

Guidelines for arranging a habilitation

Habilitation within the Faculty of Mechanical Science and Engineering is governed by the "general habilitation regulations" for the technical Faculties of TU Dresden from 14.2.1996. These regulations can be found on the homepage of the Faculty of Mechanical Science and Engineering: <http://www.tu-dresden.de/mw/mw.html>. There are a few additional things that must be observed.

Habilitation treatise

In their habilitation treatise, the candidates must demonstrate that they have a good understanding of a large subject area and can provide a clear overview of it. It must also be clearly shown that they have made a contribution to this field through their own scientific activities.

"Primary reviewer"

To be accepted as a habilitation candidate, a declaration by a university professor within the Faculty is required that she/he is willing to supervise the habilitation treatise. For a habilitation, requirements state only that "a TU Dresden professor must declare her/his willingness to review the habilitation treatise".

This means that no "supervisor" is required for habilitation, just a "primary reviewer". This makes clear that habilitation is about providing evidence of "the ability to undertake independent teaching and research activities". In principle, this excludes the idea of "supervision". On the other hand, professors within the Faculty are expected to encourage junior scientists in a habilitation and support them as best as possible.

It is also of interest to the Faculty to attract especially qualified applicants from outside of the university to do their habilitation so that these will then be able to enrich the teaching offered by the Faculty, e.g. as a private lecturer.

Subject or field of the habilitation

In their application for habilitation, the applicant states the subject or field in which she/he wish to achieve teaching authorisation. According to Article 7 (2) of the habilitation regulations, the Faculty council must specify the subject or field for which the teaching authorisation is to be issued in their decision of admission.

However, since the Faculty council is not in a position at this point to make any reasonable assessment of the candidate's abilities, it will likely be the subject or field stated by the applicant her/himself that is given.

The habilitation commission is therefore called upon to deal with this issue. The habilitation commission advises on this issue and clearly states its conclusions to the Faculty as to which subject or field it believes the candidate will be able to undertake independent teaching and research in.

Trial lecture

In accordance with the habilitation regulations, the applicant suggests three topics for her/his trial lecture. It is the task of the "primary reviewer" to ensure that one of these topics fits in with the materials being taught in the relevant semester and that the trial lecture will be attended by a large number of students. The chairperson of the habilitation commission may invite individual students as guests of the habilitation commission to receive feedback on the lecture.

Habilitation treatise

The chairperson requires the habilitation candidate to submit six copies of the habilitation treatise to the doctoral office for forwarding to the library and supervisor. (How these copies are to be submitted is not detailed by the habilitation regulations.)

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