

**Doctoral Degree Regulations
for the Award of the Doctoral Degree Dr. rer. pol. at the University of Bremen and
for Students of the Bremen International Graduate School for Social Sciences
(BIGSSS) the PhD Doctor of Philosophy
Awarded by Faculties 7, 8 and 11**

with effect from 24 July 2014

In accordance with Article 110 Section 3 of the *Bremen Hochschulgesetz (BremHG)* [Bremen law governing tertiary education] dated 9 May 2007 (Brem.GBl. p. 339), last amended by Article 8 of the law from 22 June 2010 (Brem.GBl. S. 375), and pursuant to Article 65 Section 4 in conjunction with Article 87 Sections 1 and 2, on the 24th day of July 2014 the Rector of the University of Bremen duly approved these regulations governing the University of Bremen's award of Dr. rer. pol. and PhD as proposed by the Boards of the Faculties 7,8 and 11¹.

**Article 1
Doctoral Degrees**

(1) Following successful completion of the accordant formalities and examinations in Faculties 7, 8 and 11 (Article 15 of these Regulations), the University of Bremen awards the degree *Doktor/Doktorin der Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften (Dr. rer. pol.)* [Doctor of Economics and Doctor of Social Sciences], and in cooperation with Jacobs University Bremen the degree Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) for students of BIGSSS.

(2) The above mentioned awards shall in principle be made available in any of the fields of education and research represented by the Faculties listed in Section 1 of this Article or the BIGSSS.

(3) The award of the doctoral degree confirms the holder's capacity to conduct in-depth scientific work.

**Article 2
Doctoral Commission**

(1) The Faculty Boards responsible for the respective academic fields shall appoint a Doctoral Commission to implement and oversee the process leading to the awards listed in Article 1. The Doctoral Commission shall determine the number of members required to sit on the commission and how these seats are to be spread over the individual Faculties concerned. In the event that no agreement can be reached, the Rectorate shall determine the composition of the commission.

(2) The Doctoral Commission shall comprise professors, students, and members of the University's academic or other staff who have been elected to serve by their respective status group in the respective Faculty Board . It is a condition that professors make up the majority and have majority voting rights. The remaining status groups are to be represented in equal proportion.

(3) The professors and other members of University staff shall be elected for a period of two years; the students for a period of one year. The Doctoral Commission shall elect from among its members a professor to act as the Chair.

¹ Faculty Board resolution (FB) 7 from 09.07.2014, FB 8 from 25.06.2014 and FB 11 from 25.06.2014

Article 3 Appeal Procedure

(1) An Appeal Committee shall rule on any appeals that may be submitted against the decisions reached by the Doctoral Commission. The Doctoral Commission is to be consulted beforehand prior to any ruling.

(2) The Appeals Committee shall be appointed by the Academic Senate of the University of Bremen.

Article 4 Acceptance as Doctoral Candidate

(1) Applications for acceptance as a doctoral candidate are to be submitted to the Doctoral Commission. If possible, applications are to be accompanied by the documents listed in Article 5 Section 2.

(2) In accordance with Article 1 Section 2, the choice of topic for the doctoral thesis rests with the candidate. Applications are to contain an abstract of the proposed research project pursuant to Article 6 Section 1.

(3) Candidates are to be assured continual scientific supervision. The parties concerned shall agree on the appointment of a professor who is a member of the University of Bremen to act as supervisor. The candidate may also request the doctoral committee to appoint the duty of a supervisor to:

1. a professor who is member of another university,
2. a *Privatdozent* of the University of Bremen,
3. a Honorary Professor of the University of Bremen,
4. a professor who is member of a university of applied sciences or university of art, always provided they fulfill the conditions contained in Article 65 Section 3 Sentence 3 BremHG, or
5. a suitably qualified postdoc employed at the University of Bremen; this shall apply in particular to leaders of junior research groups, senior researchers and senior lecturers.
6. an Emeritus professor of the University of Bremen.

(4) Pursuant to Section 3, the candidate may also request to have a second supervisor. In such event, one of the supervisors must either be a member of the University of Bremen or the BIGSSS.

(5) Unless an application for entry to the doctoral examination pursuant with Article 5 has been made beforehand or notification has been given of prolongation of the doctoral project, the doctoral candidate status ends five years after being accepted as a doctoral candidate.

Article 5 Admission to Examination

(1) Applicants may apply for admission to the examination by submitting their doctoral thesis (Article 6) with reference to the particular degree in question. Admission to the doctoral examination may also be granted in the event the applicant has not held doctoral candidate status (Article 4). In such event, admission may only be granted if there is a grounded scientific interest and the candidate is able to substantiate such grounds exist based on the relation of their doctoral thesis to a university research field. That a grounded scientific interest exists is to be confirmed on the part of the professor or other member of the University of Bremen who is prepared to assess the thesis and submit an expert opinion. An established status as doctoral student (Article 4) is mandatory in respect of entry to examination in accordance with Article 15 of these regulations.

(2) Applications are to include:

1. the documents listed in Article 7;
2. a short CV and a list of scientific publications;
3. a written declaration as to whether, and if so with what result, the applicant has already been a candidate in a doctoral examination or applied for admission elsewhere,
4. if applicable, a declaration on the part of a professor pursuant to Section 1 Sentence 3,
5. a written statement permitting the thesis to be checked for plagiarism using appropriate software tools.

(3) The Doctoral Commission is to reach a prompt decision regarding admission to the examination. Beside assessment of the submitted documents (Section 2), the process is to include a summary check of whether the requirements regarding the doctoral thesis have been met (Article 6 Section 1). If requested to do so, the supervisor shall assist the Doctoral Commission by providing a statement on the thesis. Applicants are to be sent written notification of the Doctoral Commission's decision.

Article 6 Doctoral Thesis

(1) The doctoral thesis must satisfy scientific requirements, illustrate the candidate's ability to conduct independent scientific work, and constitute a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the respective subject.

(2) The doctoral thesis can comprise a monograph or take the form of a cumulative thesis pursuant with Article 6 (3).

(3) A cumulative thesis comprises several pieces of academic work and a preceding introductory paper. The following prerequisites shall apply:

1. The cumulative thesis is to comprise at least three academic papers, i.e. scientific articles. The articles must deal with topics belonging to the same field, i.e. be assigned to a specific thematic area of the respective discipline and be suitable for publication in a journal or other form of publication specialized in the field. One or more of the submitted articles may already have been published.

2. The candidate must have been directly involved in the authorship of all the submitted articles, and have been the sole author of at least one.

3. With each examiner only one of the articles submitted may be in co-authorship.. Each piece of work co-authored with any of the examiners must already have been published or accepted for publication in a journal or other form of publication common in the field and, hence, have been subjected to peer review.
4. In the event an article has been accepted for publication, the lapse of time between such acceptance and submission as part of a cumulative thesis must not exceed five years. In duly justified cases the Doctoral Commission may make exceptions to this rule.
5. The preceding introductory paper shall comprise approximately 40 pages and clearly demonstrate the correlation between the research contexts of the articles submitted as part of the cumulative thesis.
6. In cases of co-authorship, the candidate is to submit a comprehensive declaration as to the part they played. This declaration is to be certified and supplemented by a declaration on the part of the candidate's supervisor.

The reviewers are to assess both the candidate's contribution to the individual pieces of work as well as their work within the overall context of the cumulative thesis. In so doing they are to assess whether the requirements contained in Section (1) have been satisfied. In the event that parts of the cumulative thesis were produced in co-authorship, the candidate's contribution to the article in question shall be the sole assessment criterion within the context of Section (1). In so doing, the reviewers are to apply the standards of their respective discipline.

- (4) As a rule, the thesis is to be submitted in either the English or the German language. Under certain circumstances, the Doctoral Commission may permit the candidate to submit their thesis in another language.
- (5) The thesis may be previously published in whole or in part.
- (6) The thesis is to be submitted in the form of five paper copies and three electronic copies on a data-carrier medium. Details of the data and data-carrier format of the electronic version are contained in a special notice. The thesis is to be submitted together with a written declaration to the effect that
 1. the work was conducted without unauthorized assistance;
 2. only the referenced sources and aids were used and
 3. direct quotations from the published or unpublished work of another are clearly identified as such.

Article 7 Prerequisites for Admission to Examination

- (1) Beside an application in accordance with Article 5 above, the normal minimum entrance requirement for admission to doctoral studies is the award of a university degree in a subject appropriate to that of the proposed doctoral work, evidenced by a Master's degree, or *Diplom* awarded by a German university, or a *Magistergrad*, or a *Staatsexamen*.
- (2) Holders of a *Diplom* awarded by a *Fachhochschule* [university of applied sciences] or a Bachelor degree awarded by a university can also be admitted to doctoral work provided that:
 1. the applicant's degree is of particularly high quality,
 2. the previous studies relate suitably to the proposed doctoral work,
 3. the applicant has been admitted as doctoral candidate and

4. it can be evidenced that, following additional studies in the respective field, the applicant possesses the knowledge, abilities and skills requisite to indicate he/she is capable of in-depth scientific work.

(3) The particular quality referred to in Section 2 Item 1 is to be evidenced by a high ranking among the fellow graduates of the respective cohort of the university that awarded the Bachelor degree. In the event that no such ranking list is published by the university in question, the quality of the applicant's academic achievement as an undergraduate shall be assessed on the basis of their Bachelor dissertation and final grade. In such cases, the Doctoral Commission shall appoint two persons from among the professors who represent the Faculty in question to deliver their expert opinion with respect to the applicant's exceptional merits. The doctoral committee shall decide whether the requirements of Section 2 Item 1 are satisfied on the basis of the two expert opinions.

(4) The decision as to whether the previous applicant's studies relate suitably to the proposed doctoral work in accordance with Section 2 item 2 rests with the doctoral committee.

(5) The scope of the additional studies needed to be accepted as a doctoral student pursuant to Section 2 Item 4 shall be determined by the Doctoral Commission at the request of the supervisor (Article 4 Section 3). The additional studies are to be determined in such a way that the requirements can be fulfilled in two semesters at the most.

Article 8 Assessment of Doctoral Thesis

(1) As soon as possible after reaching the decision to admit the applicant to doctoral studies the doctoral committee shall appoint two examiners/reviewers. As a rule, the examiners/reviewers shall be appointed from among the professors and *Privatdozenten* who are members of the University of Bremen. At the request of the doctoral candidate other persons may also be appointed. At least one of the examiners/reviewers must be a full-time professor of the University of Bremen. In accordance with Article 4 Section 3 other persons may also be appointed to act as examiners. The doctoral candidate may also submit a request for the appointment of an additional examiner/reviewer in accordance with Article 4 Section 4. In the case of all appointments it must be ensured that pursuant to Article 21 VwVfG there is no reason to suspect partiality as result of any special relationship between examiner(s)/reviewer(s) and candidate or between the examiners/reviewers themselves.

(2) The Doctoral Commission shall appoint a Faculty (Department) to be responsible. At least one of the examiners/reviewers is to be a member of the Faculty in question.

(3) Each examiner/reviewer is to propose a grade and submit an assessment, on the basis of which the thesis shall either be accepted or rejected. The assessment is to encompass all aspects of the thesis. The proposal whether to accept or reject the thesis and the proposed grade must be duly substantiated. The assessment is to be submitted not later than three months after the examiners have been appointed. Copies are to be sent to the candidate, the Doctoral Commission and, once they have been appointed, the members of the board of examiners.

(4) As soon as both assessments have been submitted they are to be made available together with the doctoral thesis at the Central Examinations Office for a period of at least 14 days. Notification of their availability is to be made known through suitable channels. Professors of the University of Bremen and the BIGSSS as well as postdoc members of the Faculty concerned (Article 4 Section 5) are entitled to inspect the reports. In the case of doctoral proceedings pursuant to Article 15 of these regulations, the foregoing shall also apply to postdoc members of the BIGSSS.

(5) Following inspection of the examiners' assessments and at any time up to the date fixed for the oral examination the candidate can apply to withdraw from the proceedings or for the proceedings to be interrupted in order to revise the thesis. It is not possible to apply for the proceedings to be interrupted more than once. The revised version of the thesis is to be submitted to the same examiners/reviewers within a period of six months following any such application. The Doctoral Commission is free to make exceptions to this rule. In the event the six-month deadline is not met, the thesis will be rejected. In such cases the Doctoral Commission shall declare the doctoral procedure as "failed".

(6) The Doctoral Commission can request an additional assessment in the event

-the grades proposed in the examiners'/reviewers' assessments differ by more than a full grade,

-the proposals whether to accept or reject the thesis are contradictory,

-there are grounds to doubt the regularity of an assessment, and in consultation with the examiner/reviewer it is not possible to dispel such doubt within a reasonable period of time.

Article 9 Examining Board and Viva Voce

(1) As soon as the examiners'/reviewers' reports have been submitted, the Doctoral Commission shall appoint an examining board without delay. The examining board shall comprise:

1. the reviewers,

2. an equal number of professors or postdocs, to include at least one member of the University of Bremen,

3. two further members of University of Bremen.

The members of the examining board pursuant to Nos. 2 and 3 are to be appointed by the Doctoral Commission. Candidates shall submit their own suggestions. The majority of the members of the examining board must be members of the University of Bremen.

All members of the Doctoral Commission are entitled to take part in meetings and consultations of the examining board.

The chair and the keeper of the minutes are to be elected by the members of the examining board from among their number (see Nos. 1 and 2 above).

(2) Only the members described in Section 1 Nos. 1 and 2 above are entitled to vote on the degree classification awarded for the thesis.

(3) The examining board shall fix the date and time of the oral examination in consultation with the Doctoral Commission. All members of the University of Bremen and BIGSSS can attend the oral examination. Three weeks before the planned date, the details of the pending oral examination are to be made known within the Faculty in question and, if applicable, also within BIGSSS; such notification shall also include a reference as to where the thesis can be accessed (Article 8 Section 4).

(4) The oral examination shall encompass a defense of the thesis as well as a discourse on selected aspects of the respective field of investigation and related topics. Oral examinations are to be completed within not less than one and not more than one-and-a half hours. Any issues arising from the examiners' preliminary reports are to be addressed in the oral examination.

(5) The examining board is to submit a final written report including the results of the oral examination to the Doctoral Commission within four weeks latest. Their final report shall

contain the examiners'/reviewers' preliminary assessments and, if applicable, any additional assessments the examiners wish to make as consequence of the oral examinations, as well as a summary of the proceedings and results, including the degree classification decided on by the examining board. The final report shall also contain a statement as to whether, and if so to what extent, the thesis must be revised prior to its publication.

(6) The recommendation to confer a doctorate requires a majority of the voting members of the examining board.

(7) The degree classification awarded for the doctoral work shall take into account both the doctoral thesis as well as the oral examination. It is to be agreed among the voting members of the examining board in accordance with the following scheme:

summa cum laude = excellent, outstanding performance (equivalent grade 0)

magna cum laude = very good performance (equivalent grade 1)

cum laude = good performance (equivalent grade 2)

rite = a performance that satisfies the requirements of the doctoral degree regulations (equivalent grade 3)

non sufficit = failed (equivalent grade 4).

The listed numerical grades are to form the basis of the overall assessment. They will not appear on the degree certificate. They are merely to serve as the calculation basis for arriving at the degree classification, i.e. the arithmetic mean of the individual grades awarded. For the calculation, no more than two decimal places are to be used. In the event the arithmetical calculation results in a fraction of a grade, the result is to be rounded up from up to and including 0.5 to the next best grade. Award of the degree classification "*summa cum laude*" requires a unanimous vote. A prerequisite for the award of "*summa cum laude*" is that the examiners' preliminary reports were also assessed with "*summa cum laude*"; an exception may be made in the event that just one of the preliminary reports carries the recommendation for the assessment "*magna cum laude*".

Article 10

The Decision to Confer a Doctorate

(1) The decision whether or not to confer the doctoral degree rests with the Doctoral Commission. Without prejudice to the provisions of Section 3 below, the commission shall be bound by the provisions of Article 9 Section 5.

(2) In the event the thesis is to be revised, the Doctoral Commission shall delay its decision pursuant to Section 1 until such time as the examining board has approved the revision. The examining board may delegate the inspection and approval of the revised thesis to one of the reviewers; in case of remaining doubt, the decision rests with the examining board.

(3) In the event the Doctoral Commission has any misgivings concerning the report submitted by the examining board it is to notify the members of its grounds for a revisal. In the event the Doctoral Commission has any misgivings concerning the procedure and the examining board is unable to dispel any such misgivings, the Doctoral Commission shall seek an opinion from the Appeal Committee, and in accordance with Article 9 appoint a new examining board and make provisions for a new oral examination.

(4) Section 3 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* when, despite having been reminded to do so, the examining board fails to submit its final report pursuant to Article 9 Section 5 within the prescribed period of time.

Article 11 Invalidness of Thesis

(1) In the event the submitted thesis contains indications that substantial parts have been falsely presented as the candidate's own work (plagiarism), the oral examination shall not take place until suspicion of such deceit has been dispelled. The author is under obligation to assist in dispelling such doubts.

(2) In the event that prior to presentation of the doctoral certificate evidence appears that the candidate acted deceitfully with regard to the admission requirements or in the course of performing the doctoral work, or that important requirements for admission had been assumed erroneously, the Doctoral Commission shall pass a resolution to nullify the proceedings. Before doing so, however, the doctoral committee is first to seek an opinion from the supervisors and/or the supervising committee.

Article 12 Publication of Doctoral Thesis

(1) The doctoral thesis is to be published as a book, a reproduced manuscript, or in electronic form; this shall also apply to cumulative theses as described in Article 6 Section 2. Previously published parts of the doctoral thesis need not be re-published within the context of the meaning of publishing pursuant to Article 12. In addition to such publication and the copies required for the doctoral examination proceedings, the author shall also supply copies free of charge to the *Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek* [library of the University of Bremen]:

1. ten copies and evidence of distribution of at least 150 copies via bookshops on the part of a commercial publisher: The backside of the title leaf of the thesis publication must contain details of where the doctorate was conferred, dates of the oral examinations, and the names of all the examiners/reviewers who took part or

2. thirty copies in book form or photographic print for distribution within the university or

3. ten copies and evidence of distribution via bookshops on the part of a commercial publisher within the context of the book-on-demand procedure, whereby the backside of the title leaf of the thesis publication must contain details of where the doctorate was conferred, dates of the oral examinations, and the names of all the examiners/reviewers who took part, or

4. six copies printed on permanent acid-free paper and an electronic version that conforms with the *Richtlinie zur Abgabe von elektronischen Publikationen* [rules for electronic publication] of the *Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek* in force at the time of publication. The author shall assign the rights to publish the electronic publication in data networks to the *Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Bremen*, the *Deutsche Bibliothek* (DDB) in Frankfurt / Leipzig and, if applicable, the *DFG-Sondersammelgebietsbibliothek*. The author undertakes to ensure that the electronic version is a true copy of the original doctoral thesis. The *Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek* undertakes to verify that the submitted electronic version is legible and that it conforms to the requirements of the abovementioned "rules". Any data files not conforming to the requirements, especially with regard to the file format and data carrier, shall not be deemed as constituting a publication in the meaning of these regulations.

(2) The thesis may be published in a revised or abridged version. Details of any such revision or abridgements are to be agreed between the author and the chair of the examining board or another person assigned to do so by the chair. In the event the thesis is to be published in a revised or abridged version, the publication must contain a reference to the extent of such revision or abridgement.

(3) The thesis is to be published in a printed or reproduced form within two years of the doctorate being conferred. Under special circumstances, the deadline for publication pursuant to sentence 1 may be prolonged. At the request of the author, such cases shall be regulated by the Dissertation Commission. In the event the author culpably fails to meet the deadline they shall lose all rights acquired in the course of the doctoral performance.

Article 13 Use and Revocation of Doctoral Title

(1) Upon completion of the doctoral procedure successful candidates will receive a doctoral degree certificate signed by the Rector or the Rectress of the University of Bremen and the Chair of the Doctoral Commission.

(2) Successful candidates are not allowed to use the doctor title before the degree certificate is issued.

(3) The doctoral degree certificate shall only be issued following evidence that the thesis has been published, publication is assured, or the prescribed number of copies has been made available.

(4) The doctoral degree can only be revoked in the event it transpires it was acquired by deceit. The decision to revoke the doctorate rests with the respective Faculty Board pursuant to Article 8 (2) and Article 15 (8). Such revocation shall entail an accordant resolution following recommendation on the part of the Doctoral Commission. Prior to the resolution being put to the vote, the person concerned shall be given an opportunity to state their case.

Article 14 Doctoral Degrees Awarded Jointly with a University Abroad

(1) Doctoral procedures may also be carried out with joint supervision involving a university abroad provided that

- a partnership agreement is in place with the university in question concerning joint supervision of the doctoral proceedings and this has been approved by the Doctoral Commission. The agreement is to contain accordant rules and details of the joint supervision as well as details concerning the candidate's registration at the university in question;
- according to the rules governing doctoral procedures at the partner university abroad, the requirements include no other performance than the presentation of a doctoral thesis and participation in an oral examination.

(2) Unless regulated otherwise below, in the case of doctoral proceedings implemented in joint supervision with a university abroad the provisions of these regulations shall apply. Agreements pursuant to Section 1 above shall regulate

- which persons are to act as supervisors in the two universities,
- that both the supervisors shall be appointed as examiners/reviewers,
- at which university the oral examination is to be held, the composition of the examining board, and that both supervisors/examiners as well as at least one other examiner from each of the universities belong to the board as examiners,
- the language in which the thesis and abstract is to be written (see Section 3 below),
- which doctoral degree the two universities will award in the event the candidate successfully passes through the doctoral procedure at both universities.

In the event the regulations of the partner university prescribe that a supervisor may not act as examiner, an exception can be made with regard to Article 14 Section 2 Item 2 to the effect that instead of the supervisors, one professor from each university shall be appointed member of the examining board.

(3) In the event the language of the country where the partner university is located is not German, provided it is accompanied by a summary in German the thesis may be written in that language. The partnership agreement pursuant to Section 1 Item 1 No. 1 may also contain a provision that candidates can present their thesis in a language other than German or the language spoken in the country where their university is located; in such cases a summary in German and the language of the country where the partner university is located is to be attached to the thesis.

(4) Prerequisite for entry to doctoral examinations conducted in joint supervision between the University of Bremen and a partner university is that the candidate fulfills the entry requirements of both universities.

(5) In the event the oral examination takes the form of a colloquium held at the University of Bremen, the supervisors shall also act as examiners/reviewers. The examining board must comprise at least:

1. the two reviewers,
2. one professor from the partner university abroad and one professor who is a member of the University of Bremen.

The partnership agreement pursuant to Section 1 Sentence 1 No. 1 may also contain a provision that in accordance with Article 9 the examining board can include additional members of the two universities. The members of the examining board are to be appointed by the Doctoral Commission. Further exceptions from Article 9 may also be incorporated in partnership agreements concluded pursuant to Section 1 Sentence 1 No. 1. In the case of oral examinations held in the language of the country of the partner university, candidates can be examined in that language. In such event, the members of the examining board must have a sufficient command of the language in question or the language in which the thesis is presented to enable them to participate actively in the oral examination and meetings of the examining board. Evaluation of the oral examination and assessment of the thesis shall be in accordance with the law of the participating partner university. Whether, and if so to what extent, this evaluation flows into the overall result and is included on the degree certificate shall depend on the law of the country where the partner university is located.

(6) In the event the oral examination takes place at the partner university abroad, the candidate's performance is to be evaluated in accordance with the provisions of these regulations. Article 9 Section 5 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*, with the additional provision that the reports submitted to the Dissertation Commission by the reviewers and examiners appointed by the University of Bremen are to include a copy of the minutes of the oral examination and the decision reached by the examining board.

(7) Article 13 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*, with the provision that the doctoral degree certificate must contain explicit reference to the fact that the doctoral procedure is awarded jointly by the two universities under their joint supervision.

Article 15

Doctorates for Students of the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS)

(1) The provisions of these regulations shall apply *mutatis mutandis* for the award of PhD to students of BIGSSS, unless specified otherwise in the following.

(2) In accordance with the following provisions, the University of Bremen and Jacobs University Bremen jointly award the doctoral degree “Doctor of Philosophy” (PhD) to successful students of BIGSSS, stating the subject area of the dissertation.

(3) For students of BIGSSS to be granted acceptance as doctoral candidates by the Doctoral Commission Dr. rer. pol., it is necessary that they have first been admitted to BIGSSS in accordance with BIGSSS admissions regulations. When applying for acceptance as a doctoral candidate applicants have to specify the subject area of their proposed dissertation.

(4) The task of supervising BIGSSS doctoral candidates pursuant to Article 4, Section 4 rests with the respective dissertation committee. The committee is appointed by the Doctoral Commission Dr. rer. pol. at the time of acceptance. The dissertation committee comprises at least three and at most five professors and postdocs who shall act as supervisors. The composition of the committee is in accordance with the following rules:

- the professors must constitute a majority
- the majority of members must belong to BIGSSS
- one of the members must neither belong to the University of Bremen nor to the BIGSSS.

Any decision to change the composition of the members rests with the Doctoral Commission.

(5) The doctoral thesis is to be presented in English. Following a request with suitable grounds, the Doctoral Commission may make exceptions to this rule.

(6) Applications for admission to examination are to be addressed to the Doctoral Commission via the Dean and the first Vice Dean of BIGSSS. Applicants are to include evidence of having successfully completed a course of studies at BIGSSS in accordance with the BIGSSS regulations.

(7) Following the decision to admit a candidate to the doctoral examination, the Doctoral Commission shall without delay seek three expert opinions/assessments from members of the dissertation committee, one of whom must be the external member. At least one of these persons must be a professor of one of the two partner universities of the BIGSSS.

Upon submission of the abovementioned reports, the Doctoral Commission Dr.rer.pol. shall determine the subsequent proceedings. In the event all three examiners/reviewers recommend acceptance of the thesis, the candidate is to be admitted to the oral examination pursuant to Article 9. In the event that one of the preliminary reports recommends rejecting the thesis, the decision whether to end the doctoral proceedings or to continue and to seek an additional report from another professor, who may or may not be a member of the dissertation committee, rests with the Doctoral Commission. Before reaching its decision the Doctoral Commission shall hear all of the examiners/reviewers. In the event that two of the examiners/reviewers recommend rejection of the thesis, the doctoral proceedings are to be terminated forthwith.

(8) The Faculty responsible for the discipline in question is specified upon being granted admission to the doctoral examination. This is usually the Faculty to which at least one member of the dissertation committee belong. In the event that none of the members of the dissertation committee belong to the University of Bremen, upon granting admission to the doctoral examination the examining board shall also be appointed pursuant to Article 15 (9). The Faculty responsible for overseeing the doctoral proceedings shall be the Faculty to which at least one member of the examination board with voting rights belongs.

(9) Upon submission of the expert opinions/assessment on the part of members of the dissertation committee, the Doctoral Commission shall without delay appoint the examining board. The examining board is to comprise:

- six members with voting rights, namely the authors of the assessments and other professors or suitably qualified postdocs;
- a BIGSSS PhD student, who attends in an advisory capacity.

The members must include at least one professor from each of the two cooperating universities involved in BIGSSS. One member must not be a member of the cooperating universities in BIGSSS.

The members of the examining board are to be appointed by the Doctoral Commission. Candidates shall put forward their own proposals in this respect.

The members of the Doctoral Commission are permitted to take part in the meetings and consultations of the examining board.

The chair and the keeper of the minutes shall be elected from among the members of the examining board by the members with voting rights.

(10) In the event that any of the authors of the preliminary reports may for good reason be unable to attend the colloquium in the foreseeable future, a substitute may be sought. In the event of a member is unable to attend at short notice, following consultation with the candidate the Chair of the Doctoral Commission may engage a substitute. In such a case the rules concerning the composition of the examining board must be observed in accordance with Section 7 Item 2.

(11) The candidate's performance (thesis and colloquium) shall be assessed as either "passed" or "failed". In each case the decision is to be agreed by a majority of the members of the examining board with voting rights. A particularly outstanding performance can be awarded a pass "with distinction". The decision to award a pass with distinction requires a unanimous vote on the part of all the voting members of the examining board, and only upon condition that the thesis as well as the oral examination are assessed as such.

(12) Upon successful completion of the doctoral procedure, the University of Bremen and the Jacobs University Bremen will jointly issue a doctoral certificate signed by the Rector or Rectress of the University of Bremen and the President of the Jacobs University Bremen, which bears reference to the doctoral degree "PhD", the subject area of the dissertation and, if applicable, the classification "with distinction".

§ 16

General Procedural Rules; Rights and Obligations of the Parties

Pursuant with Article 2 Section 3 No. 2 of the *Bremischen Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetzes* (BremVwfG) dated 15 November 1976 (Brem.GBl. p. 243) the examination procedure shall be governed as laid down in Articles 4 and 13, 20-27, 29-38, 40-52, 79, 80 and 96 BremVwVfG. The process leading to acceptance as a doctoral candidate and the application for entry to the doctoral procedure shall be governed by the *Bremische Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz* without limitation.

§ 17
Final and Transitional Provisions

These regulations shall enter into force upon approval on the part of the Rector. At such time and to the extent they apply to the award of the doctoral degree Dr. rer. pol., the Doctoral Degree Regulations that came into force on 26.06.2000 shall cease to be effective. Candidates who were granted entry to the doctoral examination prior to the coming into force of these regulations may submit applications to be examined in accordance with the present Doctoral Degree Regulations. These Doctoral Degree Regulations shall be published in the *Amtliches Mitteilungsblatt* of the University of Bremen.

Bremen, the 24th day of July 2014

Rector of the University of Bremen