Information about the new doctoral degree regulations

(„Promotionsordnung“)

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New regulations for doctoral degree

- In force since 1 October 2016
- Applies to all doctoral students that apply for „doktorand“ status after 1 October
- Existing doktoranden can choose
What’s New?

New items compared to the old PhD regulations:

- supervision agreement (Betreuungsvereinbarung) between candidate and supervisor (§4).
- After 2 years the supervisor checks whether the PhD thesis should be continued (§6.9).
- The thesis can be a monograph (Monographie) or a cumulative thesis (kumulative Dissertation) (§8).
Step by Step Instructions for new regulations

- Instructions are available on:
  - http://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/forschung/promotion
  - (german only for now)

- Instructions and a summary of the new doctoral degree regulations will be translated to English soon. Help welcome!
1) Admission as „Doktorand“

- Apply informally to the doctoral examination board (Promotionsausschuss) according to §6:
  - Fill out supervision agreement together with your supervisor
  - Template will be available from http://www.tf.uni-freiburg.de/
  - Confirm that you have read:
    - Rules about scientific honesty (Redlichkeit in der Wissenschaft). Link is on Web-page.
  - The doctoral examination board (Promotionsausschuss) will decide about the admission and inform the candidate.
2) During thesis work

- Supervision agreement requires regular official meetings with supervisor(s), at least once per year.
  - (re)discuss timeline and plan for thesis
  - update supervision agreement (Betreuungsvereinbarung)

- After 2 years the supervisor will check whether the thesis should be continued
  - and inform the doctoral examination board (Promotionsausschuss) in writing.
3) Thesis

- 2 types of thesis (§8)
  - Monograph
  - Cumulative thesis (to be approved by Promotionsausschuss)
Requirements for cumulative thesis:
- Papers published or accepted in refereed journals (Informatik: internationally recognized conferences),
- Substantial contributions to at least three of the published papers
- Extensive summary chapter

If papers in a cumulative thesis are not single-authored (§7.1 at end)
- Obtain coauthorship statements that explain the individual contribution of the doktorand
4) Hand-in thesis and request examination

- Hand-in thesis with informal application (§7)

- discuss with supervisor
  - which doctoral degree to apply for
  - Suitable examiners for thesis review and oral exam
5) Oral exam

- Members of the university may attend the oral exam, but the candidate can ask to exclude them. Further guests (e.g., family, friends) can be admitted.

- The exam has 2 parts:
  - Presentation of the thesis (20 min)
  - Questions to thesis and nearby fields (ca. 70 min)
6) Publication of the thesis

- Standard way to publish the thesis (§13):
  - Examining board can request changes in the thesis
  - Supervisor has to confirm final version of thesis for publication
  - Hand-in 3 paper copies
  - Electronic publishing on the FreiDok Server
Questions?