

## **Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Medicine Dr. med. and Dr. med. dent.**

English version for reference only!

Disclaimer: **This translation** of the “Änderungsordnung und zugleich Neubekanntmachung der Promotionsordnung Dr. med. und Dr. med. dent. der Medizinischen Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn vom 09. Dezember 2021” published in “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen 51. Jahrgang, Nr. 82 vom 16. Dezember 2021” **is not legally binding.**

### **Requirement to give notice of deficiencies:**

Under § 12, para. 5 of the Higher Education Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz NRW, HG NRW), violations of the procedural or formal requirements of the Higher Education Act or regulatory or other legal provisions of the University of Bonn may no longer be asserted against regulations if one year has passed since their announcement, unless

1. The regulations were not properly announced
2. The Rectorate previously objected to the resolution by the body adopting the regulations, or
3. The University was previously notified of the formal or procedural deficiency, indicating the legal provision that was violated and the facts leading to the deficiency.

**Amendment to and reannouncement of the Dr. med. and  
Dr. med. dent. Doctoral Degree Regulations  
of the Faculty of Medicine  
of the University of Bonn dated December 9, 2021**

By virtue of § 2, para. 4 and § 64, para. 1 of the NRW Higher Education Act (Gesetz über die Hochschulen des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Hochschulgesetz) of September 16, 2014 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia, p. 547) as last amended by Article 2 of the Act for Amending the Arts Higher Education Act and for Amending other Provisions in the Area of Higher Education (Gesetz zur Änderung des Kunsthochschulgesetzes und zur Änderung weiterer Vorschriften im Hochschulbereich) of March 25, 2021 (Legal and Regulatory Gazette of North Rhine-Westphalia, p. 329), the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bonn issued the following Doctoral Degree Regulations:

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## **I. General information**

### **§ 1 Doctorate**

(1) The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn awards the academic degrees of Doctor medicinae (Dr. med.) and Doctor medicinae dentariae (Dr. med. dent.) based on a doctoral examination procedure and in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

(2) During the doctorate, special academic qualification beyond a university degree is demonstrated by means of independent research work.

(3) The doctoral achievements consist of:

1. Successful participation in a course in accordance with § 4, para. 2
2. A doctoral thesis in accordance with § 6
3. The oral examination in accordance with § 9.

(4) The doctoral examination procedure is not public, with the exception of the awarding of the diploma. The members of the doctoral board, examiners, assistant examiners and reviewers shall be bound to confidentiality. Members who are not civil servants shall be bound to confidentiality by the chairperson of the doctoral board.

(5) The provisions of § 17 apply to the award of honorary doctoral degrees (Dr. med. h.c., Dr. med. dent. h.c.).

### **§ 2 Doctoral board**

(1) The faculty council of the Faculty of Medicine shall appoint a doctoral board to organize the doctoral examination procedure and manage the tasks outlined in these Doctoral Degree Regulations. The doctoral board shall verify the requirements for admission to the doctoral examination procedure (§ 5), opening the examination phase (§ 7) and approval for the oral examination and appoint the examiners for the oral examination (§ 9). The dean of the Faculty shall ensure that the doctoral board is able to duly fulfill its tasks and does reliably do so. The dean shall give appropriate instructions for this purpose.

(2) The doctoral board consists of at least ten members appointed by the faculty council. At least eight members are appointed from the group of professors of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn. One member is appointed from the group of academic staff (akademische Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter) and one member from the group of students. All professors, including assistant professors and adjunct professors in the Faculty of Medicine that are members of the University of Bonn and retired professors are eligible to become members of the doctoral board; from the group of academic staff in the faculty, those who have received doctorates are eligible to become members. From the group of students, those enrolled as students in the clinical part of their studies or as doctoral students in the Faculty of Medicine are eligible to become members. A deputy shall be appointed for each member. The term of office of members from the group of professors and from the group of academic staff is three years, and the term of office of the student members is one year. Members may be re-elected.

The doctoral board elects a chairperson from its members and one or two deputies from the group of professors.

(3) The doctoral board is an administrative body as defined by the Administrative Procedure Act (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz) and Code of Administrative Court Procedure (Verwaltungsgerichtsordnung).

(4) The faculty shall create an office for administrative support of the examination board. It shall be managed by the dean.

(5) The doctoral board shall ensure compliance with the provisions of the Doctoral Degree Regulations, make certain that the doctoral examination procedure is conducted in accordance with regulations and check the formal requirements for the preparation and assessment of a doctoral thesis. It may delegate tasks to the chairperson.

(6) Doctoral board meetings are not open to the public. Summary minutes shall be prepared as a record of the doctoral board's discussions and decisions and included in the doctoral board files.

(7) The doctoral board shall have a quorum when, in addition to the chairperson or deputy chairperson, at least two professors are present. Resolutions shall be passed by simple majority. In the event of a tie vote, the chairperson's vote shall be the deciding vote.

(8) Directives, dates set and other communications of the doctoral board with public relevance shall, giving due consideration to data protection requirements, be made available by public display or in electronic form with legally binding effect. Other additional publications are permissible but not legally binding.

### **§ 3**

#### **Doctoral supervision**

(1) Any full-time professor, adjunct professor, retired professor, honorary professor, assistant professor, head of the competitively reviewed programs of excellence specified in the Annex or member of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn with achievements equivalent to Habilitation is entitled to supervise a doctoral student. This does not affect § 65, para. 1 HG. Doctoral supervision ends when the doctoral examination procedure is completed.

(2) The first reviewer is responsible under the supervision agreement for supervision of the doctoral student as specified in paragraph 1.

(3) The confirmation of academic supervision and assignment of a doctoral thesis topic to the doctoral student establishes a doctoral relationship that is binding for both parties. The doctoral examination procedure begins when the supervision agreement is concluded. This must be documented in writing in the form of an agreement (supervision agreement). Joint supervision by staff with doctorates is to be indicated, with names stated.

## II. Qualification phase

### § 4

#### Scope and content of the qualification phase

(1) The doctoral examination procedure begins with the qualification phase. The qualification phase is generally two semesters in length and begins with admission in accordance with § 5. The doctoral board decides whether to recognize up to one year of topic-related research activity.

(2) The doctoral thesis is prepared during the qualification phase. The qualification phase is research-oriented. Doctoral students should acquire a well-founded understanding of academic problems, in-depth expert knowledge and the ability to undertake interdisciplinary work. To do this, they should

1. Undertake a research activity at an institute or clinic in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn or an institution that cooperates with the University of Bonn and
2. Participate in a doctoral program or research training group, including doctoral research training groups, at the University of Bonn or an institution that cooperates with the University of Bonn.
3. However, the qualification phase can also be conducted outside an institute or clinic in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn and without participating in structured doctoral studies in accordance with § 4, para. 1, sentence 2. The decision regarding this is made by the doctoral board.

(3) For all doctoral students who are not participating in a doctoral program or research training group, including doctoral research training groups, the attendance of at least one research-related course, which usually corresponds to one course unit per week, is mandatory during the qualification phase. Successful participation in the course is to be demonstrated by a certificate of attendance when applying for the opening of the examination phase in accordance with § 7, para. 1.

(4) Doctoral students who have completed a university degree and are not full-time at the University of Bonn or University Hospital Bonn must enroll for two semesters of doctoral studies in accordance with § 67, para. 5 of the Higher Education Act (Hochschulgesetz, HG). The doctoral board decides on exceptions.

### § 5

#### Admission

(1) Candidates who have passed the first part of the state examination for medicine in accordance with applicable licensing regulations or the state preliminary examination for dentistry in accordance with applicable dentistry licensing regulations can apply for admission to the qualification phase. The following are to be included with the application for admission to the qualification phase:

1. Certificate indicating that the first part of the examination in medicine or dentistry has been passed, or an equivalent achievement. The doctoral board decides on the recognition of university achievements obtained by candidates at foreign universities.

This decision is based, among other things, on a list maintained by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany. Recognition is to be clarified before the start of the doctoral examination procedure as part of admission.

2. A declaration by the candidate regarding whether and, if applicable, when and with what outcome he or she has applied for a doctoral examination procedure at another university or another faculty at the University of Bonn
3. An agreement between the candidate and supervisor
4. A preliminary summary of the working hypotheses and planned work
5. A work plan
6. A statement on the need for an ethics vote
7. If animal experiments are planned, a note to this effect, and
8. A reference to the University of Bonn Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice, as amended

The summary and work plan are to be prepared under the joint responsibility of and signed by the responsible supervisor.

(2) The supervision agreement can be terminated at any time by the doctoral student or supervisor. A written request for termination, including reasons, must be submitted to the doctoral board. The supervision agreement can also be terminated if there has been no contact between the doctoral student and supervisor for more than half a year. In the event of termination, all the parties involved shall seek mutually agreeable, practical solutions, if necessary with the assistance of the ombudspersons of the Faculty of Medicine. The supervision agreement ends when the doctoral defense is completed.

(3) If an existing agreement between a doctoral student and previous first supervisor is terminated and a new agreement is concluded between the doctoral student and another first supervisor, the doctoral student must submit a new application for admission in accordance with § 5, para. 1. In this case, the doctoral board can, upon request by the doctoral student and with appropriate justification, recognize the qualification phase completed up to that point and approve exceptions to § 4.

## **§ 6 Doctoral thesis**

(1) The doctoral thesis must be an academic work that represents an advancement in academic knowledge and demonstrates the ability to undertake independent academic work and present the results in an appropriate manner. The doctoral thesis is to be prepared in writing in German or English.

(2) An original publication (publication doctoral thesis) that has been accepted for publication by a journal with a recognized reviewing system and shows the doctoral student as first author is equivalent to such a doctoral thesis. Para. 1, sentence 2 applies accordingly.

(3) With regard to the publication, the doctoral student must have undertaken the predominant share of the planning, data collection, evaluation and interpretation for the academic work, and must have written the first version of the manuscript him or herself. With regard to the publication for which the doctoral student is co-author, he or she must have undertaken a significant share of the planning, data collection, evaluation and interpretation for the academic work.

Appropriate information must be provided to identify the doctoral student's contribution to the publication.

(4) In the case of a publication doctoral thesis, a short version of the work must also be submitted in German or English. The short version should adequately reflect the topic area addressed by the doctoral student and the latest state of knowledge. The layout of the short version must satisfy doctoral board requirements.

(5) The responsible supervisor ensures that the doctoral student prepares the doctoral thesis independently, with regular supervision, and in an appropriate period of time.

(6) The University of Bonn Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice are to be observed. Parts of the doctoral work can, in consultation with the doctoral board, be conducted at a foreign research institution. The responsible supervisor ensures that the partner university/research institution appoints at least one professor to guide the doctoral student and report on the accompanying training programs and progress of the work. It must also be ensured that the research results obtained there may be used for a doctorate at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bonn.

(7) Assignment of the doctoral thesis topic does not establish entitlement to remuneration or an employment relationship.

(8) A doctoral thesis that was previously prepared may not be submitted again, unless the rejection took place due to the incompetence of another university or faculty.

### **III. Examination phase**

#### **§ 7**

#### **Opening of the examination phase**

(1) The application to open the examination phase is submitted to the doctoral board. The following are to be included with the application:

1. The application for admission approved by the doctoral board (§ 5)
2. An electronic version of the doctoral thesis
3. A detailed statement signed by the candidate and the responsible supervisor regarding the candidate's contribution to the publication if the doctoral thesis has been published in whole or in part. The candidate must also affirm that all sources and resources have been indicated
4. Proof of a course in which the candidate has regularly participated in accordance with § 4, para. 3
5. A police certificate of good conduct which may not be more than eight weeks old on the date of submission
6. A declaration by the candidate that in the cases specified in § 13 letters a and d, he or she assigns the University of Bonn the right to produce and distribute further copies of the doctoral thesis for university libraries in accordance with its statutory obligations and/or make them available on data networks

7. Proof of enrollment as a doctoral student for at least two semesters in the case of § 4, para. 4
- (2) The examination phase is opened if the application meets the requirements of paragraph 1. The candidate is notified of the decision in writing upon request.
- (3) The application cannot be withdrawn once the examination phase has been opened.

## **§ 8**

### **Review of the doctoral thesis**

- (1) Once the examination phase is opened, the doctoral board requests reviews from the first and second reviewers. The second reviewer shall be appointed by the doctoral board and may not belong to the working group, institute or clinic of the responsible supervisor. At least one of the reviewers must be a full-time professor in the Faculty of Medicine.
- (2) The reviews of the doctoral thesis must be prepared in writing and include a justified recommendation for the acceptance, rejection or return of the doctoral thesis for revision. Upon a recommendation to accept, a justified grade suggestion in accordance with the grading scale in § 10 must be made. The reviews should be submitted at the latest six weeks after the request for review by the doctoral board. If a review has not been received ten weeks following the request, the doctoral board can replace a reviewer.
- (3) If the grades for the two reviews differ by at least 2.0 (§ 10), the doctoral board appoints another professor as reviewer who is not also acting as an examiner in this procedure at the same time.
- (4) If one of the reviewers grades the doctoral thesis as “not satisfactory,” or a reviewer requests changes to the doctoral thesis, the candidate is to be notified of the deficiencies and informed that they must be corrected. The revised doctoral thesis is to be resubmitted within one year and evaluated again by the reviewers. If two reviewers grade the thesis as “not satisfactory” even after revision, the doctoral thesis is considered rejected and the doctoral examination is considered not passed overall.
- (5) If only one reviewer grades the doctoral thesis as “not satisfactory” after revision, the doctoral board appoints another professor as reviewer who is not also acting as an examiner in this procedure at the same time. If this reviewer grades the doctoral thesis as “not satisfactory,” the doctoral thesis is considered rejected and the examination is considered not passed overall.
- (6) If the candidate rejects the proposed revision, or the revised doctoral thesis is not resubmitted within one year, the doctoral thesis is considered rejected and the examination is considered not passed overall.
- (7) Following the rejection, the doctoral thesis and all of the reviews remain in the doctoral board files.

(8) The candidate is to be informed of the termination of the doctoral examination procedure in accordance with § 8, para. 4 to 6 in a written notice by the doctoral board, including reasons, within a period of two weeks after a prior hearing before the doctoral board. The notice shall include information on legal remedies.

(9) If two reviewers grade the doctoral thesis at least "satisfactory" (3.0), the oral examination takes place in accordance with § 9.

(10) The doctoral thesis and reviews are to be available in the doctoral office (§ 2, para. 4) for confidential viewing by members of the Faculty of Medicine with doctorates during the period from completion of the review of the doctoral thesis to completion of the oral examination, or at least 14 days. Objections are possible during this period and are to be submitted, with reasons, to the doctoral board. The doctoral board decides whether these objections are taken into account.

(11) If the examination is not passed overall, a new application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure can be submitted only once with a different topic after one year at the earliest.

## **§ 9**

### **Oral examination**

(1) Before admission to the oral examination, a certificate indicating that the examination in medicine or dentistry has been fully passed or an equivalent achievement abroad must be provided. The equivalence of achievements is governed by § 5, para. 1, sentence 2.

(2) The oral examination consists of a doctoral defense. The doctoral board shall appoint two examiners for this purpose. As a rule, these are the first reviewer of the doctoral thesis and an examiner from an elective discipline previously indicated by the candidate outside the area of his or her doctoral thesis. The second examiner must have the qualifications indicated in § 3, para. 1. He or she shall be appointed by the doctoral board and may not belong to the working group, institute or clinic of the first examiner.

(3) During the dissertation defense, which can take place in German or English, the ability of the candidate to present the subjects of his or her doctoral thesis and their categorization within the academic context of the applicable medical field of expertise is verified in a specialist discussion. It should last a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes.

(4) An assistant examiner with a doctorate who is appointed by the examiner must be present at the oral examination. Doctoral students who have registered for the same examination shall be permitted, space permitting, to attend as listeners, provided the candidate has not objected to listeners being permitted when registering for his or her examination. Admission of the listeners does not extend to the consultation and for announcement of the examination result to the candidate.

(5) The oral examination shall be taken no later than six months after submission of the doctoral thesis. The doctoral board can extend this deadline in special cases upon request. The date for the oral examination shall be arranged between the examiner and doctoral student.

(6) After the doctoral defense, each of the examiners shall assess the examination using the grading scale in § 10. The doctoral defense is considered passed if it receives an assessment of at least “satisfactory.”

(7) If the doctoral defense has not been passed, the doctoral board determines a new date for the doctoral defense. A repeat examination can take place at the earliest three months and at the latest twelve months after the date for the failed examination.

## **§ 10 Grading**

(1) The following grades are permitted for the doctoral thesis and doctoral defense:

- excellent (0.0)
- very good (1.0)
- good (2.0)
- satisfactory (3.0)
- not satisfactory (4.0)

The assignment of fractional grades is governed by paragraph 3.

(2) If a candidate fails to appear for an oral examination without the requirements for a withdrawal specified in § 11 having been satisfied, the examination that was missed is deemed to have been graded “not satisfactory (4.0).”

(3) A grade can be increased or decreased by negative 0.3 or positive 0.3. The grade “excellent” cannot be increased, the grade “satisfactory” cannot be decreased and the grade “not satisfactory” cannot be increased or decreased.

(4) The arithmetic average of the doctoral thesis grades from the first reviewer and second reviewer and the doctoral defense grade, calculated as the arithmetic average of the two doctoral defense grades, determines the overall grade of the doctorate as follows:

summa cum laude	for a value of 0.0,
magna cum laude	for a value of 0.1 to 1.5,
cum laude	for a value of 1.6 to 2.5,
rite	for a value of 2.6 to 3.0.

If three reviews are available, the two best grades are used to calculate the overall grade. Only the first decimal place after the decimal shall be used when calculating the arithmetic average; all further decimal places shall be dropped without rounding off.

(5) The grading of the doctoral achievements in accordance with §§ 8 and 9 should be completed no later than two months after receipt of the final doctoral thesis grades and submission of the certificates.

### **§ 11**

#### **Withdrawal, failure to appear and reprimand**

(1) A doctoral student can withdraw from an oral examination for good cause, especially due to illness. The doctoral board shall be notified of such withdrawals immediately in writing. Candidates shall immediately provide a written statement credibly substantiating the grounds for their withdrawal or failure to appear. In cases of illness, candidates shall present a medical certificate proving their inability to participate in the examination. The doctoral board may, in individual cases, require the submission of a certificate from a University medical examiner it designates if there are sufficient factual indications that the candidate would in fact have been able to participate in the examination or if the doctoral board deems other proof appropriate in that case. As a rule, it is not possible to withdraw from an examination after the start of the examination, especially when the candidate has already seen, or otherwise obtained knowledge of, the examination result. If the doctoral board accepts a medical certificate allowing for withdrawal due to illness or other good cause given by the candidate, the examination attempt shall be deemed void.

(2) Candidates shall immediately reprimand any deficiencies related to an examination with the respective examiner. The reprimand shall be entered into the record and asserted in front of the doctoral board. If the doctoral board accepts the reprimand, the examination attempt shall be deemed void.

### **§ 12**

#### **Protective regulations, compensation for disadvantages**

(1) Upon notification by the doctoral student, corresponding allowances shall be made for the time of maternity protection leave stipulated in the Maternity Protection Act (Mutterschutzgesetz, MuSchG) as amended. All time frames stipulated by these Doctoral Degree Regulations shall be suspended by maternity protection leave; time frames shall not include periods of maternity protection leave.

(2) Allowances shall likewise be made on application for parental leave under the Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (BEEG) as amended. Candidates shall notify the doctoral board in writing of the period(s) during which they wish to take parental leave, enclosing necessary substantiating documentation, at least four weeks prior to the date on which they wish to enter parental leave. The doctoral board shall determine whether the statutory requirements have been met which would lead to an employee being entitled to parental leave under applicable law and shall inform the candidate immediately of its findings and, if applicable, any new examination dates.

(3) Allowances shall be made on application for leave taken for the care of spouses, registered partners, direct relatives, or first-degree in-laws who are in need of care. The doctoral board shall review whether the requirements defined by sentence 1 are met. The application is to be submitted as soon as these requirements are met. Relevant documentation shall be attached to the application. The doctoral board shall immediately notify the candidate of the result and, if applicable, of the new examination dates.

(4) Should a doctoral student provide appropriate proof to the doctoral board that, due to permanent disability, disability that lasts more than one semester or chronic disease, they are not able to make proper use of their intellectual skills in an assessment and can therefore, entirely or in part, not complete an examination in its designated form and duration, the doctoral board shall approve an equivalent assessment to be conducted in a form suitable to that student's needs. This may include an extension of the period in which the student may complete the assessment.

### **§ 13**

#### **Publication of the doctoral thesis**

(1) The doctoral thesis is made accessible to the academic public in a suitable manner if the author, besides the three copies required for the examination files at the Faculty of Medicine, submits free of charge to the Bonn University and State Library (ULB) four complete, bound original copies for archiving, which must be printed on aging-resistant wood and acid-free paper with permanent binding, and also ensures dissemination through:

- a) The submission of up to a maximum of 15 additional reproductions, each created by means of letterpress printing or photographic printing, or
- b) Proof of publication in a journal, or
- c) Proof of distribution in bookstores via a commercial publisher with a minimum print run of 150 copies; reference to the publication as a doctoral thesis, stating the location of the doctoral thesis, is to be made on the back of the title page, or
- d) By submitting an electronic version, whose file format and data carriers are to be coordinated with the Bonn University and State Library (ULB).

In the cases specified in letters a and d, the author assigns to the University of Bonn the right to produce and disseminate further copies of the doctoral thesis for a university library in accordance with its statutory obligations and/or make the electronic version available on data networks.

(2) A blocking period of up to two years can be granted for the data carriers that are accessible through the network upon written request to the doctoral office without providing reasons. A blocking period of more than two years can only be requested from the doctoral board if reasons are provided.

### **§ 14**

#### **Issuing of the diploma**

(1) The doctoral examination procedure is concluded when the doctoral diploma is issued. It is issued in German. The graduate can receive an English translation upon request. The diploma must include:

1. The name of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bonn
2. The academic degree awarded
3. The name, date of birth and place of birth of the graduate
4. The title of the doctoral thesis
5. The overall grade of the doctorate
6. The name of the responsible supervisor
7. The name and signature of the dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn
8. The embossed seal of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn
9. The date of the oral examination
10. The date the diploma is issued.

(2) The doctoral diploma is presented to the graduate by the dean, one of the vice deans, or the chairperson of the doctoral board of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bonn during a public doctoral convocation ceremony.

It may only be issued if the doctoral student has fulfilled the publication requirement. The title “Dr. med.” or “Dr. med. dent.” is awarded when the diploma is issued. Graduates receive their diplomas in person. The doctoral board decides on exceptions. The academic degree that is awarded may only be used after the doctoral diploma has been issued.

### **§ 15**

#### **Declaration of invalidity of examinations and revocation of the academic degree**

- (1) If it becomes known during the doctoral examination procedure that the doctoral student is guilty of deception, the assessment of the doctoral achievements concerned can be amended accordingly, or parts or all of the doctoral examination procedure can be declared invalid and/or failed.
- (2) If the doctoral student has committed deception with respect to a doctoral achievement and this only becomes known after the doctoral diploma is issued, the assessment of the doctoral achievements concerned can be subsequently amended or the academic degree that was awarded can be revoked.
- (3) If the doctoral student has obtained admission to the doctoral examination procedure by means of deception, threats or bribery, the academic degree that was awarded can also be subsequently revoked when this becomes known. If the requirements for admission to the doctoral examination procedure were not satisfied, without any intent to deceive by the doctoral student, and if this deficiency only becomes known after the oral examination has been passed, this deficiency will be remedied by passing the doctoral examination procedure.
- (4) If it becomes known during the doctoral examination procedure that the doctoral student has been sentenced by final judgment to imprisonment for at least one year due to an intentional criminal offense that is science-related or was prepared or committed using a doctoral degree, the faculty can terminate the doctoral examination procedure and refuse to award the title. If it becomes known after the doctoral degree is awarded that the holder of the title has been sentenced by final judgment to imprisonment due to a criminal offense as specified in sentence 1, the faculty can revoke the academic degree that was awarded.
- (5) Decisions relating to paragraphs 1 to 4 that result in a doctoral examination procedure or parts of it being declared invalid must be approved by the faculty council.
- (6) If the academic degree that was awarded is revoked in accordance with paragraph 2, 3 or 4 or the assessment of the doctoral achievements is amended in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2, the dean is to revoke the doctoral diploma and, if necessary, issue a new doctoral diploma.
- (7) Prior to making a decision, the student concerned is to be given an opportunity to state his or her case.

## **§ 16**

### **Access to examination records**

After the doctoral examination procedure has been completed, the doctoral student is to be granted access to the reviews and minutes upon request, which must be submitted within one month after the oral examination is passed or notification that the final attempt has been failed. This does not affect § 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz). Copies and other reproductions of examination records or parts thereof are only intended for doctoral students to pursue their own rights arising under the legal examination relationship and are therefore only to be used by the doctoral students, or made available to persons engaged by them to safeguard their legal interests. Any other duplication or distribution of copies or other reproductions is not permitted.

## **§ 17**

### **Honorary doctorate**

- (1) The faculty can award an honorary doctoral degree (Dr. med. h.c.; Dr. med. dent. h.c.) for outstanding academic achievements or other outstanding achievements of an intellectual nature.
- (2) The procedure for awarding an honorary doctoral degree is initiated by resolution of the faculty council based on a request by two habilitated members of the faculty.
- (3) The request is accepted if at least two thirds of the members of the faculty council and at least two thirds of the members of the group of professors with full-time positions in the Faculty of Medicine are in favor of it.
- (4) The honorary doctorate is awarded by presenting the diploma issued for this purpose, which acknowledges the achievements of the person being honored.

## **§ 18**

### **Renewal of the doctoral diploma**

A special form of honor is the renewal of a doctoral diploma after 50 years, or on extraordinary occasions. These are the result of many years of research or practical professional activities that have proven worthy of a special honor.

## **IV. Joint doctorate**

## **§ 19**

### **Joint doctorate with another university**

- (1) The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn can award the academic degree of Dr. med. or Dr. med. dent. with another university in a joint doctoral examination procedure. Notwithstanding § 3 and § 4, this procedure requires joint supervision by one responsible professor from each university and successful participation in courses at both universities. In particular, the requirements for admission to the doctoral examination procedure and for opening the doctoral examination procedure must be satisfied at both universities.

(2) An agreement for the joint procedure must be concluded between the Faculty of Medicine and the other university and approved by the doctoral board. The agreement governs a doctoral examination procedure conducted jointly by the responsible administrative body at the other university and the doctoral board, in particular appointment of a joint examination committee as well as joint examination, assessment and grading of the examinations in accordance with §§ 4, 6, 9 and 10.

(3) The agreement can include exceptions to the provisions of these Doctoral Degree Regulations, e.g. for the

- Qualification phase in accordance with § 4
- Preparation of the reviews in accordance with § 8
- Access to the examination records in accordance with § 16
- The form and duration of the oral examinations in accordance with § 9
- Language of the diploma in accordance with § 14, para. 1

The doctoral board can approve further exceptions in justified cases.

(4) The examination achievements are assessed both in accordance with these Regulations and in accordance with the laws applicable to the other university involved.

(5) The publication requirement for the doctoral thesis and the rights to it are based on the regulations of both universities.

(6) The diploma includes the award of a single academic degree, which may be used either in the form awarded by the other university or in the form awarded by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn. The degree is awarded in a joint diploma. It is signed by the responsible representative of the other university and the dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn and bears the seals of both institutions.

## **V. Final provisions**

### **§ 20 Transitional provisions**

These Doctoral Degree Regulations apply to doctoral examination procedures for which the application for admission to the qualification phase is submitted after these regulations come into force. Doctoral examination procedures for which the application for admission to the qualification phase is not yet complete on the date these Doctoral Degree Regulations are announced shall be completed in accordance with the doctoral degree regulations as amended July 13, 2017. A declaration of invalidity of examinations taken at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bonn to acquire the academic degree of Doctor medicinae (Dr. med.) or Doctor medicinae dentariae (Dr. med. dent.), or revocation of the above academic degrees is governed exclusively by these Regulations after the diploma has been issued.

**§ 21**  
**Entry into force and publication**

These Doctoral Degree Regulations shall enter into force on the day after their publication in the Official Announcements of the University of Bonn.

B. Weber

The Dean  
of the Faculty of Medicine  
of the University of Bonn  
University Professor Dr. Bernd Weber

Executed pursuant to the resolution adopted by the faculty council of the Faculty of Medicine dated June 7, 2021.

Bonn, December 9, 2021

M. Hoch

The Rector  
of the University of Bonn  
University Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch

## **Annex**

The following programs are recognized as competitively reviewed programs of excellence:

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Sofja Kovalevskaja Research Group  
Bernstein Group  
Emmy Noether Program  
ERC Starting Grant  
Volkswagen Foundation Freigeist Fellowship  
Heisenberg Fellowship  
Helmholtz Young Investigator Group  
Human Frontier Science Program (postdoctoral fellowship)  
Max Eder Junior Research Group  
Deutsche Krebshilfe  
Max Planck Research Group  
NRW Research Group  
NRW Returning Academic Program