

## **Doctoral Degree Regulations**

as of December 19, 2024

On the basis of § 41, § 93 para. 1 no. 2 and § 14 para. 4 sentence 1 of the Saxon Higher Education Act (SächsHSG) of May 31, 2023 (SächsGVBl. p. 329), amended by Art. 2 of the Act of January 31, 2024 (SächsGVBl. p. 83), the Faculty of Civil Engineering of TUD Dresden University of Technology has issued the following Doctoral Degree Regulations as statutes.

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## **§ 1**

### **Scope of application**

These regulations govern the implementation of doctoral studies and procedures at the Faculty of Civil Engineering at TUD Dresden University of Technology.

## **§ 2**

### **Doctoral degree**

(1) The Faculty of Civil Engineering awards the following academic degree on behalf of TUD Dresden University of Technology following a doctoral procedure:

Doktor-Ingenieur (Dr.-Ing.) (for men)  
and  
Doktor-Ingenieurin (Dr.-Ing.) (for women)  
*(usually interpreted as: Doctor of Engineering).*

(2) Following a resolution of the Faculty Board, TUD Dresden University of Technology also awards the honorary degree:

Doktor-Ingenieur Ehren halber (Dr.-Ing. E. h.)  
and Doktor-Ingenieurin Ehren halber (Dr.-Ing. E. h.).

## **§ 3**

### **Doctoral studies**

(1) Doctoral Studies serve both as proof of a student's particular proficiency to conduct independent academic work as well as proof of the student's academic education beyond general study objectives in the area of Civil Engineering.

(2) This proof shall be provided, except in the case of an honorary doctorate in accordance with § 21, through the dissertation in accordance with §11 and the oral component of the doctoral degree in accordance with § 12.

## **§ 4**

### **Doctoral committees**

(1) The committee responsible for doctorates is the Faculty Board. For this purpose, it forms a Doctoral Committee as a permanent faculty committee. The Doctoral Committee consists of the Dean or a university lecturer nominated by the Dean as Chairperson, at least three additional university lecturers and a postdoctoral Research Associate belonging to the faculty. The Faculty Board appoints a Deputy to the Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee from among the university lecturers appointed to the Doctoral Committee. The members of the Doctoral Committee are appointed by the Faculty Board for a term of three years. Members can be reappointed.

(2) After the opening of a specific doctoral procedure, the Doctoral Committee appoints a Doctoral Commission for the tasks assigned to it according to these Regulations, and also appoints the Chairperson and assessors. The Doctoral Commission consists of at least five members, which must include the assessors. The Chairperson of the Doctoral Commission must be a university lecturer from the faculty; § 11 para. 6 applies to the assessors. Additional members of the Doctoral Commission are typically university lecturers from TUD Dresden University of Technology. Extraordinary Professors and Honorary Professors, insofar as they have membership rights in the faculty, habilitated staff members of the faculty, TUD Young Investigators, university lecturers from other faculties or qualified

scientists and scholars, can be appointed, especially if the topic so requires. When collaborative doctoral procedures are conducted with a university of applied sciences, one member of the Doctoral Commission must be a university lecturer from the respective university of applied sciences.

(3) The meetings of the Doctoral Committee and the Doctoral Commission are not public. Its members are bound by confidentiality. In order for the Doctoral Committee and the Doctoral Commission to pass a resolution, the Chairperson must be present. The provisions of the Saxon Higher Education Act and the stipulations of the Rules and Principles of Procedure for University Committees at TU Dresden, as amended, shall apply to the quorum. Minutes must be kept of the deliberations and resolutions for doctoral matters.

(4) Professors co-opted pursuant to § 92 para. 3 Saxon Higher Education Act participate in the doctoral procedure on an equal basis with university professors. The regulations of the Fundamental Principles of TUD Dresden University of Technology apply to the co-option.

## **§ 5**

### **The entire doctoral process**

The entire doctoral process is structured as follows:

1. Admission to doctoral studies in accordance with § 7 and acceptance as a doctoral student in accordance with § 9,
2. Work on doctoral studies and completion of the dissertation
3. The initiation and execution of the doctoral procedure in accordance with § 10, § 11, § 12 and § 14.

## **§ 6**

### **General procedural regulations and appeal proceedings**

(1) The decisions of the responsible committees will be shared with the candidates in writing throughout the entire doctoral process. The Chairperson of the responsible committee announces decisions that adversely affect students by notification that is open to appeal, which shall be substantiated and contain legal instructions on how to appeal.

(2) There is a formal procedure for appealing against decisions which are considered administrative acts throughout the entire doctoral process. The Faculty Board is the appeal authority. Decisions throughout the entire doctoral process which are considered administrative acts include in particular:

1. Non-admission to doctoral studies and refusal as a doctoral student as well as revocation of admission as a doctoral student,
2. Non-commencement of the doctoral procedure,
3. Non-acceptance of the dissertation,
4. The assessment of doctoral work,
5. Non-admission to repeat doctoral work,
6. Inconclusive termination (discontinuation) of the doctoral procedure and
7. Non-awarding of the academic degree.

(3) Upon written request, candidates will be granted access to their doctoral records after completion of the doctoral procedure.

## § 7 Admission to doctoral studies

(1) Admission to doctoral studies at the faculty is granted to those who

1. a) have obtained a *Diplom*, Master's or *Magister* degree at a university, or have completed the State Examination in an engineering science degree program with a minimum overall grade of "good" and have completed the corresponding final thesis with a minimum grade of "good," or
1. b) have obtained a *Diplom*, Master's or *Magister* degree at a university, or have obtained the State Examination in an engineering-specific field (e.g. teacher training for vocational schools, construction engineering or wood technology), or in mathematics, natural sciences, information technology or economic science, and have completed their studies with an overall grade of at least "good," and have completed the relevant final thesis with a grade of at least "good," and have passed the aptitude test in accordance with § 8,
2. fulfill the personal requirements for holding the academic degree,
3. have not already failed a doctoral procedure twice or are not currently in a pending doctoral procedure, and
4. have submitted an application for acceptance as a doctoral student with all the required documents in accordance with § 9.

(2) Applicants who have obtained a Bachelor's degree from a university may be admitted to doctoral studies at the faculty if:

1. the degree was obtained in a program equivalent in content to an engineering degree program at the faculty and
2. the degree program for the undergraduate qualification was completed with the overall grade of "very good" and
3. with a corresponding final thesis, the structure and content of which have demonstrated a fundamental aptitude for academic work, as well as
4. the aptitude test pursuant to § 8 para. 2 has been passed.

Para. 1 no. 2 to 4 shall apply accordingly.

(3) Graduates of universities of applied sciences are also eligible for admission to a collaborative project. Universities and universities of applied sciences work together in collaborative doctoral studies by supervising the entire doctoral process together.

(4) Admission to doctoral studies is not granted to those who:

1. do not fulfill the prerequisites stipulated in para. 1 or para. 2,
2. hire or have hired the services of intermediaries for the purposes of identifying doctorate opportunities in exchange for money,
3. have paid for services in relation to the doctoral procedure or its preparation, or made use of free services which contradict the meaning and purpose of the examination procedure,
4. perform or have performed paid services in relation to the doctoral procedure and its preparation which contradict the meaning and purpose of the examination procedure.

(5) The Doctoral Committee makes a decision on the recognition of the equivalence of foreign examinations and degrees, taking Agreements of Equivalence into account. In cases of doubt, the Doctoral Committee must obtain the opinion of the Saxon State Ministry responsible for universities. In cases where applicants have been authorized to hold an academic degree acquired abroad in the form of a German degree entitling them to a doctorate, this degree is to be recognized as equivalent.

(6) The admission decision is made on the basis of the decision on acceptance as a doctoral student in accordance with § 9.

## **§ 8**

### **Aptitude assessment procedure**

(1) The aptitude assessment for admission to doctoral studies in accordance with § 7, para. 1, no. 1, letter b requires two module examinations in subjects closely related to the topic of the dissertation, with a minimum grade of "good." These module examinations must be taken from the range of degree programs offered by the Faculty of Civil Engineering and are determined by the Doctoral Committee upon recommendation of the main supervisor of doctoral studies. The module examinations are conducted and graded in accordance with the relevant examination regulations, as amended. Notwithstanding this, module examinations may also be taken outside of the regular examination dates, and written module examinations may also be taken orally, with the consent of the examiner responsible for the module examination.

(2) The aptitude assessment for admission to doctoral studies pursuant to § 7, para. 2 requires the completion of additional academic achievements totaling at least 30 and at most 90 credit points, with a minimum grade of "good." These academic achievements must be taken from the range of degree programs offered by the Faculty of Civil Engineering and are determined by the Doctoral Committee upon recommendation of the main supervisor. The academic achievements are conducted and graded in accordance with the relevant examination regulations, as amended.

## **§ 9**

### **Acceptance as a doctoral student**

(1) Individuals who fulfill the admission requirements in accordance with § 7 and intend to complete their doctorate at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, must apply for acceptance as a doctoral student, either before or at the latest when starting their doctoral studies. An application for acceptance as a doctoral student represents the applicant's intention towards the faculty to pursue their doctorate there within the next six years.

(2) The application must be submitted via the Doctoral Management System used by TUD Dresden University of Technology and sent to the Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee in writing. The following must additionally be submitted together with the application:

1. the provisional subject of the dissertation,
2. a copy of the Supervision Agreement in accordance with para. 3,
3. proof of the admission requirements pursuant to § 7,
4. a curriculum vitae in tabular form and signed by the applicant and including a description of the academic career with officially certified and documented proof of additional studies or examinations already completed,
5. a written statement on any previous inconclusive doctoral procedures,
6. a written declaration that the applicant accepts these Doctoral Degree Regulations and the "Statutes for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice, Avoiding Scientific Misconduct and Handling Violations" applicable at TUD Dresden University of Technology, and
7. a written declaration that a certificate of good conduct (*Führungszeugnis*) according to § 30 para. 5 Federal Central Register Act (*Bundeszentralregistergesetz - BZRG*), which is to be submitted to the faculty, has been applied for at the registration office within three months prior to submitting the application,

(3) Supervision of the doctoral student is conducted in accordance with § 4 para. 1 to 5 of the "Statutes for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice, Avoiding Scientific Misconduct and Handling Violations" applicable at TUD Dresden University of Technology, as amended. Thereafter, the supervision of doctoral students shall be structured as follows:

1. In addition to the main supervisor, at least one other experienced researcher shall be appointed

as part of a supervisory team. Both should be university lecturers. One of these persons may also be a scientifically qualified person with demonstrably equivalent achievements to habilitation, an Extraordinary Professor or an Honorary Professor with membership rights, a *Privatdozent*, or a TUD Young Investigator. In addition, other experts can be involved in the supervision in an advisory capacity.

2. The supervision teams meet with the doctoral student at least once a year to discuss the progress of their work and to make recommendations.
3. In order to create a transparent relationship between the supervisory team and the doctoral student in terms of content and time, and to ensure that the doctoral studies can be completed to a high standard within an appropriate period of time, a Supervision Agreement must be concluded at the start of the doctoral studies (see Annex 1). The Supervision Agreement must take at least the following aspects into account:
  - a) the parties involved (doctoral student, supervisory team, any other mentors or persons involved),
  - b) information pertaining to the dissertation project and subject of the dissertation paper (the title, if already available),
  - c) a structured timeline and work plan or its further development,
  - d) provisions for regular discussions on the status and progress of the dissertation project,
  - e) accompanying qualifications to support both academic independence and career advancement at an early stage,
  - f) provisions on the work conditions for the doctoral student (such as place of work, access to resources, integration into a research group, research alliance or graduate program),
  - g) mutual commitment to comply with the principles of good scientific practice,
  - h) provisions on conduct in cases of conflict,
  - i) particular measures or provisions on balancing work and family life.
4. The completion of the doctorate within a reasonable period of time is to be encouraged by the supervisors.

(4) The Doctoral Committee decides to accept or reject doctoral students on the basis of the documents named in para. 2. Acceptance is rejected if the subject-specific admission requirements named in § 7 are not fulfilled. Acceptance is also rejected if the applicant does not meet the personal requirements for the holding of an academic degree. The decision must also be made taking the certificate of good conduct (*Führungszeugnis*) in accordance with para. 2 no. 7 into consideration. The decision to accept an applicant may be combined with the imposition of conditions, such as supplementary course work or additional examinations, which must be completed as part of the doctorate before submitting the application to open the doctoral procedure in accordance with § 10. If accepted, the applicant is included in the list of doctoral students to be maintained by the faculty; a doctoral relationship is established between the faculty and the doctoral student, a doctoral agreement is established between the faculty and the applicant, who receives the status of doctoral student.

(5) Acceptance as a doctoral student can be revoked if the progress of the dissertation or the results available up to that point do not give reason to expect successful completion of the doctoral process. The main supervisor must submit a written statement for this purpose. Before the acceptance is revoked, the doctoral student must be heard. The decision is made by the Doctoral Committee, but not before two years have elapsed. After being accepted, the doctoral student may also submit a written statement to the Dean of the faculty stating that he or she does not longer wish to pursue doctoral studies. All of the cases mentioned above end the doctoral relationship with the faculty and result in the doctoral studies being terminated without a grade. The doctoral student must be removed from the list of doctoral students.

(6) Acceptance as a doctoral student is an obligatory condition for the initiation of the doctoral procedure.

## **§ 10**

### **Initiating the doctoral procedure**

(1) The doctoral procedure is initiated upon formal application by the doctoral student. The application must be submitted via the Doctoral Management System used by TUD Dresden University of Technology and sent to the Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee in writing. The following documents must be included:

1. a curriculum vitae in tabular form, hand-signed by the applicant presenting the student's academic career,
2. a copy of the confirmation of acceptance as a doctoral student in accordance with § 9 and certified proof of compliance with any conditions imposed,
3. the dissertation including an abstract in seven bound copies, in German or in English, taking into account § 11 para. 4, and an electronic version of it,
4. a list of the doctoral student's academic publications,
5. the written declaration of the doctoral student in accordance with the sample attached in Annex 2,
6. proof of participation either online or on-site in a training course on good scientific practice, amounting to at least four teaching units, and
7. a written declaration that a certificate of good conduct (*Führungszeugnis*) according to § 30 para. 5 Federal Central Register Act (*Bundeszentralregistergesetz*), which is to be submitted to the faculty, has been applied for at the registration office within three months prior to submitting the application,

Suggestions for the assessors can also be attached with the application, although there is no entitlement for these to be considered. Documents that were required for acceptance as a doctoral student and do not require any changes can be accepted as valid.

(2) Withdrawal of the application to initiate the doctoral procedure is permitted, as long as the procedure has not yet been initiated. In this case, the application shall be deemed as not submitted. If the doctoral student indicates that he or she does not longer wish to continue with the doctoral procedure after its initiation, this will result in the termination of the doctoral procedure and it will be considered an inconclusive doctoral procedure.

(3) The Doctoral Committee makes the decision on initiating the doctoral procedure. Initiation must be rejected if the fulfillment of the conditions imposed upon acceptance have not been proven. The initiation of the doctoral procedure must also be rejected if the doctoral student does not meet the personal requirements for the holding of an academic degree. The decision must also be made taking the certificate of good conduct (*Führungszeugnis*) in accordance with para. 1 no. 7 into consideration. The initiation of the doctoral procedure must also be rejected if there are any reasons that would lead to the withdrawal of the academic degree. If the doctoral procedure is not initiated for reasons stipulated in sentences 3 to 5, § 18 shall apply. Upon initiating the doctoral procedure, the Doctoral Committee shall appoint the assessors in accordance with § 11 para. 6 as well as the Doctoral Commission. The notification informing the doctoral student on the initiation of the doctoral procedure simultaneously provides information on the composition of the Doctoral Commission and the assessors.

(4) In the event of the application being withdrawn before or after initiating the procedure or if no procedure is opened, the formal application, the electronic copy of the dissertation and a printed copy will remain in the doctoral record. The remaining printed copies will be returned to the doctoral student.

(5) The Chairperson of the Doctoral Committee transfers the doctoral procedure after its initiation to the Doctoral Commission, who implements it fully.

## **§ 11 Dissertation**

(1) The dissertation serves as proof of the capability to produce independent academic work. It should make a substantial contribution to research in the field of civil engineering and must contain new scientific findings.

(2) The dissertation is typically an individually completed work of the doctoral student. It can also emerge from a joint research. For the authorship, § 8 of the "Statutes for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice, Avoiding Scientific Misconduct and Handling Violations" applicable at TUD Dresden University of Technology shall apply, as amended.

(3) In deviation from para. 2, the dissertation may also be completed by submitting a series of scientific papers (cumulative dissertation). For this purpose, at least three thematically related scientific papers must be submitted, which:

1. have already been published or accepted for publication in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals and
2. were not published before acceptance as a doctoral student and
3. are no older than five years at the time of initiating the doctoral procedure.

The Faculty Board determines the requirements journals must fulfill. The thematic coherence of the papers and their methodological-technical background must be demonstrated in writing as a separate paper and, in conjunction with the submitted scientific papers, they constitute the dissertation. Co-authors and co-authorships will be accepted for cumulative dissertations if the doctoral student is the first author of at least three scientific papers and the individual doctoral performance is clearly distinguishable and assessable. The authors must explain in writing the content of the article to which the individual authorship relates. This explanation must usually be signed by all co-authors. Para. 2 sentence 2 remains unaffected.

(4) In general, the dissertation shall be written in German or in English. The Doctoral Committee shall decide on any exceptions, provided the student has applied for this together with the opening of the doctoral procedure. Works that have previously served as examined or graduation assignments may not be submitted as dissertations. The preliminary publication of partial results of the dissertation requires the written consent of the main supervisor.

(5) Along with their dissertation, doctoral students must also submit a pledge that they have complied with the rules of good scientific practice, that they wrote the work themselves, without unauthorized assistance from third parties, and that no assistance other than those cited were used. Thoughts taken directly or indirectly from external sources must be marked as such, and the source material used for the preparation, as well as other aids, in particular software that can generate texts, diagrams or images, must be indicated completely and with specific references to the corresponding passages in the dissertation. Likewise, they must also declare that they have complied with data protection stipulations and that personal data of third parties will only be published without their consent insofar as it is essential for presenting research findings about events in contemporary history and no predominant interests of the affected persons worthy of protection obstruct this.

(6) The dissertation shall be evaluated by three assessors who are qualified to review the scientific topics addressed in the dissertation. The main supervisor is usually the first assessor. One assessor must be an appointed professor of a university. Other assessors may be professors from a university of applied science, junior professors, TUD Young Investigators, extraordinary professors, or honorary



professors with member rights, or persons who can demonstrate achievements equivalent to a habilitation. Two assessors from the same institute of the faculty will be permitted only in justified exceptional cases. The dissertation must be assessed by at least one external assessor working predominantly outside TUD Dresden University of Technology who was not involved in supervising the content of the dissertation and who does not work in the same institute as the main supervisor. When collaborative doctoral procedures are conducted with a university of applied sciences, one assessor must be a university lecturer from the respective university of applied sciences. A person who is the Chairperson of the Doctoral Commission may not be appointed as an assessor. At least one of the assessors should not have any joint publications with the doctoral student.

(7) The assessors recommend to the Doctoral Commission in personal and independent assessments whether the work should be accepted or rejected as a dissertation. If they recommend acceptance, the assessors must give the dissertation the following ratings:

magna cum laude	= very good a performance especially deserving of recognition
cum laude	= good a performance exceeding the average
rite	= satisfactory a performance that meets average requirements

If the dissertation is rejected, it must be marked as

non sufficit	= not sufficient an unusable performance.
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(8) The assessments should be submitted within three months to the Chair of the Doctoral Commission. If there is an undue delay in issuing the assessment despite repeated reminders, the Doctoral Committee may countermand the defaulting assessor and appoint a new one.

(9) The submitted dissertation may be screened, in particular using plagiarism detection software, for potential text passages that have been borrowed but not cited or for other non-cited sources. This screening may be conducted at random or if there is reason to suspect plagiarism:

1. As part of the random screening, at least one in five dissertations submitted at the faculty should be screened with the aid of plagiarism detection software between the time of submission and the completion of the doctoral procedure. The dissertations to be screened are chosen at random and in anonymized form. If a joint Doctoral Examinations Body exists, the screening shall be conducted by the joint Doctoral Examinations Body at the School level using plagiarism detection software. If there is no joint Doctoral Examinations Body at the School level, the Doctoral Examinations Office at the faculty level will be charged with completing the screening using plagiarism detection software. The Doctoral Examinations Body or the Doctoral Examinations Office shall inform the Doctoral Commission on the results of the screening. In the case of suspected plagiarism, the Chair of the Doctoral Commission shall charge at least one appointed assessor with the evaluation or scientific appraisal of the results of the plagiarism detection software screening. This assessor may suggest to the Doctoral Commission to call on the help of other assessors pursuant to para. 6 to review these results if deemed necessary. The Doctoral Commission must be informed on the result of the screening. If there are signs of violations against good scientific practice, the Chair of the Doctoral Commission will inform the Chair of the Doctoral Committee of the faculty. If justified suspicion of a violation against good scientific practice arises within the scope of the screening for plagiarism, the Office for Good Scientific Practice must also be involved.
2. If people involved in the doctoral procedure such as assessors harbor doubts that the dissertation was written in keeping with academic integrity, the dissertation can be screened using plagiarism detection software. The results of screening with the plagiarism detection software in cases where plagiarism is suspected must be evaluated or scientifically appraised by at least one assessor. This assessor may call on the help of other assessors pursuant to para. 6 to

review these results if deemed necessary. The Doctoral Commission must be informed of the result of the screening. If there are signs of violations against good scientific practice, the Chair of the Doctoral Commission will inform the Chair of the Doctoral Committee of the faculty. If justified suspicion of a violation against good scientific practice arises within the scope of the screening for plagiarism, the Office for Good Scientific Practice must also be involved.

3. The doctoral student whose dissertation is subject to a review will be notified.
4. The provisions of data protection law must be observed. In cases where plagiarism detection software is used, personal data (e.g. cover page) is not provided for the technical screening unless the data is required for reviewing compliance with the stipulations of academic integrity.
5. In cases of suspicion of scientific misconduct, the "Statutes for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice, Avoiding Scientific Misconduct and Handling Violations" shall apply as amended for the following proceedings.

(10) If one of the assessors recommends that the dissertation be returned to the doctoral student for expanding the content or for reworking, the Doctoral Commission will make the final decision on the matter. If the Doctoral Commission cannot reach an agreement, it will consult another assessor, who will be appointed by the Doctoral Committee at the recommendation of the Doctoral Commission. The Doctoral Commission may set an appropriate deadline of up to six months for resubmitting the edited dissertation. Resubmission of a returned dissertation is only possible once. For a resubmitted dissertation, new assessments or additions to the existing assessments must be requested from the assessors.

(11) Once all assessments have been submitted, the dissertation will be made available in the Dean's Office of the faculty for a period of two weeks and its availability will be announced. University lecturers, habilitated members of the faculty, members of the Faculty Board and members of the Doctoral Commission and Doctoral Committee have the right to view both the dissertation and assessments without the suggested grades, and to submit their personal vote for or against the acceptance of the dissertation within the display period in writing to the Dean or the Chair of the Doctoral Commission within the display period, stating their reasons. The doctoral student also has the right to view the assessments without the suggested grades within the display period and is obliged to treat this information confidentially.

(12) Once the display period has expired, the Doctoral Commission decides on the acceptance or rejection of the dissertation on the basis of the assessments and the votes received. In the case of acceptance, the Doctoral Commission shall at the same time make a decision on the dissertation using the ratings specified in para. 7. If the dissertation is rejected and thus assessed as "non sufficit" (not sufficient), the doctoral procedure will be terminated; § 13 para. 1 applies. One bound copy and the electronic copy of the rejected dissertation will remain in the doctoral record with the assessments. The other bound copies will be handed over to the doctoral student upon request.

## **§ 12 Defense**

(1) If the dissertation is accepted, the doctoral student must present the findings in a public lecture and answer questions from the audience in a subsequent academic discussion (defense). The lecture should last 30 minutes and the defense as a whole should not exceed two hours.

(2) Once the dissertation is accepted, the date and time of the defense of the dissertation shall be set by the Chair of the Doctoral Commission, who shall send the doctoral student a written invitation. The invitation must be sent two weeks in advance. In addition, the members of the Doctoral Commission must be invited and the date of the defense made public.

(3) The defense shall be led by the Chair of the Doctoral Commission. It shall typically be held in German or English. In exceptional cases, it may be held in another language upon the decision of the Doctoral Committee if the doctoral student, in agreement with the Doctoral Commission, has submitted a formal request to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee in due time. All attendees may pose questions during the academic discussion. The Chair of the Doctoral Commission may reject questions that are unrelated to the doctoral student's specialist focus in the subject area of civil engineering or the academic subject of the dissertation.

(4) Immediately after the defense, the Doctoral Commission decides in a non-public session whether the doctoral student passed the defense and assesses it with the ratings specified in § 11 para. 7. If the defense was not passed, it shall be assessed as "non sufficit" (not sufficient); § 13 para. 2 shall apply.

(5) If the dissertation and the defense have been passed, the Doctoral Commission determines the overall rating for the doctoral procedure. For this purpose, it uses the ratings specified in § 11 para. 7. When determining the overall rating, the result of the dissertation shall take precedence. If the dissertation and the defense have been graded "magna cum laude" by all assessors and the doctoral student has demonstrated exceptional scientific achievements, for example, pioneering work in the scientific field of Civil Engineering or a significant number of high-quality publications in addition to the actual doctoral thesis, then the overall grade "summa cum laude" can be awarded. The public shall be informed of the successful conclusion.

(6) The essential course of the defense shall be recorded by a minute-taker appointed by the Chairperson of the Doctoral Commission; the minutes shall be signed by the minute-taker and the Chairperson of the Doctoral Commission and included in the doctoral record.

### **§ 13**

#### **Repeating failed doctoral work**

(1) After completion of the doctoral procedure in accordance with § 10 para. 2 sentence 3 or § 11 para. 12, sentence 3 or § 13 para. 2, sentence 3, the doctoral student may take another attempt at obtaining a doctorate. The student must wait half a year to submit a new application to initiate the doctoral procedure pursuant to § 10. Another dissertation or a fundamentally revised version of the first dissertation on the same topic must be submitted along with the application. If the doctoral procedure is initiated, the same Doctoral Commission as was involved in the first attempt shall be reappointed. If the doctoral student also fails the second attempt, further attempts to obtain a doctorate shall not be permissible at the same faculty.

(2) If the doctoral student does not pass the defense, the failed component can be repeated in the same doctoral procedure within one year upon formal request. The defense can be repeated after six months at the earliest upon request. If the repeated attempt is not passed or conducted on time, the doctoral procedure will be concluded.

### **§ 14**

#### **Publication of the dissertation**

(1) The doctoral student is obliged to make the accepted and approved dissertation publicly available to the scientific community in an appropriate manner within one year of the defense.

(2) The main supervisor must confirm to the Doctoral Commission in writing that any editorial requirements imposed in accordance with § 11, para. 12 have been fulfilled before publication.

(3) The doctoral student fulfills the obligation according to para. 1 by choosing from the following options:

1. the free transfer of five printed and bound copies, as well as an electronic version with all images, tables and graphics, to the Saxon State and University Library Dresden (SLUB), whereby the file format and data storage medium for the electronic copy are to be agreed upon with the SLUB, or
2. the free transfer of ten printed and bound copies of a version produced and distributed by a publisher to the SLUB.

(4) If, in the case of a cumulative dissertation, the publication of previously published scientific papers conflicts with the rights of third parties, it is sufficient to refer to the publicly available papers for the parts of the dissertation that have already been published.

(5) In exceptional cases which must be specifically justified, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee may, upon application, grant an extension of the submission deadline by up to a maximum of one year. Should the deadline be culpably missed, all rights acquired through achievements in the doctoral procedure will be voided and the procedure will be terminated without the conferral of an academic degree. The Chair of the Doctoral Committee shall inform the doctoral student of this in writing.

(6) The provision of an embargo, in which the dissertation may not be published due to agreements the doctoral student has made with third parties, must be formally requested in writing from the Doctoral Committee using the template in Annex 3 of these regulations. The request must include a justification for the embargo. The request must be signed by the doctoral student and their main supervisor. An embargo of up to a maximum of one year may be requested. Before expiry of the deadline, an extension of the embargo by a maximum of one additional year may be requested in justified exceptional cases. The Doctoral Committee's decision shall be shared in writing. If the Doctoral Committee grants its approval using the template in Annex 4, this approval shall be submitted to the SLUB along with the obligatory copies of their dissertation. The obligation to provide copies of the work is thus fulfilled.

(7) The doctoral student must provide proof of transfer of the obligatory copies to the SLUB in accordance with para. 3 in the form of a delivery receipt.

## **§ 15**

### **Protection periods**

(1) Upon request, the periods of protection in accordance with § 3 of the Act on the Protection of Mothers at Work, in Training and at University (*Mutterschutzgesetz* - MuSchG) as amended must be taken into account. The request must include the necessary evidence. The maternity protection periods interrupt all time periods with deadlines set out in these Doctoral Degree Regulations.

(2) Likewise, the periods of parental leave in accordance with § 15 para. 1 to 3 of the Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (*Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz* - BEEG) as amended must be taken into account upon request. The doctoral student must inform the Doctoral Committee in writing of the period of parental leave they wish to take at least four weeks before the date from which they wish to take parental leave, enclosing the necessary evidence. The Doctoral Committee must check whether the legal requirements that would entitle employees to parental leave are met, and inform the doctoral student of the result and, if applicable, the newly set examination deadlines or other deadlines.

(3) It is possible to make use of the protective provisions for the care of a close relative within the meaning of § 7 para. 3 of the Act on Care Leave (*Pflegezeitgesetz* - PflegeZG), as amended, who is in need of care within the meaning of § 14 and § 15 of the Eleventh Book of the Social Code (SGB XI), as amended.

## **§ 16**

### **Compensation for disadvantages**

(1) If a doctoral student can credibly demonstrate that, due to a disability or a long-term serious or chronic illness, they are unable to carry out the work specified in the Doctoral Degree Regulations, either in whole or in part, under the stipulated conditions or within the deadlines specified in these regulations, the Doctoral Committee will take appropriate measures to compensate for disadvantages with regard to the dissertation, and the Doctoral Commission will do so with regard to the work specified in the Doctoral Degree Regulations, upon written request. The doctoral student must explain the reasons for the requested compensation for disadvantages. Suitable evidence may be requested to substantiate the request, in justified cases of doubt an official medical certificate. The request should be submitted, at the latest, with the application for the opening of the doctoral procedure. The doctoral student must be informed of the decision in writing.

(2) In disputed cases and with the consent of the doctoral student, the Commissioner for Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses may be consulted prior to the decision of the Doctoral Committee in accordance with para. 1.

## **§ 17**

### **Conclusion of the doctoral procedure**

(1) The Chairperson of the Doctoral Commission recommends to the Doctoral Committee the conferral of the academic degree in accordance with § 2 para. 1. The Doctoral Committee shall arrange for the doctoral certificate to be issued and the list of doctoral students to be updated.

(2) The doctoral certificate contains the first and last names, academic degree, date and place of birth of the doctoral student, the title of the dissertation, the academic degree to be awarded and the overall grade. It is issued with the date of the defense and bears the signature of the Rector and the Dean of the faculty as well as the seal of TUD Dresden University of Technology.

(3) The Dean of the faculty presents the certificate to the doctoral student in a form that befits the occasion once the publishing obligation according to § 14 has been confirmed by the Doctoral Committee. The doctoral procedure shall thus be concluded. The faculty as a whole shall be informed of the conclusion of the procedure.

(4) Upon the conclusion of the doctoral procedure, the doctoral students are entitled to bear the title that was awarded to them with their degree certificate.

## **§ 18**

### **Discontinuation of doctoral studies or the doctoral procedure**

(1) Doctoral studies or the doctoral procedure may be discontinued at any time without a grade being issued if facts come to light that exclude the conferral of an academic degree. This applies in particular to fraudulent forms of proof that the admission requirements have been met, doctoral work completed, or other circumstances affecting the personal prerequisites of the candidate which would lead to an academic degree. If the doctoral studies or the doctoral procedure are terminated without a grade being issued, all legal entitlements and claims that the candidate had in the doctorate up to that point expire. The doctoral student is then struck from the list of doctoral students. The decision regarding termination is made by the Doctoral Committee at its own discretion.

(2) The doctoral student must be consulted before the doctoral studies or the doctoral procedure are inconclusively discontinued. In the event of suspected scientific misconduct, the regulations stipulated

in the "Statutes for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice, Avoiding Scientific Misconduct and Handling Violations" at TUD Dresden University of Technology apply to the procedure.

## **§ 19**

### **Revoking the academic degree**

(1) The academic degree shall be revoked if the doctoral student was not truthful when providing proof of the admission requirements or when carrying out the required doctoral work, or if facts come to light that would prevent the awarding of such a degree. The Doctoral Committee makes this decision.

(2) If, after the awarding of the academic degree, it comes to light that the requirements for admission to doctoral studies were not fulfilled without the student intending to deceive, this mistake can be remedied by passing the doctoral work.

(3) In the event of suspected scientific misconduct, the regulations stipulated in the "Statutes for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice, Avoiding Scientific Misconduct and Handling Violations" as amended at TUD Dresden University of Technology apply to the procedure.

## **§ 20**

### **Structured doctoral programs and joint binational doctoral studies**

(1) The doctoral studies can also be completed as part of a structured doctoral program or a joint binational doctoral procedure, insofar as the Faculty of Civil Engineering or individual university lecturers from the Faculty are involved. It must be ensured that the doctoral student acquire the qualification required by these Doctoral Degree Regulations and can provide proof thereof. In case of doubt, the Doctoral Committee shall decide whether this equivalence exists.

(2) The details of the joint binational doctoral studies and procedure shall be set out in a contract for the individual case or in a framework agreement and concluded by the Deans or, on the part of the collaboration partners, by the management of the comparable organizational unit. The agreement may stipulate additions to these Doctoral Degree Regulations, insofar as these regulations permit it. In case of doubt, these Doctoral Degree Regulations take precedence.

## **§ 21**

### **Honorary doctorate**

(1) An honorary academic degree can be awarded pursuant to § 2 para. 2 to persons who have rendered outstanding services to the faculty's fields of science in Civil Engineering and who are also particularly associated with the faculty. The person to be honored may not be primarily employed at TUD Dresden University of Technology.

(2) A formal request for the awarding of an honorary academic degree can be submitted to the Faculty Board by at least two professors at the faculty with sufficient reasoning. A Doctoral Commission to be appointed by the Faculty Board, to which the persons submitting the request do not belong, shall review the merits of the person to be honored, bring in at least two other reviews, and prepare a decision proposal for the Faculty Board.

(3) The Faculty Board shall decide on the request in a secret vote.

(4) The decision of the Faculty Board about the awarding of an honorary academic degree must be approved by the Senate.

(5) The awarding of an honorary academic degree must be carried out in the form of a certificate signed by the Rector and the Dean which suits the occasion. The reasons and merits must be briefly summarized on the certificate. Bestowal of an honorary academic degree shall be conferred by the Rector; this right may be transferred to the Dean of the faculty.

(6) The Saxon State Ministry responsible for universities must be notified of the awarding of an honorary academic degree.

## **§ 22**

### **Fifty-year anniversary**

The faculty may honor the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the awarding of an academic degree if this appears appropriate in view of special academic merits or a particularly close link between the person to be honored and the faculty or TUD Dresden University of Technology as a whole. The responsible faculty is free to select the occasion and form of honor. The Faculty Board shall make this decision.

## **§ 23**

### **Taking effect and interim regulations**

(1) These regulations come into force on the day after publication in the official announcements of TU Dresden. The entry into force of these regulations simultaneously mean that the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Civil Engineering dated December 19, 2015 (Official Announcements of TU Dresden No. 1/2016 of January 30, 2016, p. 16), last amended by the statutes of July 9, 2020 (Official Announcements of TU Dresden No. 8/2020 of July 14, 2020, p. 137), hereby cease to apply.

(2) All doctoral studies commencing after the entry into force of this amendment shall be conducted on the basis of these regulations. Decisions on acceptance as a doctoral student that were already made before these regulations came into force shall remain valid; these regulations shall apply beyond that. Doctoral procedures already opened at the time of the entry into force of these regulations shall be completed on the basis of the provisions of the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Civil Engineering as of December 19, 2015, in the version dated July 9, 2020.

(3) For doctoral studies already underway at the time of entry into force of these regulations in which a decision about the acceptance of the doctoral student was already made, the Doctoral Committee may decide, upon application and only up to six months after these regulations come into force, to initiate the doctoral procedure on the basis of the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Civil Engineering dated December 19, 2015 (Official Announcements of TU Dresden No. 1/2016 of January 30, 2016, p. 16) in the version dated July 9, 2020 (Official Announcements of TU Dresden No. 8/2020 of July 14, 2020, p. 137).

(4) The Doctoral Committee may decide, upon application and only up to one year after these regulations come into force, together with the decision to accept the doctoral student, to waive the requirement according to § 11 para. 3 no. 2 in the case of an intended submission of a cumulative dissertation, insofar as it already concerns published scientific articles at the time of acceptance.

Issued based on the resolution of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Civil Engineering as of October 16, 2024, and the approval of the University Executive Board as of November 26, 2024.

Dresden, December 19, 2024

The Rector  
of TUD Dresden University of Technology

Prof. Dr. Ursula M. Staudinger

**Annex 1:**  
**Note on supervision agreements**

1. The Graduate Academy provides a sample supervision agreement for doctoral procedures in its latest version and in the form of a fillable document. The supervision agreement template can be found and filled out at:

[https://tu-dresden.de/ga/ressourcen/dateien/mitgliedschaft/mitgliedschaftsdokumente/Betreuungsver\\_einbarung.pdf?lang=de](https://tu-dresden.de/ga/ressourcen/dateien/mitgliedschaft/mitgliedschaftsdokumente/Betreuungsver_einbarung.pdf?lang=de)

2. In the case of doctoral studies completed in cooperation with companies (industry cooperations), the use of the related annex to the supervision agreement is also recommended. The agreement supplements the supervision agreement and contributes to mutual certainty of action. A related template can also be accessed from the Graduate Academy website:

[https://tu-dresden.de/ga/ressourcen/dateien/mitgliedschaft/mitgliedschaftsdokumente/BV\\_Anlage\\_I\\_und\\_ustriepromotion\\_Formular\\_EN.pdf](https://tu-dresden.de/ga/ressourcen/dateien/mitgliedschaft/mitgliedschaftsdokumente/BV_Anlage_I_und_ustriepromotion_Formular_EN.pdf)



**Annex 2:**  
**Declarations on initiating the doctoral procedure**

1. I hereby confirm that I have completed the submitted work without any inadmissible help from third parties or the use of any aids beyond those specified. Any ideas taken directly or indirectly from outside sources are indicated as such. The source material used for the preparation as well as other tools, in particular software that can generate texts, charts or images, are listed in full and with specific references to the relevant passages in the dissertation.
2. In selecting and evaluating the material and producing the manuscript, I received support from the following persons:
3. No other persons were involved in the intellectual production of this work. Specifically, I have not made use of any help from commercial doctoral advisors. No third parties have received direct or indirect monetary payments for work having to do with the content of the submitted dissertation.
4. The work has not been submitted to any examination body in this country or any other in the same or a similar form, nor has it been published.

Place, date

Signature of the doctoral student

**Annex 3:**  
**Request for a dissertation embargo note**

**To**  
**the Faculty of Civil Engineering**  
**the Doctoral Committee**

**Contact details of the doctoral student**

Last name	First name
Date of birth	City and country of birth
Home address - Street and house number	Home address – Postal code and city
Telephone number	Email address

I will inform the faculty if my contact information\* changes prior to the publication of the dissertation.

**Dissertation**

Dissertation title

**I hereby request**

- ☐ The first embargo of the publication of my dissertation for one year from submission of the obligatory copies to the SLUB, until \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ The final extension of the embargo of one year until \_\_\_\_\_

Justification for the request:

I hereby declare my consent to the dissertation being automatically published upon the lapse of the deadline.<sup>1</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place, date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the doctoral student.

**The above request has been approved by the main supervisor.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last name, first name and, if  
available, stamp of the block letters

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the main supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>1</sup> The confirmation of publication of the dissertation on TU Dresden's publication server upon the lapse of the embargo must be submitted to the SLUB along with the submission of the obligatory copies of the dissertation.

**Annex 4:****Approval of the request for a dissertation embargo note\***

The Doctoral Committee of the Faculty of Civil Engineering approves the request dated #Month xx, yyyy# of

#Name of the doctoral student#:

\_\_\_\_\_.

The publication embargo is approved until #Month xx, yyyy# .

Once the embargo lapses, the dissertation will be released for publication.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and stamp of  
the Chairperson of the  
Doctoral Committee

\* Must be submitted along with the submission of the written copies and the electronic version of the dissertation to the SLUB.