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Official Announcements

Contents:

Amendment to and Reannouncement of the
Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Agricultural,
Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences

of the University of Bonn

dated March 18, 2025

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**Amendment to and Reannouncement of the Doctoral Degree Regulations
of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences
of the University of Bonn**

dated March 18, 2025

By virtue of § 2, para. 4 and § 67, para. 3 of the Higher Education Act of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Hochschulgesetz*, HG) dated September 16, 2014 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia (GV NRW, p. 547)), as last amended by Article 2 of the Act to Strengthen Bochum as a Higher Education Location in the Field of Health and to Change Additional Higher Education Legal Provisions dated December 19, 2024 (GV NRW, p. 1222), the University of Bonn Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences issued the following Doctoral Degree Regulations:

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Part 1

§ 1 Scope

(1) These Doctoral Degree Regulations apply to all doctoral students in the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences who are admitted to doctoral studies after these Regulations enter into force. They also apply to all doctoral examination procedures (§§ 8 ff.) for doctoral students in the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences who were admitted to doctoral studies before these Regulations entered into force and are admitted to the doctoral examination procedure after these Regulations enter into force.

(2) Doctoral students in the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences who were already admitted to the doctoral examination procedure before these Regulations entered into force shall complete their doctoral examination procedures in accordance with the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Agriculture dated June 17, 2011 (Official Announcements of the University of Bonn, 41st year, no. 15 dated June 17, 2011), as last amended by the Third Amendment to the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the University of Bonn Faculty of Agriculture of Bonn dated April 18, 2021 (Official Announcements of the University of Bonn, 51st year, no. 36 dated April 21, 2021).

Part 2

I. General information

§ 2 Doctorate

(1) The doctorate serves to demonstrate an ability to undertake independent academic work beyond the general study goal of professional qualification, as shown by a considerable increase in academic knowledge in a doctoral thesis.

(2) The University of Bonn Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences confers one of the following academic degrees upon successful completion of a doctorate¹:

- Doctor of Agricultural Sciences (*Doctor agronomiae*; Dr. agr.)
- Doctor of Nutritional and Food Sciences (*Doctor trophologiae*; Dr. troph.)
- Doctor of Engineering Sciences (Dr.-Ing.)
- Doctor of Economics (*Doctor rerum oeconomicarum*, Dr. rer. oec.)

(3) The evidence of this ability is to be provided by the doctoral student by means of completing

- an academically noteworthy written paper (doctoral thesis);
- an academic lecture with discussion (doctoral colloquium) on the results of the doctoral thesis; and
- an oral examination (doctoral defense)

in the discipline of their doctorate.

¹ Graduates from the degree program Food Chemistry who have completed their doctoral thesis with a professor in the field of food chemistry with the approval of a university lecturer from the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences are awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Natural Science (*Doctor rerum naturalium*, Dr. rer. nat.) by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences if they choose Food Chemistry as a major in their doctorate. In this case, the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences apply.

(4) As part of international doctoral programs in which at least one representative of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences who is entitled to supervise doctorates is participating, in deviation from paragraph 2 and together with other academic institutions abroad, the University of Bonn Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences can confer the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) upon successful participation in a doctoral program.

§ 3

Faculty Council and Dean

(1) The Faculty Council is headed by the Dean and manages all the Faculty's doctoral examination procedures; in particular, the Faculty Council

- decides on admission to doctoral examination procedures;
- appoints the examination boards and their chairs as well as any additional reviewers needed;
- decides on requests for exceptions;
- issues diplomas;
- is responsible for handling complaints and objections; and
- maintains the doctoral files.

The Faculty Council can consult a representative of the doctoral discipline to which a procedure relates.

(2) Members without doctorates are not involved in any decisions relating to academic education, in particular the recognition and assessment of study and examination achievements and the appointment of the respective examination boards.

(3) The Dean conducts the business of the Faculty Council that is related to doctorates and prepares the Faculty Council's meetings. The Dean is granted the authority to make decisions on standard cases and regularly reports on these to the Faculty Council. Decisions about objections must always be made by the Faculty Council.

(4) The doctorate is awarded when the Dean presents the doctoral diploma that they have issued to the doctoral student. The doctoral graduate is not authorized to use the doctoral title until the doctoral diploma has been presented.

§ 4

Examination board

(1) The Faculty Council appoints an examination board for every doctoral examination procedure. The members of this examination board must belong to one of the following groups:

- Full-time professors
- Assistant professors
- Senior professors
- Honorary professors
- Adjunct professors
- *Privatdozent*innen*
- Professors or *Privatdozent*innen* who have an emeritus status or who have been released from their obligations
- People who have a qualification equivalent to a *Habilitation*

Heads of research groups who have a doctorate but not a *Habilitation* and whose research group

received funding as part of a competitive process can be admitted as supervisors and examiners in doctoral examination procedures. Programs that meet the requirements are listed in the Annex (Annex 1). The Faculty Council can decide that other funding programs meet the requirements.

(2) The examination board shall consist of at least four members. The members are:

- The chairperson
- The first reviewer (supervisor)
- The second reviewer
- A member from the same discipline as the doctoral student
- Any other reviewers

At least two members of the examination board, including one reviewer, must be a professor at the University of Bonn Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences who is either full-time, coopted or appointed in a joint appointment procedure according to the leave of absence model (Jülich model). The Faculty Council can decide that other appointment models meet the requirements. One person cannot take on more than one role on the examination board.

The doctoral student can make suggestions about who could fill the roles on the examination board; the Faculty Council is not bound to follow these suggestions.

The Faculty Council can appoint additional reviewers for the doctoral thesis.

The Faculty Council can appoint deputy members if members of the examination board are prevented from fulfilling their duties; when appointing deputies, people are to be chosen who are from the same discipline as the member for whom they are filling in. The Dean can appoint deputy members to the examination board if members are unable to attend the oral examinations at short notice (e.g. due to illness).

(3) The examination board is responsible for the following tasks:

- Reviewing, accepting, rejecting and grading the doctoral thesis
- Conducting the doctoral colloquium
- Conducting the doctoral defense
- Creating the report about the examination

§ 5

Doctoral disciplines

The Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences offers the doctoral disciplines agricultural sciences, nutrition and food sciences, geodesy and geoinformation, and economics.

II. Doctoral studies

§ 6

Doctoral status and doctoral studies

(1) While working on the doctoral topic, doctoral students can participate in courses.

(2) The Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences can pass regulations that require doctoral students to participate in courses held by a research training group or a graduate school.

(3) If doctoral work is carried out as part of a graduate school or research training group, the regulations passed for the respective school or group must also be observed. If those regulations deviate from these Doctoral Degree Regulations, solely the Doctoral Degree Regulations apply.

(4) The Faculty Council decides regarding any exceptions.

§ 7

Admission to doctoral studies

(1) To be admitted to doctoral studies, applicants must first be accepted as doctoral students with a written supervision agreement concluded between the doctoral student and the supervisor for the doctorate.

(2) Doctoral supervisors can be people listed in § 4 of these Regulations at the University of Bonn who are members or associates of the University's Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences.

(3) A second supervision agreement with a person employed full-time at the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences according to § 4, paragraph 1 must be concluded if the first supervisor is not a member or associate of the Faculty.

(4) If the supervisor is a member or associate of the Faculty but is not employed full-time at the University of Bonn, then a second supervision agreement according to paragraph 3 must be concluded. This does not apply for professors appointed at the University of Bonn in a joint appointment procedure according to the leave of absence model (Jülich Model). The Faculty Council can decide on whether this requirement applies to other appointment models and special cases.

(5) If the supervisor is the head of a research group and does not have a *Habilitation* according to § 4, paragraph 1, a second supervision agreement according to paragraph 3 must be concluded or proof must be shown that the doctoral student has been accepted in a structured doctoral program.

(6) The right to supervise doctoral students expires two years after being appointed to another faculty or after another requirement for having the right to supervise is no longer met; the Faculty Council can approve exceptions to this.

(7) The application to be admitted to doctoral studies is to be sent to the Dean of the University of Bonn Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences. The application must contain:

- Last name/first name, doctoral student's date and place of birth
- Doctoral student's address
- The discipline of the doctorate
- Name of the doctoral thesis project
- Name of the supervisor and, if applicable, second supervisor
- Assignment to an institute
- Statement from the supervisor that the admission requirements stated in paras. 8 and 9 are fulfilled, and, if applicable, the doctoral student's request for recognizing that their proof of previous education is equivalent
- If applicable, supervisor's suggestions about the coursework that must still be completed according to paras. 10 and 11
- The completed questionnaire for doctoral student statistics

The Faculty Council reviews whether all of the admission requirements in paragraphs 8 and 9 are

fulfilled under consideration of the intended supervisor's statement, recognizes the equivalency of proof of previous education and determines any coursework that will need to be completed as part of the doctoral studies according to paragraphs 10 and 11.

(8) In addition to acceptance as a doctoral student by the supervisor, for applicants to be admitted to doctoral studies they must have completed a degree in agricultural sciences, nutrition and food sciences, food chemistry, geodesy and geoinformation or economics at a university or higher education institution, and during this degree the applicants must have clearly demonstrated their aptitude for further qualification and that it can be expected that they will be able to carry out independent academic work with the goal of completing a doctorate. Graduates from related degree programs can be admitted to doctoral studies if the content of the discipline of the doctorate was the subject of their previous studies in a comparable manner. The Faculty Council decides on these applications on a case-by-case basis and may place conditions on admission.

(9) Completed degree programs as stated in paragraph 8 can include the following:

1. A *Diplom* degree program at an academic higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least eight semesters and a research thesis.
2. A master's degree program at an academic higher education institution with a standard period of study of two or four semesters that was preceded by a related bachelor's degree program lasting eight or six semesters; the total standard period of study for the bachelor's and master's degree programs should be ten semesters (consecutive master's program) or have a total workload of at least 300 credit points according to the provisions of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
3. A master's degree program at an academic higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least four semesters or a workload of at least 120 credit points according to the provisions of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) if no related bachelor's degree program lasting at least six semesters preceded this master's program (non-consecutive master's program).
4. A *Diplom* degree program at a higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least six semesters or a master's degree program at a higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least four semesters or a workload of at least 120 credit points according to the provisions of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), each with a qualified degree and studies that followed these degree programs that suitably prepared the applicant for doctoral studies in the discipline of the doctorate. A degree is considered qualified if the overall grade of the examinations and the grade of the research thesis were each at least "very good" and if the research thesis demonstrates that the applicant has a particular aptitude for further academic training.
5. A bachelor's degree program at an academic higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least six semesters and a qualified degree. A degree is considered qualified if the overall grade of the examinations and the grade of the research thesis were each no worse than "very good" (1.5 or better) and if the research thesis demonstrates that the applicant has a particular aptitude for further academic training.
6. Individuals who have completed their studies in food chemistry with the first state examination.

(10) If the previous studies according to paragraph 9, nos. 1 to 3 or 6 were completed with the grade "good," or if the previous studies fall under paragraph 9, nos. 4 or 5, then in the doctoral studies additional work typically totaling four semesters or a workload of at least 120 credit points according to the provisions of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is necessary to prepare the student for the doctoral dissertation project and serve to show proof of aptitude according to paragraph 8; particularly in these cases, a research paper must be completed if the previous studies were completed without a research thesis. The Faculty Council decides on the type, scope and time frame for the coursework that must be completed; it also decides on the form and content of the required proof.

(11) For relevant degree programs and final examinations completed abroad, paragraphs 9, nos. 1 to

3 apply accordingly if these degrees and examinations are considered equivalent. The Faculty Council decides on recognizing equivalency upon request and after reviewing the case. Equivalency agreements approved by the German bodies responsible for equivalency are to be observed. In cases of doubt, the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) is to be consulted.

(12) For admission to doctoral studies, students must have the German or English language skills that are required for the doctoral studies.

(13) The Faculty Council issues applicants written notification that they have been admitted to doctoral studies or that their application was rejected.

(14) If the intended doctoral degree is changed or there is a change in the supervisory relationship, in particular if the supervisory relationship is to be terminated by mutual agreement, the Doctoral Office is to be informed immediately in writing. After admission to doctoral studies, a change according to sentence 1 is only possible with the approval of the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council may only refuse to give its approval for good cause.

(15) The supervision agreement mentioned in paragraph 1 can be terminated at any time by the doctoral student or supervisor. If the termination is not by mutual agreement, the supervisor may only terminate the supervision agreement for good cause. A written request for termination, including reasons, must be submitted to the Doctoral Office. The Dean may be asked to mediate before the supervision agreement is terminated. If the supervision agreement is terminated, all people involved are to attempt to find consensual, practical solutions. This provision also applies if the application to be admitted to the doctoral examination procedure according to § 8 has already been submitted.

III. Doctoral examination procedure

§ 8

Admission to the doctoral examination procedure

(1) If the Faculty has established mandatory doctoral studies or if the doctoral student has participated in a structured program according to § 7, paragraph 5, evidence of this is to be presented as admission requirements.

(2) The application to be admitted to the doctoral examination procedure is to be sent to the Faculty Council of the University of Bonn Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences. The application must contain:

- The name of the doctoral student
- An address at which official documents can be served (*ladungsfähige Anschrift*)
- The title of the doctoral thesis
- The name of the person appointed as supervisor
- Information about which of the doctoral degrees listed in § 2, paragraph 2 is being sought
- Proposals for the members of the examination board and their deputies according to § 4, para. 2
- An affirmation in lieu of an oath signed by hand by the doctoral student which attests to the following:
 1. Other than the explicitly noted aids, the submitted work was completed by the doctoral student personally, independently and without the use of aids other than those noted
 2. Data and concepts directly or indirectly derived from other sources are designated accordingly, stating the source
 3. The submitted work or similar works has/have not already been submitted elsewhere as a doctoral thesis
 4. The applicant has not already unsuccessfully made an attempt to earn a doctorate

5. No assistance from third parties was used to complete the submitted work and/or gain the opportunity to start doctoral studies, and in particular no paid services from placement or consulting services (doctorate consultants/placement assistants or other people) were used

(3) The following documents must be included when submitting the doctoral thesis:

- Proof that a supervisory relationship and, if applicable, a supervisory relationship with a second supervisor exists according to § 7, para. 3
- Five printed copies of the doctoral thesis—bound or stapled—and one copy each of any publications of important parts of the doctoral thesis
- Electronic version of the doctoral thesis
- Summary of the doctoral thesis in German and English, each with a scope of one page (§ 10, paragraph 4)
- Curriculum vitae indicating educational background
- Passport photograph
- Certified copy of an official photo ID of the doctoral student
- Certificate of good conduct to submit to official agencies, certificate type “O”

In addition, evidence of at least one publication or one original work or set of conference proceedings currently under review where the doctoral student is the first author and one paper presented at a specialist academic conference must be provided.

(4) The application can only be withdrawn if no review of the doctoral thesis has been submitted or no final decision that would end the process has been made.

§ 9

Initiation of the doctoral examination procedure

(1) The Faculty Council reviews whether the admission requirements according to § 8 have been fulfilled and decides on whether the doctoral examination procedure is to be started. If all of the requirements are fulfilled, the Faculty Council appoints the examination board. The applicant is notified of this, and the notification also includes the names of the board members and the people who have been requested to review the doctoral thesis.

(2) The Faculty Council can decide to reject the application if

- a criminal conviction exists that casts doubt on the independence and objectivity needed for research activities;
- there is proof of falsification or plagiarism in an academic paper by the applicant.

(3) The Faculty Council must decide to reject the application if

- the applicant has submitted the thesis or a similar paper as a doctoral thesis elsewhere;
- the applicant has already failed a doctoral examination procedure at a German university two times.

(4) The applicant is to be notified of the rejection in writing, including the reasons for the rejection and an advisory of legal recourse.

§ 10

Doctoral thesis

- (1) The doctoral thesis must demonstrate that the doctoral student is able to independently carry out academic work and present the results in an appropriate manner. The subject of the doctoral thesis must belong to the discipline of the doctorate.
- (2) If the doctoral thesis was written as a monograph, the doctoral student's findings that were previously published with the approval of the supervisor are permitted to be included in the thesis. A complete publication of the doctoral thesis before the doctoral examination procedure has concluded—prior publication—requires the approval of the Faculty Council. These approvals must be submitted in writing.
- (3) A cumulative doctoral thesis is permissible if at least two works with the doctoral student as first author have been accepted in internationally outstanding publications or publication series. For this purpose, a short version of the academic paper must be submitted in which the research problem, the approach used to solve it, the findings and a general discussion is submitted that summarizes the individual chapters of the findings that have already been published, places these within the broader discipline, draws conclusions and relates the work to existing literature. A detailed description of all factual links and individual findings is not necessary if the publications upon which the work is based, those that have been published and those that have been accepted for publication are included as annexes.
- (4) The doctoral thesis should be written in German or English. It must include a one-page summary in German and English.

§ 11

Assessment of the doctoral thesis

- (1) The Faculty Council sends the doctoral thesis and any prior publications according to § 10, paragraph 2 to the examination board and commissions the reviewers with writing the review of the doctoral thesis. The Faculty Council can commission additional reviews of the doctoral thesis in justified cases.
- (2) The reviews regarding the doctoral thesis are usually to be produced in writing independently of each other within two months and must contain a detailed, justified recommendation concerning the acceptance, rejection or returning of the doctoral thesis for the purpose of modification within a certain period of time. If the reviewer does not explicitly recommend returning the doctoral thesis for modifications or rejecting it, then this is considered a recommendation to accept the thesis. The recommendation to accept the thesis can also be associated with conditions for the doctoral thesis to undergo editorial correction before the diploma is issued. With the recommendation to accept or reject the doctoral thesis, the reviewer also determines the grade for the work. The following are possible as individual grades:

- 0 = excellent (*summa cum laude*)
- 1 = very good (*magna cum laude*)
- 2 = good (*cum laude*)
- 3 = passed (*rite*)
- 4 = failed

The grades 1.3 / 1.7 / 2.3 and 2.7 can be given as fractional grades. If the reviewers' suggested grades differ by more than 1.0, the examination board can recommend requesting an additional review of the

doctoral thesis.

(3) If at least one reviewer recommends returning the doctoral thesis for modifications, the examination board decides on how to proceed with the goal of reaching a decision on accepting or rejecting the doctoral thesis within one year.

(4) If the doctoral thesis is graded with “excellent (0)” by both the first and second reviewer, then as a rule within two months the Dean requests another review of the doctoral thesis from a third reviewer who is a proven expert in the subject and does not belong to the Faculty. The supervisor can suggest up to three people to act as reviewers in such cases; the Dean makes the decision on who to ask.

If three reviews of the doctoral thesis have already been submitted and one of these is from a proven expert in the subject who does not belong to the Faculty, then the provision in sentence 1 does not apply.

(5) If all reviewers recommend accepting the doctoral thesis, then for two weeks the Faculty Council will make the doctoral thesis and the reviews available to the members and associates of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences that have the right to examine according to § 4, paragraph 1. Upon request, this two-week period can be extended up to a maximum of four weeks to account for the semester break.

(6) The availability of the doctoral thesis is announced to the Faculty together with

- the name of the doctoral student;
- the title of the doctoral thesis;
- the intended doctoral degree;
- the name of the supervisor and other reviewer(s);
- the period for which the doctoral thesis and reviews will be available for viewing.

(7) The members and associates of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences who have the right to examine according to § 4, para. 1 can object to the doctoral thesis grade in writing up to three days after the deadline for making the doctoral thesis available to the Faculty has passed; the objection must be submitted to the Faculty Council. In this case, the Faculty Council decides the extent to which the objection will influence the remaining doctoral examination procedure. Anyone who objected should participate in the Faculty Council meeting in an advisory capacity.

(8) If no objections were filed or if the Faculty Council decides to accept the doctoral thesis—possibly with a differing grade—under consideration of the objections and any additionally requested reviews, then this decision is final; it includes admission to the additional components of the doctoral examination procedure according to § 4, paragraph 3. If only editorial changes were required, then a copy approved by the supervisor is to be included in the doctoral file.

(9) If at least one reviewer rejected the doctoral thesis and the examination board has decided to reject the doctoral thesis upon the recommendation of one or more reviewers, then the Faculty Council issues the notification of rejection to the doctoral student that includes the date by which the doctoral student can submit a written, reasoned objection to this notification of rejection. If no objection is submitted by this date, the doctoral thesis is rejected.

(10) If the doctoral student submits an objection according to paragraph 9, then the Faculty Council decides whether to maintain the rejection or whether to request another review of the doctoral thesis. If the Faculty Council decides to request another review of the doctoral thesis, it appoints a new examination board with two new reviewers as described in § 4, paras. 1 and 2. If they also vote to reject the doctoral thesis, then the rejection is final. If they recommend accepting the doctoral thesis,

the Faculty Council makes the final decision about accepting or rejecting the doctoral thesis and issues a notification of acceptance or rejection to the doctoral student that includes an advisory of legal recourse.

(11) The rejected doctoral thesis and all reviews remain at the University of Bonn Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences.

§ 12

Oral examination

(1) If the supervisor declares that the doctoral student's thesis is ready to be printed, the examination board sets the date and location of the oral examination (doctoral colloquium and doctoral defense) in agreement with the doctoral student and informs the Doctoral Office of the date. The Dean then invites the doctoral student, the examination board and people with the right to examine according to § 4, para. 1 to the oral examination at least two weeks before the date. The doctoral colloquium is to be announced faculty-wide with the name of the doctoral student, the lecture title, the discipline of the doctorate, the name of the supervisor and the time and location.

(2) The oral examination includes an academic lecture that is open to the public insofar as the size of the room permits and a discussion (doctoral colloquium), followed by which there is an oral examination (doctoral defense) that is not open to the public in which only people who have the right to examine according to § 4, para. 1 may participate. Both components are led by the chairperson of the examination board according to § 4; all board members according to § 4 must be present. Upon the request of the doctoral student, academic staff may be allowed in the room as observers during the oral examination that is not open to the public insofar as the size of the room permits this.

(3) The public academic lecture can be digitally transmitted using a video conference to make it accessible to others. Expanding the auditorium in this way does not constitute an exception according to paragraph 7.

(4) In the doctoral colloquium, the doctoral student reports on the results of the doctoral thesis in an academic lecture. The duration of the lecture should not exceed 30 minutes. For 15 minutes immediately after the lecture, everyone present may ask the doctoral student questions about the thesis via the chairperson of the examination board.

(5) In the doctoral defense, all members of the examination board review the doctoral student's abilities in a collegial manner as part of an expert discussion with the doctoral student about the doctoral thesis and how it relates to the broader discipline of the doctorate; following this, anyone with a right to examine according to § 4, paragraph 1 may also ask the doctoral student questions via the chairperson of the examination board. The doctoral defense should last a minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 90 minutes.

(6) The doctoral colloquium and the doctoral defense are conducted in German or English.

(7) In exceptional cases, if the doctoral student submits a written request with reasons, the oral examination can be carried out digitally as a video conference according to § 12a of these Regulations. The Dean decides on this request based on the recommendation of the examination board.

§ 12a Digital oral examination (video conference)

(1) The doctoral student shall be informed of the following:

- Their personal data will be processed according to the provisions of the Ordinance on Digital Teaching and Carrying out Online-Based Elections for Higher Education Institutions and the Student Bodies (*Verordnung betreffend die digitale Lehre sowie betreffend die Durchführung online gestützter Wahlen der Hochschulen und der Studierendenschaften (Hochschul-Digitalverordnung, HDVO)*)
- The communication technology used has technical requirements that must be fulfilled to properly conduct the examination, and these include in particular suitable image and audio transmission for the video conference as well as an Internet connection in sufficiently high quality
- The organizational conditions for a proper examination

Before the examination, the doctoral student should have the possibility to test the examination situation in relation to technology, equipment and the room. A digital examination may only be conducted using video conferencing services/online tools which have been approved or provided by University IT.

(2) Before an examination held in digital form using video conferencing begins, the identity of the candidate is authenticated using a valid photo ID that must be shown upon request.

(3) It is prohibited to record the examination or otherwise save image or sound data beyond what is technically necessary for temporary storage/caching. Temporarily saved/cached personal data must be promptly erased. The most important contents of the digital examination are recorded by an examiner or assistant examiner.

(4) If video or sound transmission is temporarily disrupted during an oral examination held in digital form, the examination is to be continued when the disruption is resolved. If technical errors remain unresolved so that the oral or practical examination cannot be properly continued, the examination is terminated to be repeated at a later date. The student shall be deemed to have not attempted the examination. The above does not apply to a doctoral student if it is proven that they were responsible for the disruption. If a technical disruption occurs after a substantial part of the examination has been completed, the examination can be continued and concluded by telephone and without the use of a video conferencing system. The decision regarding this is made by the examination board. This must be included in the record of the examination.

(5) The Data Protection Act for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (*Datenschutzgesetz Nordrhein-Westfalen, DSGVO NRW*) and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR) as amended remain unaffected.

§ 13

Assessment of the oral examinations

(1) Immediately after the oral examination, the examination board decides in a discussion not open to the public what the grade is for the oral examination components. The board can assign the following grades:

- 0 = excellent (*summa cum laude*)
- 1 = very good (*magna cum laude*)
- 2 = good (*cum laude*)
- 3 = passed (*rite*)

and for insufficient oral examinations:

4 = failed

The grades 1.3 / 1.7 / 2.3 and 2.7 can be given as fractional grades.

(2) If the doctoral student fails the oral examination, they can repeat it no earlier than three months and no later than six months after the failed examination. The oral examination can only be repeated one time.

(3) As a rule, the same examination board remains responsible for the repetition of the oral examinations. If the doctoral student submits a request with reasons, the Faculty Council can decide to appoint additional members to the examination board.

(4) If a doctoral student does not attend the oral examination without just cause or withdraws after the start without just cause, the oral examination is deemed to have been failed. If good cause is claimed for the failure to appear or withdrawal, this is to be reported and demonstrated immediately in writing to the examination board via the board's chairperson. Oral reports must be confirmed in writing without delay. In the event that the doctoral student is ill, the submission of a doctor's letter can be requested. If the reasons are recognized by the Faculty Council, a new examination date is arranged.

§ 14

Overall grade of the doctoral achievement

(1) To successfully complete the doctoral examination procedure, it is necessary for both the doctoral thesis and the oral examination to have been awarded at least the grade "passed" (3).

(2) The overall grade for the doctorate is the arithmetic average of the double-weighted grade for the doctoral thesis (arithmetic average of the grades for all reviews) and the single-weighted grade for the oral examination. Only the first decimal place is used for calculating the average; all further decimal places are dropped without rounding.

(3) Based on its overall impression of the doctoral examination procedure, the examination board can raise or lower the grade calculated according to paragraph 2 by 0.3. However, the grade "excellent (0.0)" cannot be raised and the grade "passed (3)" cannot be lowered. In addition, the grade "very good (0.3)" can only be raised to "excellent (0)" if there are three reviews, one of which is from a proven expert in the discipline of the doctorate who is not a member of the Faculty.

(4) The following overall grades and distinctions can be awarded for the overall assessment of the doctoral achievement:

- 0.0 = excellent (*summa cum laude*)
- 0.1–1.5 = very good (*magna cum laude*)
- 1.6–2.5 = good (*cum laude*)
- 2.6–3.0 = passed (*rite*)

(5) The chairperson of the examination board informs the doctoral student of the result of the doctoral examination procedure. The Dean issues a provisional certificate with the result.

§ 15

Publication of the doctoral thesis

(1) If the doctoral student passed the oral examination and was given approval for publishing the doctoral thesis (*Imprimatur*) according to § 12, paragraph 1, then they are required to make their research work available to the scientific community in a suitable form within 12 months.

(2) Upon request, the Dean can extend the deadline by up to six months. If the doctoral student is at fault for the reason the deadline is missed, all rights acquired by completing the examinations automatically expire.

(3) On the title page, the doctoral thesis must explicitly include the information that it is a doctoral thesis accepted by the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences at the University of Bonn to obtain a doctorate in a discipline according to § 5. The names of the people who reviewed the doctoral thesis and the date of the oral examination must be written on the reverse of the title page. Annex 2 of the valid Doctoral Degree Regulations is to be used.

(4) The doctoral student is required to provide their doctoral thesis by publishing it using the Bonn University and State Library (USL) publication service.

- This results in the doctoral thesis being published on the Internet on the USL's publication server according to the USL's execution rules as amended.
- The doctoral student is to submit the doctoral thesis file(s) and any descriptive metadata to the USL. All files and metadata must conform to the USL's formal and technical requirements. If the file(s) and/or metadata are incomplete and/or have technical flaws, they will be rejected by the USL and the doctoral thesis will be deemed not to have been published.
- The USL can only publish the doctoral thesis, thus fulfilling the requirement to publish, if the USL has been granted the unlimited and irrevocable right to distribute the doctoral thesis and make it publicly accessible.

When publishing cumulative online doctoral theses, the following also applies:

- If the doctoral thesis includes academic works that have already been published or accepted for publication by an academic publisher and if passages from these works are included directly in the doctoral thesis, these works are excluded from the requirement to publish.
- The doctoral student can remove them before the doctoral thesis is published online if this appears to be legally necessary. In this case, the complete bibliographical data and (if applicable) the persistent DOI, handle or URN link to the publisher's version of all works that have been removed from the doctoral thesis must be included to ensure that they are findable.

(5) The Doctoral Office can approve a specific embargo period for online publication on the publication server, which means that the doctoral thesis is made publicly accessible with a time delay.

- The delayed publication of the online doctoral thesis by the USL cannot occur until the doctoral student has submitted to the USL all file(s) and descriptive metadata that are part of the publication. If all file(s) and metadata are complete, and if the USL only needs to activate the publication, the requirement to publish is deemed to have been fulfilled even before the embargo has ended; this means that the doctoral examination procedure can be formally completed.
- If the doctoral student wants to extend the embargo, they must request this from the responsible doctoral office one month, but at the latest three working days, before the embargo is to end. If the request is approved, the Doctoral Office informs the USL of the new embargo period.

(6) Proof of publication and issuing the doctoral diploma:

If the online publication has been activated on the bonndoc publication server or if, in the case of an embargo, it can be activated without the doctoral student needing to take any further action, the USL issues the doctoral student a certificate that they have fulfilled her requirement to publish and sends this certificate to the responsible doctoral office, which reviews whether the approval to publish

(*Imprimatur*) was granted for the published version. If this is the case, then the doctoral examination procedure is concluded and the doctoral diploma can be issued to the doctoral student.

§ 16

Doctoral diploma

(1) The doctoral diploma in German is issued as soon as the documents necessary to complete the procedure have been submitted to the Dean's Office and all doctoral achievements according to § 15 have thus been completed. The diploma includes the following information:

- The name of the institution: University of Bonn Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences
- The name of the doctoral student
- The doctoral student's date and place of birth
- The title of the doctoral thesis
- The doctoral degree and discipline of the doctorate according to § 2, paragraph 2 and § 5
- The date of the oral examination
- The overall grade
- The name of the Dean

The diploma is stamped with the seal of the Faculty and signed personally by the Dean. An English translation of the doctoral diploma is issued by the Doctoral Office.

(2) The doctoral diploma is presented to the doctoral student by the Dean at the doctoral convocation ceremony. When the diploma is issued, the doctorate is considered to have been completed; starting on this day, the doctoral student can use the doctoral title. A second doctoral diploma is placed in the doctoral file.

§ 17

Invalidity of doctoral achievement and revocation of the doctoral degree

(1) If it becomes known during the doctoral examination procedure that the doctoral student is guilty of deception, the assessment of the doctoral achievements concerned can be amended accordingly, or parts or all of the doctoral examination procedure can be declared invalid or failed.

(2) If the doctoral student has committed deception with respect to a doctoral achievement and this only becomes known after the doctoral diploma is issued, the assessment of the doctoral achievement concerned can be subsequently changed or the doctoral degree can be revoked.

(3) If the doctoral student has obtained admission to the doctoral examination procedure by means of deception, threats or bribery, the doctoral degree that was awarded can also be subsequently revoked when this becomes known. If the requirements for admission to the doctoral examination procedure were not satisfied, without any intent to deceive by the doctoral student, and if this deficiency only becomes known after the doctoral diploma has been issued, the deficiency will be remedied by passing the doctoral examination procedure.

§ 18

Access to doctoral examination records

After the conclusion of the doctoral examination procedure and after decisions made according to § 9,

paragraphs 2 and 4, upon written request to the Dean, the doctoral student is to be granted access to the doctoral examination records (including the reviews of the doctoral thesis and the examination reports). The request is to be made within one month after the doctoral diploma has been issued or after notification has been given of the decisions stated in sentence 1.

IV. Joint doctorate

§ 19

Joint doctorate with foreign universities

(1) The University of Bonn Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences can award a doctoral degree together with foreign academic universities as part of a joint doctoral examination procedure. This procedure requires joint supervision by one supervisor from each university and at least one semester of doctoral studies at each of the participating universities. In particular, the requirements for admission to doctoral studies must be satisfied at both universities.

(2) An agreement for the joint procedure must be concluded between the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences and the other university and approved by the Faculty Council. The agreement governs a doctoral examination procedure conducted jointly by the responsible bodies at the other university and the Faculty Council, in particular the joint examination and assessment of the examinations by a committee.

The agreement can include exceptions to the following provisions:

- Composition of the examination board (§ 4)
- Required doctoral studies (§ 6, paragraph 2)
- Possible supervisor (§ 7, paragraphs 1 and 2)
- Preparation of the reviews of the doctoral thesis (§ 11, para. 1)
- Best grade for the doctoral thesis (§ 11, paras. 2 and 3)

(3) The requirement to publish the doctoral thesis and the rights to this publication are regulated by the provisions of the participating universities and must be set down in the agreement.

(4) The diploma includes the conferral of a single academic degree, which may be used either in the form awarded by the other university or in the form awarded by the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences at the University of Bonn. A note of this is to be included in the diploma. The certification of the degree is set down with a joint diploma in the respective countries' official languages, and an English translation can also be attached. Alternatively, the certification of the degree can also be set down in the joint diploma in the respective official languages and in English. It is signed by the responsible representative of the foreign university and the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences at the University of Bonn and bears the seals of the participating universities. If a foreign university is not permitted to issue a joint diploma, then it can be agreed that separate diplomas will be issued in the agreement according to paragraph 2. In this case, the universities must agree that the diplomas reference one another and that a note to the effect of that stated in sentence 2 must be included.

§ 20

Doctorates as part of international doctoral degree programs

(1) To carry out doctorates as part of international doctoral degree programs as specified in § 2, paragraph 4 of these Regulations, the University of Bonn is to conclude an agreement with all foreign academic universities participating in the program; the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences must approve this agreement.

(2) The agreement according to paragraph 1 can state that, as part of an international doctoral degree program, the Faculty Council's tasks and responsibilities according to § 3 of these Regulations can be taken on by a body established by the universities participating in the doctoral degree program as long as a person is included in the body who belongs to the groups stated in § 4, paragraph 1 and is a member or associate of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences at the University of Bonn. This member must inform the Faculty Council of the body's decisions.

(3) The tasks and responsibilities of the examination board as specified in § 4 of these Regulations can be taken on by a thesis committee whose tasks, responsibilities and composition is to be regulated in the agreement according to paragraph 1 and which includes as a member a university professor from the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences. If it is not planned for the doctoral student to spend at least six months at the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences, and if no university professor from the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences belongs to the thesis committee, then the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences will not confer a final degree according to § 2, paras. 2 or 4.

(4) The agreement according to paragraph 1 can include exceptions to the following provisions of these Regulations:

- Examination board (§ 4)
- Doctoral studies (§ 6)
- Concluding a supervision agreement (§ 7, paragraph 1)
- Request for admission (§ 7, paragraph 4),
- Language of the doctoral thesis (§ 10, paragraph 4) and oral examination (§ 12, para. 6)
- Grading system (§ 11, paragraph 2, § 13, paragraph 1, § 14)
- Making the doctoral thesis available to other members of the Faculty (§ 11, paragraphs 5 and 6)

(5) After the entire procedure has been completed as part of an international doctoral degree program, a doctoral diploma is issued that confers the academic degree Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

V. Honorary doctorate and golden anniversary of the conferral of the doctorate

§ 21

Honorary doctorate

(1) To recognize outstanding academic and intellectual work in the fields of agricultural sciences, nutrition and food sciences or engineering sciences, the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences can confer the degree and title of honorary doctor (*Doctor honoris causa*, Dr. h.c.).

(2) An honorary doctorate is awarded by a Faculty resolution following a justified written proposal by at least two people belonging to the groups described in § 4, paragraph 1. The resolution requires a two-thirds majority of the members of the Faculty Council and the approval of two thirds of the professors in the Faculty. The vote can be conducted by post.

(3) The honorary doctorate is awarded by presentation of a diploma signed by the Dean in recognition of the outstanding academic achievements of the nominee.

(4) § 16 applies accordingly to honorary doctorates.

§ 22

Golden anniversary of the conferral of the doctorate

On the 50th anniversary of a doctorate, the Dean is to renew the doctoral diploma.

VI. Privacy and data protection

§ 23

Collecting, processing and transferring data

According to § 5 of the Act on Statistics for Universities of Cooperative Education and Universities (*Gesetz über die Statistik für das Hochschulwesen sowie für die Berufsakademien*, HSchStG), universities must collect the personal data of people who have been admitted to doctoral studies according to § 7. The personal data of the doctoral students is automatically saved by the university and processed by its central administration teams to fulfill their statutory tasks. The university only transfers data if this is necessary to fulfill its statutory or other legally regulated tasks. Transferring data to the NRW Statistical Office impacts the data collection characteristics according to § 3, para. 1 and § 5, para. 2 HSchStG.

VII. Final provisions

§ 24

Entry into force and publication

These Doctoral Degree Regulations shall enter into force on the day after their publication in the Official Announcements of the University of Bonn. The Doctoral Degree Regulations dated June 17, 2011 (Official Announcements of the University of Bonn, 41st year, no. 15 of June 17, 2011), last amended by the Third Amendment to the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn dated April 18, 2021 (Official Announcements of the University of Bonn, 51st year, no. 36 of April 21, 2021) shall be repealed at the same time, subject to § 1.

H. Schoof

The Dean
of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences
of the University of Bonn
Professor Dr. Heiko Schoof

Executed pursuant to the resolution adopted by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences on January 15, 2025 and the resolution passed by the Rectorate on February 18, 2025.

Bonn, date: March 18, 2025

M. Hoch

The Rector
of the University of Bonn
Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch

Annex 1

According to § 4, para. 1, heads of research groups that received funding as part of a competitive process can be admitted as supervisors and examiners in doctoral examination procedures.

The right to supervise doctoral students expires two years after a requirement for having the right to supervise is no longer met; the Faculty Council can approve exceptions to this.

Heads of research groups in the following programs or projects fulfill this requirement:

DFG Emmy Noether Program

DFG Cluster of Excellence Independent Junior Research Groups

DFG CRC Junior Research Groups

BMBF-funded Junior Research Groups

ERC Starting Grant

Annex 2

Title page template (front and back)

Name des Instituts
(an dem die Arbeit angefertigt wurde)

Titel der Dissertation

Zusatz zum Titel

Dissertation

zur Erlangung des Grades

Doktor (bzw. Doktorin) der Agrarwissenschaften (Dr. agr.)

oder

Doktor (bzw. Doktorin) der Ingenieurwissenschaften (Dr.-Ing.)

oder

Doktor (bzw. Doktorin) der Ernährungs- und Lebensmittelwissenschaften (Dr. troph.)

oder

Doktor (bzw. Doktorin) der der Ökonomie (Dr.rer.oec.)

der Agrar-, Ernährungs- und Ingenieurwissenschaftlichen Fakultät
der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

von

- es folgen **Vorname Name** -

aus

- es folgt der Geburtsort und ggf. Land -

Bonn 20xx
(Erscheinungsjahr / Publication year)

Referent: *(bitte namentlich inkl. Prof. Dr. einsetzen)*

Korreferent: *(bitte namentlich inkl. Prof. Dr. einsetzen)*

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Tag der mündlichen Prüfung: *(Einzutragen erst nach Veröffentlichung der Dissertation eingetragen im Archivexemplar /
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