

**ENGLISH INFORMATION ON THE  
OFFICIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

NO. 1454 – 04.02.2022

**Doctoral Regulations  
of the Faculty of  
Computer Science at the  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum**

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INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY. ONLY THE  
ORIGINAL (GERMAN) VERSION OF THE OFFICIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 1454 (Amtliche  
Bekanntmachung Nr. 1454 vom 25.01.2022) IS  
LEGALLY BINDING.**

**Translation of the  
Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of  
Computer Science  
of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum**

as of 25. 01. 2022

On the basis of Section 2 para. 4 in conjunction with Section 67 paras. 3 and 4 of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz - HG) of 16 September 2014 (GV. NRW. P. 547), last amended by Act of 25 November 2021 (GV. NRW. S. 1210a), the Ruhr-Universität Bochum has issued the following specific Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Computer Science on the basis of its General Doctoral Regulations of 04 November 2014:

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## **Preamble**

At the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, doctoral studies are possible in all subjects and research areas represented at the university.

With the General Regulations for Doctoral Studies, the Ruhr-Universität Bochum expresses its responsibility for all doctoral studies by

- ensuring a high level of transparency and quality of the procedures and thus contributing to quality assurance,
- setting both university-wide standards and taking into account subject-specific regulatory needs,
- facilitating interdisciplinary and cross-university doctoral studies.

Within the framework of the rules of the General Doctoral Regulations of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, the conceptualisation of the doctorate and the implementation of the doctoral procedures are the responsibility of the participating faculties or institutions supervising the doctoral procedure respectively. The Faculty of Computer Science has adopted these rules in the present specific Doctoral Regulations, has specified, and supplemented them with subject-specific regulations.

The Research School, which is supported by all faculties, offers all doctoral researchers a range of interdisciplinary and extra-disciplinary qualifications and enables each doctoral researcher to structure their doctorate according to subject-specific regulations and their own preferences.

Doctoral researchers are considered junior researchers.

The Ruhr-Universität Bochum is committed to a high supervision culture, which is made visible by a supervision agreement signed by the doctoral researchers and their supervisors.

All doctoral researchers are obligated to enrol at the university in accordance with Section 67 para. 5 HG. Enrolment for doctoral studies at the Faculty of Computer Science requires acceptance as doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Computer Science.

## **Section 1 Doctoral degree**

- (1) The Ruhr-Universität Bochum awards the doctorate through its faculties or doctorate-granting institutions.
- (2) The following doctoral degrees can be awarded at the Faculty of Computer Science at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum: Doctor of Engineering (Doktor-Ingenieur, Dr.-Ing.), Doctor of Natural Sciences (Doktor der Naturwissenschaften, Dr. rer. nat.) or “Philosophiae Doctor” (Philosophiae Doktor, Ph.D.).
- (3) A doctorate already awarded cannot be obtained a second time.
- (4) At the Faculty of Computer Science of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, a doctorate may also be awarded honorarily for special scientific achievements or for services to science as Doctor of Engineering honoris causa (Dr.-Ing. h.c.), as Doctor of Natural Sciences honoris causa (Dr. rer. nat. h.c.) or as Philosophiae Doctor honoris causa (Ph.D. h.c.).

## **Section 2 Purpose of the doctorate**

The doctorate demonstrates an aptitude for independent academic work that goes beyond the general study objective according to Section 58 para. 1 HG. The qualification is determined on the basis of a thesis (dissertation) that expands the state of knowledge in its subject area and an oral examination.

## **Section 3 Doctoral Board (Promotionsausschuss)**

- (1) The Doctoral Board of the Faculty of Computer Science decides on the implementation of the doctoral procedure, as well as on all questions regarding compliance with the Doctoral Regulations. The Doctoral Board may delegate the handling of day-to-day business to its chairperson. The Doctoral Board is a Complaints Committee in the sense of the Administrative Court Code (Verwaltungsgerichtsordnung).
- (2) The Doctoral Board of the Faculty of Computer Science consists of the following members:
  1. all professors employed full-time in the faculty,
  2. all full-time junior professors employed by the faculty,
  3. all full-time private lecturers employed by the faculty,
  4. all full-time adjunct professors employed in the faculty,
  5. three professors co-opted in the faculty, if applicable,
  6. two members of the faculty from the group of doctoral researchers and research assistants, at least one of whom should hold a doctorate.

Postdoctoral research assistants to whom the Rector of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum has delegated the independent performance of tasks in teaching and research belong to the group of professors according to No. 1; they have the respective rights and duties without restriction. This applies analogously to all corresponding provisions of these Doctoral Regulations. Members from the group according to number 6 who do not hold a doctorate have no voting rights in decisions that have to do with the assessment of scientific content.

- (3) The members according to para. 2 clauses 5 and 6 shall be elected by the Faculty Council.
- (4) Upon application, further members from the group of supervisors may be elected to the Doctoral Board by the Faculty Council in accordance with Section 7 para. 2. The mandate shall be three years. Re-election shall be permitted.
- (5) The chairperson of the Doctoral Board is either the dean or a deputy appointed by the dean. The chairperson and the deputy chairperson must be members of one of the groups mentioned in para. 2 clause 1.
- (6) The meetings of the Doctoral Board are not open to the public. They shall be convened by the chairperson. The Doctoral Board has a quorum if the majority of its members are present. It shall take its decisions by a majority of the members present and entitled to vote in all matters. In the event of a tie, the chairperson shall have the casting vote. Minutes shall be taken of each meeting under the responsibility of the chairperson.
- (7) The Doctoral Board has the following tasks, in particular:
  1. Decision on acceptance as doctoral researcher according to Section 6,

2. Determination of studies preparatory to doctoral studies in accordance with Section 5 para. 3,
  3. Determination of further study achievements as well as other achievements according to Section 5 para. 2,
  4. Decision on admission to the doctoral examination according to Section 9,
  5. Decision on the doctoral degree pursuant to Section 1, taking into account the doctoral researcher's statement pursuant to Section 6 para. 1 and Section 7 para. 6 no. 5; this decision may be delegated to the Doctoral Committee,
  6. Decision on the acceptance of dissertation in accordance with Section 12 para. 8,
  7. Decision on the acceptance of a cumulative dissertation in accordance with Section 11 para. 6,
  8. Appointment of the reviewers according to Section 10,
  9. Appointment of the Doctoral Committee pursuant to Section 10,
  10. Determination of the date of the oral examination, in the event of failure, setting of a deadline for the re-examination in accordance with Section 13 para. 1 and 8,
  11. Determination of the unsuccessful termination of doctoral procedures pursuant to Section 12 para. 9.
- (8) The decision of the Doctoral Board on the unsuccessful termination of the doctoral procedure shall be communicated to the applicant in writing, stating the reasons. The decision shall be accompanied by information on legal remedies.
- (9) The Doctoral Board may delegate individual tasks according to para. 7 to the chairperson for execution.

#### **Section 4 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Board**

- (1) In the case of interdisciplinary doctoral procedures, a joint Doctoral Board can be appointed by the Doctoral Boards of the participating faculties or doctoral-granting institutions at the suggestion of the first supervisor. This committee consists of the chairpersons of the Doctoral Boards of the participating faculties or doctoral-granting institutions of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum and at least four further members from the respective faculties or doctoral-granting institutions. This Interdisciplinary Doctoral Board exists only for the duration of the doctoral procedure.
- (2) The other members of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Board shall be elected by the Doctoral Boards of the participating faculties or doctoral-granting institutions for the duration of the procedure and shall be recruited from the status groups mentioned under Section 3 para. 2.
- (3) In the case of interdisciplinary doctoral procedures as a rule, one of the doctoral degrees listed in Section 1, para. 2 shall be awarded. On application, one of the other degrees of the participating faculties listed in Section 1 para. 3 of the General Doctoral Regulations may also be awarded.

- (4) In the case of an interdisciplinary doctoral procedure, the deaneries of the faculties concerned (or of the doctoral-granting institutions) regulate the administrative responsibilities for the procedure independently and by mutual agreement.
- (5) Section 3 paras. 6, 7 and 8 and Section 19 shall apply accordingly.

### **Section 5 Requirements for the doctorate**

- (1) Access to doctoral studies is granted to those who
  - a) have a degree after a relevant university course of study with a standard period of study of at least eight semesters, for which a degree other than “Bachelor” is awarded, or
  - b) a degree after a relevant university course of study with a standard period of study of at least six semesters and subsequent appropriate studies in the doctoral subjects preparing for the doctorate,
  - c) or a degree from a Master’s course of study within the meaning of Section 61, para. 2, sentence 2 HG.
- (2) Access to doctoral studies is dependent on proof of a qualified degree. Upon admission to doctoral studies according to para. 1, the Doctoral Board may set appropriate requirements depending on the doctorate applied for (see Section 6 para. 1 and 2). The scope, type, evidence of achievement to be provided and the period of time for their provision shall be determined in each individual case by the Doctoral Board in consultation with the candidate. The minimum required average overall grade of the credits to be awarded is also determined in advance by the Doctoral Board.
- (3) Access to doctoral studies according to para. 1 point b) can only be granted with a degree within the standard period of study and excellent performance. In addition, appropriate doctoral preparatory work of at least 60 credit points from subjects of the associated Master’s degree programme must subsequently be completed within one academic year, including at least 40 credit points from the compulsory and elective modules with a very good average grade. The Doctoral Board shall decide on exceptions.
- (4) The same requirements apply to applicants who have obtained their degree in countries outside the European Union, provided that the equivalence of the degree has been established. The Doctoral Board decides on the equivalence of degrees on the basis of intergovernmental agreements, the classification of the higher education institution at which the degree was obtained and on the basis of agreements with partner higher education institutions. If there is any doubt about equivalence, the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) should be consulted.
- (5) In order to pursue a doctorate at the Faculty of Computer Science at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, the Doctoral Board must have determined that the applicant has sufficient knowledge of a scientific language commonly used here – either German or English.

### **Section 6 Acceptance as doctoral researcher**

- (1) An application for acceptance as doctoral researcher must be submitted in writing to the chairperson of the Doctoral Board, stating the working title of the planned dissertation and the aspired doctorate. Acceptance entails the obligation to enrol as a doctoral researcher at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum and admission to the RUB Research School.

- (2) The application for a change of the doctorate applied for is possible until the time of admission to doctoral examination and must be confirmed by the Doctoral Board.
- (3) In the case of an acceptance according to Section 5 para. 3, the doctoral researcher may, in consultation with the first supervisor, enrol in a corresponding Master's programme for a second degree and complete a Master's programme according to the Master's Programme Regulations valid there.
- (4) The application shall be accompanied by:
  1. a curriculum vitae (with educational background and professional career, if applicable),
  2. a certificate of completion in accordance with Section 5 para. 1,
  3. a certificate entitling the holder to study at a German higher education institution or another higher education entrance qualification,
  4. a signed supervision agreement in accordance with Section 7 para. 6,
  5. the acknowledgement of the "Guidelines for Good Scientific Practice" in the respective current version, documented by signature,
  6. a recommendation from the supervisors to set conditions,
  7. in the case of admission in accordance with Section 5 para. 1 letter b), proof of the preparatory studies for the doctorate.
- (5) The Doctoral Board decides on the acceptance of the doctoral researcher. Acceptance must be refused if
  - a) the formal requirements for the doctorate are not met,
  - b) no suitable supervisor can be appointed by the Doctoral Board,
  - c) the provision of work equipment and/or the workplace is not secured.
- (6) The Doctoral Board cannot cause a person to accept or reject a candidate as a doctoral researcher, nor can doctoral researchers be assigned to a person for supervision against their will.
- (7) The decision will be communicated to the applicant in writing. If applicable, conditions pursuant to Section 5 paras. 2 and 3 are formulated therein. Reasons shall be given for any refusal. Upon acceptance, the applicant is entered in the doctoral register. Acceptance as doctoral researcher does not imply a decision on admission to the doctoral procedure.

## **Section 6a Doctoral studies and programmes**

"not applicable"

## **Section 7 Supervision and supervision agreement**

- (1) Acceptance as doctoral researcher entitles the holder to referral to the Doctoral Board and supervision by at least two supervisors, and, after admission in accordance with Section 9, to peer review of the dissertation. The first supervisor must be qualified in the subject area relevant to the doctoral project. The additional supervisor may represent a different subject area than the first supervisor.
- (2) The following persons may be appointed as supervisors according to para. 1 by the Doctoral Board:
  - a) Full-time employees at the Ruhr-Universität or another higher education institution
    - i. Professors,
    - ii. Junior professors,
    - iii. Private lecturers,
    - iv. Adjunct professors,
    - v. Co-opted professors,
    - vi. Postdoctoral junior research group leaders,
  - b) Full-time employees at the Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy (MPI)
    - i. Directors,
    - ii. Research group leaders,
    - iii. Postdoctoral junior research group leaders,
  - c) Postdoctoral scientists with habilitation-equivalent achievements who have a proven track record in the field.

If a supervisor loses the status described in para. 2 (a-c), the Doctoral Board may decide to extend their supervisory mandate for a certain period of time or until the completion of the doctorate.
- (3) If a supervisor is not a member of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum or co-opted to it, another supervisor must be a member of the Faculty of Computer Science.
- (4) In the event of good cause, the supervisory relationship may be terminated upon application by the supervisor or the doctoral researcher to the Doctoral Board. An important reason is, in particular, the breakdown of the relationship of trust between the parties involved. After a supervisory relationship has been terminated, the Doctoral Board shall endeavour to find another supervisor at the doctoral researcher's request. If no supervisory relationship can be arranged, the acceptance as doctoral researcher shall be withdrawn in accordance with Section 6.
- (5) In cases of conflict, the responsible Doctoral Board and – for doctoral researchers – the ombudsperson of the RUB Research School, as well as – for supervisors – the ombudsperson of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum are available as contact persons.
- (6) The rights and duties of doctoral researchers and supervisors are governed by a supervision agreement in accordance with the annex to these regulations. This contains the following elements:



1. Name of the doctoral researcher, name of the first and second supervisor and start of the doctoral project,
2. Working title of the intended dissertation,
3. Deadline for submission of an exposé after or at the start of the doctoral project describing the research questions of the intended dissertation, the state of the literature and the research methods.
4. Signatures of the doctoral researcher and the supervisors. The name and signature of the second supervisor can be submitted up to twelve months after submission of the application at the latest.
5. Indication of the intended doctorate according to Section 1.

### **Section 8 Structure of the doctorate**

- (1) The Ruhr-Universität Bochum offers doctoral researchers the opportunity to structure their doctorate. Depending on their needs, doctoral researchers can acquire a qualification profile tailored to their individual research project by using the qualification offers of the faculty, the RUB Research School or the MPI PhD School.
- (2) Events from graduate schools, doctoral programmes or other subject-specific formats of structured doctoral studies and events of the RUB Research School can be recognised.

### **Section 9 Admission to doctoral examination**

- (1) After completion of the dissertation, the doctoral researcher submits a written application for admission to doctoral studies to the chairperson of the Doctoral Board. The application shall be accompanied by:
  1. three copies of the dissertation in bound or stapled form,
  2. a one-page abstract of the dissertation in German, including the title of the dissertation and the name of the applicant,
  3. a data carrier with the dissertation in electronic form, as a full-text searchable document, as well as the abstract according to clause 2,
  4. a signed declaration with the following wording: "I declare in lieu of an oath that I have written the submitted dissertation independently and without any unauthorised outside help, that I have not used any literature other than that stated in it and that I have marked all passages in the text that I have taken over completely or approximately as well as graphics, tables and evaluation programmes that I have used. Furthermore, I assure that the submitted electronic version corresponds to the written version of the dissertation and that the paper has not been submitted and assessed elsewhere as a doctoral dissertation in this or a similar form",
  5. a statement that digital images contain only the original data or clear documentation of the nature and extent of the content-modifying image processing,
  6. written assurance that no commercial mediation or advice has been used,
  7. if applicable, a declaration by the applicant on the exclusion of the university public during the oral examination within the meaning of Section 63 para. 4 HG.

8. An overview of own academic publications and conference participations structured into
    - a) peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals (peer-reviewed journal papers),
    - b) peer-reviewed publication at scientific conferences with conference proceedings (peer-reviewed conference papers in proceedings),
    - c) other publications,
    - d) list of meeting and conference participations.
  9. If acceptance has taken place in accordance with Section 5 para. 2, proof of the fulfilment of the requirements shall be submitted. If the requirements have not been successfully completed, the Doctoral Board will withdraw the acceptance as doctoral researcher.
- (2) The Doctoral Board decides on the basis of the submitted documents on the admission to the doctoral procedure and the award of the doctorate according to Section 1. Admission may be refused if the candidate
- a) has not submitted the documents by the set deadlines or has not submitted them in full,
  - b) has applied for admission to another higher education institution at the same time,
  - c) has not prepared parts of the dissertation themselves or has not clearly indicated that they have adopted the ideas of others.

The opening may also be refused if the candidate has one of the reasons for the withdrawal of the doctorate specified in Section 17 para. 5.

- (3) The decision will be communicated to the applicant in writing. Reasons shall be given for a refusal and a notice of appeal shall be included.

### **Section 10 Doctoral (degree) committee**

- (1) For each doctoral procedure, the Doctoral Board appoints a Doctoral Committee with a chairperson. The chairperson of the Doctoral Committee is appointed by the Doctoral Board from among the members of the faculty named in Section 3 para. 2 under clauses 1 and 2. The Doctoral Committee is the body responsible for conducting the oral examination and determining the overall grade.
- (2) The Doctoral Committee consists of the chairperson and the reviewers of the dissertation, as well as two further members who must belong to the group of persons named in Section 7 para. 2.
- (3) Each dissertation is assessed by two or three reviewers. For the appointment of a reviewer, the same provisions Section 7 paras. 2 and 3 apply as for supervisors. At least one review should be obtained outside the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, if this can result in a better quality of reviews. Upon request, the resolution shall be adopted by secret vote.
- (4) If the doctoral researcher has been admitted to the doctorate, the Doctoral Board appoints the reviewers for the dissertation. The reviewers are obligated to submit independent written reviews.
- (5) All members of the Doctoral Committee have voting rights. The Doctoral Committee decides by a simple majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the chairperson shall have the casting

vote. Abstentions shall not be permitted.

- (6) Should a previously appointed member of the Doctoral Committee be unable to carry out the doctoral procedure (e.g. due to absence due to illness), the chairperson of the Doctoral Board shall appoint a substitute member.

### **Section 11 Dissertation**

- (1) With the dissertation, the doctoral researcher must demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research work in their field of research. The dissertation must contain new scientific results of its own and meet scientific standards in its presentation.
- (2) The dissertation may not have been or be used in any other doctoral procedure or comparable procedure at a higher education institution in Germany or abroad, unless otherwise stated in these regulations.
- (3) The dissertation should be written in German or English. The Doctoral Board shall decide on exceptions.
- (4) Pre-publication of dissertation results in mutual agreement with the first supervisor is desirable. Pre-published results must be identified in the dissertation.
- (5) If the dissertation resulted from collaborative research work, the individual contribution of the applicant must be documented or elaborated accordingly.
- (6) A cumulative dissertation consisting of several scientific papers may be recognised if these papers are thematically related, have undergone a procedure for scientific quality assurance and, in their entirety, meet the requirements pursuant to Section 11, para. 1. Further details are regulated by an implementation regulation of the Doctoral Board. A cumulative dissertation requires the approval of the first supervisor and must be applied for and approved by the Doctoral Board by the doctoral researcher at the latest when applying for admission to the doctoral procedure.
- (7) The doctoral researcher may withdraw the dissertation as long as no review has been issued. In this case, the dissertation shall be deemed not to have been submitted and the doctoral examination shall be deemed not to have been opened. If the doctoral researcher withdraws the dissertation at a later point in time, the doctoral examination is terminated without success.
- (8) A copy of the dissertation will be kept in accordance with the "Guidelines on the Retention, Separation, Archiving and Destruction of Files" of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, even if the procedure is terminated unsuccessfully.

### **Section 12 Evaluation of the dissertation**

- (1) The dissertation is forwarded to the reviewers by the Doctoral Board in accordance with Section 10. As a rule, they recommend acceptance, amendment, revision or rejection of the thesis to the Doctoral Board in independent written reports within three months of submission of the thesis. In case of acceptance, they simultaneously propose an evaluation with the following predicates: summa cum laude (excellent), magna cum laude (very good), cum laude (good), rite (sufficient).
- (2) If a reviewer recommends complementing, revising or rejecting the dissertation, the Doctoral Committee decides on the return of the dissertation to the doctoral researcher and,

if necessary, sets an appropriate deadline for resubmission. The decision to return can also be made if not all reviews are available yet; the other reviews then do not need to be prepared.

- (3) The return of the dissertation and the resubmission in accordance with Section 11 para. 7 or Section 12 para. 2 are only possible once. When resubmitted, the dissertation is usually to be submitted to the same reviewers as before it was returned.
- (4) Even if they recommend acceptance, the reviewers may combine their assessment with conditions for supplementing and revising the dissertation for printing, if necessary, even after the oral examination but before the doctoral researcher is notified of the overall grade in accordance with Section 14 para. 6.
- (5) The dissertation and the reviews shall be made accessible to the members of the Doctoral Committee, as well as to all members of the Doctoral Board by the Dean's Office by means of a suitable procedure ensuring confidentiality.
- (6) The dissertation shall be displayed in the Dean's Office for inspection by the members of the Doctoral Board in accordance with Section 3 para. 2 Nos. 1 to 5 or Section 3 para. 4 for a period of at least 14 days, who shall be notified of the display period in writing.
- (7) Each member of the Doctoral Board according to Section 3 para. 2 nos. 1 to 5 or Section 3 para. 4 may register a statement during the display period, which must be submitted in written form to the chairperson of the Doctoral Board no later than 14 days after the end of the display period.
- (8) The Doctoral Board decides on the final acceptance or rejection of the dissertation on the basis of the reviews and any comments.
- (9) If the dissertation is rejected, the doctoral procedure is terminated. Another thesis or a fundamentally revised version of the previous thesis with the same topic may be submitted after six months at the earliest. If the application is rejected again, further applications for a doctorate at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum are not permitted.

### **Section 13 Oral examination**

- (1) If the dissertation has been accepted, the date of the oral examination is set in consultation with the candidate. The oral examination should be held within six months of the submission of the dissertation. If the candidate misses an examination date or if the examination is discontinued, the examination is deemed to have been failed, unless there is an important reason, which must be reported immediately in writing and made credible. In case of illness, a medical certificate must be presented. If the Doctoral Committee recognises the reason, a new examination date shall be set.
- (2) The oral examination is conducted by the Doctoral Committee under the direction of the chairperson.
- (3) In the oral examination, the doctoral researcher is to prove that they are able to present the results developed by them in the dissertation, to justify them in the face of questions and objections, to discuss them scientifically and to place them in the scientific context of the subject of computer science.
- (4) The oral examination usually lasts 60 to 90 minutes and begins with a report by the doctoral researcher lasting 20 to 30 minutes on the most important results of the dissertation. The

lecture should take into account the nature of the examination; the use of technical aids is to be limited to the necessary extent.

- (5) The members of the Doctoral Board, as well as the members of the Doctoral Committee authorised to supervise in accordance with Section 3 para. 2 Nos. 1 to 5 or Section 3 para. 4 are entitled to ask questions during the oral examination. In addition, the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee may allow questions from the audience.
- (6) The oral examination is open to the public at the university in accordance with Section 63 para. 4 HG. If there is a declaration pursuant to Section 9 par. 1 fig. 7, the public shall be excluded. The Doctoral Board does not count as a member of the public. The chairperson of the Doctoral Committee decides on an extension of the public in consultation with the candidate.
- (7) Minutes of the oral examination shall be kept and signed by the members of the Doctoral Committee.
- (8) If the oral examination is judged to be failed, it may be repeated once. A further repetition is only possible in justified exceptional cases after approval by the Doctoral Board. Para. 1 shall apply accordingly to repeat examinations.

#### **Section 14 Assessment of the doctorate**

- (1) Immediately after the end of the oral examination, the Doctoral Committee decides in closed session whether the doctoral researcher's performance meets the requirements specified in Section 2 and Section 13, para. 3.
- (2) In the case of a positive decision, the Doctoral Committee evaluates the oral examination with one of the following grades: *summa cum laude* (excellent), *magna cum laude* (very good), *cum laude* (good), *rite* (sufficient).
- (3) The Doctoral Committee then determines an overall grade according to the scale in para. 2 for the doctorate, taking into account the grades of the dissertation and the oral examination.
- (4) The Doctoral Committee may award the overall grade *summa cum laude* in exceptional cases and in consideration of the overall impression. The prerequisites for this are that
  - a) at least three reviews have been obtained in accordance with Section 10 para. 3, at least one of which has been prepared by an independent reviewer who is not a member of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum,
  - b) at least one review already explicitly mentions this overall rating and contains a detailed appreciation of the candidate's scientific publications,
  - c) not more than one member of the Doctoral Committee objects to the award of the distinction *summa cum laude*.
- (5) If the distinction *summa cum laude* is awarded, the record of the doctoral examination shall state what the outstanding achievements consist of.
- (6) The chairperson of the Doctoral Committee shall inform the doctoral researcher to the exclusion of the public of the result of the deliberations immediately after the decision of the Doctoral Committee.
- (7) If the examination is passed, the doctorate is completed and the chairperson of the Doctoral Board issues a provisional certificate on request of the doctoral researcher. This certificate

does not yet entitle the holder to use the doctoral title.

### **Section 15 Legal remedies**

- (1) Rejection decisions made in accordance with these regulations shall be justified in writing, accompanied by information on legal remedies and communicated to the doctoral researcher.
- (2) An appeal against decisions of the Doctoral Committee and the Doctoral Board may be lodged with the chairperson of the Doctoral Board in writing or in writing in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Court Code within one month of notification, insofar as the decision concerns the assessment of an examination performance.
- (3) The Doctoral Board may amend decisions against which an appeal is lodged. If the objection is directed against the assessment of a doctoral thesis by the Doctoral Committee, an amending decision may only be taken with the consent of the Doctoral Committee which decided on the contested assessment. If the objection is not upheld, a notice of objection (Widerspruchsbescheid) is issued by the chairperson of the Doctoral Board. The notice of objection shall state the grounds on which it is based, be accompanied by information on the right of appeal and be served.
- (4) After completion of the doctoral procedure, the candidate or a person appointed by them has the right to inspect all written doctoral documents within a period of three months. The doctoral files are not accessible to third parties.

### **Section 16 Mandatory copies and publication**

- (1) After the oral examination has been passed, the chairperson of the Doctoral Board shall inform the doctoral researcher whether and, if so, which amendment requirements pursuant to Section 12 para. 1 and 4 must be fulfilled before the dissertation can be published. The appropriately revised manuscript must be submitted to at least one reviewer for approval before the production of the deposit copies.
- (2) The doctoral researcher is obliged to make their dissertation accessible to the scientific public in an appropriate manner. This obligation is fulfilled by delivery of
  - a) two printed copies, if the dissertation has been published by a publisher and has an ISBN number, and an electronic version, which remains on file with the faculty, or
  - b) two printed copies and an electronic version of the dissertation, the data format and data carrier of which are to be agreed with the university library, and at least two printed copies for the university library

within one year after the oral examination. Upon justified application before the deadline, the Doctoral Board may extend the delivery deadline once. If the doctoral researcher misses these deadlines, all rights acquired through the examination expire.

Upon publication in accordance with letter b), the doctoral researcher transfers to the university library of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum the right to produce and distribute further copies of their dissertation within the scope of its statutory duties and to make the dissertation available on data networks.

**Section 17 Doctoral certificate;  
Use and withdrawal of the doctoral degree**

- (1) The doctoral certificate shall be issued and handed over on the day of the oral examination as soon as the doctoral researcher has fulfilled the obligations pursuant to Section 16. The doctoral certificate contains only the overall grade. It shall be signed by the dean. In the case of interdisciplinary doctoral procedures, Section 4 para. 4 shall apply accordingly.
- (2) With the award of the doctoral certificate, the holder of the doctorate is entitled to use the degree “Doktor-Ingenieur” (Dr.-Ing.), “Doktor der Naturwissenschaften” (Dr. rer. nat.) or “Philosophiae Doctor” (Ph.D.).
- (3) In the case of publication of the dissertation in accordance with Section 16 para. 2 letter a), the certificate may be handed over if the doctoral researcher submits a publishing agreement or a written confirmation from the publisher of the series in question stating that the dissertation can be obtained via book trade and that it is assigned an ISBN. If the publishing contract or the agreement with the editor of the series in question provides for advance payment on printing costs, the doctoral researcher must prove that payment has been made or secured.
- (4) If it is established before the doctoral certificate is awarded that the doctoral researcher was guilty of deception in the doctoral procedure, the Doctoral Board may refuse the doctorate and declare the procedure invalid.
- (5) The withdrawal of the doctorate and the confiscation of the doctoral certificate and, if applicable, the doctoral diploma may be effected if the doctoral researcher
  - a) has obtained the doctorate through academic misconduct, deception or essentially incorrect information, or if the prerequisites for admission to doctoral studies have been erroneously assumed to have been met,
  - b) has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of at least one year for an intentional criminal offence,
  - c) has been convicted of an intentional criminal offence in the preparation or commission of which he or she misused the doctorate,
  - d) proves unworthy to hold the doctorate through subsequent academic misconduct.
- (6) The decision on the withdrawal of the doctorate is taken by the Doctoral Board with the majority of its doctoral members. The decision is made by the dean.
- (7) The Rector of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum shall inform the competent ministry of the withdrawal of the doctorate.

**Section 18 Inter-university doctoral procedures**

The Doctoral Board may agree with other universities, in particular, foreign universities, on the implementation of joint doctoral procedures or the joint award of a doctorate. Corresponding contracts shall be adopted by the Faculty of Computer Science; they may deviate from the provisions of these regulations.

### **Section 19 Honorary doctorate**

- (1) The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Computer Science at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum may award a doctorate honoris causa in accordance with Section 1 para. 4 for special scientific merits, technical achievements or corresponding idealistic merits in the advancement of computer science.
- (2) The procedure can only be initiated at the request of one or more professors of the Faculty of Computer Science of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum to the chairperson of the Doctoral Board.
- (3) If the Doctoral Board approves the initiation of the procedure, it shall elect a committee of five members from among its members. The latter reports to the Doctoral Board on the merits of the person to be honoured.
- (4) A four-fifths majority of the members of the Doctoral Board present is required for the recommendation of the Doctoral Board to the Faculty Council for the resolution of an honorary doctorate.
- (5) The honorary doctorate is awarded by the dean by handing out a certificate in which a commendation speech ("Laudatio") is to be included.

### **Section 20 Renewal of the doctoral certificate**

- (1) The doctoral certificate may be renewed in a formal ceremony on the occasion of the 50th anniversary year of its award at the proposal of the faculty ("Golden Doctorate").
- (2) Para. 1 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the 25th anniversary year application ("Silver Doctorate").
- (3) If possible, the award will be presented at a central university ceremony.

### **Section 21 Entry into force, transitional provisions, amendments**

- (1) The Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Computer Science come into force on the day after their publication in the Official Announcements of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum and apply to all those who enrol as a doctoral researcher at the Faculty from this point onwards.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT SERVES AN INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY. ONLY THE ORIGINAL (GERMAN) VERSION OF THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 1454 (Amtliche Bekanntmachung Nr. 1454 vom 25.01.2022) IS LEGALLY BINDING.**

After the expiry of one year after the announcement of these regulations, violations of procedural or formal regulations of the Higher Education Act or of the university's regulations or other law may only be asserted under the conditions of Section 12, para. 5 a) to d) of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia.



**Supervision agreement**

between Ms./Mr.

..... (doctoral researcher)

and Ms./Mr.

..... (1. Supervisor)

and Ms./Mr.

..... (2. Supervisor)

a supervision agreement pertaining to a doctoral project planned at the Faculty of Computer Science of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum on the topic (working title)

**Working title in German:**

.....  
.....

**Working title in English:**

.....  
.....

is hereby concluded.

The following doctorate is pursued in accordance with Section 1 of the Doctoral Regulations:

.....

This agreement is intended to ensure both the academic supervision required for the success of the doctoral project on the part of the supervisor and the participation of the doctoral researcher in adequate doctoral preparation in terms of content and methodology, as well as in research-relevant and extra- and interdisciplinary qualification courses. In detail, the following is agreed for this purpose:

1. The supervisors and the doctoral researcher agree on regular reporting on the progress of the dissertation. This takes place at least quarterly within the framework of personal discussions.
2. In consultation with their supervisors, doctoral researchers take part in courses or further training, provided that they are relevant to their dissertation project.
3. The doctoral researcher prepares an exposé containing a description of the doctoral project. The deadline for submission is set in agreement between the doctoral researcher and the supervisor. It is a maximum of six months.
4. The Doctoral Board must be notified immediately of any termination of the supervisory relationship.

Bochum, date

Signature

Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doctoral researcher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisors