

Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Agriculture

English version for reference only!

Disclaimer:

This translation of the “Promotionsordnung der Landwirtschaftlichen Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn vom 17. Juni 2011” published in “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen 41. Jahrgang, Nr. 15” including the modifications from the “Ordnung zur Änderung der Promotionsordnung der Landwirtschaftlichen Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn vom 11. Dezember 2017” published in “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen 47. Jahrgang, Nr. 49”, the “Zweite Ordnung zur Änderung der Promotionsordnung der Landwirtschaftlichen Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn vom 27. Juni 2019”, published in “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen der Universität Bonn vom 2. Juli 2019, 49. Jg. Nr. 19” and the “Dritte Ordnung zur Änderung der Promotionsordnung der Landwirtschaftlichen Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn” published in “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen der Universität Bonn vom 21. April 2021, 51. Jg. Nr. 36.”

is not legally binding.

Revised version of the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn of June 17, 2011 and modification of December 11, 2017

Due to sections 2 para. 4 and 67 para. 3 of the Higher Education Act in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz - HG) in the version of the NRW Higher Education Autonomy Act (Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz - HFG) of October 31, 2006 (GV. NRW. clause 474), last amended by article 2 of the health university of applied science law (Gesundheitsfachhochschulgesetz) of October 8, 2009 (GV. NRW. clause 516), the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn has approved the following doctoral degree regulations:

**Revised version of the doctoral degree regulations
of the Faculty of Agriculture
at the University of Bonn**

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I. General information

§ 1

Doctorate

(1) The doctorate demonstrates an ability to undertake independent academic work beyond the general study goal of professional qualification, which is expressed by a considerable increase in academic knowledge in a doctoral thesis.

(2) The Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn awards, following a successful doctorate, the academic degree of Doctor of Agricultural Sciences (Doctor agronomiae; Dr. agr.), Doctor of Food and Nutrition Sciences (Doctor trophologiae; Dr. troph.), and Doctor of Engineering (Dr.-Ing.).¹

(3) This ability is to be demonstrated by the doctoral student by means of

- An academically noteworthy, written paper (doctoral thesis),
- An academic lecture with discussion of the results of the doctoral thesis (doctoral colloquium) and
- An oral examination (doctoral defense) in the discipline.

(4) Within international doctoral programs involving at least one representative of the Faculty of Agriculture with the right to award doctorates, diverging from paragraph 2, the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn can award the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) together with other higher education institutions in international countries outside Germany following successful participation in the doctoral program.

§ 2

Faculty council and Dean

(1) The Faculty council chaired by the Dean leads all doctoral examination procedures in the Faculty, in particular

- It decides on admission to the doctoral examination procedure,
- It appoints the respective examination boards and their chairpersons and, if necessary, further reviewers,
- It decides on exemption requests,
- It issues the certificate,
- It is responsible for objections and appeals,
- It maintains the doctoral files.

The Faculty council can involve, in an advisory capacity, representatives of the discipline to which a procedure relates.

¹ Upon selection of the Food Chemistry degree program, the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences awards the academic degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences (Doctor rerum naturalium, Dr. rer. nat.) to graduates from the Food Chemistry course, who have written their doctoral thesis with a professor in the field of Food Chemistry in agreement with a lecturer from the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. In this case, the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences apply.

(2) The members without doctorates are not involved in any decisions relating to academic training, particularly the recognition and assessment of study and examination components, and the appointing of the respective examination boards.

(3) The Dean conducts the business of the Faculty council in questions regarding doctoral matters and prepares its meetings. In normal cases, the decisions are conveyed to the Dean, who regularly reports to the Faculty council about them. Decisions concerning objections are always to be made by the Faculty council.

(4) The doctorate is implemented by the Dean with the presentation of the doctoral certificate issued by him/her.

§ 3

Examination board

(1) An examination board is appointed by the Faculty council for every doctoral examination procedure.

Its members must be

- Full-time professors,
- Adjunct professors,
- Relieved or retired professors,
- Honorary professors,
- Lecturer (Privatdozent),
- Assistant professors or
- People with qualifications equivalent to a habilitation.

Non-doctoral heads of competitively funded junior research groups may be admitted as rapporteurs and examiners for the members of their junior research group in doctoral procedures. Junior research group leaders of the DFG's Emmy Noether Programme meet this requirement. The Faculty Council may decide on the corresponding application to other funding programmes.

(2) The examination board is comprised of at least four members. Members are

- The chairperson,
- The primary supervisor (doctoral supervisor),
- The second supervisor and
- A member with close relations to the respective subject

and, if necessary, further reviewers. The primary supervisor (doctoral supervisor) cannot also be the chairperson of the examination board. The Faculty council can appoint deputy members if members of the examination board are absent; as part of this, members with close relations to the respective subject must represent the discipline of the absent members. At least two members of the examination board, one of whom is a reviewer, must be full-time professors at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn. The doctoral student can suggest the members of the examination board; the Faculty council is not bound by this.

(3) The examination board is responsible for

- The assessment, acceptance, rejection, and grading of the doctoral thesis,
- The implementation of the doctoral colloquium, and

- The acceptance of the doctoral defense.

The examination board takes the minutes of the examination process.

§ 4 Disciplines

The Faculty of Agriculture offers the disciplines Agricultural Sciences, Food and Nutrition Sciences, and Geodesy and Geoinformation.

II. Doctoral studies

§ 5 Doctoral student status and doctoral studies

- (1) During the work on the doctoral subject, the doctoral student should participate in supplementary courses.
- (2) The Faculty of Agriculture can make events in a research training group or a graduate school compulsory for doctoral students by regulation.
- (3) If doctoral projects are conducted within a graduate school or a research training group, the regulations there are also to be observed. If these regulations deviate from these doctoral degree regulations, the doctoral degree regulations apply exclusively.
- (4) The Faculty council decides on exceptions.

§ 6 Admission to the doctoral studies

(1) Admission to the doctoral studies requires acceptance as a doctoral student in a written supervision agreement, which is concluded between the doctoral student and the supervisor of the doctorate. Supervisors of a doctorate can be

- Full-time professors,
- Adjunct professors,
- Relieved or retired professors,
- Honorary professors,
- Lecturer (Privatdozent)
- Assistant professors or
- People with qualifications equivalent to a habilitation
- Heads of junior research groups pursuant to § 3 Para. 1

at the University of Bonn. The supervisor should be a member or associate of the Faculty of Agriculture.

(2) If the supervisor is not a member or associate of the Faculty of Agriculture, a second supervision agreement must be concluded with a professor employed full-time at the Faculty of Agriculture. If the

supervisor is not a member or associate of the Faculty of Agriculture but employed full-time at an academic institution outside the University of Bonn, a second supervision agreement must be concluded with a professor employed full-time at the Faculty of Agriculture or proof of the doctoral candidate's enrolment in a programme of structured doctoral training must be provided. The same applies to supervisors without a habilitation who lead a junior research group.

(3) Prior to the conclusion of a supervision agreement, an application for admission to the doctoral studies must be submitted to the Faculty council. This must include

- Surname/first name, date of birth/place of birth of the doctoral student,
- The address of the doctoral student,
- The discipline,
- The name of the doctoral dissertation project,
- The names of the supervisor and, if applicable, the second supervisor,
- The allocation to an institute,
- A statement from the supervisor that the admission requirements in para. 4 and 5 are fulfilled; if necessary, an application from the doctoral student for recognition of the equivalence of his/her qualifications,
- If applicable, the suggestions from the supervisor concerning the study achievements yet to be achieved in accordance with para. 6 and 7,
- If applicable, an application to write the doctoral thesis and/or conduct the oral examination in a language other than German or English (cf. section 9 para. 5, section 11 para. 5).

While taking into account the statement from the anticipated supervisor, the Faculty council verifies whether all admission requirements of para. 4 and 5 are fulfilled, recognizes the equivalence of the qualifications, and specifies any study achievements yet to be completed for doctoral studies in accordance with para. 6 and 7.

(4) Admission to the doctoral studies requires, besides acceptance as a doctoral student by the supervisor, a successfully completed university or higher education program in Agricultural Sciences, Food and Nutrition Sciences, Food Chemistry, or Geodesy and Geoinformation, during which the applicant has shown his/her suitability for a further qualification and which allows an independent academic work with the aim of a doctorate to be expected. Graduates of related fields of study can be admitted onto the doctoral studies if teaching content from the discipline was the subject of the underlying course in a comparable manner. The decision regarding this is made by the Faculty council on an individual basis, with conditions if necessary.

(5) The following is considered to be a completed course as defined by para. 4:

1. A Diploma program at a higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least eight semesters and an academic written paper,
2. A master's program at a higher education institution with a standard period of study of two or four semesters, which was preceded by a bachelor degree program of eight or six semesters in a corresponding discipline, i.e. studies totaling ten semesters (consecutive master),
3. A master's program at a higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least four semesters, if not preceded by a bachelor degree program of at least six semesters in a corresponding discipline (non-consecutive master),
4. A Diploma program at a higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least six semesters or a master's program at a higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least four semesters and, in each case, a qualified degree and subsequent appropriate

predoctoral studies in the discipline; a degree is considered qualified if the overall grade for the examinations and the grade for the written paper were each assessed with at least the grade “very good” and the written paper indicates particular suitability for further academic training,

5. A bachelor degree program at a higher education institution with a standard period of study of at least six semesters and a qualified degree. A degree is considered qualified if, firstly, the overall grade for the examinations and the grade for the written paper are each assessed with no less than “very good” (up to 1.5) and, secondly, the written paper indicates suitability for further academic training,

6. Studies in Food Chemistry completed with the First State Examination.

(6) If the previous studies in accordance with para. 5 No. 1. to 3. or 6. were completed with less than “Good” or the previous studies fall under para. 5 No. 4. or 5., additional supplementary studies, usually of four semesters, which prepare for the doctoral dissertation project and serve as evidence of suitability as defined by para. 4, are required as part of the doctoral studies; in particular, an academic work is to be written in these cases if the previous studies were completed without a written paper. The nature, scope, and period of these study achievements that are yet to be completed are specified by the Faculty council; it also decides on the form and content of the evidence.

(7) For foreign courses and final examinations at foreign higher education institutions, para. 4 to 6 apply accordingly, where equivalence exists. The Faculty council declares the recognition of equivalence upon request and following assessment. Equivalence agreements, approved by the responsible committees in the Federal Republic of Germany, are to be observed. In the event of doubt, information is to be obtained from the Zentralstelle für Ausländisches Bildungswesen (Central Office for Foreign Education – ZAB).

(8) Admission to the doctoral studies requires the language skills in German or English that are necessary for participating in the doctoral studies.

(9) The Faculty council issues the doctoral student with a written decision concerning admission to the doctoral studies or the rejection of the application. The managing director of the institute is to subsequently submit to the Faculty council the supervision agreement signed by the doctoral student and the supervisor.

III. The doctoral examination procedure

§ 7

Admission to the doctoral examination procedure

(1) If the Faculty has arranged mandatory doctoral studies, the evidence specified in the regulations is to be submitted as an admission requirement.

(2) The application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure is to be addressed in writing to the Faculty council at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn. The application must include

- The name of the doctoral student,
- An address in Germany to which a summons may be served,
- The title of the doctoral thesis,
- The name of the person appointed to provide the supervision,

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- A statement concerning which of the doctoral degrees stated in section 1 para. 2 the doctoral student is intending,
- Nominations for the members of the examination board and, if necessary, their representatives in accordance with section 3 para. 2
- A personally signed affirmation in lieu of oath, stating that
 1. The submitted work – apart from expressly indicated resources –was produced personally, independently and without using resources other than those stated,
 2. The data and concepts taken directly or indirectly from other sources are indicated, stating the source,
 3. The submitted work or similar work has not already otherwise been submitted as a doctoral thesis,
 4. The candidate has not already undertaken a doctoral attempt without success,
 5. No third-party assistance, particularly no paid assistance from agency and consulting services (doctoral advisors and agents or other persons), was used to create the submitted work and/or the opportunity to undertake the doctorate.

(3) The following are to be enclosed with the application

- The decision concerning admission to the doctoral studies,
- Evidence of the existence of a supervision relationship and, if applicable, a second supervision relationship in accordance with section 6 para. 1 or 2
- Five copies of the doctoral thesis and five copies each of any prior publications of important sections of the doctoral thesis,
- A copy of the abstract of the doctoral thesis,
- A curriculum vitae with information about the doctoral student's educational background,
- A police clearance certificate,
- A passport photo and a certified copy of the person's valid official photo ID.

Furthermore, the doctoral student as the lead author is to demonstrate with the application at least one publication or original work undergoing a review procedure or a conference report and a contribution at an academic expert conference.

(4) It is only possible to withdraw the application as long as no dissertation reviews have been submitted and no decision concluding the procedure has been made.

§ 8

Initiation of the doctoral examination procedure

(1) The Faculty council verifies the fulfillment of the admission requirements in accordance with section 7 and decides on the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure. If all requirements are fulfilled, the Faculty council appoints the examination board. The applicant is informed of this, including the names of the committee members and the appointed reviewers.

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

- The necessary documents remain incomplete after the set period of a maximum of one month elapses,
- No supervision relationship is demonstrated,

- A criminal conviction exists that justifies doubts concerning the independence and objectivity necessary for academic activities,
- Counterfeiting or plagiarism is demonstrated concerning an academic work by the applicant.

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

- The applicant has otherwise submitted this or a similar work as a doctoral thesis,
- The applicant has already failed twice in a doctoral examination procedure at a German higher education institution.

(4) The applicant is to be informed of the rejection in writing together with a statement of reasons and instructions on the right to appeal.

§ 9

Doctoral thesis

(1) The doctoral thesis must be academically noteworthy, display an advancement of knowledge, and indicate that the doctoral student has the ability to undertake independent academic work and present the results in an appropriate manner. The subject investigated must belong to the discipline.

(2) Results of the doctoral student already published with the consent of the supervisor may be incorporated into the doctoral thesis. A complete publication of the doctoral thesis prior to the completion of the doctoral examination procedure - prior publication - requires the consent of the Faculty council. The respective consent is to be submitted in writing.

(3) The submission of a cumulative doctoral thesis is permitted if several academic publications exist, at least two of which are shown to be as a lead author in internationally outstanding journals or publication series and, overall, the ability to undertake in-depth academic work is demonstrated as defined by para. 1. The submission of a summary of the academic work is required for this, showing the academic problem, the solutions used, the results and conclusions achieved, and the literature referenced; a detailed description of all factual connections and individual results can be omitted here if the underlying publications of the work that have been approved for publication and appeared in print are enclosed as an appendix.

(4) The submission of group work on a suitable topic is permitted if the individual contribution by each doctoral student can be assessed as an independent academic achievement as defined by para. 1; these circumstances are to be recognized specifically in each case by the reviewers.

(5) The doctoral thesis should be written in German or English. It must contain an abstract of one page in German and English. In exceptional cases, the Faculty council can approve another language, where at least four people that belong to the group stated in section 3 para. 1 and 2 are willing to participate in the examination board. The application to write the doctoral thesis in another language must already be submitted and justified accordingly when applying for admission to the doctoral studies. If the doctoral thesis is written in another language, an abbreviated version of at least 10 pages in German or English is to be submitted, showing the problem, method, results, and discussion of the work.

§ 10 Assessment of the doctoral thesis

(1) The Faculty council transfers the doctoral thesis and any prior publications in accordance with section 9 para. 2 to the examination board and tasks the reviewers with the drafting of the dissertation reviews. In justified cases, the Faculty council can commission further dissertation reviews.

(2) The dissertation 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. The recommendation to accept the thesis can also be associated with conditions for the doctoral thesis to undergo editorial correction before the certificate 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	1 = Very good
2 = Good	3 = Passed
4 = Not passed.	

If the suggested grades by the reviewers deviate from each other by more than 1.0, the examination board can suggest that a further dissertation review is obtained.

(3) If a reviewer recommends or several reviewers recommend that the doctoral thesis be returned for the purpose of modification, the examination board decides on the further procedure with the aim of bringing about the acceptance or rejection of the doctoral thesis within one year.

(4) The Faculty council usually obtains a further dissertation review from a third professionally qualified reviewer from outside the Faculty within two months if the doctoral thesis has been assessed as “excellent (0)” by both the first and second supervisors. The supervisor can make up to three nominations for this reviewer; the Faculty council makes the decision.

(5) If the examination board decides to accept the doctoral thesis at the recommendation of the reviewers, the doctoral thesis and the dissertation reviews are accessible for viewing for two weeks at the Faculty council for the members and associations of the Faculty of Agriculture eligible to conduct examinations in accordance with section 3 para. 1. The display period can be extended for the lecture-free time by a maximum of six weeks.

(6) This displaying is announced Faculty-wide together with

- The name of the doctoral student,
- The title of the doctoral thesis,
- The intended doctoral degree,
- The name of the supervisor and the other reviewers
- The display period.

(7) The members and associates of the Faculty of Agriculture authorized to conduct examinations in accordance with section 3 para. 1 can object to the Faculty council against the assessment of the doctoral thesis in writing up to three days after the display period elapses. In this case, the Faculty council decides to what extent the objection should influence the further doctoral examination procedure. Anyone who objects should take part in the Faculty council in an advisory capacity.

(8) If no objection is received or the Faculty council decides to accept the doctoral thesis with a possible grade amendment while taking into consideration objections and any additionally obtained dissertation reviews, this decision is final; it includes admission to the further examination components in accordance with section 3 para. 3. If only editorial corrections were required, a copy approved by the supervisor is to be included in the doctoral files.

(9) If the doctoral thesis is rejected by one or more reviewers and the examination board decides to reject the doctoral thesis at the recommendation of the reviewer or several reviewers, the Faculty council informs the doctoral student of the rejection decision while setting a deadline by which the doctoral student can submit an appeal, justified in writing, against this rejection decision. If no appeal has been submitted by this date, the doctoral thesis is considered rejected.

(10) If the doctoral student has submitted an appeal in accordance with para. 9, the Faculty council decides whether it upholds the rejection or whether a new assessment of the doctoral thesis should be undertaken. If the Faculty council decides that a new assessment should be undertaken, it appoints a new examination board with two new reviewers as defined by section 3 para. 1 and 2. If they also submit a negative vote, the work is ultimately rejected. If, however, the acceptance of the doctoral thesis is recommended by one of the new reviewers or both new reviewers, the Faculty council ultimately decides on the acceptance or rejection of the doctoral thesis and issues the doctoral student with a corresponding decision with instructions on the right to appeal.

(11) The rejected doctoral thesis remains at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn with all reports.

§ 11

Oral examination

(1) If the doctoral thesis is declared ready for printing by the supervisor of the doctoral student, the Faculty council arranges a date and location for the oral examination (doctoral colloquium and doctoral defense) at the suggestion of the examination board in agreement with the doctoral student. The Faculty council invites the doctoral student, the examination board, and those eligible to conduct examinations in accordance with section 3 para. 1 in writing to attend the oral examination at least two weeks before the appointment. The doctoral colloquium is to be announced Faculty-wide with the name of the doctoral student, the lecture title, the discipline, the name of the supervisor, and the time and location.

(2) The oral examination is comprised of a public academic lecture, in accordance with the spatial conditions, with a discussion (doctoral colloquium) and, following this, a non-public oral examination (doctoral defense), at which only those eligible to conduct examinations in accordance with section 3 para. 1 can participate. Both take place under the leadership of the chairperson of the examination board in accordance with section 3; all committee members in accordance with section 3 must attend. At the request of the doctoral student, research associates and doctoral students can be permitted as the audience at the non-public academic discussion, in accordance with the spatial conditions.

(3) In the doctoral colloquium, the doctoral student reports on the results of his/her doctoral thesis in a lecture. The duration of the lecture should not exceed 30 minutes. Immediately afterwards, all of the audience members can ask the doctoral student questions about the doctoral thesis for 15 minutes via the chairperson of the examination board.

(4) In the doctoral defense, the ability of the doctoral student to present the subjects of his/her doctoral thesis and their categorization within the discipline is verified by peers in a specialist discussion by the

doctoral student with all members of the examination board; following this, all people eligible to conduct examinations in accordance with section 3 para. 1 can 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.

(5) The doctoral colloquium and the doctoral defense are conducted in German or English. In exceptional cases, the oral examination can be conducted in another language at the request of the doctoral student; the Faculty council decides on this request at the recommendation of the examination board. Section 9 para. 5 clause 3 applies accordingly.

§ 12

Assessment of the oral examination

(1) Immediately following the oral examination, the examination board decides privately on the assessment of the oral performance. It can award the following individual grades:

0 = Excellent

1 = Very good

2 = Good

3 = Passed

and for insufficient oral performance

4 = Not passed.

(2) If the doctoral student has not passed the oral examination, he/she can repeat this at the earliest after a period of three months and at the latest after six months. It is only possible to repeat the oral examination once.

(3) The same examination board fundamentally remains responsible for the repeating of the oral examination. Upon justified application by the doctoral student, the Faculty council can involve other examination board members.

(4) If the doctoral student does not attend the oral examination without just cause or withdraws after the start without just cause, the oral examination is considered not passed. If good cause is claimed for the absence or withdrawal, this is to be reported and demonstrated immediately in writing to the examination board via its chairperson. Verbal notifications are to be immediately confirmed in writing. In the event of illness, the submission of a doctor's letter can be requested from the doctoral student. If the reasons are recognized by the Faculty council, a new examination date is arranged.

§ 13

Overall assessment of the doctoral achievements

(1) For the doctoral examination procedure to be concluded successfully, it is necessary that at least the grade "passed" (3) has been achieved for both the doctoral thesis and the oral examination.

(2) The arithmetic average of the individual grades by the primary supervisor, the second supervisor, and the oral examination is calculated to determine the overall grade. For any further dissertation reviews, the arithmetic average is calculated in each case in advance with the second supervisor; special dissertation reviews in accordance with section 10 para. 3 and 9 are not taken into account. When determining the average, only the first decimal place is taken into account; all further places are omitted without rounding.

(3) The examination board can increase or decrease the overall grade determined in accordance with para. 2 by the value of 0.3 due to its overall impression of the result of the doctoral examination procedure. However, the grade “excellent (0)” cannot be increased; the grade “passed (3)” cannot be decreased.

(4) The following overall grades and Latin honors can be awarded for the overall assessment of the doctoral achievements:

0.0	=	Excellent (summa cum laude)
from 0.1 to 1.5	=	Very good (magna cum laude)
from 1.6 to 2.5	=	Good (cum laude)
from 2.6 to 3.0	=	Passed (rite)

(5) The chairperson of the examination board informs the doctoral student of the result of the doctoral examination procedure. A provisional certificate for the result is issued by the Faculty council.

§ 14

Publication of the doctoral thesis

(1) The academic paper must be printed in the form approved by the supervisor in accordance with section 11 para. 1., in which objections and suggested improvements by the reviewers are to be taken into account. Once the corresponding consent is granted, the Faculty council issues the final printing approval.

(2) On the title page, the paper must be expressly referred to as a doctoral thesis approved by the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn to obtain a doctorate. The name of the reviewers and the date of the oral examination are to be stated on the back of the title page.

(3) For the publication of the doctoral thesis, either - 40 copies are to be submitted free of charge in a printed form for the purpose of dissemination (reprinting rights to Bonn University and State Library (ULB))

or

- 6 copies are to be submitted free of charge if publication takes place in an academic journal, a publication series, or via a commercial publisher and a minimum circulation of 150 copies is demonstrated

or

- 6 copies are to be submitted free of charge if an electronic version is submitted, the file format and data carriers for which are to be coordinated in advance with Bonn University and State Library (ULB).

(4) For the publication of the cumulative doctoral thesis in accordance with section 9 para. 3, it is not necessary to publish the work underlying this doctoral thesis again. Para. 7 is to be applied accordingly.

(5) The publication of a doctoral thesis declared ready for printing in accordance with section 11 para. 1 as per para. 3 is only permitted with the consent of the supervisor. Such doctoral theses must be indicated as a doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn in the journal itself, in the special prints, and in the imprint on the back of the title page.

(6) The obligatory copies of the doctoral thesis must be submitted to the Faculty within one year following the passed oral examination. The Faculty council can extend the period by a maximum of one year on the basis of a justified application by the doctoral student submitted at the latest one month before the period elapses.

(7) If the submitted work exceeds the standard scope, it is permitted to only print part of the doctoral thesis with the consent of the supervisor. In this case, the section of the doctoral thesis that is printed must be an independent, self-contained academic work and bear a title that corresponds to the content of the partial print. If, for such work, the publication of the entire doctoral thesis elsewhere is planned, this is to be noted on the back of the title page, stating the title and place of publication, and the content information for the missing part approved by the supervisor is to be enclosed at the end of the printed part of the doctoral thesis.

(8) In special cases, complete enclosures and illustrations are not necessary for a proportion of the copies. The omission of enclosures and illustrations requires the consent of the supervisor. At least one copy must include all enclosures and illustrations.

§ 15

Doctoral certificate

(1) The doctoral certificate written in German is issued once the specified number of obligatory copies of the doctoral thesis and the documents required to complete the procedure are submitted to the Dean's office and thus all doctoral achievements are fulfilled. The certificate bearing the submission date of the obligatory copies includes:

1. The stating of the institution Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn,
2. The name of the doctoral student,
3. The date of birth and place of birth of the doctoral student,
4. The title of the doctoral thesis,
5. The discipline,
6. The date of the oral examination,
7. The overall grade
8. The name of the Dean,

It bears the seal of the Faculty and is signed personally by the Dean. An English translation of the doctoral certificate is produced upon application by the doctoral student.

(2) The doctoral certificate is issued to the doctoral student by the Dean. If the doctoral student does not yet have an employment relationship with the University of Bonn, confirmation of release from the University Library is to be submitted before the certificate is issued. With the issuing of the certificate, the doctorate is considered complete; only from this day onwards may the doctoral student hold the title of doctor. A copy of the doctoral certificate is to be kept on file.

(3) If the doctoral thesis is published in an academic journal, as an independent monograph, in a publication series or on the University's academic server, the Dean can issue the doctoral certificate once confirmation from the publisher or the publishing body has been submitted for the publication and, furthermore, six bound copies of the doctoral thesis are submitted in addition to the documents required to complete the procedure.

§ 16

Invalidity of the doctoral achievements and revocation of the doctoral degree

- (1) If it is discovered during the doctoral examination procedure that the doctoral student is guilty of fraud, the assessment of the respective doctoral components can be amended accordingly, or parts of the doctoral procedure or the entire doctoral procedure declared invalid or not passed.
- (2) If the doctoral student has committed fraud during a doctoral component and this only becomes known upon issuing the doctoral certificate, the assessment of the corresponding doctoral components can subsequently be amended or the doctoral degree revoked.
- (3) If the doctoral student has obtained admission to the doctorate through fraud, threats or bribery, the doctoral degree can also be revoked when this becomes known. If the prerequisites for admission onto the doctorate were not fulfilled, without the doctoral student intending to deceive, and if this discrepancy only becomes known upon issuing the doctoral certificate, this discrepancy will be remedied by the passing of the doctoral examination.
- (4) If the doctoral degree is revoked in accordance with para. 2 or para. 3 or the assessment of the doctoral achievements in accordance with para. 1 or para. 2 has been amended, the provisional certificates and the doctoral certificate are to be revoked and, if necessary, a new doctoral certificate issued.
- (5) The doctorate can be revoked by the Faculty if the doctoral student is legally sentenced to a custodial sentence of at least one year due to an intentional criminal offence or if he/she is legally convicted of an intentional crime, during the preparation or committing of which the doctorate was used.
- (6) The affected person is to be given opportunity to comment before a decision is made.

§ 17

Access to the doctoral file

After the completion of the doctoral examination procedure and following the decisions in accordance with section 8 para. 2 and 4, the doctoral student will be granted access to view the doctoral file (including the dissertation reviews by the examiners and examination reports) upon written application to the Dean. The application is to be submitted within one month following the issuing of the doctoral certificate or following receipt of the decision stated in clause 1.

IV. Joint doctorate

§ 18

Joint doctorate with foreign higher education institutions

- (1) The Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn can also award the degree of Doctor together with foreign higher education institutions in a jointly conducted doctoral examination procedure.

This procedure requires

- Joint supervision by one supervisor from each higher education institution and
- Doctoral studies of at least one semester

at the institutions involved. In particular, the admission requirements for the doctoral studies at both higher education institutions are to be fulfilled.

(2) For the purposes of a joint procedure, an agreement is to be made between the University of Bonn and the Faculty of Agriculture and the foreign university, which must be approved by the Faculty council.

The agreement governs a doctoral examination procedure led jointly by the responsible bodies at the foreign higher education institution and the Faculty council, in particular, joint examination, assessment, and grading of the examination components in accordance with sections 8 and 10 by a committee. The agreement can allow for exceptions to the following provisions:

- Composition of the examination board in accordance with section 3,
- Compulsory doctoral studies in accordance with section 5 para. 2,
- Possible supervisor in accordance with section 6 para. 1 and 2,
- Creation of the dissertation reviews in accordance with section 10 para. 1,
- Best grade for the doctoral thesis in accordance with section 10 para. 4
- and Meeting participation in the event of an objection in accordance with section 10 para. 7 clause 3.

(3) The duty to publish the doctoral thesis and the rights to it are based on the regulations of the higher education institutions involved.

(4) The certificate awards a single doctoral degree, either in the form issued by the foreign university or in the form issued by the Faculty of Agriculture.–The Document should contain a corresponding reference.

This certification takes place in a joint certificate in the respective national languages, to which, if necessary, an English translation can be added. Alternatively, the certification of the joint document can also be made in the respective national languages and in English.

It is signed by the responsible representatives of the foreign higher education institution and the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn and bears the seals of both higher education institutions involved.

If the issuing of a joint certificate is not admissible for the foreign university, two separate certificates may be issued in accordance with paragraph 2. In this case, both documents must refer to each other. The certificate must contain a reference according to sentence 2.

§ 18a

Doctorates within international doctoral programs

(1) To conduct doctorates within international doctorate programs as defined by section 1 para. 4 of these regulations, an agreement is to be made between the University of Bonn and all higher education institutions involved from other international countries, which must be approved by the Faculty council at the Faculty of Agriculture.

(2) The agreement referred to in paragraph 1 may regulate, that within a International doctoral program, the tasks and responsibilities of the Faculty council as defined by section 2 of these regulations are assumed by a joint panel established by the universities participating in the doctoral program, to which a professor from the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn must belong. This member is to inform the Faculty council of the decisions of the joint panel.

(3) The tasks and responsibilities of the examination board as defined by section 3 of these regulations can be assumed by a *Thesis Committee*, the tasks, responsibilities and composition of which is to be governed in the agreement in accordance with paragraph 1 and to which the professor from the Faculty of Agriculture who supervises the procedure in Bonn belongs. If the doctoral student does not plan to spend at least six months at the Faculty of Agriculture in Bonn and no professors from the Faculty of Agriculture are members of the Thesis Committee, the Faculty of Agriculture will not award a degree according to § 1 paragraph 2 or 4.

(4) The agreement in accordance with paragraph 1 can provide for exceptions to the following provisions of these regulations:

- Examination board (section 3),
- Doctoral studies (section 5),
- Conclusion of a supervision agreement (section 6 para. 1),
- Application for admission (section 7 para. 2 and 3),
- Language of the doctoral thesis (section 9 para. 5) and oral examination (section 11 para. 5),
- Grading system (section 10 para. 2 and 4, section 12 para. 1, section 13),
- Displaying of the doctoral thesis (section 10 para. 5 and 6).

(5) Once the entire doctoral procedure within an international doctoral program is completed a doctoral certificate awarding the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is issued. § 18 Section 18 (4) sentences 3 to 7 shall apply accordingly. If a foreign university is unable to award the joint academic degree Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) within the scope of an international doctoral program, the Faculty of Agriculture awards an academic degree pursuant to § 1 (2). § 18 (4). A joint doctoral certificate is only to be signed and sealed by the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture for doctoral procedures in which the doctoral student spent least six months at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn.

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

§ 19 Honorary doctorate

(1) As recognition of extraordinary academic and non-material services in Agricultural Sciences, Food and Nutrition Sciences or Engineering, the Faculty of Agriculture can award, as an honorary doctorate, the academic degree and title of Honorary Doctor of Agricultural Sciences (Doctor agronomiae honoris causa; Dr. agr. h. c.), Honorary Doctor of Food and Nutrition Sciences (Doctor trophologiae honoris causa; Dr. troph. h. c.), or Honorary Doctor of Engineering (Dr.-Ing. E. h.).

(2) An honorary doctorate is awarded upon justified written request by at least 2 professors or lecturers (Privatdozent) as defined by section 3 para. 1 at the decision of the Faculty. This decision requires a majority of two thirds of the members of the Faculty council and also the consent of two thirds of the members of the group of professors in the Faculty. The voting can take place by letter.

(3) The honorary doctorate is undertaken by issuing a certificate signed by the Dean, in which the extraordinary academic services by the nominee are honored.

(4) Section 16 applies accordingly to honorary doctorates.

§ 20

Golden anniversary of the conferral of a doctorate

The Dean shall renew the doctoral certificate on the 50th anniversary of a doctorate.

VI. Final provisions

§ 21

Transitional provisions

(1) Doctoral examination procedures that were initiated based on the previously valid regulations are conducted in accordance with the previously valid regulations. Upon written request by the doctoral student, the doctoral examination procedure that was opened based on the previously valid regulations and for which the doctoral thesis has not yet been submitted for assessment can be continued in accordance with these new regulations. The application is irrevocable.

(2) For all doctoral students accepted in accordance with the previously valid regulations, the supervision relationships as defined by these regulations are to be concluded within four years of these regulations entering into force.

(3) The provisions of section 14 apply following entry into force.

§ 22

Entry into force and publication

These doctoral degree regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Notices of the University of Bonn. At the same time, the doctoral degree regulations of August 28th, 1985, (GABl. NW 10/85), last amended by the fifth statute to amend the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn of June 21st, 2005, (Official Notices of the University of Bonn, 35th Yr. No. 14 of June 24th, 2005), cease to be in force subject to section 21.

Karl Schellander
The Dean
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Universitätsprofessor Dr. Karl Schellander

Issued based on the ruling of the Faculty council in the Faculty of Agriculture on May 18, 2011, and the resolution of the rectorate on June 7, 2011.

Bonn, June 17, 2011

Jürgen Fohrmann
The Rector
at the University of Bonn
Universitätsprofessor Dr. Jürgen Fohrmann