

***INOFFICIAL TRANSLATION***  
***In case of a conflict, the German version prevails.***

## **OFFICIAL GAZETTE**

Publisher	The President of Technische Universität Berlin Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623 Berlin No. 0172/4924	<b>No. 21/2023</b> (76. (76th volume))
Editorial board:	Ref. K 3, Telefon: 314-22532	Berlin, 1 August, 2023

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# I. Legal and Administrative Provisions

## Faculties

### Regulations governing the Doctorate in Public Health (Dr. P.H.) at Faculty VII – Economics and Management – at Technische Universität Berlin

of 10 May 2023

entered into force  
2 August 2023

On 10 May 2023, the Faculty Board of Faculty VII – Economics and Management – adopted the following doctoral regulations\*) in accordance with Section 74 (4) of the Berlin State Higher Education Act (Berliner Hochschulgesetz – BerHGG) in the version dated 26 July 2011 (GVBl. 378), last amended on 23 March 2023 (GVBl. p.121), and Section 18 (1) no. 1 of the Constitution of Technische Universität Berlin in the version published on 13 December 2017 (TU Official Gazette No. 19/2018, p. 182)

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### Section 1 Scope and basics

(1) <sup>1</sup>These doctoral regulations apply to the awarding of the academic title Doctor of Public Health (Dr. P.H.). <sup>2</sup>Faculty VII – Economics and Management – is responsible for awarding the doctorate.

(2) The Faculty may present proposals to the Academic Senate for awarding the doctoral degree in subsection 1 *honoris causa* (h.c.) in recognition of outstanding academic achievements.

(3) The title referred to in subsection 1 may only be awarded once.

### Section 2 Objective and content of the doctorate

(1) <sup>1</sup>The doctorate establishes that the candidate has the capacity to make an independent contribution to scientific research and development. <sup>2</sup>This is demonstrated by a written dissertation and a successful scientific defense.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The dissertation is a scientific treatise written by the doctoral candidate that advances scientific knowledge in a research area. <sup>2</sup>The dissertation focuses on the area of health science. <sup>3</sup>The dissertation is generally written in German or English. <sup>4</sup>With the approval of the Faculty Board, it may also be written in another language. <sup>5</sup>An abstract must always be provided in both German and English. <sup>6</sup>The area covered by the dissertation must be represented at the Berlin School of Public Health (BSPH) by a full-time professor, a junior professor, a junior research group leader, a permanent full-time *außerplanmäßiger Professor* or a full-time *Privatdozent*.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The dissertation as a scientific treatise can consist of separate published papers or papers submitted for publication (*kumulative Dissertation* or dissertation by publication). <sup>2</sup>These must follow an internal logic, which has to be coherently demonstrated by an overall introduction and concluding discussion. <sup>3</sup>Further details regarding the type and number of contributions are determined by the Faculty.

(4) <sup>1</sup>Prepublications of scientific findings which constitute part of the dissertation or individual contributions to a dissertation by publication may be co-authored. <sup>2</sup>In such cases the candidate is required to demonstrate the substantial ideas, content and methodologies they have contributed to the work.

(5) In their scientific defense, the candidate should present the methodological approach and the scientific conclusions of the dissertation and thereby demonstrate their ability to assess the problems and findings of the dissertation and understand their significance within the relevant discipline.

### Section 3 Admission requirements

(1) <sup>1</sup>In order to be admitted as a doctoral candidate, an applicant must have successfully completed an undergraduate degree and a master's degree at a university or university of applied sciences (*Fachhochschule*) or a comparable degree (*Diplom, Magister, or Staatsexamen*), generally in the area of health sciences. <sup>2</sup>If a university degree was acquired in a subject area which does not correspond to the doctoral degree, the Faculty Board may request additional academic achievements and examinations.

\*) Approved by the TU Berlin Executive Board on 07.12.2021.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Academically suitable candidates with a bachelor's degree, or who have a master's degree without having obtained an undergraduate degree, may be directly admitted to a doctorate on the basis of a qualification procedure without having to obtain a further degree as defined in subsection 1 above. <sup>2</sup>In such cases, sufficient academic aptitude is demonstrated by

1. passing at least one and up to three admission exams in the area of the proposed doctorate and adjacent topics and one published work, generally as lead author, in a relevant publication with academic quality assurance, or
2. successfully completing the entry phase of a graduate school or a comparable program. The entry phase must have a minimum duration of two semesters, be recognized by the Faculty, and be completed by at least one exam.

<sup>3</sup>At least one of the admission exams referred to in sentence 2, no. 1 may not be conducted by a supervisor. <sup>4</sup>The admission exams verify that the applicant has the required scientific and methodological abilities in the intended field of their doctoral studies. <sup>5</sup>No further study achievements are required. <sup>6</sup>The Faculty Board may determine specific rules for the content, form and conducting of the admission exam. <sup>7</sup>A failed admission exam cannot be repeated, including at any of the other BSPH universities.

(3) <sup>1</sup>An applicant with a *Diplom* degree from a university of applied sciences is required to further demonstrate their academic aptitude to pursue a doctorate. <sup>2</sup>Proof of aptitude is provided within the scope of the candidate's declaration of intent to pursue a doctorate pursuant to Section 4 by an above-average degree classification (distinction, very good, or good) and by passing at least one and up to three assessment examinations in accordance with the regulations in subsection 2.

(4) If the applicant completed their university studies abroad, the Faculty Board may accept the equivalence of their university degree with a German university degree as per subsection 1 under consideration of an expert evaluation to be obtained from the relevant unit at Technische Universität Berlin.

(5) The additional qualifications referred to in subsections 1 to 4 must be obtained prior to the application to commence a doctoral procedure.

(6) The Faculty Board is required to deny admission to the doctoral procedure if a candidate's submitted thesis or similar work has already been failed in the context of a doctoral procedure at a research university.

(7) Upon application from suitable graduates, the doctoral procedure shall be conducted with the participation of a university of applied sciences (cooperative doctoral procedure). This applies in particular in the case of graduates whose degree was obtained at a university of applied sciences and whose suitability for doctoral studies has been determined by TU Berlin.

#### **Section 4 Declaration of intent to pursue a doctorate**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The applicant must declare in writing their intent to pursue a doctorate to the Faculty at the earliest possible date. <sup>2</sup>This declaration must contain a description of the intended

subject of the dissertation, a work plan, as well as the documents referred to in Section 5 (1), sentence 3, nos. 1-3; candidates who have completed a *Diplom* degree at a university of applied sciences must include their *Diplom* thesis, as well as any other academic publications. <sup>3</sup>The doctoral thesis must be supervised by a by full-time professor, a junior professor, a junior research group leader with a doctorate, a permanent full-time *außerplanmäßiger Professor* or a full-time *Privatdozent* from the BSPH. For doctorates as described Section 3 (7), a thesis requires two supervisors, one of whom must be a full-time professor at the relevant university of applied sciences. <sup>4</sup>The supervisor's agreement must be submitted together with the candidate's declaration of intent to pursue a doctorate. <sup>5</sup>The dean assesses the application and informs the applicant in writing of either their acceptance and possible conditions, or rejection in accordance with subsection 3. <sup>6</sup>Furthermore, the candidate and their supervisor or supervisors shall conclude a supervision agreement in accordance with the relevant provisions of Technische Universität Berlin. <sup>7</sup>The aforementioned provisions are passed by the committee at Technische Universität with responsibility for doctoral regulations.

(2) <sup>1</sup>If an applicant is accepted, they are entitled to reasonable support with their dissertation from the BSPH, as far as materials and staffing permit. <sup>2</sup>There is no legal entitlement to employment at the University. <sup>3</sup>Once a supervisor has declared their consent, they are obliged to supervise the candidate unless they can demonstrate important reasons for terminating their supervisory role to the Faculty Board.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The Faculty Board may only reject an application if

1. the subject area of the dissertation is not represented by a full-time professor, junior professor, junior research group leader with a doctorate, a full-time *außerplanmäßiger Professor* or a full-time *Privatdozent* at the BSPH;
2. the thesis seems not to be practicable within the scope of the materials and personnel available or due to the subject;
3. the requirements stated in Section 3 are not met.

<sup>2</sup>Rejections must be substantiated in writing to the applicant. Section 11 (4) sentence 1 applies accordingly.

(4) <sup>1</sup>If a declaration of intent to pursue a doctorate is accepted, the applicant becomes a doctoral candidate.

<sup>2</sup>Unless employed at Technische Universität Berlin, the doctoral candidate is required to register as a student at Technische Universität Berlin in accordance with Section 25 (2) BerlHG (Berlin State Higher Education Act).

(5) <sup>1</sup>The acceptance of a declaration of intent to pursue a doctorate can be revoked by the Faculty Board with good reason.

<sup>2</sup>A doctorate will be discontinued if no application to commence a doctoral procedure has been submitted within 10 years of the declaration of intent to pursue a doctorate and if no application for an extension for the doctorate has been received.

### Section 5 Admission to the doctoral procedure

(1) <sup>1</sup>An application for admission to the doctoral procedure must be submitted in writing to the Faculty. <sup>2</sup>Applications are also admissible even if the declaration of intent to pursue a doctorate has not been previously registered in accordance with Section 4 (1), or has been rejected by the Faculty Board. <sup>3</sup>Applications must also include:

1. a declaration that the applicant is conversant with the current doctoral regulations at Technische Universität Berlin,
2. the documents specified in Section 3,
3. a curriculum vitae,
4. four printed copies of the dissertation and an electronic version as a pdf file. If the dissertation is to be assessed by more than two reviewers, the appropriate number of copies must be provided,
5. details as to what extent the dissertation or parts of the dissertation have already been published, together with a list of these publications and a copy of each. Dissertations co-authored with other researchers also require a list of the names of the co-authors and details of the candidate's own contribution as per Section 2 (4),
6. a statutory declaration to the effect that the dissertation has been written independently, that aids and sources have been cited and, in cases of co-authored works, that the presentation of the applicant's own contribution is accurate in accordance with point 5,
7. a declaration as to whether at an earlier date or concurrently an intent to pursue a doctorate pursuant to Section 4 has been submitted or a doctoral procedure applied for at another university or faculty. If applicable, complete details should be provided concerning the outcome (see also Section 7 (4), sentence 3).

(2) The applicant may propose the reviewer of their dissertation; this must be justified in writing and submitted with the application to the doctoral procedure.

(3) The application to the doctoral procedure and all submitted documents will remain at the Faculty for a maximum of ten years; thereafter they will be stored in the University Archives.

### Section 6 Commencement of the doctoral procedure

(1) <sup>1</sup>The dean of the faculty reviews the application for the doctoral procedure and determines whether all necessary conditions are met. <sup>2</sup>This information is submitted immediately to the Faculty Board for consultation and decision.

(2) The members of the Faculty Board as well as professors and junior professors who are members of the Faculty are entitled to inspect the submitted documents.

(3) <sup>1</sup>If the Faculty Board approves the application for admission to the doctoral procedure, it will appoint a doctoral committee. <sup>2</sup>This consists of a chair

and at least two reviewers, one of whom should not be a member of Technische Universität Berlin. <sup>3</sup>If it emerges that one or more of the reviewers is also a co-author of research findings or other publications of the candidate, the doctoral committee must also include an equal number of members who have no current or past history of scientific cooperation with the candidate.

(4) <sup>1</sup>At least one member of the doctoral committee must be a full-time professor with a doctorate, a junior professor with a doctorate, a junior research group leader with a doctorate, a visiting professor, a permanent full-time *außerplanmäßiger Professor* or a permanent full-time *Privatdozent* of the Faculty.

<sup>2</sup>One further member of the doctoral committee must be a full-time professor with a doctorate, a junior professor with a doctorate, a junior research group leader with a doctorate, a visiting professor, a permanent full-time *außerplanmäßiger Professor* or a permanent full-time *Privatdozent* at the BSPH. <sup>3</sup>A person belonging to the groups defined in sentences 1 and 2 above, who is appointed as a supervisor in accordance with Section 4 (1), will also continue to fulfill the requirements stated in sentence 1 and 2 after retirement, or as an emeritus professor, or if they change to another university. In such cases, they will continue to be regarded as a member of TU Berlin or the BSPH.

<sup>4</sup>In accordance with subsection 3 sentence 2, professors at another non-BSPH university, or a comparable academic institution in Germany or abroad, may also be appointed as reviewers; this includes professors at other universities who are retired or have been released from their duties. <sup>5</sup>Professors at the same or another faculty at Technische Universität Berlin or another university or a comparable academic institution in Germany or abroad may also be appointed as reviewers; this includes professors who are retired or have been released from their duties. <sup>6</sup>In duly justified cases, post-doctoral scholars from Germany or abroad who are not professors may also serve as external or additional reviewers. <sup>7</sup>The Faculty Board can also additionally appoint reviewers solely for the purpose of evaluating the dissertation. These reviewers may not be involved in collaborative work with the candidate and may not be members of the doctoral committee. However, their assessment must be taken into account by the doctoral committee. Section 6 (4) sentences 3-6 and Section 7 (1) and (2) apply accordingly to these reviewers.

(5) The faculty dean informs the doctoral candidate that the doctoral procedure has commenced as well as of the members of the doctoral committee and the names of any additional reviewers pursuant to Section 6 (4) sentence 7.

(6) <sup>1</sup>The dean informs the applicant without delay if the Faculty Board rejects their application for admission to the doctoral procedure. <sup>2</sup>The rejection must be substantiated in writing and issued with an instruction concerning the right to appeal. <sup>3</sup>The dean is responsible for drafting the communication. <sup>4</sup>The dean informs the Executive Board.

### Section 7 Assessment of the dissertation

(1) <sup>1</sup>The reviewers check separately and independently if the dissertation meets the requirements of a doctorate. <sup>2</sup>For pre-published works, they also check the details regarding the candidate's own contributions as per Section 2 (4) sentence 2.

<sup>3</sup>Assessments are in written form and grade the dissertation as

very  
good,  
good,  
satisfactory,  
adequate,  
insufficient.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Assessments are to be presented to the dean of the Faculty not later than three months after the opening of the doctoral procedure. <sup>2</sup>Copies of assessments are submitted to the chair of the doctoral committee by the dean. Any failures to meet deadlines must be justified to the chair of the doctoral committee.

(3) If the majority of reviewers provide a positive assessment of the dissertation, the chair of the doctoral committee will propose the continuation of the doctoral procedure to the dean.

(4) <sup>1</sup>If the majority of assessments are negative, the dissertation is rejected and the doctoral procedure discontinued. <sup>2</sup>The dean of the faculty will issue the doctoral applicant a written notification informing them that the doctoral procedure has been discontinued (as per Section 11 (4) sentence 1). <sup>3</sup>A rejected dissertation may not be submitted as a doctoral dissertation at another faculty at Technische Universität Berlin.

(5) <sup>1</sup>If exactly half of the assessments grade the dissertation "insufficient," the Faculty Board, in consultation with the doctoral committee and the candidate, appoints a further reviewer who should be a professor at another non-BSPH university. <sup>2</sup> It will then be decided on majority basis if the doctoral procedure is to be continued or discontinued.

### Section 8 Scientific defense

(1) <sup>1</sup>If the doctoral procedure is continued, the dean agrees with the doctoral committee and the candidate a date for the scientific defense. <sup>2</sup>The dean invites the following persons to attend at least 14 days prior to the scheduled date:

- a) the members of the doctoral committee, the other reviewers, and the candidate,
- b) the members of the Faculty Board, additional university professors, junior professors, "außerplanmäßiger" professors, honorary professors, and research associates with doctorates,

who are members of the Faculty or the BSPH, members of the Executive Board, and,

- c) at the justified recommendation of one of the reviewers, the candidate, or a member of the Faculty Board, other researchers who may also not be members of Technische Universität Berlin.

<sup>3</sup>The dissertation is made available for review to the persons referred to sentence 2 for a period of at least 14 days prior to the scientific defense. <sup>4</sup>Members of the doctoral committee, full-time professors, and members of the Faculty Board as well as the candidate may view the assessments in accordance with Section 7. <sup>5</sup>The dean may grant access to the assessments to the persons cited under sentence 2, letter c).

(2) <sup>1</sup>The scientific defense is open to the University public; the chair of the doctoral committee will, upon application from the candidate, also admit non-members of Technische Universität Berlin to the scientific defense. <sup>2</sup>The scientific defense is usually held in German or English; the chair of the doctoral committee may permit exceptions provided that all members of the doctoral committee agree. <sup>3</sup>The presence of the doctoral candidate as well as all members of the doctoral committee is required during the entire defense. <sup>4</sup>In justified exceptional cases and with the agreement of the candidate and the other members of the doctoral committee as well as the dean, the external reviewers may attend via audio and video links. <sup>5</sup>They then count as present. <sup>6</sup>If the candidate or a member of the doctoral committee is unable to attend the scientific defense in person as a consequence of circumstances beyond their control, the chair of the committee may, with the agreement of the dean, agree to their participation via video and audio transmission. <sup>7</sup>This then counts as the person being present. <sup>8</sup>Should the entire doctoral committee be unable to attend the scientific defense in person due to circumstances beyond their control, the chair of the committee may, with the agreement of the candidate and other members of the committee as well as the dean, agree to the scientific defense being conducted via audio and video link as an online conference. <sup>9</sup>If participants are only involved in the discussion via video and audio transmission or if the entire discussion is conducted in virtual form, the technical and data protection requirements for the transmission must be met, and the principles of orality, accessibility for the University public, and collegiality in the deliberations and decisions of the doctoral committee must be respected.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The scientific defense consists of a talk generally lasting 30 minutes given by the doctoral candidate about the dissertation and a subsequent discussion with the reviewers about the subject area of the dissertation. <sup>2</sup>Invited participants may, with the agreement of the chair of the doctoral committee, also direct questions to the candidate about the dissertation at the end of the discussion. <sup>3</sup>The discussion generally lasts one hour. <sup>4</sup>The scientific defense lasts at least 90 minutes and a maximum of 120 minutes.

4) <sup>1</sup>Immediately following the scientific defense, the doctoral committee will decide in a non-public meeting whether the doctoral candidate has passed the scientific defense with the classification

very  
good,  
good,  
satisfactory, or  
adequate.

or if the candidate has failed the defense. <sup>2</sup>Additionally, the doctoral committee aggregates the reviewers' classifications of the dissertation to produce one of the following overall classifications:

very  
good,  
good,  
satisfactory, or  
adequate.

<sup>3</sup>If the candidate passes the scientific defense, the doctoral committee decides on the basis of the classifications for the dissertation and the scientific defense if the doctoral procedure has been passed with an overall classification of:

distinction (or summa cum laude), very good (or magna cum laude),  
good (or cum laude), or passed (or rite).

<sup>4</sup>The overall classification "passed with distinction" may only be awarded if all reviewers assessed the dissertation as "very good" without qualification, and the scientific defense has been assessed as "very good" without qualification by all members of the doctoral committee.

(5) <sup>1</sup>A written record should be prepared regarding the scientific defense, containing (at least) the following information:

- place, date, and duration of the scientific defense
- name of the doctoral candidate
- title of the dissertation
- members of the doctoral committee
- assessment of the dissertation
- the topics and the proceedings of the scientific defense
- assessment of the scientific defense
- overall assessment
- remarks concerning the publication
- attendance list

<sup>2</sup>The written record is to be signed by the members of the doctoral committee who attended the scientific defense.

(6) <sup>1</sup>The chair of the doctoral committee informs the doctoral candidate of the result without delay and issues them with a temporary certificate. <sup>2</sup>Minor or stylistic modifications to the dissertation may be agreed between the doctoral candidate and the doctoral committee. <sup>3</sup>The dean is informed of the overall result of the doctorate and advises the Faculty Board.

(7) <sup>1</sup>If the candidate does not pass the scientific defense as per subsection 4,

they may request a repeat of the defense within one month of being informed of the result. <sup>2</sup>The repeat of the scientific defense must take place within 12 months of the candidate being informed of the result. <sup>3</sup>The above subsections apply accordingly. <sup>4</sup>If the candidate initiates an appeal procedure in accordance with Section 8b within the same period, this has a suspensive effect until its conclusion with regard to the deadline for applying to repeat the scientific defense; in such cases, the candidate must submit a request to repeat the scientific defense no later than two weeks after the conclusion of the appeal procedure. <sup>5</sup>The doctoral procedure is discontinued if the doctoral candidate does not request a repeat of the scientific defense or does not pass the repeat scientific defense. <sup>6</sup>The doctoral candidate is to be informed of the discontinuation of the doctoral procedure as per Section 11 (4).

### Section 8a Inspection of files

<sup>1</sup>Files may be inspected during an open doctoral procedure in accordance with Section 29 VwVfG. <sup>2</sup>Files may also be inspected within one year of the conclusion of the doctoral procedure. <sup>3</sup>Applications to inspect files are to be submitted to the dean.

### Section 8b Appeals

(1) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral candidate may appeal against the assessments of individual reviewers as per Section 7 (1) as well as against the assessment of the oral defense by the doctoral committee as per Section 8 (4) after being informed of the overall assessment. <sup>2</sup>The original assessments may not be changed to the disadvantage of the doctoral candidate.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Appeals must be submitted to the dean within eight weeks of being informed of the overall assessment. <sup>2</sup>The reasons for the appeal must make clear which specific assessments are being appealed.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The dean forwards the appeal to the chair of the doctoral committee. <sup>2</sup>The reviewers affected by the appeal, or the doctoral committee in the case of an appeal against the assessment of the oral defense, reconsider their assessments, taking account of the arguments presented in the justification for appeal, and respond in writing. <sup>3</sup>The doctoral committee reviews the doctorate in light of the written response and provides a written assessment of the appeal procedure. <sup>4</sup>This must be submitted to the dean within three months of the appeal being entered.

(4) The dean informs the candidate in writing of the result of the appeal procedure.

### Section 9 Publication of the dissertation

(1) <sup>1</sup> Before the doctorate can be awarded to the candidate, the dissertation must be made accessible to the scientific public in a suitable manner within twelve months following the successful scientific defense. <sup>2</sup>This period may be extended in duly justified cases and on application to the Faculty.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The dissertation is deemed to have been made accessible to the scientific public in a suitable manner if the author provides the University Library free of charge

copies of the version of the dissertation approved by the doctoral committee for publication. <sup>2</sup>The University Library checks that the version provided meets the required specifications. A dissertation can be submitted in the following formats:

1. one bound and durable copy and an identical electronic version, whose data format and data carrier must conform to the requirements of the University Library, or
2. fifteen bound and durable copies in letterpress, or,
3. in the case of monographs and as long as a commercial publisher agrees to distribute and commits by contract to make the work available on the market for four years, four copies indicated as a dissertation on the copyright page and stating Technische Universität Berlin as the place of dissertation.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The copies submitted to the University Library have to include a title page meeting the requirements of the University.

<sup>2</sup>A sample title page is available at the University Library.

(4) Furthermore, the candidate has to transfer the abstract electronically as per Section 2 (2) sentence 5 for the purpose of its dissemination via bibliographic databases.

#### **Section 10 Awarding the doctorate**

(1) The dean completes the doctoral procedure by awarding the doctoral certificate as soon as the doctoral candidate has fulfilled the requirements of Section 9.

(2) The bilingual certificate (German/English) states the subject, the overall assessment of the doctoral procedure and the date of the scientific defense, and bears the dated signatures of the president and the dean as well as the seal of Technische Universität Berlin.

(3) The awarding of the doctoral certificate entitles the doctoral candidate to use the awarded title.

(4) The faculty administration maintains a file of submitted doctoral applications and completed doctorates.

#### **Section 11 Withdrawal of the doctoral application, suspension of the doctoral procedure**

(1) The faculty can only comply with a doctoral candidate's request for withdrawal of the doctoral application if no written assessments have been submitted.

(2) <sup>1</sup>If the doctoral candidate fails or refuses to comply with a request made by the dean without a valid reason recognized by the Faculty Board, or fails to submit the revised version of the dissertation in the prescribed form within twelve months after a positively assessed scientific defense without valid reason, the doctoral procedure shall be discontinued by decision of the Faculty Board. <sup>2</sup>The same also applies if, after a written assessment from a reviewer has been submitted, the doctoral candidate states that they do not wish to continue the doctoral procedure.

(3) <sup>1</sup>If it is determined prior to awarding the doctoral certificate that the doctoral candidate has knowingly made scientific misrepresentations, the Faculty Board will decide, upon providing the doctoral candidate opportunity to comment, whether the doctoral procedure should be continued or not. <sup>2</sup>If there are doubts concerning the grounds for suspicion, the procedure will be suspended pending clarification.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The dean must issue and substantiate decisions concerning the discontinuation of the doctoral procedure in writing, including an instruction concerning the right to appeal. <sup>2</sup>The Executive Board is to be notified.

#### **Section 12 Joint doctoral procedure with foreign educational institutions**

(1) To foster international cooperation, the Faculty may conduct a joint doctoral procedure with foreign universities or comparable educational institutions entitled to award doctorates.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The framework for the joint doctoral procedure is established on an individual basis in an agreement stipulating that the provisions of these doctoral regulations apply to the joint doctoral procedure. <sup>2</sup>Any deviation from these doctoral regulations may be incorporated into the agreement in accordance with the provisions below.

(3) It must be ensured that the acquired title can be held in the country of the university or comparable educational institution with which the agreement is to be concluded.

(4) <sup>1</sup>A submitted dissertation and a scientific defense are required for the joint doctorate. <sup>2</sup>In the event that the dissertation and/or the scientific defense are completed in the local language of the foreign university/comparable educational institution, or a language other than German, a written abstract or summary must be provided in German. <sup>3</sup>A significant part of the work on the dissertation must be completed at the BSPH.

(5) For the assessment of the joint doctorate, each university or comparable educational institution shall appoint the same number of reviewers in addition to the chair of the doctoral committee.

(6) The doctoral documents are retained by the university or comparable educational institution where the scientific defense takes place; the other university or comparable educational institution will also receive copies.

(7) <sup>1</sup>A bilingual doctoral certificate, referring to the joint doctoral procedure and stating the doctoral degree to be held in the respective countries and issued by the university or comparable educational institution at which the scientific defense took place will be awarded and signed by both institutions. <sup>2</sup>The certificate will also bear the seal of both institutions.

#### **Section 13 - Honorary doctorates**

(1) <sup>1</sup>At the request of the Faculty, Technische Universität Berlin may, by decision of the Academic Senate, award the following academic title in recognition of outstanding academic merit pertaining to one of its areas: Dr. P.H.E. h. (Honorary Doctor of Public Health). <sup>2</sup>The person to be awarded the honorary doctorate may not be a member of the BSPH.

(2) The resolution of the Faculty Board requires two readings. Both ballots must be secret.

(3) The awarding of an honorary doctorate also requires the decision of the Academic Senate. Further details are governed by the internal regulations of the Academic Senate.

(4) An additional academic honorary degree as per subsection 1 may only be awarded if any previous honorary degree was awarded by another university and for other reasons.

(5) The honorary doctorate is awarded by presenting a certificate bearing the seal of Technische Universität Berlin and signed by the president and the dean and stating the merits of the awardee.

(6) All German-speaking universities will be notified of the awarding of the doctorate by the Executive Board of Technische Universität Berlin.

#### **Section 14 Revoking a doctorate**

(1) A doctorate awarded by TU Berlin will be revoked if

1. it subsequently emerges that it was acquired as a result of cheating, threats, bribes or paid intervention or if the main conditions for awarding the doctorate have not been met;
2. the holder of the doctorate has proven themselves unworthy of the title owing to subsequent serious scientific misconduct.

(2) <sup>1</sup>If the Faculty Board decides that sufficient grounds for revoking a title as per subsection 1 exist, it will appoint a doctoral commission in accordance with Section 6 (3) and open procedures to revoke the doctorate. <sup>2</sup>The doctoral supervisor may not be a member of this commission.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral commission examines if the conditions for revoking a doctorate as stated in subsection 1 have been met and presents its recommendation and reasons to the TU Berlin Executive Board. <sup>2</sup>The doctorate holder is provided opportunity to comment as part of the procedure. <sup>3</sup>Minutes must be taken of any oral hearing before the doctoral commission.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The decision is the responsibility of the Executive Board of TU Berlin and is made on the basis of the recommendation of the doctoral commission. <sup>2</sup>The decision must be communicated in writing to the doctorate holder. <sup>3</sup>The decision is to be substantiated and include instructions concerning the right to appeal. <sup>4</sup>A decision to revoke a doctorate also includes the requirement to return the doctoral certificate to TU Berlin and to destroy and not make further use of any copies of the certificate. The person is no longer permitted to use the title.

(5) <sup>1</sup>A procedure to revoke a doctorate will not be initiated for doctorates awarded more than 20 years ago. <sup>2</sup>A procedure to revoke a doctorate will not be initiated posthumously.

#### **Section 14a Revoking an honorary doctorate**

(1) An honorary doctorate awarded by TU Berlin will be revoked if

1. it subsequently emerges that it was acquired as a result of cheating, threats, bribes or paid intervention or if the main conditions for awarding the doctorate have not been met;
2. the awardee proves unworthy of the title as a result of subsequent serious scientific misconduct.

(2) <sup>1</sup>If the Faculty Board decides that possible sufficient grounds for revoking a title as per subsection 1 exist, it will decide in two readings if the conditions for revoking an honorary doctorate as per subsection 1 are met. <sup>2</sup>The honorary doctorate holder is provided opportunity to comment as part of the procedure. <sup>3</sup>Minutes must be taken of any oral hearing before the doctoral commission. <sup>4</sup>The vote on revoking an honorary doctorate shall be conducted by secret ballot and the result submitted to the Academic Senate for comment.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The decision to revoke is the responsibility of the Executive Board of TU Berlin and is made on the basis of the recommendations of the Faculty Board and the Academic Senate. <sup>2</sup>The decision is communicated to the honorary doctorate holder in writing. <sup>3</sup>The decision is to be substantiated and include instructions concerning the right to appeal. <sup>4</sup>A decision to revoke an honorary doctorate also includes the requirement to return the doctoral certificate to TU Berlin and to immediately destroy and not make further use of any copies of the certificate. The person is not permitted to use the title.

(4) All German-speaking universities will be notified by the Executive Board of Technische Universität Berlin.

(5) <sup>1</sup>A procedure to revoke a doctorate will not be initiated for honorary doctorates awarded more than 20 years ago. <sup>2</sup>A procedure to revoke an honorary doctorate will not be initiated posthumously.

#### **Section 15 Transitional arrangements**

<sup>1</sup>Doctoral procedures that were commenced prior to these regulations taking effect will be concluded in accordance with the regulations that have thus far pertained. Candidates who have already applied for acceptance as a doctoral candidate at the time these regulations take effect may, upon application and within a period of two years after their entry into force, conclude their doctorate in accordance with the regulations that applied at the time of their application. <sup>2</sup>The decision is to be made when applying and is irrevocable.

#### **Section 16 Entry into force**

(1) These regulations enter into force the day after their publication in the Official Gazette of Technische Universität Berlin.

(2) At the same time, except for the scope of Section 15, the Regulations for the Doctorate in Public Health as amended on March 16, 1999 shall cease to be effective.