

## Notifications of Justus Liebig University Giessen

Date of issue:  
**04/04/2024**

**7.40.03 No. 1**  
 Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Social Sciences and  
 Cultural Studies (Faculty 03)

### Doctoral Examination Regulations *of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies (Faculty 03)* *of Justus Liebig University Giessen*

**Date: 17/01/2024**

These Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies of Justus Liebig University Giessen enter into force on the day of their publication in the notifications of Justus Liebig University Giessen.

*Previous versions:*

|                  | Faculty Council | Senate     | Announcement |
|------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
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## General Information

### Paragraph 1 Award and types of doctoral degree

- (1) The award of the doctoral degree demonstrates the candidate’s ability to carry out advanced scientific work.
- (2) The Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies of Justus Liebig University Giessen will award upon successful completion of the doctoral procedure to candidates who have demonstrated their special academic qualification on the basis of a thesis and thesis defence
  1. in the subjects *Social Sciences, Political Science, Sociology or Didactics of Social Sciences* the degree *Doctor rerum socialium (Dr. rer. soc.)* or *Doctor philosophiae (Dr. phil.)* and
  2. in the subjects *Educational Science, Art Education, Musicology or Music Education* the degree *Doctor philosophiae (Dr. phil.)*.
- (3) If a further thesis is submitted in a different doctoral subject on a different topic, a further degree, possibly of the same type (again *Dr. phil.* or again *Dr. rer. soc.*), may be obtained in an independent procedure.
- (4) The Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies can award an honorary doctorate for outstanding academic achievement or for extraordinary services under the conditions set paragraph 23.
- (5) It is possible to study for a doctorate at the same time at another German or at a foreign university (binational doctorate programme / cotutelle programme). The details are set out in a cotutelle agreement concluded between the two universities involved.

## **Paragraph 2 Bodies and responsibilities**

(1) The following persons and bodies are involved in the doctoral procedure:

the Doctoral Committee (paragraph 3), the Examination Committee (paragraph 4), the supervisor or supervisors (paragraph 4) and the assessors (paragraph 4).

(2) Decisions in the doctoral procedure will be made by the Doctoral Committee, unless otherwise is provided for in the Doctoral Examination Regulations.

## **Paragraph 3 Doctoral Committee**

(1) The Doctoral Committee of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies will consist of the following members with voting rights:

1. the Dean as Chair, who may be temporarily or permanently represented by a member of the group of professors,
2. seven members of the group of professors, through whom all institutes of the faculty are represented,
3. two academic assistants with doctorates and
4. one doctoral candidate.

(2) The Doctoral Committee will decide in particular on acceptance as a doctoral candidate and appoint the supervisor or supervisors. It will create a form for the conclusion of a supervision agreement. It will also decide on admission to the examination procedure, set up the Examination Committee and appoint its Chair.

(3) With the exception of the Chair, the members of the Doctoral Committee and their deputies are appointed by the respective groups. The members of the group of professors and academic assistants as well as their respective deputies are confirmed by the Faculty Council for a period of three years, the doctoral candidate and his / her deputies for a period of one year. They may be reappointed.

(4) The term of office of the members of the Doctoral Committee will commence in each case on 1 October and end after three years. If members or deputy members leave the committee early, a replacement must be found for the remaining term of office.

(5) The Chair of the Doctoral Committee will conduct the day-to-day business of the Doctoral Committee; he or she can make quick decisions in matters of urgency and is supported by the Faculty's Examination Office.

## **Paragraph 4 Supervisor or supervisors, assessors, Examination Committee**

(1) The following persons can be appointed as the supervisor or supervisors by the Doctoral Committee upon suggestion by the doctoral candidate:

- professors,
- junior professors,
- professors who have been relieved of their duties or retired professors,
- adjunct professors
- honorary professors and
- private lecturers,

provided they are members or employees of Justus Liebig University Giessen.

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The first supervisor will sign a supervision agreement with the doctoral candidate and advise the doctoral candidate on the preparation of the thesis.

If a supervisor leaves Justus Liebig University Giessen due to a career change, he or she can continue to supervise for up to six semesters. The examination procedure must be opened before the end of this period.

#### (2) Assessors

The Doctoral Committee will appoint a person from the group of persons named under (1) of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies. For the second assessment, members of other universities, institutions of higher education or non-university research institutions from Germany and abroad who meet the qualification criteria of the persons named under (1) can also be appointed. At least one of the nominees must hold a full professorship. The doctoral candidate has the right to propose.

Furthermore, holders of a doctorate may be appointed as second assessors if the person will be working at Justus Liebig University Giessen for the duration of the examination procedure and their own doctorate was assessed with at least "magna cum laude".

The assessors will assess and evaluate the thesis in detail in written form. They will propose the acceptance or rejection as well as the grade of the thesis and make suggestions for amendments, if applicable.

#### (3) Examination Committee

For each examination procedure, the Doctoral Committee will set up an Examination Committee and appoint the person carrying out the first assessment as its Chair. The Examination Committee will consist of the assessors named under (2) as well as two further academics from the group of persons named under (1). The doctoral candidate has the right to propose.

The Examination Committee will decide on the acceptance, amendment or rejection of a thesis, hear the thesis defence and finally evaluate the doctoral thesis.

### **Paragraph 5 Rules of procedure**

(1) The Doctoral Committee will not meet in public. It will be quorate if at least half of its members with voting rights are present. Decisions will be made by a majority of the members with voting rights present; if there is a tie in the voting, the Chair's vote will decide. Meetings generally take place as meetings where the members are present in person or via video conference. Decisions can be made by way of circulation. If the circulation procedure has not been agreed in a meeting for a specific decision, this procedure is only permissible if the members with voting rights are informed of the topic to be voted on in an appropriate manner, none objects and the voting procedure is clearly described. In these cases, the voting can usually take place in writing.

(2) The Examination Committee will not meet in public. It will be quorate if all of the members are present. Abstentions are not permitted.

(3) The members of the Doctoral Committee and the Examination Committee have an obligation to maintain secrecy; this obligation also includes maintaining the confidentiality of consultation documents.

### **Paragraph 6 Appeal**

An appeal against a decision by the Doctoral Committee, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee or the Examination Board may be lodged within one month by the person concerned or a committee member. The Doctoral Committee or the Examination Committee will decide on the appeal. Decisions rejecting appeals by doctoral candidates must be accompanied by information on legal remedies. If the Doctoral Committee or the Examination Committee does not resolve an appeal, it must be submitted to the President of Justus Liebig University Giessen for a decision.

## Doctoral Relationship

### Paragraph 7 Requirements for acceptance as a doctoral candidate

(1) Admission to the doctoral procedure requires the completion of a degree at a university or an institution of higher education and the fulfilment of the following conditions in the individual subjects:

1. The degree must be obtained in a Master's degree programme or a teacher training programme corresponding to the chosen doctoral subject with a standard period of study of at least 8 semesters in total or an equivalent degree in other courses of study. The Doctoral Committee will decide on the equivalence of a course of study and degree. For admission, a qualified degree with an overall grade of at least "good" or better (decimal grade up to and including 2.5) is required.
2. If the doctoral subject was studied for less than 30 credit points (CP), after consultation with the first supervisor, proof of suitability in terms of subject content, which usually includes a supplementary course of study worth up to 30 CP, must be provided. The decision will be made by the Doctoral Committee.
3. If a teacher training programme with a study period of less than 8 semesters has been completed, proof that
  - the Master's degree in Educational Science has been completed with the grade of at least "good" (decimal grade up to and including 2.5) or,
  - in consultation with the first supervisor after a decision by the Doctoral Committee, a supplementary course of study worth 30 to 60 CP has been completed with the grade of at least a "good" (decimal grade up to and including 2.5) must be provided.

(2) The thesis topic included in the application for acceptance must fall within the responsibility of Faculty 03 and be represented in research and teaching.

(3) Applicants who do not have a degree from an institution of higher education pursuant to section subparagraph 1 number 1 with an overall grade of "good" (decimal grade up to and including 2.5) can apply for acceptance as a doctoral candidate. For this purpose, the Doctoral Committee will define in consultation with the designated first supervisor the content-related criteria on the basis of which the ability to carry out academic work is to be demonstrated. This will be demonstrated by a written work that the doctoral candidate will complete within six months of notification by the Doctoral Committee and that is assessed by the first supervisor and one further academic from the group of professors appointed by the doctoral committee with an overall grade of at least "good" (decimal grade up to and including 2.5). Otherwise, the Doctoral Committee will refuse to accept the applicant as a doctoral candidate.

(4) International degrees obtained at academic institutions outside of Germany are recognised as one of the requirements for a doctoral project on the basis of the guidelines of the Central Office for Foreign Education of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs.

### Paragraph 8 Application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate

The application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate must be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee. The application must be accompanied by:

1. a current curriculum vitae,
2. an officially certified copy of the proof of identity (identity card or passport),

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3. degree certificates pursuant to paragraph 7 in the form of officially certified copies and, if applicable, officially certified translations in German or English,
4. certificates of other academic or state examinations,
5. declaration that an application for acceptance has not been made to any other university or presentation of confirmation of deregistration from the other university,
6. from foreign applicants, proof of German or English language skills (copy of a C1 certificate or proof of a completed course of study in German or English) that enables them to write the thesis and to communicate orally in German or English,
  
7. list of academic papers that have already been published,
8. title, synopsis and preliminary work plan for the thesis project – whereby the topic should be formulated in such a way that it does not normally require more than five years to complete –,
9. suggestion as to who should be the first supervisor of the project pursuant to paragraph 4 subparagraph 1,
10. supervision agreement signed by all parties,
11. declaration of acknowledgement of
  - the “Code of Good Scientific Practice of Justus Liebig University Giessen”
  - the currently applicable “Doctoral Examination Regulations of Faculty 03” and
  - confirmation that the provisions contained therein will be observed,
12. declaration stating in which of the permitted languages the thesis is to be written, or justification for an application for the thesis to be written in another language – as an exceptional case.

### **Paragraph 9 Decision on the application for acceptance**

- (1) If the documents for the application for acceptance are submitted in full, the Doctoral Committee will decide on the application for acceptance and inform the doctoral candidate and the supervisor / supervisors of the acceptance or non-acceptance.
- (2) The Doctoral Committee can grant acceptance as a doctoral candidate with conditions.
- (3) If the application for acceptance is approved by the Doctoral Committee, apart from in the cases of paragraph 11, supervision and subsequent assessment of the thesis can be guaranteed.

### **Paragraph 10 Rights and duties of doctoral candidates**

- (1) The supervision agreement concluded between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor / supervisors defines the basic requirements for the successful supervision of the thesis.
- (2) There should normally not be more than five years between acceptance as a doctoral candidate and the opening of the examination procedure. After five years, in consultation with the first supervisor, a report on the status of the doctoral project and an application for an extension, which should normally not exceed two years, must be submitted to the Doctoral Committee. If an application for an extension has not been received after this period and the examination procedure has not yet been opened, the doctoral relationship will be terminated.

### **Paragraph 11 Doctoral candidates without prior supervision by the Faculty**

Applicants who are not members of Justus Liebig University Giessen and who meet the requirements for acceptance as a doctoral candidate under paragraph 7 (with the exception of the confirmation of supervision),

can submit an application for acceptance as unsupervised doctoral candidates and, upon submission of their thesis, immediately request the opening of the examination procedure. These applications are to be rejected if the topic being worked on by the applicant is not adequately represented in research and teaching in the Faculty, if no suitable persons for the assessment could be found in advance, or if compliance with the Code of Good Scientific Practice cannot be verified.

### **Paragraph 12 Preparation of the thesis**

(1) The thesis must

1. advance scientific knowledge through independent research,
2. comply with the methodological principles of the subject area and meet the general quality criteria for academic work and
3. contain documentation of the material assessed and the specialist literature used in accordance with academic principles and present its subject matter completely, clearly and flawlessly in terms of form.

(2) Cumulative theses should, in terms of academic contribution and scope of research work, represent work that is equivalent to a monographic thesis. At least three articles which clearly explain the step-by-step approach to the work on a topic and demonstrates clear thematic coherence, accompanied by a synopsis, must be submitted. The articles must meet the following conditions:

- publication in relevant scientific publications with peer review process,
- at least two articles published (not older than five years),
- at most one article accepted for publication,
- at least two articles in sole or main authorship and
- more than half without co-authorship of the reviewers.

(3) Theses can be written in German and/or English. Any other academic language may be accepted, provided that the Examination Committee has sufficient language skills to assess the thesis.

### **Paragraph 13 Termination of the doctoral relationship, change of supervisor or topic, withdrawal of the application**

(1) Doctoral candidates can apply to terminate their doctoral studies early before submitting their thesis and by stating the reasons. The supervisor / supervisors are to be informed of this. In this case, the Doctoral Committee will note the termination and it will be deemed that the doctoral degree has not been failed.

(2) If no progress is recorded in the doctoral project, the Doctoral Committee can, upon recommendation by the supervisor / supervisors, declare after a reasonable period of time the doctoral relationship terminated and therefore failed. Prior to this, the doctoral candidate will be asked to comment.

(3) Upon reasoned request by the doctoral candidate, a change of supervisor may take place, to which all parties involved must agree. The Doctoral Committee will decide finally on the change of supervisor.

(4) Doctoral candidates can withdraw a thesis that they have already submitted one time for revision before the assessments are completed. The time of withdrawal must be recorded. A revised version of the withdrawn thesis can be resubmitted within one year. If the doctoral candidate allows this deadline to pass without a good reason, it will be deemed that the doctoral degree has been failed.

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(5) Upon reasoned request by the doctoral candidate, the title of the thesis may be changed, to which the first supervisor must agree. The Doctoral Committee will decide finally on the change.

(6) Doctoral candidates can apply once for re-acceptance by submitting a different topic.

(7) In the event of premature termination of the doctoral relationship or withdrawal of the doctoral application, the documents submitted pursuant to paragraph 8 will remain with the Faculty's Examination Office.

## **Examination Procedure**

### **Paragraph 14 Opening of the examination procedure**

(1) The doctoral candidate will submit a written application to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee to open the examination procedure, stating which of the doctoral degrees under paragraph 1 he or she has chosen. He / she has the right to propose the appointment of the assessors and other members (pursuant to paragraph 4, subparagraph 3) for the Examination Committee.

(2) The application must be accompanied by:

1. the printed and bound thesis in triplicate. Further copies are to be made available to the Doctoral Committee as necessary. In addition, a PDF file must be sent to the Doctoral Examination Office by email.
2. one data carrier per copy of the thesis. This must contain all text documents of the written version as well as all other data.
3. An assurance with the following wording – with a current date and handwritten signature – must be included in the thesis:

*"I declare that I have written the submitted thesis independently, without unauthorised help and only with the help that I have stated in the thesis. All passages taken verbatim or in substance from published documents and all information based on oral information are identified as such. In the investigations conducted by me and mentioned in my thesis, I have adhered to the principles of good scientific practice as laid down in the "Code of Good Scientific Practice of Justus Liebig University Giessen".*

The data carrier will be made available to the assessors (and upon request to the other members of the Examination Committee) to check adherence to the principles of good scientific practice. If substantial indications of a breach of the principles are found in the assessment or examination procedure, the Examination Committee must forward the relevant information immediately to the Doctoral Committee. For the handling of breaches, the relevant regulations of Justus Liebig University Giessen apply.

(3) The Doctoral Committee will open the examination procedure by appointing at least two academics to assess the thesis and appointing the person carrying out the first assessment as the Chair of the Examination Committee. Decisions may be made by circular procedure.

(4) If an assessor is a co-author of one of the articles submitted as part of a cumulative thesis, a third-party opinion must be obtained. In this case, four copies of the thesis are to be submitted.

### **Paragraph 15 Assessment of the thesis**

(1) Each assessment must comment on the thesis in terms of content and form and contain a recommendation as to whether the thesis should be accepted or rejected or whether the procedure should be suspended until



the thesis has been amended. A recommendation to accept must be accompanied by a suggested grade for the thesis and may include suggestions for amendments. The assessors should submit their assessments to the Examination Office within three months at the latest.

(2) The following grades can be awarded:

- Summa cum laude (passed with “distinction”, grade 0.0)
- Magna cum laude (passed with “very good”, grade 1.0)
- Cum laude (passed with “good”, grade 2.0)
- Rite (passed with “satisfactory”, grade 3.0)
- Insufficient (failed).

The grade “*Summa cum laude*” should only be awarded in cases of exceptionally high academic achievement.

(3) If the recommendations of the assessments differ from each other with regard to acceptance or if the evaluations differs by two or more grades, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee will appoint another assessor.

(4) If acceptance of the thesis is recommended in at least one of assessments, but suggestions for amendments are made at the same time, the Examination Committee must decide whether the doctoral candidate's thesis will be returned one time for amendments within a period of time to be specified or whether the procedure will be continued and the suggestions for amendments accepted by the Examination Committee are to be made after the thesis defence. After the thesis has been revised, the assessors will be given the opportunity to comment again within a reasonable period of time – usually within one month. If the doctoral candidate allows this deadline to pass without a good reason, it will be deemed that the doctoral degree has been failed.

### **Paragraph 16 Termination of the doctoral procedure**

(1) If acceptance of the thesis is rejected in all assessments and any amendments that might enable later acceptance are also ruled out, and if a positive supplementary assessment has not been received after the display period, the examination will have been failed and the procedure terminated. If at least one positive supplementary assessment has been received, the Examination Commission will decide whether the procedure will be continued by returning the thesis for revision or whether the examination will be deemed to have been failed.

(2) The Chair of the Doctoral Committee will inform the doctoral candidate of the failure, stating the reasons. A rejected thesis will remain with all assessments and supplementary assessments with the Faculty’s Examination Office.

### **Paragraph 17 Display and evaluation of the thesis**

(1) If pursuant to paragraph 15 the conditions for the continuation of the procedure are met, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee will inform the members of the Doctoral Committee, the Examination Committee, all professors and all postdoctoral members of the Faculty of the name of the doctoral candidate, the title of the thesis and the recommendation of the assessments (suggested grades) as well as the period during which the thesis will be on display. The thesis and the submitted assessments will be available for inspection by the aforementioned group of persons in the Faculty’s Examination Office for a period of two weeks - or for a period of four weeks if the display period falls in whole or in part in a period when there are no lectures.

(2) The members of the group of persons of the Faculty named under paragraph 4, subparagraph 1 may attach their own supplementary assessment to the thesis within the display period; the display period will not be extended as a result of this.

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(3) The Examination Committee will decide on the basis of the assessments and possible supplementary assessments received on the acceptance or rejection of the thesis. The Examination Committee may request a further assessment in order to make a final decision. The decision on this will be made by the Doctoral Committee upon recommendation by the Examination Committee.

(4) After acceptance or rejection of the thesis, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee will send copies of the assessments and possible supplementary assessments to the doctoral candidate and to the Examination Commission.

### **Paragraph 18 Preparation of the thesis defence**

(1) The doctoral candidate will, in consultation with the members of the Examination Committee, inform the Examination Office of a date for the thesis defence meeting.

(2) If the Examination Office is not informed of a date for a disputation within six months of the assessments being sent or if it is notified in writing that the doctoral candidate will not defend the thesis, the doctoral examination will be failed conclusively. The Chair of the Doctoral Committee will inform the doctoral candidate of this in writing.

(3) At the request of the doctoral candidate, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee may, in justified exceptional cases, extend the period pursuant to subparagraph 2.

### **Paragraph 19 Thesis defence meeting**

(1) The Chair of the Doctoral Committee will invite the doctoral candidate, the members of the Examination Committee, all professors and all postdoctoral members of the Faculty to the thesis defence meeting and announce the date to the university one week in advance.

(2) The Chair of the Examination Committee will chair the thesis defence meeting. In the thesis defence meeting, the doctoral candidate has to defend the thesis. He / she will open the thesis defence meeting with a presentation lasting 20–30 minutes. The thesis defence will refer to the content of the thesis, the methods of scientific work used, the assessments and possible supplementary assessments. It will also cover selected problems of the subject and related areas of other subjects that are factually and methodically related to the topic of the thesis.

(3) The members of the Examination Committee have the right to ask questions and respond. The Chair of the Examination Committee has to reject questions that are counter to the purpose of the thesis defence meeting or are not related to the subject matter of the thesis defence. This decision can be reversed by decision passed by the Examination Committee.

(4) The thesis defence will be made in German or English and should last 90 to 120 minutes. A member of the Examination Committee will take minutes of the proceedings of the thesis defence meeting.

(5) If special circumstances require, the thesis defence meeting can also be held in the form of a video conference or a hybrid format, upon decision by the Doctoral Committee in agreement with the doctoral candidate.

(6) Members and employees of the university are admitted to the thesis defence meeting as listeners. In the event of the disruption of the thesis defence meeting, the Chair of the Examination Committee may exclude the public. Upon reasoned request by the doctoral candidate, the Doctoral Committee may decide that the thesis defence will be made only before the members of the Examination Committee.

### **Paragraph 20 Evaluation of the thesis defence and determination of the overall grade**

(1) Following the thesis defence, the Examination Committee will evaluate the thesis defence without members of the public present. The following grades can be awarded:

- Summa cum laude (passed with “distinction”, grade 0.0)
- Magna cum laude (passed with “very good”, grade 1.0)

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- Cum laude (passed with “good”, grade 2.0)
- Rite (passed with “satisfactory”, grade 3.0)
- Insufficient (failed).

The grade “*Summa cum laude*” can only be awarded for the thesis defence with the agreement of all members.

(2) If the thesis defence has not been passed, the Chair of the Examination Committee will inform the Examination Office. The doctoral candidate can apply to repeat the thesis defence within 4 weeks.

(3) If the thesis and the thesis defence have been passed, the Examination Board will determine the overall grade. The overall grade is made up of the grade for the thesis (arithmetic mean) and the grade for the thesis defence.

The following grades are possible:

- Summa cum laude (passed with “distinction”, grade 0.0)
- Magna cum laude (passed with “very good”, grade 0.5-1.4)
- Cum laude (passed with “good”, grade 1.5-2.4)
- Rite (passed with “satisfactory”, grade 2.5-3.4)
- Insufficient (failed).

(4) If the two grades differ from each other, the grade for the thesis will have double the weight for the overall grade.

(5) The overall grade “*Summa cum laude*” can only be awarded if all assessments and the thesis defence were given this grade.

(6) The Examination Committee may issue the doctoral candidate with instructions to make amendments to the thesis for printing. He or she and the Examination Office must be informed of these in writing and in a timely manner.

(7) Following the proceedings, the Chair of the Examination Committee will inform the doctoral candidate of the result of the examination.

(8) The Chair of the Doctoral Committee will issue a certificate of doctoral degree after the successful defence of the thesis.

### **Paragraph 21 Publication of the thesis**

(1) After passing the examination, the doctoral candidate must make the thesis (monograph or cumulative thesis) available to the scientific public in an appropriate manner by way of copy and dissemination.

This obligation represents a piece of the academic work.

(2) The doctoral candidate must publish the thesis in its final version, taking into account possible editions, and to identify it as a “Giessen thesis in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies”. This includes the obligation to prepare a written summary of the thesis with a maximum of 1000 characters that is approved by the first assessor in German and English and to send it to the Examination Office. If it becomes necessary to shorten, amend or expand the accepted version of the thesis beyond editorial changes, the doctoral candidate must obtain the prior consent of the first supervisor.

(3) The thesis will then be made available to the scientific public in an appropriate manner, when the doctoral candidate submits free of charge

1. to the Examination Office

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- 2 copies upon publication
2. to the university library
- 4 copies upon publication for archiving purposes (printed on age-resistant, wood-free and acid-free paper and permanently bound) or
  - 2 printed copies and one digital version, upon publication on the publication server of Justus Liebig University, or
  - 4 printed copies of the thesis and confirmation of publication in a scientific journal.

The relevant regulations of the university library also apply.

(4) Publication must take place within two years of the thesis defence. In exceptional cases, the Doctoral Committee may, upon timely and reasoned request by the doctoral candidate, extend the deadline for publication, in general by no more than one year.

(5) If the doctoral candidate culpably fails to meet a deadline that he / she has been set, the rights acquired through the doctoral work will expire.

### **Paragraph 22 Doctoral certificate**

(1) After the thesis has been published or the doctoral candidate has presented a corresponding contract with a commercial publisher, the Faculty will issue the doctoral certificate in German and English. The doctoral certificate will contain the date of the thesis defence, which counts as the date of the doctoral degree, the title of the thesis and the overall grade of the doctoral degree. It will be signed by the Dean of the Faculty and bear the seal of Justus Liebig University Giessen and that of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies.

(2) The title of Doctor may only be used after the doctoral certificate has been issued. The use of the title “Dr. des.” (Doctor Designatus) is not permitted.

## **Final Provisions**

### **Paragraph 23 Honorary doctorate**

(1) The Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies can award

1. for outstanding scientific achievements in the field of Social Sciences, Political Science, Sociology or Didactics of Social Sciences the degree of Honorary Doctor of Social Sciences (Doctor rerum socialium honoris causa – abbreviated: Dr. rer. soc. h. c.) or Honorary Doctor of Philosophy (Doctor philosophiae honoris causa – abbreviated: Dr. phil h. c.) or
2. for outstanding scientific and/or artistic achievements in the field of Educational Science, Art Education, Musicology or Music Education the degree of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy (Doctor philosophiae honoris causa – abbreviated: Dr. phil h. c.).

(2) All persons of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies named in paragraph 4 subparagraph 1 have right of proposal. The reasoned application of at least two of the persons who have right of proposal must be submitted in writing to the Dean of the Faculty, who will then submit it to the Doctoral Committee for comment.

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| Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies (Faculty 03) | 04/04/2024 | 7.40.03 No. 1 |
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(3) The doctoral committee will discuss the application and appoint two external professors to assess the achievements of the nominee.

(4) After evaluating the assessments, the Doctoral Committee can recommend to the Faculty Council that the honorary doctorate be awarded. The Faculty Council must approve the recommendation with a three-quarters majority of the members with voting rights.

(5) Upon completion of the procedure, the Dean of the Faculty will present the certificate.

#### **Paragraph 24 Refusal or withdrawal of the doctoral degree**

(1) If it is found before the doctoral certificate is issued that essential conditions for admission to the doctoral procedure were erroneously assumed to have been met or that the person has attempted or committed fraud in his or her doctoral work, the award of the doctoral degree will be refused. This decision will be made by the Doctoral Committee.

(2) After issue of the doctoral certificate, the withdrawal of the doctoral degree will be governed by the provisions of state law.

(3) Before a decision on the refusal or withdrawal of the doctoral degree is made, the person affected must be given the opportunity to comment on the allegations made within a reasonable period of time.

#### **Paragraph 25 Transitional provisions and entry into force**

(1) Doctoral candidates whose doctoral projects were accepted before these Doctoral Examination Regulations entered into force can decide within one year of their entry into force whether they want to continue their doctoral degree under the procedural rules of the Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies that were applicable to them until this time or under the procedural rules of these Doctoral Examination Regulations.

(2) The doctoral candidates must be informed in writing by the Chair of the Doctoral Committee about their right of choice and the one-year deadline. A corresponding declaration by the doctoral candidate regarding the choice of Doctoral Examination Regulations must be made in writing to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee within one year. This declaration is irrevocable. If no declaration is made, the Doctoral Examination Regulations under which the doctoral candidate was accepted will apply.

(3) These Doctoral Examination Regulations of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Cultural Studies of Justus Liebig University Giessen enter into force on the day of their publication in the notifications of Justus Liebig University Giessen.