

**General Doctoral Regulations of the Technische Universität Darmstadt from 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1990 (ABI. 1990, pg. 658). Version VII, modified on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2010**

**§ 1**

**PhD studies**

**Right of the departments to award doctoral degrees**

(1) According to the general regulations of this document and the Specific Regulations of the each department, the departments of the Technische Universität Darmstadt are entitled to award the following academic degrees:

- Doctor of Engineering (Dr.Eng.)
- Doctor rerum naturalium (Dr.rer.nat.)
- Doctor rerum politicarum (Dr.rer.pol.)
- Doctor philosophiae (Dr. phil.)
- Doctor iuris (Dr. iur.)

(2) A doctoral degree is proof of special scientific qualifications. As a rule, a completed university degree verified with a professionally certifying diploma is required as a prerequisite.

(3) To encourage interdisciplinary research, doctoral studies in more than one department are possible. In such cases, the department to which the candidate's petition of acceptance (§7) is directed is considered the leading department. The PhD board of the leading department is then supplemented with members from the department whose specialized evaluation is required for the dissertation. The leading department bestows the doctoral degree.

(4) A simultaneous doctoral degree at both a foreign university and a university in Germany is permitted. The details of such doctoral studies are to be outlined in a Cooperation Agreement between the universities in question.

**§ 2**

**Responsibility**

(1) The PhD board and examination committee of the department in question is responsible for making decisions on PhD proceedings, unless otherwise stated in this document.

(2) Subject-specific regulations in each department are supplementary to this document, and must not contradict the terms herein.

(3) With the consent of university administration, one or more departments are permitted to collectively set up graduate schools as interdisciplinary academic institutions of the TU Darmstadt. PhD students who study in a graduate school are considered students in the overriding department. If several departments are involved in one graduate school, the overriding department is determined according to the primary professorship of the supervising professor.

(4) Within the framework of the examination regulations/academic partial examination (PO/AT) and the Specific Departmental Regulations, graduate schools may set up their own Specific Regulations for PhD studies and for the organisation of the supervision process. These regulations can be outlined in a set of rules conceived in consultation with the involved departments.

**§ 3**

**PhD board**

(1) Members of the PhD board are:

- a) The dean or his/her substitute as board chair
- b) At least three full-time professors as permanent members
- c) At least one research fellow with a PhD (alternatively, a research fellow without a PhD with an advisory vote)
- d) One student with an advisory vote.

(2) The members of the PhD board according to par. 1b) and c) are appointed by the department council on a three-year basis. The member according to par. 1d) is selected on a one-year basis. An overlap in the

appointment periods should be planned for the sake of continuity.

(3) The PhD board is responsible for all matters of course relating to PhD studies. Specifically, the PhD board is responsible for the admission of PhD students, appointing members to the examination committee and deciding the chairperson, supervisors and the referees therein. The PhD board also decides on the transferability of transcripts, including in cases where the subject area of the dissertation is not identical to the subject area(s) of the previous course of studies. The PhD board is also responsible for assessing foreign transcripts, if necessary with the support of the international office. Foreign transcripts must be submitted in legally attested translation. In the case of uncertainty on the equivalency of foreign transcripts, the assessment criteria released by the central office for foreign academics (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) at the permanent conference of the cultural minister for the countries (ständige Konferenz der Kultusminister der Länder) provide a reliable guideline.

#### **§ 4**

##### **Examination committee**

(1) The examination committee is made up of:

- a) The chairperson
- b) The referees of the dissertation
- c) At least two other full-time professors
- d) Other additional examiners as defined by the PhD board, as long as full-time professors from the department still form the majority.

(2) The examination committee decides on the admission, alteration or rejection of dissertations, carries out the thesis defence and assesses the dissertation. It decides if the thesis defence should be repeated and sets the requirements for the publication of the dissertation.

(3) The examination committee corresponds to the PhD board according to § 31 par. 5 HHG.

#### **§ 5**

##### **Objection against decisions in the PhD process**

(1) Every remonstrative decision of the PhD board or the examination committee must be justified and accompanied with proof of legal legitimacy.

(2) If an objection is submitted against a decision made by the PhD board or examination committee and if the panel in question does not wish to redress the decision, then it is the responsibility of the dean to consult with the department council. The decision of the latter is binding for the involved panel.

(3) Par. 2 does not apply in matters of judgement or evaluation.

(4) The president issues all statements of objection.

#### **§ 6**

##### **Collective PhD board in more than one department**

(1) The Specific Departmental Regulations of related departments can permit the building of collective PhD boards, if the contents of the Specific Regulations are the same in both departments.

(2) For a collective PhD board, the regulations of §3 apply along with the following stipulations:

a) The chair of a collective PhD board switches between the deans of the involved departments or their substitutes according to their times in office. Other regulations can also be put in place.

b) Permanent members of the PhD board are appointed by the department councils of the departments in question. The number of members and the process of their appointment are to be collectively stipulated in the specific regulations.

(3) All other decisions within the responsibility of the department council

according to this document are to be reached by the department council in which the applicant submits his/her request.

## § 7

### **Acceptance of PhD students and aptitude assessment procedure**

(1) Applications for PhD studies are to be directed to the dean of the department in question. The topic of the dissertation must be taken from research areas that are sufficiently represented at the TU Darmstadt in research and instruction.

(2) The PhD board decides on the acceptance of PhD students. The rejection of an application must be sufficiently justified. An application can be rejected if an appropriate dissertation supervisor according to § 10 par. 1 cannot be found or if sufficient resources cannot be provided. There is no entitlement to an aptitude assessment procedure or to acceptance. The PhD board guarantees the final evaluation of the PhD student's work through the acceptance of the PhD student. The specific regulations of the departments determine the required field of the prerequisite degree for acceptance. They may also set a minimum grade for acceptance.

(3) The prerequisites for acceptance for PhD studies can be any of the following:

a) A master degree from the TU Darmstadt in the dissertation subject area or an equivalent degree in a sufficiently research-oriented subject area. The prerequisite degree should consist of 300 credit points according to the ECTS system. Equivalent university degrees in the dissertation subject area are: Diplom, Magister Artium and, when permitted in the Specific Departmental Regulations, a degree ending with state exams. Certified proof of the completed degree must be provided.

b) A Master of Education in teaching at vocational schools with at least 120 credit points according to the ECTS system, when permitted in the specific regulations.

c) The specific regulations of the departments may approve the admission for PhD studies without a master degree. In such cases, a special proposal must be submitted, in which proof of the necessary master-degree qualifications for admission for PhD studies is provided.

d) A degree authorizing admission for PhD studies from a foreign university with the equivalent qualifications outlined in a), which is deemed equivalent by the PhD board of the admitting department. If a foreign degree is not deemed equivalent, the department must carry out an aptitude assessment procedure.

(4) If a degree is not deemed equivalent to the qualifications outlined in a), or there is doubt as to the specialisation of a qualifying degree, then the admitting department is to carry out an aptitude assessment procedure. In the case outlined in par. 3, c), an aptitude assessment procedure is obligatory.

(5) Applicants applying with a degree as described in par. 3, a) in a subject area other than those defined according to par. 1 s. 4 in the specific regulations of the department where the research is to take place may be accepted for PhD studies in the interest of interdisciplinary research. In this case, the applicant must possess the sufficient knowledge in the subject of the dissertation. The PhD board decides on the admittance of such applicants as well as if additional documentation is required, such as proof of participation in certain courses.

(6) The PhD board can provide restrictions upon admittance of applicants, which normally must be fulfilled within two years, or at the latest by the commencement of the PhD process (submission of the dissertation). Such restrictions are intended to secure the academic capability of applicants. They can most specifically extend to the successful participation in certain courses and the completion of certain examinations.

(7) Scope, length and all other details of the aptitude assessment procedure are to be outlined in the specific departmental

regulations. The aptitude assessment procedure is meant to test if the applicant possesses the necessary competencies for independent doctoral research. The aptitude assessment procedure may require the completion of certain examinations and courses. In such cases the applicant in question is enrolled as a PhD student, as long as he or she is not employed at the TU Darmstadt. The length of the aptitude assessment procedure should generally not exceed two semesters and part-time studies are permitted. The aptitude assessment procedure ends with an assessment of "suitable" or "not suitable". The organisation of the aptitude assessment procedure as defined in the General Examination Terms of the TU Darmstadt (GET) from April 19<sup>th</sup> 2004 (government gazette nr. 25 from June 21<sup>st</sup> 2004, p. 1998) applies.

## **§ 8**

### **Commencement of the PhD process and admission**

(1) Doctoral studies begin with a written petition to the faculty director of the department in question. The petition must be submitted with the following documents:

- a) A personal and an academic resume,
- b) At least three written copies of the dissertation,
- c) A document stating if a PhD has already been attempted by the student, if applicable with details as to the time, institution and dissertation topic as well as the result of the attempt.

(2) The PhD board decides on admissions.

(3) An application can be rejected if the full documentation described in par. 1 is not submitted or if the applicant has a previous PhD attempt.

(4) Applicants who fulfil the requirements of § 7 may directly apply for the commencement of the PhD process as unsupervised PhD students. The application may not be rejected if the admitting department is responsible for the topic of the candidate's dissertation. This does not apply

if the subject area in which the dissertation has been written is not sufficiently represented in the department, or if an orderly execution of the research and experiments and a correct carrying out of the work by the student cannot be verified.

(5) Proof of payment of the study fee of Euro 100,- with the receipt must be made. The fee will be paid back if the dissertation is honoured with an academic prize. Furthermore, the chair of the PhD board may defer the fee for needy applicants whose abilities promise an exceptional doctoral performance until the evaluation, at which point the fee may be reduced or eliminated. A refund of the already paid fee is only permitted as an exception in the case of properly withdrawn petitions.

(6) A withdrawal of a PhD petition is possible with a specific justification from the applicant, which is acknowledged by the PhD board. This is only possible as long as the PhD process has not already been stopped as a result of a rejection of the dissertation and the oral examination has not yet begun. In all cases a copy of the submitted dissertation remains in the university's files.

## **§ 9**

### **The dissertation**

(1) The dissertation must be associated with one of the research areas in the departments. As an independent research achievement meeting academic standards, the dissertation is expected to contribute to the furthering of scientific knowledge. Dissertations being submitted in a language other than German must be approved by the PhD board upon admission of the applicant. The right to apply for permission at a later date remains notwithstanding. A German-language summary must be submitted with all foreign-language dissertations, which must be approved by the first referee. A complete bibliography of all resources used in the dissertation is also to be included, as well as a signed statement from the author that the

text, aside from explicitly cited passages, is original from the author.

(2) Papers that have already been used for examination purposes are not accepted as a dissertation. The results of such works may, however, be used in the dissertation and must be cited in the bibliography.

(3) If a research project has been completed by several doctoral students, a separate PhD process must be carried out for each candidate. The individual achievement of each candidate must be identifiable and individually evaluable. Furthermore, the conditions of par. 1 remain here in effect.

(4) The specific departmental regulations may approve a cumulative dissertation. With the approval of the PhD board the exception can be made for a cumulative dissertation out of several scientific publications, as long as the publications are taken out of scientifically recognized sources. Further, a signed statement from the referees of the PhD process must be provided, that he or she had no involvement in the assessment of the publication. If the publications used for a cumulative dissertation are not solely the work of the PhD candidate, a statement signed by the PhD candidate, all co-authors as well as the supervisor (generally of the referee) must be provided. This statement should allow a clear delineation of the individual achievement along objective guidelines. The contribution of the PhD candidate in the publication must be explicitly given. A detailed introduction must be provided for cumulative dissertations, in which the theoretical frame of reference is explained as well as the placement of the individual publications in a cohesive scientific context. There is no legal claim for this form of dissertation. A cumulative dissertation is excluded for PhD candidates in the categories of § 7 par. 3, b) and § 7 par. 3, c).

## **§ 10**

### **Supervision of the dissertation**

(1) Dissertations are generally written under the supervision of one of the members of the group of professors. In special cases the supervision can be taken on by one of the people listed in § 11 par. 2, b). The person in question should make the topic of the dissertation (preliminary working title) known to the dean as early as possible. The Specific Departmental Regulations can define further terms regarding supervision.

(2) With the application for PhD studies, the applicant must provide a suggestion for a possible supervisor. A comment from the suggested person must be attached. If the applicant is not able to provide a supervisor the PhD board must take measures to find one. The supervision begins with the admission of a PhD student according to § 7 par. 2, which is a requirement. The PhD board is to decide promptly on the admission of PhD students.

(3) The reasons for a change in supervisor or an interruption or termination of the supervisory relationship must be communicated in writing to the PhD board before the submission of the dissertation. If the supervision becomes impossible before the completion of the dissertation, the PhD board bears the responsibility, upon request of the candidate, as far as possible for finding a suitable replacement according to the criteria of par. 1. In conflict situations each party receives the right to state their position beforehand.

(4) When another member of the group of professors takes over supervision, a new application as detailed in § 7 is not required.

(5) No more than five years should lie between the admission as PhD student and the commencement of the PhD process. If this limit is exceeded, the PhD board may require a report on the progress of the dissertation. In such cases, the supervisor is given opportunity to state their opinion beforehand. If the report on the progress of the dissertation does not show promise of

completion within a further two years, an extension can be granted with restrictions that ensure completion. The PhD board can cancel the admission of a PhD student if an assessment of the progress report and the status of the dissertation show no sign that the dissertation can be successfully completed in reasonable time. The statement of the PhD student is to be heard before such a decision is made. A cancellation is excluded when the delay was not caused by the PhD student personally. To this category belong especially parental leave according to § 15 BEEG and compulsory military service according to art. 12 a, par. 1 or 2 of the constitution, as well as any comparable voluntary service of up to two years. The Specific Departmental Regulations can include further regulations relating to the time limit. The PhD student is to be exmatriculated under the legal force of this decision, if he or she was immatriculated.

(6) The completion of a dissertation without supervision is not excluded according to these regulations. In this case, § 8 par. 2 applies.

## **§ 11**

### **Appointment of referees**

(1) Based on admission, the PhD board assigns the first referee and at least one co-referee for the dissertation. The referees should be professors in the department where the doctoral research takes place.

(2) In well-justified cases, the advisor can also be chosen from the following areas:

- a) Professors from other departments
- b) Professors who have been relieved of duties, retired professors, part-time professors, honorary professors, unbudgeted professors, guest lecturers, private lecturers, and members of the TUD, who meet the criteria for junior professorship (§ 74 par. 2 HHG) – proved through an external assessment – and who are expected to be working at least four more years full-time at the TUD.

c) Professors at technical colleges (Fachhochschulen)

d) Professors at other universities or scientific leaders in scientifically recognized non-university research institutions.

(3) One of the referees must be a full-time professor in the department. The specific departmental regulations can define additional referees from the group of professors of the department.

(4) In appointing referees according to par. 2, c), two of the referees should belong to the department where the doctoral research is taking place.

(5) The candidate may suggest referees.

(6) In the case of double PhDs as defined in § 1 par. 4, the partner university also appoints a first referee and a co-referee.

## **§ 12**

### **Evaluation**

(1) Every referee submits an evaluation of the dissertation to the dean. In it, he or she suggests the acceptance or rejection of the paper. In exceptional cases the referee can suggest the return of the dissertation for revisions or additions. Along with the suggestion of acceptance or rejection, the referee assesses the dissertation with the marks: “excellent”, “very good”, “good”, or “sufficient”.

(2) If the evaluation from the referee is not submitted within eight weeks of their appointment, the chair of the PhD board must investigate the reason for the delay. If the evaluation is not submitted after another eight weeks, the PhD board must appoint a new referee and, if necessary, the date of the thesis defence must be set. Sentence 2 does not apply when a date for the thesis defence, at the latest in the next semester, is set with the submission of the dissertation and the referee evaluations are submitted at least eight weeks before this date.

(3) The faculty director forwards the referee evaluations to the members of the PhD board and the examination committee and makes

the dissertation, along with the evaluations thereof, available for access. All professors of the department in which the PhD takes place, all members of the department council, as well as in reasoned cases professors from other departments, have the right to access the dissertation. Access to the dissertation lasts two weeks. It can be extended a maximum of another two weeks at the request of a member of the PhD board.

(4) The professors of the department in which the PhD takes place have the right, within the access time period, to submit a special evaluation in writing. This evaluation must be submitted within two weeks.

(5) PhD students have the right to access the assessors' evaluations when these are relevant for his or her examination.

### **§ 13**

#### **Decision on the acceptance of the dissertation**

(1) After the access period is ended, the examination committee decides upon the acceptance or rejection of the dissertation, taking into account the suggestions of the assessors as well as any special evaluations. In the case of conflicting suggestions by the assessors and in other cases of doubt, further assessors may be appointed and further evaluations may be called upon to aid in the final decision. The candidate may also make a statement in such cases. The PhD board makes the final decision upon recommendation of the examination committee.

(2) The faculty director sets the date for the oral examination at the latest upon submission of the dissertation.

(3) A decision by the examination committee to return the dissertation to the applicant for revisions and additions within a fixed timeframe may only be made under exceptional circumstances. The candidate is informed in writing of any changes and/or additions as well as the fixed timeframe. The latter should not be longer than one year. If the applicant submits the dissertation within

the deadline, it will be assessed and evaluated according to the regulations stated above. If the deadline is not met, the dissertation will be rejected.

### **§ 14**

#### **Oral examination**

(1) The oral examination takes place for each applicant individually and is carried out by the examination committee in the form of a thesis defence.

(2) The course, important content and results of the examination are recorded in the examination minutes.

### **§ 15**

#### **Invitation to thesis defence**

(1) The following persons are invited personally to the examination: the president, the vice-president and the deans of all departments at the Technical University Darmstadt, all members of the PhD board, as well as the members of the department council and all professors of the department.

(2) In the case of a double PhD, as outlined in § 1 par. 4, the co-operation agreement can define which individuals of the partner university are invited.

### **§ 16**

#### **Thesis defence**

(1) On the date of the examination, the applicant is to hold a public presentation on his or her dissertation or on a selected topic out of the dissertation field. The length of the presentation should not exceed 30 minutes.

(2) The applicant must publicly defend his/her thesis before the examination committee. The thesis defence is based on the content of the dissertation and includes the content of the evaluations. It extends, furthermore, to selected problems of the field and related topics in other fields, as well as the current state of research. Members of the examination committee are expected to engage actively in the discussion with the applicant. Additionally, all

professors of the department are authorized to ask questions. The length of the thesis defence is generally one hour.

(3) In the case of a foreign-language dissertation, the public presentation and the thesis defence may take place in the language in question, with the consent of the PhD board. In the case of a foreign language oral examination, the minutes of the examination (§ 14 par. 2) are also to be recorded in the foreign language.

(4) In the case of a double PhD, as described in § 1 par. 4, the co-operation agreement may require a foreign-language portion in the presentation. In such cases, the length of the presentation should not exceed 45 minutes.

## **§ 17**

### **General verdict**

(1) Directly following the oral examination the examination committee decides in private on the result of the examination. If the result is positive, and the applicant has passed, the examination committee sets the final verdict for the PhD on the basis of the evaluations and the performance in the oral examination. The departments should make sure that all professors in the department are able to attend this meeting.

(2) The following evaluations may be given: “passed with distinction”, “very good”, “good”, “passed”.

(3) The examination committee finalizes in writing, on the basis of the referee evaluations, if there are specific requirements for the publication of the dissertation, and if so, what these are.

## **§ 18**

### **Examination files**

The files for examinations are confidential and are kept in the department. During the PhD process, only members of the examination committee and the PhD board have access to the files. § 5 par. 2 and § 12 par. 3 remain in effect. After the completion of the PhD process, but no longer than one

year after this completion, the PhD student may apply to gain access to the examination files, the evaluations, and the minutes of the oral examination.

## **§ 19**

### **Publication of the dissertation**

(1) After passing the examination, the PhD student has the responsibility to publish the dissertation, keeping in mind the requirements of the examination committee (§ 17 par. 3). The version to be published must be approved by the first referee.

(2) The publication must be identified as a dissertation of the TU Darmstadt. If the dissertation is published in extended or reduced form or only in excerpts, this must be clearly marked. A publication is considered in excerpts when the dissertation has been reduced to less than half of its original length.

(3) The dissertation may also be published in an electronic version. In this case the right to the publication is reserved for the University and State Library Darmstadt, the German Library (DDB) in Frankfurt/Leipzig as well as other special collections libraries, when applicable. In such cases, the publication must contain an abstract in the German and English languages. The PhD student must ensure that the electronic publication is identical to the submitted dissertation. File format and data carrier are to be confirmed with the University and State Library Darmstadt, which checks the document for readability and congruence with the present standards. The submission of documents that do not meet the requirements for file format and data carrier (or in some other way are found to be unreadable in whole or in part), do not fulfil the publication standards.

## **§ 20**

### **Obligatory copies**

(1) The PhD candidate is required by the department within a year of the oral examination to submit the number of copies of the dissertation defined in § 21 as

obligatory copies. These remain the property of the university. The delivery deadline can be extended by up to one year in special cases and upon punctual application. A further extension of the deadline by an absolute maximum of five years is possible only in the exceptional circumstances that the PhD candidate submits a publication contract guaranteeing publication of the dissertation within the five-year time-frame.

(2) If the PhD student does not uphold the submission deadline according to the rules above, the PhD is rendered invalid. The same applies when the PhD student does not fulfil the requirements described in § 17 par. 3.

(3) The obligatory copies must be accompanied by a title page, be marked as dissertation and include a short summary of the scientific career of the author. The title page must include: the topic of the dissertation, department and university, the name and birthplace of the author, the author's previous academic title, the titles and names of the assessors, submission and examination date, place and year of publication, and the university code D 17. The title page and other extra additions are to be type written. If the dissertation is appearing as part of a series, the title of the series and the number must be named on the opposite side of the title page. Upon application, the PhD candidate can be freed from the obligation to include the summary of their scientific career in the obligatory copies.

(4) The implementary regulations may require the submission of a summary of the dissertation by the primary assessor.

## § 21

### Number of obligatory copies

(1) In general the publication of dissertations takes place through the university publications server of the TU Darmstadt. The number of obligatory copies is defined as:

a) **Six** copies in copyable typed script in the case of distribution through the University and State Library Darmstadt

b) **Sixty** copies if the publication takes place privately. The PhD candidate gives the Technische Universität Darmstadt the right to produce and distribute further copies of the dissertation. He or she also allows the production of a parallel publication over the university publications server of the TU Darmstadt.

c) **Six** copies when a commercial agency, university institute or comparable institution responsible for the production of a series takes over the commercial distribution of the dissertation. In such cases the distributor must prove that a minimum of 150 copies has been circulated. This minimum is considered guaranteed if the publisher promises to produce the copies upon demand. In such cases, contrary to the terms of § 20 par. 3 sentences 1 and 2, it is sufficient if the information on the flip side of the title page includes only the publication as dissertation and location as well as the university code D 17. The right to produce a parallel electronic version over the university publications server should be granted to the University and State Library Darmstadt (possibly with a delay).

e) **Six** copies of the full-length version in copyable type-script as well as six copies of the publication in excerpts from any scientific journals.

f) In the case of a double PhD as described in § 1 par. 4 the number of obligatory copies defined in a) – e) is increased to match the requirements of the partner university. The partner university also has the right to produce further copies of the dissertation.

(2) The University and State Library Darmstadt receives: in the case of par. 1 a), 1 c) and 1 d) three copies, in the case of par. 1 b) 40 copies, in the case of par. 1 e) three copies of the full-length version and one copy of the publication. The department receives all further copies.

(3) The obligatory copies according to par. 1 b) as well as the type-written copies of par. 1 a) and 1 e) must be printed or produced with age-resistant, wood and acid free paper. The copies must be bound.

(4) The specific departmental regulations may rule out the possibility of publication under par. 1 e).

(5) The specific departmental regulations can provide regulations for the publication of the dissertation in a foreign language.

## § 22

### Completion of the doctoral process

(1) As soon as the obligatory copies of the dissertation have been delivered to the department, the doctoral process is completed with the bestowal of the doctoral diploma to the doctoral candidate. From this point on, the candidate is entitled to hold the PhD title.

(2) Upon application in special cases and with the permission of the PhD board and the president, the doctoral process can be completed before the delivery of the obligatory copies. This can only be done if a guarantee can be given that:

- the dissertation will be published and
  - the obligatory copies will be delivered within the deadline provided in § 20 par. 1.
- If the doctoral candidate does not fulfil this requirement, the statements of §§ 20 par. 2 and 25 par. 2 come into effect.

## § 23

### Doctoral diploma

(1) The doctoral diploma is dated on the day of the oral examination and three copies are printed. The diploma contains the signatures of the dean of the department and the president of the Technical University Darmstadt and is printed with the seal of the university. The following is text generally found on the doctoral diploma:

**TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT**

**DARMSTADT URKUNDE**

Während der Amtszeit des Präsidenten  
.....

und des Dekans

.....,  
verleiht der Fachbereich

.....  
Durch diese Urkunde

Herrn/Frau

.....  
geboren

am.....

in.....

den akademischen Grad eines

DOKTORS

(

Dr.

.....  
.....)

nachdem er/sie in ordnungsgemäßem Promotionsverfahren unter Mitwirkung der Referenten

.....  
.....,

durch seine/ihre Dissertation

und durch die mündliche Prüfung seine/ihre wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Das

Gesamturteil lautet

.....  
Darmstadt, den.....

Der Präsident

Der Dekan

(Siegel)

(2) Alternative regulations may be defined in the cooperation agreement in the case of a double PhD as described in § 1 par. 4

## § 24

### Repeated PhD attempt

(1) If the first PhD attempt is unsuccessful due to the rejection of the dissertation, only one repeated attempt through the submission of a new dissertation is allowed. This is permissible at the earliest one year after the rejection of the dissertation, calculated from the day of the rejection. This also applies if the first attempt took place at another university.

(2) In the case of a failed oral examination, only the examination must be repeated. This repetition can only take place once and is

permissible at the earliest one half year and at the latest one year after the failed original examination. In special cases the deadline can be extended upon application of the candidate.

(3) If the doctoral requirements were not fulfilled due to failure to meet delivery requirements or through another breach of these PhD regulations, the PhD board decides upon the terms under which the PhD may be re-attempted. A repetition is not permissible if the PhD was not completed as described in § 25 or if the PhD title has been revoked.

## § 25

### **Refusal and withdrawal of PhD**

(1) If it is discovered after the bestowal of the doctoral degree central requirements for admission were falsely assumed, or that the candidate has cheated or attempted to cheat in the completion of the PhD, the awarding of the PhD will be refused. The PhD board makes this decision.

(2) Withdrawal after bestowal of the PhD is determined by the state regulations. The return of a PhD degree is regulated by the Administrative Procedures Act of Hessen (Hessisches Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz) from December 1<sup>st</sup> 1976 (GVBl. I., p. 454).

(3) Before the decision on refusal or withdrawal of a PhD is made, the candidate in question is given the right, within a reasonable time-frame, to make a statement on the claims against them.

## § 26

### **Honorary doctorate**

(1) Upon a collective decision of one or more departments and of the senate, honorary degrees can be awarded to persons who have earned special recognition for their scientific or artistic achievements. This rare honour can have the following forms:

Honorary Doctor of Engineering (Dr.-Ing. E.h), Doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa (Dr. rer. nat. h.c.) Doctor rerum politicarum honoris causa (Dr. rer. pol. h.c.) Doctor

philosophiae honoris causa (Dr. phil. h.c.) Doctor iuris honoris causa (Dr. iur. h.c.).

(2) An honorary doctorate is awarded with the bestowal of a special diploma created for this purpose, in which the special achievements of the person are outlined.

## § 27 Transition regulations and closing provisions

(1) The General Doctoral Regulations of the Technische Universität Darmstadt from January 12<sup>th</sup> 1990 (ABl. 1990, p. 658) with the modifications of the 7<sup>th</sup> amendment come into effect following their publication as a regulatory supplement in the university newspaper. At that point the General Regulations of the 6<sup>th</sup> amendment from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006 (regulatory supplement nr. 2, 2006, p. 10) go out of effect. The presidium is authorized to publish a new version of the General Doctoral Regulations according to the 7<sup>th</sup> amendments in the regulatory supplement of the university newspaper of the Technische Universität Darmstadt.

(2) The regulations of § 10 par. 5 are applied to PhD processes that have already been commenced with the following proviso: the stipulations outlined in § 10 par. 5, sentence 2 to 9 come into effect five years after the coming into effect of these amendments.

(3) The Specific Departmental Regulations remain in effect, insofar as they do not contradict the stipulations of this document. Where no contradictions exist, regulations for the aptitude assessment procedure are to be taken up as soon as possible. Up to this point the PhD board may carry out aptitude assessment procedures using the existing regulations of other departments.

Darmstadt, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

The president of the Technische Universität Darmstadt

Prof. Dr. Hans Jürgen Prömel