

Doctoral Regulations of the Technische Universität Berlin – Reading Version

Revision: Oct. 2023

This reading version of the TU Doctoral Regulations combines the version of November 18, 2020 and May 12, 2021 with the amendments of May 24, 2023.

The official version of the Doctoral Regulations is published in the [Official Gazette No. 12/2021 \(de\)](#). The amendments are published in the [Official Gazette No. 22/2023 \(de\)](#).

The [archive of the official gazettes \(de\)](#) of the TU Berlin can be found on the pages of the Section on Matters of Academic Self-Administration

Doctoral Regulations – 24.05.2023

The Faculty Boards of Faculties I, IV, V, VI and VII adopted the following first amendment to the doctoral regulations, after passing concurring resolutions on 24 May 2023 to amend the doctoral regulations of Technische Universität Berlin (version of 18 November 2020 and 12 May 2021; AMBl. 12/2021, p. 132) and following the approval of the Academic Senate pursuant to Section 74 (4) of the Berlin Higher Education Act (BerlHG) in the version of 26 July 2011 (GVBl. 378), last amended by Article 1 of the Act of 5 July 2022 (GVBl. p. 450) and Section 18 (1) no. 1 of the Constitution of the Technische Universität Berlin of 13 December 2017 (AMBl. 19/2018 p. 182)*)

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* Approved by the TU Berlin Executive Board on 1 August 2023.

§ 1 - Scope and basics

- (1) ¹ These regulations governing the conferral of doctorates apply to the following university degrees: Dr.-Ing. (Doctor of Engineering Sciences), Dr. rer. nat. (Doctor of Science), Dr. phil. (Doctor of Philosophy), and Dr. rer. oec. (Doctor of Economic Sciences) at Technische Universität Berlin. ²The responsibilities of the faculties for the awarding of these doctoral degrees are set out in Appendix 1.
- (2) The faculties may present proposals to the Academic Senate for awarding one of the doctoral degrees in *subsection 1* honoris causa (h.c.) in recognition of outstanding academic achievement.
- (3) The doctoral degrees cited in *subsection 1* may be awarded only once per academic chair.

§ 2 - Objective and content of the doctorate

- (1) ¹The doctoral process establishes that the doctoral candidate has the capacity to make an independent contribution to scientific research and development. ²This is demonstrated through the acceptance of a written dissertation and a successful scientific defense.
- (2) ¹The dissertation is a scientific treatise written by the doctoral candidate that advances the scientific state of the art in a research area. ²The focus of the dissertation depends on the doctoral degree: for Dr.-Ing., the focus is on an engineering science, for Dr. rer. nat., it is on a mathematical or natural science, for Dr. phil., the humanities or the social sciences, and for Dr. rer. oec., economics or business administration. ³The dissertation shall be written in German or English. ⁴With the approval of the faculty board, it may also be written in another language. ⁵An abstract of the dissertation must be provided in both German and English, irrespective of which language the dissertation is written in. ⁶The subject area must be represented by a full professor, university lecturer, junior professor, junior research group leader, or a full-time extraordinary professor within the faculty.
- (3) ¹ The dissertation as a scientific treatise can consist of separate published papers or papers submitted for publication (cumulative Dissertation or dissertation by publication). ²Such work must follow an internal logic which has to be coherently demonstrated by an overall introduction and concluding discussion. ³Further details regarding the type and number of contributions are determined by the faculties.
- (4) ¹ Prepublication of scientific findings which constitute part of the dissertation or a cumulative dissertation is also possible on the basis of co-authorship. ²In cases of co-authored work, the applicant has to demonstrate which substantial contribution to the concept, content or methodology of the work they have made.
- (5) In the scientific defense, the doctoral 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.

§ 3 - Admission requirements

(1) ¹ In order to be admitted as doctoral candidate, an applicant must have successfully completed an undergraduate degree and a master's degree at a university or university of applied sciences or a comparable degree (Diplom, Magister, or Staatsexamen). The following degrees are generally required: a degree in an engineering field for a Dr.-Ing., a degree in mathematics or a natural science for a Dr. rer. nat., a degree in the fields of the humanities or social sciences for a Dr. phil., and a degree in economics for a Dr. rer. oec. ²If a university degree was acquired in a subject area which does not correspond to the doctoral degree, the faculty board may require additional coursework and examinations.

(2) ¹Academically outstanding candidates with a bachelor's degree, or with a master's degree taken without first obtaining a bachelor's, can be directly admitted to a doctoral degree based on a qualification procedure. ²Academic aptitude is determined by:

1. the successful completion of at least one and up to three admission exams in the subject area of the proposed doctoral research and related fields and one published work, generally as lead author, in a relevant publication with academic quality assurance, or
2. the successful completion of 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.

³ At least one of the admission exams referred to in *sentence 2, no. 1* may not be conducted by the supervisor. ⁴The admission exam verifies that the applicant has the required scientific and methodical abilities in the intended field of doctoral studies. ⁵The attendance of courses prior to the exam is not required. ⁶The faculty board may determine specific rules for the content, form and conducting of the admission exam. ⁷A failed admission exam cannot be repeated at the same or another faculty of Technische Universität Berlin.

(3) ¹An applicant completing a Diplom degree at a university of applied sciences (Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften) with an overall grade of "with distinction," "very good," or "good," is required to further demonstrate their academic aptitude to pursue a doctorate. ²Such proof is provided by the applicant passing at least one and up to three admission exams in the subject area of their intended doctorate and related fields as per *subsection 2*. Admission exams are to be taken after the candidate has applied for admission as doctoral candidate in accordance with *Section 4*. The admission examination verifies that the applicant has the required academic skills in the field of their intended doctorate.

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

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

- (6) The faculty board must decline admission as doctoral candidate if the applicant's thesis or similar work has already been failed in the context of a doctoral procedure at a research university.
- (7) ¹Upon application from suitable graduates, the doctoral procedure shall be conducted with the participation of a university of applied sciences (cooperative doctoral procedure). ²This 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.

§ 4 - Application as doctoral candidate

- (1) ¹ The applicant must declare in writing their intent to pursue a doctorate at the selected faculty at the earliest possible date. ²The application must contain a description of the intended subject of the dissertation, a work plan, as well as the documentation referred to in *Section 5 (1), sentence 3, nos. 1-3*; candidates that have completed a Diplom degree at a university of applied sciences (Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften) must attach their Diplom thesis, as well as any possible additional scientific theses. ³The doctoral thesis must be supervised by a full-time professor, lecturer, junior professor, junior research group leader with a doctorate, or a permanent full-time associate Professor at the faculty, while doctorates as described in *Section 3 (7)* require an additional supervisor who must be a professor at the relevant university of applied sciences; agreements to supervise must be submitted together with the candidate's declaration of intent to pursue a doctorate. ⁴The dean assesses the application and informs the applicant of either acceptance and possible conditions, or a denial in writing in accordance with *subsection 3*. ⁵Furthermore, a supervision agreement (doctoral agreement) will be concluded between the applicant and their supervisor or supervisors in accordance with the current regulations of Technische Universität Berlin. ⁶The aforementioned provisions are passed by the committee which oversees the doctoral regulations of Technische Universität Berlin.
- (2) ¹In the case of acceptance, the applicant is entitled to reasonable support for completing their thesis from the faculty, within the scope of the available materials and personnel. ²There is no entitlement to a workplace at the University. ³Once the supervisor has declared their consent, they are obliged to supervise the applicant unless they can substantiate important reasons for terminating their supervisory role to the faculty board.
- (3) ¹ The faculty board may reject the application only if:
1. The subject area of the dissertation is not represented by a full professor, university lecturer, junior professor, junior research group leader with a doctorate or full-time extraordinary professor;
 2. the thesis seems not to be feasible within the scope of the materials and personnel available or due to the subject;
 3. the requirements stated in *Section 3* are not met.

² This rejection must be substantiated in writing to the applicant. *Section 11 (4) sentence 1 BerlHG* applies accordingly.

- (4) ¹With the acceptance of the application, the doctoral applicant becomes a doctoral candidate. ²Unless employed by Technische Universität Berlin, the doctoral candidate is required to register as a student at Technische Universität Berlin in accordance with *Section 25 (2) BerlHG*.
- (5) ¹ The faculty board may, for good reason, decide to revoke its agreement to the application of intent. ²A 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 or if the candidate and supervisor have not submitted a notification / re-registration in order to uphold the intent to pursue a doctorate.

§ 5 - Admission to the doctoral procedure, doctoral application

- (1) ¹ The application for admission to the doctoral procedure must be directed in writing to the proper faculty. ²Application for admission is also permissible if the intent to pursue a doctorate has not been previously registered in accordance with Section 4 (1), or if the faculty board has rejected an applicant's registration. ³The application for admission to the doctoral procedure must include:
1. A declaration that the applicant is conversant with the current doctoral regulations at Technische Universität Berlin;
 2. Documentation as specified in Section 3;
 3. A curriculum vitae;
 4. Four printed copies of the dissertation and an electronic version as a pdf file; if there are more than two reviewers, the corresponding number of copies must be submitted;
 5. Details as to what extent the dissertation or parts thereof have already been published, plus a list of these publications and a copy of each; in the case of co-authored publications, a list of the names of the co-authors and proof of the applicant'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 demonstration of the applicant's own contribution is correct in accordance with point 5;
 7. A declaration as to whether earlier or concurrently an intent to pursue a doctorate in accordance with 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 doctoral applicant may propose the reviewer of the dissertation, whose selection must be justified in writing and submitted together with the application to the doctoral procedure.
- (3) The application to the doctoral procedure and all submitted documents will remain with the faculty for up to ten years; thereafter they will be stored in the University Archive.

§ 6 - Commencement of the doctoral procedure

- (1) ¹The dean of the faculty will examine the application for the doctoral procedure and determine whether all required conditions are met. ²If so, the application to the doctoral procedure will be presented immediately to the faculty board for consultation and decision.
- (2) The members of the faculty board as well as other professors and junior professors who are members of the faculty are entitled to inspect the submitted documents.
- (3) ¹If the faculty board approves the application for admission to the doctoral procedure, it will appoint a doctoral committee. ²This committee consists of a chairperson and at least two reviewers, one of whom should not be a member of Technische Universität Berlin. ³If one or more of the reviewers is also a co-author of findings or publications of the doctoral candidate, at least the same number of reviewers must participate who have not had or do not have a cooperative scientific relationship with the doctoral candidate.
- (4) ¹The chair of the doctoral committee must be a full-time professor, university lecturer, junior professor, or a junior research group leader with a doctorate in the faculty. ²At least one reviewer must be a full-time professor, university lecturer, junior professor, or a junior research group leader with a doctorate in the faculty. ³In duly justified cases, the faculty may decide that extraordinary (außerplanmäßig) professors whose main occupation and employment is at Technische Universität Berlin may be treated as full professors regarding the evaluation of doctoral theses. ⁴A person appointed from the group defined in *sentence 2* as supervisor in accordance with *Section 4 (1)* will also continue to fulfil the requirements stated in *sentence 2* after retirement, as an emeritus professor, or if they change to another university. In such cases, they will continue to be one of the reviewers who is a member of TU Berlin. ⁵In accordance with *subsection 3 sentence 2* professors at another university or a comparable academic institution from 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. ⁶Professors 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. ⁷In duly justified cases, post-doctoral scholars from Germany or abroad who are not professors may also serve as external or additional reviewers. ⁸The faculty board can also appoint reviewers to only evaluate the dissertation. ⁹These reviewers may not have a cooperative relationship with the doctoral candidate or be members of the doctoral committee. ¹⁰Their evaluation must be taken into consideration by the doctoral committee. ¹¹*Section 6 sentences 4 to 7 and Section 7 (1 and 2)* apply accordingly.
- (5) The dean of the faculty will issue the doctoral applicant a written notification informing them of the commencement of the doctoral procedure as well as the members of the doctoral committee and the names of any additional reviewers as per *Section 6 (4) sentence 8*.
- (6) ¹The dean will immediately inform the applicant if the faculty board rejects their application for admission to the doctoral procedure. ²The rejection must be substantiated in writing and issued with an instruction concerning the right to appeal.

³The rejection must be issued by the dean. ⁴The dean is required to inform the Executive Board.

§ 7 - Evaluation of the dissertation

- (1) ¹The reviewers will individually and independently judge whether the submitted dissertation fulfils the requirements of a doctorate. ²In the case of pre-publications, they must do so under consideration of the details regarding significant contributions stated in *Section 2 (4) sentence 2*. ³They will produce written assessments with one of the following classifications:
 - very good;
 - good;
 - satisfactory;
 - adequate or
 - insufficient.
- (2) ¹Assessments should not be submitted later than three months after the commencement of the doctoral procedure or after submission of an amended version to the dean of the faculty. ²Copies of the assessments will be submitted to the chair of the doctoral committee by the dean. ³Any delays must be justified to the chair of the doctoral committee.
- (3) Should the majority of reviewers assess the dissertation positively, the chair of the doctoral committee will propose the continuation of the doctoral procedure to the dean.
- (4) ¹Should the majority of reviewers assess the dissertation negatively, the dissertation is rejected and the doctoral procedure discontinued. ²The dean of the faculty will issue the doctoral candidate a written notification informing them of the suspension of the doctoral procedure (as per *Section 11 (4) sentence 1*). ³A rejected dissertation may not be presented as a doctoral thesis at another faculty of Technische Universität Berlin.
- (5) ¹In the event that exactly half of the reviewers assess the dissertation negatively, the faculty board, in consultation with the doctoral committee and the doctoral candidate, will nominate an additional reviewer, who should be a professor at another university. ²The continuation or suspension of the doctoral procedure will then be decided on majority basis.

§ 8 - Scientific defense

- (1) ¹If the doctoral procedure is continued, the dean will arrange with the doctoral committee and the doctoral candidate a date for the scientific defense. ²The dean will invite the following persons to attend at least 14 days prior to the scheduled date:
 - a) Members of the doctoral committee, additional reviewers and the doctoral candidate;
 - b) Members of the faculty board, other professors, junior professors, external lecturers, extraordinary professors or honorary professors as well as teaching and research associates with doctorates who are members of the faculty, and the members of the Executive Board;

- c) Upon receipt of a justified proposal by a reviewer, the doctoral candidate, or members of the faculty board: additional scientists who do not have to be members of Technische Universität Berlin.

³The dissertation is displayed for review by the persons referred to in sentence 2 for a period of at least 14 days prior to the scientific defense. ⁴Members of the doctoral committee, full professors, and members of the faculty board will have access to the evaluations in accordance with *Section 7*. ⁵The dean may grant access to the evaluations to the persons cited under *sentence 2, letter c*). ⁶The respective faculty board may also grant access to the evaluations to the doctoral candidate before the scientific defense.

- (2) ¹The scientific defense is open to the University public; the chair of the examination board should, upon application from the candidate, admit non-members of Technische Universität to the scientific defense. ²The 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. ³The presence of the doctoral candidate as well as all members of the doctoral committee is required during the entire defense. ⁴In duly justified cases external reviewers may take part in the defense via video and audio transmission with the agreement of the doctoral candidate and other members of the doctoral committee as well as the dean. ⁵This then counts as being present. ⁶If 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. ⁷This then counts as the person being present. ⁸Should 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 by video and audio transmission in the form of an online conference. ⁹If participants only attend via video and audio transmission or if the entire defense is conducted in virtual format, this is only possible if the requisite technical and data privacy requirements are provided and if the principle of oral examination, the presence of the University public and the principle of collegiality regarding the discussion and awarding of grades by the doctoral committee can be guaranteed.

- (3) ¹The scientific defense consists of a talk on the dissertation lasting normally 30 minutes given by the doctoral candidate and a subsequent discussion with the reviewers regarding the subject area of the dissertation. ²Thereafter, with the consent of the doctoral committee chair, the audience may direct questions to the doctoral candidate on the subject of the dissertation. ³This discussion normally lasts one hour. ⁴The scientific defense lasts at least 90 minutes but should not exceed 120 minutes.

- (4) ¹ Immediately after 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
acceptable or if the candidate has failed the defense.

²Additionally, the doctoral committee aggregates the decisions of the reviewers into a joint decision of very good, good, satisfactory, or acceptable. ³If the doctoral candidate has passed the scientific defense, the doctoral committee will decide on the basis of the joint decisions concerning the dissertation and scientific defense whether the doctoral procedure has been passed overall with either:

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

⁴The overall decision “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) ¹ 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 dissertation;
- Members of the doctoral committee;
- Assessment of the dissertation;
- The topics and the proceedings of the scientific defense;
- Assessment of the scientific defense;
- General evaluation;
- Remarks concerning the publication;
- Attendance list.

² This record is to be signed by the members of the doctoral committee present.

(6) ¹The chair of the doctoral committee immediately informs the doctoral candidate of the result and issues a preliminary certificate. Minor or stylistic modifications to the dissertation may be agreed between the doctoral candidate and the doctoral committee. ²The dean will be informed of the overall result of the doctorate and will advise the faculty board thereof.

(7) ¹ If the candidate does not pass the scientific defense as per *subsection 4*, they may within eight weeks of being informed thereof request a repeat of the defense. ²The repeat of the scientific defense takes place within 12 months of the publication of the assessment. ³The above subsections apply accordingly. ⁴If the doctoral candidate has initiated the reconsideration procedure within this same period in accordance with *Section 8b*, this suspends the deadline for requesting a repeat of the scientific defense until the reconsideration procedure is concluded; in this case, the repeat of the scientific defense must be requested no later than two weeks after the conclusion of the reconsideration procedure. ⁵The doctoral procedure will be discontinued if the doctoral candidate does not request a repeat of the scientific defense or if they do

not pass the repeated scientific defense. ⁶The doctoral candidate is to be informed of the discontinuation of the doctoral procedure as per *Section 11 (4)*.

§ 8a - Inspection of files

¹In accordance with *Section 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz - VwVfg)*, inspection of files is possible during the ongoing doctoral procedure. ²Furthermore, inspection of files is also possible within one year following the end of the procedure. ³The doctoral candidate must submit a request to the dean.

§ 8b - Reconsideration procedure

- (1) ¹The doctoral candidate may appeal against the evaluations of the individual reviewers according to *Section 7 (1)*, as well as against the evaluation of the scientific defense by the doctoral committee according to *Section 8 (4)*, after the overall evaluation has been announced, to have the evaluations revised and amended. ²The original evaluations may not be changed to the disadvantage of the doctoral candidate.
- (2) ¹The doctoral candidate must submit the request for the reconsideration procedure to the dean within eight weeks of the announcement of the overall evaluation. ²The request for reconsideration must include an explanation regarding which specific evaluations the candidate is appealing.
- (3) ¹The dean forwards the appeal to the chair of the doctoral committee. ²The reviewers affected by the appeal or - in the case of an appeal against the evaluation of the scientific defense, the doctoral committee - reconsider their evaluation, taking into account the arguments presented in the request for the appeal, and provide a statement in writing. ³The doctoral committee re-evaluates the doctoral work while considering this statement and documents the result of the reconsideration procedure in writing. ⁴This summary must be presented to the dean within three months of the start of the reconsideration procedure.
- (4) The dean informs the doctoral candidate of the result of the reconsideration procedure in writing.

§ 9 - Publication of the dissertation

- (1) ¹Before the doctorate can be awarded to the candidate after passing the scientific defense, the dissertation must be made accessible to the scientific public in an appropriate manner through duplication and dissemination within twelve months following the scientific defense. ²This period may be extended in duly justified cases and on application to the faculty.
- (2) ¹A dissertation is deemed to have been made accessible to the scientific public in an appropriate manner if the author provides the University Library free of charge a copy of the thesis in the version approved by the doctoral committee for the purpose of dissemination. ²The University Library determines if the copy provided fulfils the relevant requirements. ³The 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, three copies indicated as a dissertation on the copyright page and stating Technische Universität Berlin as the place of dissertation.
- (3) ¹ The copies provided to the University Library must include a dissertation title page according to the requirements of the University. ²A sample of the 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* to the University Library for the purpose of its dissemination via bibliographic databases.

§ 10 - Awarding the doctorate

- (1) The dean completes the doctorate procedure by presenting the doctoral certificate as soon as the doctoral candidate has fulfilled the criteria specified in *Section 9*.
- (2) The bilingual certificate (German/English) states the subject, the overall assessment of the doctoral procedure, 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 respectively awarded title.
- (4) The faculty administration maintains a file of submitted doctoral applications and awarded doctorates.

§ 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 evaluation has been submitted.
- (2) ¹Should the doctoral candidate fail or refuse to comply with a request from the dean with respect to the doctoral procedure without providing acceptable reason to the faculty board, or if the doctoral candidate fails to submit the revised version of a dissertation in the prescribed format without providing good reason within a period of twelve months after a positively assessed scientific defense, the doctoral procedure will be discontinued by decision of the faculty board. ²The same also applies if, after a written opinion from a reviewer has been submitted, the doctoral candidate states that they do not wish to continue the doctoral procedure.
- (3) ¹If it is determined prior to awarding the doctoral certificate that the doctoral candidate has deliberately made scientific misrepresentations, the faculty board will decide, upon providing the doctoral candidate opportunity to comment on these accusations, whether the doctoral procedure should be continued. ²If there are doubts concerning the validity of the accusations, the procedure will be suspended until clarification.

- (4) ¹ The dean must issue, substantiate and provide the notifications including an instruction concerning the right to an appeal in writing. ²The Executive Board is to be notified.

§ 12 - Joint doctoral procedure with foreign educational institutions

- (1) In order to foster international cooperation, the faculty may conduct a joint doctoral procedure with foreign universities or comparable educational institutions.
- (2) ¹ The framework for the joint doctoral procedure shall be established on an individual basis in a contractual agreement stipulating that the provisions of these doctoral regulations apply to the joint doctoral procedure. ²Any deviation from these doctoral regulations may be incorporated within the contractual provision in accordance with the following provisions.
- (3) It must be ensured that the acquired degree can be held in the country where the foreign university or comparable educational institution with which the contract is to be concluded is located.
- (4) ¹The submission of a dissertation and a scientific defense is required for the joint doctorate. ²In the event that the dissertation and/or the scientific defense are completed in the national language of the foreign university/comparable educational institution, or a language other than German, a written abstract and/or summary must be provided in German. ³A significant part of the work on the dissertation must be completed at Technische Universität Berlin.
- (5) Apart from the chair of the doctoral committee, each university or comparable educational institution should employ the same number of reviewers to assess the joint doctorate.
- (6) The doctoral documents are retained by the university or comparable educational institution where the oral defense takes place; the other university or comparable educational institution will also receive a copy.
- (7) A bilingual doctoral certificate referring to the joint doctoral procedure and stating the doctoral degree to be held in the respective country will be issued by the university or comparable educational institution where the scientific defense took place, and signed and sealed by both universities or comparable educational institutions.

§ 13 - Honorary doctorates

- (1) ¹At the request of a faculty, Technische Universität Berlin may award, by decision of the Academic Senate, the following academic degrees in recognition of outstanding academic merit pertaining to one of its functions: Dr.-Ing. E. h. (Honorary Doctor of Engineering Sciences), Dr. rer. nat. h. c. (Honorary Doctor of Natural Sciences), Dr. phil. h. c. (Honorary Doctor of Philosophy) and Dr. rer. oec. h. c. (Honorary Doctor of Economics). ²The recipients may not be a member of Technische Universität Berlin.
- (2) ¹ The resolutions of the faculty board require two readings. ²Both ballots are secret.
- (3) ¹ The Academic Senate must also decide on the awarding of an honorary doctorate. ²Details regarding this are governed by the regulations of the Academic Senate.

- (4) An additional conferral of an academic honorary degree according to subsection 1 is only possible if a previous conferral was made by another university and for other reasons.
- (5) The honorary doctorate is awarded by presenting the certificate, which is signed by the president and the dean, bears the seal of Technische Universität Berlin and states the merits of the doctorate holder.
- (6) All German-speaking universities will be notified of the conferral of the degree by the Executive Board of Technische Universität.

§ 14 - Revocation of a doctorate

- (1) A doctoral degree awarded by TU Berlin will be revoked if
 1. it is subsequently established that the holder acquired the degree by cheating, threat, bribery or negotiation against payment, or did not meet essential requirements,
 2. the holder has proven themselves unworthy of holding the doctoral degree through subsequent serious scientific misconduct.
- (2) ¹If the faculty board determines that sufficient grounds for suspicion exist pursuant to *subsection 1*, it shall appoint a doctoral committee in accordance with *Section 6 (3)* and begin the revocation procedure. ²The doctoral supervisor cannot be a member of this committee.
- (3) ¹The doctoral committee reviews whether the grounds for revocation of the doctoral degree as stated in *subsection 1* are met and submits a recommendation with a detailed explanation to the TU Berlin Executive Board. ²The doctoral candidate is to be given the opportunity to comment. ³A written record must be kept if this is done orally.
- (4) ¹The TU Berlin Executive Board takes a decision based on the recommendation of the doctoral committee. ²The holder of the doctorate is to be informed of this decision in writing. ³The decision must be substantiated and issued with an instruction concerning the right to appeal. ⁴The decision to revoke the doctoral degree includes the requirement to return the doctoral certificate to TU Berlin and the withdrawal and destruction of any copies as well as revocation of the right to use the title of doctor.
- (5) ¹ A revocation procedure is not initiated if the doctoral degree was awarded 20 years or more prior. ²The initiation of a revocation procedure posthumously is excluded.

§ 14a - Revocation of an honorary doctorate

- (1) An honorary doctorate awarded by TU Berlin will be revoked if
 1. it is subsequently established that the holder acquired the degree by cheating, threat, bribery or negotiation against payment, or did not meet essential requirements,
 2. the holder has proven themselves unworthy of holding the doctoral degree through subsequent scientific misconduct.

- (2) ¹If the faculty board determines that sufficient grounds for suspicion exist pursuant to *subsection 1*, it advises in two readings whether the requirements for revocation of the honorary doctorate as stated in *subsection 1* have been met. ²The holder of the honorary doctorate is to be given the opportunity to comment. ³A written record must be kept if this is done orally. ⁴Voting on possible revocation is conducted in secret. The result of the vote is sent to the Academic Senate for a final decision.
- (3) ¹The TU Berlin Executive Board takes a decision based on the recommendations of the faculty board and Academic Senate. ²The holder of the honorary doctorate is to be informed of this decision in writing. ³The decision must be substantiated and issued with an instruction concerning the right to appeal. ⁴The decision to revoke the honorary doctorate includes the requirement to return the certificate to TU Berlin and the withdrawal and destruction of any copies as well as revocation of the right to use the title of honorary doctor.
- (4) All German-speaking universities will be notified of the revocation of the degree by the Executive Board of Technische Universität Berlin.
- (5) ¹ A revocation procedure is not initiated if the honorary doctorate was awarded 20 years or more prior. ²The initiation of a revocation procedure posthumously is excluded.

§ 15 - Transitional arrangements

- (1) ¹Doctoral procedures that were commenced prior to the enactment of these regulations will be concluded in accordance with the regulations that have thus far been in effect. ²Applicants who had already applied for acceptance as doctoral candidates at the time of the enactment of this regulation may, within a period of two years after the enactment, complete their doctorate in accordance with the regulations which were in effect at the time of their application. ³The choice should be made irrevocably with the application when commencing the doctoral procedure.

§ 16 - Entry into force/expiration

- (1) This bylaw takes effect the day following its publication in the Official Gazette of Technische Universität Berlin.
- (2) The doctoral regulations of 23 October 2006 (TU Official Gazette 6/2008, p.106 et seqq.) last amended by the version of 15 January 2014 (TU Official Gazette 2/2014, p. 24 et seqq.) apply exclusively until completion of the procedure in accordance with Section 15 (2) and no longer apply thereafter.

Appendix 1 to the Doctoral Regulations of Technische Universität Berlin

Responsibilities of the faculties for the awarding of doctoral degrees:

The degree Dr.-Ing. (Doctor of Engineering Sciences) is awarded by Faculties IV, V, VI and VII.

The degree Dr. rer. nat. (Doctor of Natural Sciences) is awarded by Faculties I, IV, V, VI and VII.

The degree Dr. phil. (Doctor of Philosophy) is awarded by Faculties I, V and VI.

The degree Dr. rer. oec. (Doctor of Economic Sciences) is awarded by Faculty VII.