesis.

(2) Academic advisers shall generally be teaching staff at the Faculty. Supervision may also be carried out by a post-doctoral teaching academic from the pool of full-time and part-time faculty personnel or, by resolution of the Faculty Committee, an equivalent person. The supervision of a doctoral thesis is an ongoing commitment and shall not be delegated.

(3) As part of the structured doctoral procedures, the doctoral thesis may also be supervised and evaluated by faculty members or staff from other faculties or research facilities who have teaching authorisation. The respective authority shall be granted by the Faculty Committee on a case-to-case basis on application by the department and shall be limited to the duration of the programme.

(4) Cross-border doctoral degree processes under dual supervision may be carried out, subject to an agreement for such a programme between the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and the partner faculty of a foreign tertiary education institution signed by the doctoral candidate, both academic advisers, deans and presidents.

The Humboldt-Universität template agreement should be drawn on as a guide.

The contract must be based on the Regulations for the award of doctoral degrees of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and the partner faculty's Regulations on the award of doctoral degrees; however there may be individual points that differ.

The legal basis for both countries (Higher Education Acts) should be mentioned and the regulations for the award of doctoral degrees shall be attached as a legal basis. They should be reviewed by the responsible Humboldt-Universität body before the contract is concluded.

(5) The topic of the doctoral project shall be determined by the doctoral candidate in discussion with the academic adviser. As a rule, the doctoral thesis should be submitted after no longer than four years (the "standard research period").

(6) Should the academic adviser's tenure at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin come to an end, he/she shall maintain the right to complete the supervision of any doctoral thesis commenced and to be a voting member of the Doctoral Degrees Committee (see s 8) for a period of four years. The time limit shall not apply to former full-time Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin university teaching staff.

## **§ 6 Commencement of the doctoral procedure**

(1) The written application for the commencement of the doctoral procedure shall be submitted to the Doctoral Degrees Committee of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences once the conditions of s 4 have been fulfilled.

(2) The application for the commencement of the doctoral procedure shall be accompanied by:

- five printed and bound copies of the doctoral thesis,
- a one-page summary of the results of the doctoral thesis in German and English,
- a curriculum vitae in English or German structured in tabular format providing information about the proposer's scientific development and career,
- a declaration that the doctoral thesis is the candidate's own work and was only prepared using the aids and resources provided for under s 7(3),
- a declaration as to whether the proposer has already applied for a doctorate elsewhere in this doctoral subject area or already possesses such a doctorate,
- a declaration regarding the proposer's knowledge of the Regulation on the award of a doctoral degree to which the programme is subjected,
- a list of the proposer's academic publications,
- the name of the selected doctoral subject area and specialisation,
- the student registration number,
- a copy of the identification page of the candidate's passport or identity card containing the photo, surname, first names and place and date of birth.

(3) The Doctoral Degrees Committee shall reach its decision on the initiation of the doctoral degree programme on the basis of the documents submitted and the vote of the departmental committee responsible for the selected subject area, the specialisation and the Doctoral Degrees Commission; this shall generally take place within one month. Rejections shall be accompanied by written reasons for the decision which must bear a notification regarding the rights and methods of appeal.

## **§ 7 Doctoral thesis**

(1) The doctoral thesis is an independent academic work written by the proposer in the proposer's chosen doctoral subject area which represents a contribution to scientific knowledge. The doctoral thesis must be a self-contained representation of the academic environment, the applicant's own research and its results.

(2) The doctoral thesis must be written in German or English. The Doctoral Degrees Committee may make exceptions to this rule if the evaluation can still be guaranteed. If the doctoral thesis is not written in German or in English, it must contain a short abstract in German or English, the content of which shall be determined by the Doctoral Degrees Committee.

(3) The doctoral candidate shall state all resources and aids used and confirm that he/she worked independently in this manner on the doctoral thesis and wrote it independently. The doctoral thesis must not have already been evaluated as part of a doctoral procedure or have been evaluated as insufficient.

(4) The doctoral thesis shall bear a title page in accordance with appendix 2 and a declaration of independent work.

(5) The doctoral thesis that is submitted may be:

- a) an unpublished work or
- b) a work which has been partially published or whose publication is intended.

It may consist of multiple individual works and be the result of research with third parties (cumulative work).

One or more published individual works or individual work intended for publication may be submitted as part of the doctoral thesis if they were written within a short period of time of one another and if there is a close substantive connection between them and the overall topic. The doctoral thesis must, in a suitable form and to a suitable extent, set out the overall topic as well as the coherence of the individual components.

The departments may pass specific rules on this matter; such rules shall require the approval of the Faculty Committee.

(6) The doctoral thesis shall be submitted in bound form. The doctoral candidate shall be under an obligation to attend to any legal issues relating to the publication pursuant to s 15 before the commencement of the doctoral procedure.

(7) In the case of works of multiple authors, the doctoral candidate's own contribution shall be identified by the candidate and confirmed in writing by the co-authors.

## § 8 The doctoral degree committee

(1) On the initiation of the doctoral procedure pursuant to s 6(3), the Doctoral Degrees Board shall, on the advice of the responsible department, appoint a Doctoral Degrees Committee for the carrying out of the doctoral procedure and confirm the subject area and the specialisation. The reviewers shall be members of the Doctoral Degrees Committee, however they shall not be the chairperson.

(2) The doctoral degree committee shall comprise at least three faculty members and two further members with higher doctorates or members with teaching rights. The chairperson must be a member of the faculty's teaching staff. Faculty teaching staff and members with higher doctorates of the department responsible for the subject area should form the majority of the doctoral degree committee. Exceptions to this provision may be made in structured doctoral programmes.

(3) If the topic of the doctoral thesis relates to multiple subject areas, or is an interdisciplinary study, the subject areas and any relevant departments shall be suitably taken into account in the appointment of the members of the Doctoral Degrees Committee.

(4) The Doctoral Degrees Committee has the following tasks:

- the decision regarding the acceptance and grading of the doctoral thesis on the basis of the reviewers' assessment and the comments to the cross-reviews pursuant to s 9(5),
- organising, conducting and assessing the assessment of the doctoral thesis,
- deciding on the overall mark for the doctorate.

(5) Meetings of the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall not be public.

Decisions of the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall be made by resolution passed by the majority of its voting members. All votes regarding assessment shall be open; abstentions shall not be allowed. The chairperson shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

(6) The Doctoral Degrees Board shall decide on any applications for the reconstitution of Doctoral Degrees Committee once constituted.

## § 9 Review of the doctoral thesis

(1) Three reviewers (faculty members, academics holding higher doctorates and others with teaching authority) shall be nominated by the Doctoral Degrees Committee to assess the doctoral thesis; one of these reviewers shall be the candidate's academic adviser. At least one reviewer must be a member of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. There must be one reviewer who is not a Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin staff member. In the case of a co-authored doctoral thesis, there must be at least one reviewer who is not a co-author of the doctoral thesis that has been submitted.

(2) The assessments shall be prepared within two months of the request for reviews and shall be prepared individually. The assessments shall only be used for the purposes of the doctoral procedure and shall be treated with confidentiality.

(3) Each reviewer shall make a recommendation regarding the acceptance of the work, assigning it a grade in

accordance with the grades under s 12 or the rejection of the work, assigning a grade of 'non sufficit'. The reviews shall take the greater significance of the doctoral thesis and its results into account and precisely outline any flaws. The reviewer may impose as a condition the removal of any concretely described flaws; this may not entail a significant change to the academic content. If the assessment does not clearly reveal the necessary evaluation, the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall return the assessment so that it can be revised.

(4) If there is an inconsistency of more than two grades between the reviewers' evaluations, the Doctoral Degrees Board may, on application by the Doctoral Degrees Committee (see s 8) order an additional reviewer. The Doctoral Degrees Committee shall take the appraisals as the basis for the final evaluation.

(5) On completion of the review, the doctoral thesis, including the assessment, shall be made available in the relevant department for at least two weeks for confidential inspection by Faculty teaching staff. In this period, objections and statements regarding the doctoral thesis and the evaluation assessments can be made to the Doctoral Degrees Committee in writing.

Objections shall be considered by the Doctoral Degrees Committee after interviewing the candidate. The Doctoral Degrees Committee shall then deliberate in a closed sitting and prepare a suggested resolution for the Doctoral Degrees Board either rejecting the objection, ordering a new reviewer or ordering the termination of the doctoral procedure.

## § 10 Decision regarding the doctoral thesis and scheduling the doctoral viva voce

(1) In order to be allowed to orally defend the doctoral thesis, the candidate's doctoral thesis must first have been successfully accepted. Acceptance is decided on the basis of the assessment. The Doctoral Degrees Committee's decision may be made by way of a written circular. The candidate shall be advised of the decision in writing. The overall grade for the doctoral thesis shall be set in accordance with s 12 following the expiry of the viewing period provided for under s 9(5).

(2) The date for the doctoral viva voce shall be agreed on with the candidate. The doctoral viva voce shall take place no later than two months after the receipt of the last assessment. The candidate shall be allowed to view the assessments two weeks before the doctoral viva voce.

(3) The date of the doctoral viva voce shall be made public two weeks in advance. The chairman shall invite the Doctoral Degrees Committee to the doctoral viva voce.

(4) If the doctoral thesis is rejected, the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall declare that the doctoral degree has not been passed. The Faculty Committee shall inform the candidate of the decision in writing; the decision shall be accompanied by reasons for the decision and a notice regarding the rights and methods of appeal.

## § 11 Doctoral viva voce

(1) In addition to the acceptance of the doctoral thesis, another requirement for the conferral of a doctorate is the successful completion of the doctoral viva voce. The doctoral viva voce shall be open to the university public.

Exceptions may be made on application to the Doctoral Degrees Committee. The doctoral viva voce must be attended by the majority of the members of the Doctoral Degrees Committee and two of the reviewers.

(2) The doctoral viva voce has the aim of proving the doctoral candidate's ability to orally describe and explain scientific problems. The doctoral viva voce shall be conducted in German or English; the Doctoral Degrees Committee may, on application by the candidate, make an exception to this rule.

(3) The doctoral viva voce shall commence with a presentation of no more than 30 minutes in which the candidate presents the results of the doctoral thesis and explains their significance within the greater context of the subject area. Following this, the candidate shall defend the doctoral thesis against criticism, in particular against the reviewers' criticism and shall answer questions asked by members of the Doctoral Degrees Committee. Following this, the chairperson of the Doctoral Degrees Committee may allow questions from the public regarding the topic of the doctoral viva voce. The discussion shall not generally exceed 60 minutes.

(4) The questions should relate to the relevance of the problems in the doctoral thesis to the greater academic landscape and should allow the candidate to display a high level of knowledge going beyond the candidate's area of speciality within the doctoral subject.

(5) The chairperson of the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall chair the academic discussion and shall decide on the order of the questions and, where necessary, their permissibility. He or she may exclude the public, should this become necessary for the proper conducting of the doctoral viva voce.

(6) The Doctoral Degrees Committee shall nominate one of its members as a secretary. The secretary shall keep a record of the attendance and of the doctoral viva voce itself. The attendance list and the record of the doctoral viva voce shall be filed in the candidate's doctoral file.

(7) If the candidate fails to attend the doctoral viva voce, and if this absence is unexcused, the doctoral viva voce shall be deemed to have not been passed. The candidate shall be notified of this in writing; the notification shall be accompanied by a notice regarding the rights and methods of appeal.

(8) If the candidate did not pass the doctoral viva voce, it may be repeated once.

If the repeat of the doctoral viva voce is not passed, the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall declare the doctorate to have not been passed. The candidate shall be notified of the decision in writing; the notification shall be accompanied by a notice regarding the rights and methods of appeal.

## § 12 Evaluation of the doctoral achievements

The individual assessment items which form part of the doctoral degree procedure (doctoral thesis and doctoral viva voce) shall be deemed to have been accepted/passed if they are awarded the following grades:

- summa cum laude (high distinction)
- magna cum laude (distinction)
- cum laude (credit)
- rite (sufficient)

The grade non sufficit (insufficient) is awarded where the doctoral viva voce was not successfully passed.

Summa cum laude can only be awarded as the overall grade if each of the individual assessment items were unanimously graded as summa cum laude.

## § 13 Decision regarding the doctoral viva voce and the overall grade

(1) Following the doctoral viva voce, the members of the Doctoral Degrees Committee in attendance shall assess the doctoral viva voce in a closed meeting in accordance with s 12. Taking into account the overall grade for the doctoral thesis pursuant to s 10(1), the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall then determine the overall grade for the doctorate in accordance with the table in Appendix 6. The chairperson of the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall inform the candidate of the evaluation of the doctoral achievements/assessment.

(2) After confirmation of the doctoral achievements by the Doctoral Degrees Committee, the candidate shall receive an interim transcript (cf. Appendix 3). The interim transcript does not confer the right to bear the academic title of doctor.

(3) For a period of one year, the doctoral graduate/former doctoral candidate shall have a right to view the graduate's doctoral candidate file.

## § 14 Withdrawing from, repeating or staying the doctoral degree process

(1) Where a candidate lodges a written declaration of withdrawal before the commencement of the doctoral degree procedure, all documents submitted by the candidate shall be returned. The work shall be deemed to have not been submitted.

(2) On application by the candidate, the doctoral degree procedure may be ended prematurely, as long as none of the reviewers has already submitted a written report. In such cases, the work shall be deemed to have not been submitted, and the procedure shall be deemed to have not been commenced.

(3) If the doctoral thesis was not accepted or the doctoral viva voce not passed (s 10(4) and 11(8)), an application may be made for a new doctoral degree procedure, and a new doctoral thesis may be submitted after a period of at least half a year.

(4) If the doctoral candidate culpably fails or refuses to punctually comply with a written notice from the Doctoral Degrees Committee in relation to the doctoral procedure, the doctoral procedure shall be stayed by written resolution of the Doctoral Degrees Board. This also applies when the candidate advises that he/she does not wish to continue with the doctoral procedure after a written report has been submitted.

(5) If it is established prior to the doctorate degree certificate being issued that the candidate provided consciously misleading information, the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall determine whether or not to stay the doctoral procedure. Where there is any doubt, the procedure shall be stayed until the matter has been clarified. The doctoral candidate shall be given the opportunity to

make a statement in relation to the allegations that have been raised.

### § 15 Publication of the doctoral thesis and duty of submission

(1) The doctoral candidate shall make the doctoral thesis available to the academic public in a suitable manner (duty of publication). This duty of publication must be complied with within one year of the date of the doctoral viva voce. Applications for extension of this deadline shall be decided on by the Doctoral Degrees Committee.

(2) The flaws in the dissertation described pursuant to s 9(3) shall be fixed and any conditions fulfilled prior to publication. In consultation with the academic adviser, the chairperson of the Doctoral Degrees Committee shall, where applicable, make note of these in the candidate's doctoral file.

(3) The doctoral candidate shall be deemed to have fulfilled the publication duty under subsection 1 when, in addition to the copies of the dissertation required for the doctoral degree process, the following bound (no spiral binding) copies have been provided free of charge, on permanent wood-free and acid-free paper, to the Humboldt-Universität university library.

- a) 10 copies in book or photocopy format for the purposes of distribution, or
- b) 4 full copies of the doctoral thesis if published in a journal (this also applies to co-authored doctoral theses all contributions of which have been published), or
- c) 4 published copies when published via a commercial publisher and identified on the back of the title page as a doctoral thesis, with the relevant location of compilation being stated as Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, or
- d) 1 copy accompanied with an electronic version in a file format and on a data medium which is compatible with the University library. In this context, the HU's edoc servers should be taken into account.

In cases a), b) and d) one copy, the copy for the University library's archives, shall be prepared as a bound, full cloth volume by an RAL RG 495 quality certified book binder.

(4) The doctoral candidate shall grant the University library any rights for the distribution and reproduction of the work deemed necessary by the library.

(5) The University library's confirmation of publication shall be presented to the Doctoral Degrees Committee. The doctoral candidate shall confirm, in writing, the conformity of the electronic and printed versions of the doctoral thesis with each other. This declaration shall be filed in the candidate's doctoral file. The doctoral degree certificate shall then be issued.

### § 16 Doctoral degree certificate

(1) A doctoral degree certificate shall be issued in the German language (see Appendix 4).

(2) It shall contain:

- the name of the university and the faculty,
- the first name(s) and surname(s) of the graduate and the person's date and place of birth,
- the academic degree being awarded as well as the subject area and specialisation,
- the topic of the doctoral thesis,
- the date of the oral defence of the doctoral thesis (which is deemed to be the date of conferral of the doctorate),
- the overall grade for the doctorate degree,
- the date of issue, being the date of completion of the doctoral procedure, which is the date on which the duty of publication provided for under s 15 is fulfilled,
- the names and signatures of the president of Humboldt-Universität and the dean of the Faculty,
- the Humboldt-Universität seal.

(3) The doctoral degree certificate shall be issued within four weeks of completion of submission pursuant to s 15. The doctoral degree certificate confers on the graduate the right to bear the academic title provided for under s 1.

The doctoral degree certificate shall be accompanied by an English translation (see Appendix 5).

(4) Certificates for cross-border doctoral procedures shall be issued using the template certificates in the relevant contracts (see s 5(4)).

### § 17 Doctor *honoris causa*

(1) On application by the dean, or by at least three full-time Faculty teaching staff members, the Faculty Council may confer the honorary academic degree Doctor rerum naturalium *honoris causa* (Dr. rer. nat. h. c.) for outstanding scientific achievements in a field represented by the Faculty. These achievements shall be assessed by a Doctoral Degrees Committee which shall be constituted by the Doctoral Degrees Board pursuant to s 8; the committee shall provide a recommendation to the Faculty Council based on two external reviews. The Faculty Council shall make its decision on the conferral of the honorary doctorate by a two thirds majority of its members.

(2) The resolution on the conferral of the honorary doctorate shall be submitted to the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Academic Senate for approval.

(3) The honorary doctorate shall be delivered on a certificate highlighting the person's achievements and bearing the signatures of the president of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the dean of the Faculty and the University's seal.

### **§ 18 Objections and appeals**

(1) Doctoral candidates may appeal against decisions. Appeals relating to decisions of the Doctoral Degrees Committee and the Doctoral Degrees Board shall be determined by the dean; appeals relating to decisions by the dean shall be determined by the Faculty Committee.

(2) Doctoral candidates may address an appeal against a decision of the competent faculty body under this Regulation to the president of Humboldt-Universität.

(3) The decisions must bear a notification regarding the rights and methods of appeal.

### **§ 19 Entry into force**

(1) This Regulation on the conferral of doctoral degrees shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Official Gazette*.

(2) These Regulations for the award of a doctoral degree shall apply to applicants who submit their applications for admission to the doctoral procedure at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences after the entry into force of this regulation.

(3) Doctoral candidates who have already been accepted into the doctoral programme but have not yet lodged an application for commencement of the doctoral procedure shall, on lodgement of the application for commencement of the doctoral procedure, choose whether they wish to complete the doctoral procedure under this Regulation or the old regulation. The Doctoral Degrees Committee must be informed of this in writing.

Doctoral procedures which were already commenced before the entry into force of this Regulation shall continue to be governed until their completion by the regulation in force at the time of their commencement. The Doctoral Degrees Committee that has been responsible for the conferral of doctoral degrees shall continue its activities.

(4) With the entry into force of this Regulation on the award of doctoral degrees, the Regulation on the award of doctoral degrees of the First Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of 27 June 2012, (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Official Gazette No 17/2012) and the Regulation on the award of doctoral degrees of the Second Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of 17 January 2005 (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Official Gazette No 34/2006) shall be repealed.