

# Information about the new doctoral degree regulations

(„Promotionsordnung“)

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03.11.2016

Freiburg

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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)

# Cumulative thesis



- **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?



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