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Inter-Faculty Institutions:

Upon resolution by the faculty councils of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences dated 19.01.2017 and 27.04.2017, the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology dated 21.02.2017 and upon statement by the Senate dated 19.04.2017, the presidential board of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen did, on 09.05.2015 approve the first adjustment of the doctoral degree regulations for the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences (GFA) at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen on the edition of the announcement dated 01.10.2017 (Official Announcements No. 47, page 1402) (§§ 44 section 1 sentence 2, 9 section 3 sentence 1 NHG in the version contained in the announcement dated 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Article 11 of the Act dated 16.12.2014 (Nds. GVBl. p. 436); § 41 section 2 sentence 2 NHG, § 37 section 1 sentence 3 no. 5 letter b) NHG).

Inter-Faculty Institutions:

Upon resolution by the faculty councils of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences dated 12.02.2015 and 06.05.2015, the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology dated 17.02.2015 and 12.05.2015 and upon statement by the Senate dated 13.05.2015, the presidential board of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen did, on 19.05.2015, approve the doctoral degree regulations for the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences (GFA) at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (§§ 44 section 1 sentence 2, 9 section 3 sentence 1 NHG in the version contained in the announcement dated 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Article 11 of the Act dated 16.12.2014 (Nds. GVBl. p. 436); § 41 section 2 sentence 2 NHG, § 37 section 1 sentence 3 no. 5 letter b) NHG).

Doctoral degree regulations
for the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences (GFA)
at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

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Part I
General Regulations

§ 1 Scope, purpose of the doctoral examination

(1) ¹This regulation defines the implementation of the doctoral process at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in the doctoral degree programmes and doctoral studies (referred to jointly in the following as programmes) belonging to the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences (GFA), including the award and withdrawal of the doctoral degree. ²The specialist regulations belonging to a subject in a programme shall apply additionally; they are defined in the appendices or alternatively in the supplementary regulations applicable to the programmes (in the following: programme regulations), or in the digital module catalogues published separately. ³Contrary or deviating, specialist regulations shall be void unless this regulation specifically permits deviations.

(2) ¹By completing the doctoral examination, the candidate proves his or her ability to autonomously design and carry out substantial research projects with scientific integrity, therein to independently identify scientific issues, to develop new and complex ideas based on individual critical analysis, and hence to contribute to the advancement of science and/or culture. ²He or she possesses a systematic understanding of his or her research area and any related research areas, also extensive knowledge of the relevant literature. ³By submission of a scientific dissertation, he or she has made a personal contribution to research that serves to expand the horizons of knowledge and that withstands critical appraisal by the scientific community. ⁴He or she has demonstrated a personal ability to discuss insight from his or her specialist field with other researchers, and to present and communicate this insight to an audience in a suitable form.

(3) Furthermore, this regulation describes the procedure for the award of the academic title as honorary doctor of agricultural sciences (Doctor scientiarum agrariarum honoris causa) or the academic title as honorary doctor of forest sciences (Doctor forestalium honoris causa).

(4) This regulation describes the procedure for the withdrawal of the doctoral degree when acquired in a doctoral process at one of the participating faculties before establishment of the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences (GFA).

§ 2 University degree

(1) ¹Georg-August-Universität Göttingen awards through ordinary doctoral studies according to the provisions of this regulation the title of doctor of agricultural sciences (Doctor scientiarum agrariarum, in short "Dr. sc. agr.") and the title of doctor of forest sciences (Doctor forestalium, in short "Dr. forest."). ²Appendix 1 describes the programmes in which the academic titles described in sentence 1 can be acquired.

(2) Upon application by the doctoral candidate, the title of 'Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)' may be awarded in place of the degree specified under section 1.

(3) ¹Upon application by the doctoral candidate, the following degrees may be awarded in place of the degree specified under section 1

a) in the case of doctoral studies with a focus on natural sciences, the degree of doctor of natural sciences (Doctor rerum naturalium, in short "Dr. rer. nat."),

b) in the case of doctoral studies with a focus on economic sciences, the degree of doctor of economic sciences (Doctor rerum politicarum, in short "Dr. rer. pol.).

²The requirements for an application according to sentence 1 are defined in § 6 section 5.

(4) The honorary title of doctor of forest sciences and the honorary title of doctor of agricultural sciences can also be awarded following extraordinary doctoral studies.

§ 3 Graduate committee; examination office

(1) ¹The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology shall convene a graduate committee in order to organise and assure the quality of the examinations and all tasks assigned in this regulation. ²Besides the Dean of Studies at the two faculties, this shall consist of two members of the professoral group, two members of faculty holding a doctoral degree and two doctoral candidates (student members). ³At least one member of the professoral group should belong to the Management Board of the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences (GFA). ⁴One member of each status group will be appointed by the other group representatives to the faculty council of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences or the faculty council of the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology. ⁵At the same time, a representative is nominated for each member. ⁶The members remain in office for two years, while the student member remains in office for one year. ⁷If a member or a representative steps down prematurely, a substitute will be nominated for the remaining tenure.

(2) The graduate committee selects a chairperson and his/her representative from the set of members of the professoral group.

(3) ¹The meetings of the graduate committee are not public. ²The members are bound to professional non-disclosure. ³Unless they are in public service, they are to be obligated to discretion by the chairperson.

(4) ¹The graduate committee decides by simple majority; resolutions are not passed if there is a tied vote. ²The graduate committee shall have a quorum insofar as the majority of its members, including the majority of members from the professoral group, are in attendance. ³Student members have only an advisory vote in the assessment and transfer of credits for examination components.

(5) ¹The graduate committee may, until further notice, transfer powers as concerns matters of ongoing management to the Chairperson; this shall not apply to rulings on objections. ²Minutes are kept of meetings of the graduate committee; they must state the main points of discussion and the resolutions of the graduate committee.

(6) ¹Decisions by the graduate committee must be communicated to the person affected without delay and in writing. ²Negative decisions should be communicated in writing with reasons and instruction on legal recourse.

(7) ¹The examination officer in the participating faculties and the office of the graduate school organise the examination process based on instructions provided by the graduate committee and the competent Dean of Studies in each case. ²One member of a competent Examination Office and the Office of the graduate school are entitled to attend the meetings of the graduate committee, acting in an advisory capacity.

(8) The graduate committee is entitled to establish rules of procedure.

§ 4 Responsibilities

(1) ¹The faculty council of the faculty offering the programme is responsible for introducing the specialist provisions of a programme; in the event that several faculties offer the programme, the faculty council under whose auspices the programme is offered shall be responsible following confirmation by the faculty councils of the other faculties involved. The Management Board of the graduate school must be informed by the presidential board no later than before approval. ³The specialist provisions of a programme may contain terms pertaining to failures and also supplementary provisions, in particular additional qualifications for entry and the nature and scope of the examination prerequisites.

(2) In the event that a programme committee is convened for a programme, its opinion on matters relating to the programme should be heard before the graduate committee before decisions are made.

§ 5 Examination authorisation

(1) ¹All scientists holding a doctoral degree are eligible for selection as authorised examiners, provided they are involved in research or research and teaching at a university or extramural research institution and possess the entitlement to adjudicate in doctoral examinations in the research areas of agricultural or forest sciences. ²The entitlement to adjudicate in doctoral

examinations is proven by a successful habilitation, an appointments procedure or an equivalent procedure.

(2) The responsibility for appointments as authorised examiners in accordance with section 1 is within the remit of the graduate committee. ²Authorisation to adjudicate in examinations can be granted for one or several programmes.

(3) Unlike in sections 1 and 2, the graduate committee can, in exceptional cases, grant examination authorisation restricted to a certain doctoral process (individual examination authorisation) to a person holding a doctoral degree, provided their participation in the doctoral examination is necessary or advantageous.

(4) ¹In addition to sections 1 and 3, the authorisation to adjudicate in examinations in doctoral processes in which a title according to § 2 section 3 will be awarded requires the scientist

a) to possess teaching authorisation (*venia legendi*) in a research area of mathematics-natural sciences or economic sciences, or

b) to possess suitability for the position of an examiner based on relevant experience.

²Decisions in this respect are made by the graduate committee; the decision is made in the case of sentence 1 letter b) on the basis of a statement by a joint committee. ³A joint committee comprises:

a) in the case of § 2 section 3 sentence 1 letter a) two members of GFA appointed by the Management Board of GFA and two members of GAUSS appointed by the Management Board of the School of Science (GAUSS),

b) in the case of § 2 section 3 sentence 1 letter b) two members of GFA appointed by the Management Board of GFA and two members of the Faculty of Economic Sciences appointed by the Dean of Studies at the Faculty of Economic Sciences;

all members of a joint committee must be authorised examiners. ⁴The joint committee appraises the suitability for authorisation to adjudicate in examinations based in particular on teaching authorisation (*venia legendi*), previous contributions to research and teaching, especially relevant publications, denomination or tasks involved in the current position and experience in supervision or guidance during doctoral degree programmes in mathematics-natural sciences or economic sciences. ⁵A recommendation proposed by a joint committee must be passed by the majority of members; abstention is not permitted.

Part II

Acceptance as a doctoral candidate; admission; support; doctoral studies

§ 6 Requirements for acceptance as a doctoral candidate or admission to the doctoral degree programme

(1) ¹Applicants must submit suitable degree certificates as proof of successful completion of at least a master, Diplom or Magister degree programme, an equivalent degree programme leading to a State Examination, or an equivalent course of study at a university belonging to a Bologna signatory state. ²The standard course length of the prior degree programme must be at least eight semesters; a consecutive master degree programme or equivalent course of study must last at least one year and produce an aggregate course length of no less than eight semesters. ³Degree examinations that are equivalent to the qualifications under sentence 1 and have been passed in a country other than the Bologna Signatory States require the assessment of equivalence in consideration of the proposals by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the office of the permanent conference of the federal ministers of cultural affairs in Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) for the accreditation and assessment of foreign proof of academic qualification that are laid down at the URL www.anabin.de. ⁴The grades of the foreign degree certificates shall be converted to the German grading system. ⁵The graduate committee shall be responsible for the assessment of degree equivalence as specified in sentence 1. ⁶The previous academic programme must be in a subject that is relevant to the programme of the doctoral project. ⁷The graduate committee shall decide on whether a degree programme is a closely related subject. ⁸The following components must be proven as proof of subject relevance of the undergraduate degree:

- a) proof of components in agricultural sciences, plant sciences, animal sciences, resource management, natural sciences or economic sciences and social sciences in a total scope of at least 120 credits, or
- b) components in forest or environmental sciences, resource or ecosystem management, mathematics, informatics, life, natural or economic sciences in a scope of at least 120 credits.

⁹Insofar as the graduate committee imposes a condition in this regard, the positive appraisal of subject relevance in respect to the undergraduate degree and the admission as a doctoral candidate or acceptance in the programme are subject to the condition precedent of submission of the outstanding study or examination components by the applicant, which must have been provided by no later than two semesters following acceptance or admission.

¹⁰Confirmation of subject relevance shall not be possible if the scope of pending examination components have a rating of more than 15 credits (ECTS credits).

(2) ¹A written declaration by an authorised examiner in the selected programme confirming the willingness to supervise the applicant in the event of a successful acceptance as doctoral candidate and the ability to provide proper supervision (confirmation of supervision) is a further condition.²Moreover, there shall only be due entitlement for admission provided that

- a) no agent was appointed for locating doctoral opportunities subject to a fee,
- b) in the context of the doctoral process and its preparation, neither fees have been paid, charged credits obtained nor services that are contrary to the meaning and purpose of an examination procedure have been claimed free-of-charge,
- c) the candidate remains eligible to sit the examination,
- d) there are no reasons that may give due cause for withdrawal of the doctoral degree,

and this is declared by the applicant.

(3) ¹Applicants, who neither have a German university entrance qualification, nor a Bachelor or Master Degree or an equivalent degree from a German University, must be adequately proficient in the German language. ²Proof hereof is demonstrated through a test with the grade point average DSH-2 in accordance with the examination regulation for the German language test for university admission of foreign student candidates (DSH). ³The obligation to take the test need not be met by applicants who are exempted from the German language test for admission to colleges and universities according to the examination regulations for the German language test for the admission of foreign students to colleges and universities (DSH) at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen; this applies especially to those applicants who have proven the required German language skill through the "Test of German as a Foreign Language" (TestDaF) with at least four-times TestDaF grade level 4 (TDN 4) or the "German examination module" of the assessment test during the preparatory course.

(4) ¹Notwithstanding section 5, those, who show sufficient English language proficiency, are exempted from proof of German language proficiency. ²Applicants whose mother tongue is not English show adequate English proficiency by passing an internationally accepted test according to:

- a) Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) with at least a "B" grade;
- b) Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) at least with the grade "C"
- c) International English Language Testing System (IELTS), at least volume 6,
- d) At least 550 points in the paper-based test of the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (paper-based TOEFL),
- e) At least 80 points in the "Test of English as a Foreign Language",
- f) UNIcert level III.
- g) C1 proof according to CEF (Common European Framework of Languages);
- h) or corresponding performances in an equivalent test.

³The successful completion of the test may not, as a rule, date back further than two years before the proposal is submitted. ⁴The obligation to pass a test need not be met by applicants with at least two years spent studying or working abroad in an English-speaking country within the last three years.

(5) There are other admission requirements in the event that the doctoral candidate is seeking to acquire the title of doctor of natural sciences (Doctor rerum naturalium, in short "Dr. rer. nat.") or the title of doctor of economic sciences (Doctor rerum politicarum, in short "Dr. rer. pol."), namely that:

- a) the first academic advisor is an authorised examiner in the meaning of § 5 section 4,
- b) the doctoral candidate can demonstrate based on their education so far a minimum standard of performance in research areas of mathematics-natural sciences or economic sciences, namely
 - ba) prerequisites in a research area of mathematics-natural sciences in a scope of at least 60 credits, that is
 - bb) either prerequisites in a scope of at least 100 credits in a research area of economic sciences or prerequisites in a scope of at least 30 credits in a research area of economic sciences with additional prerequisites of at least 70 credits that in the opinion of the first academic advisor suitably complement the topic of the dissertation, and
- c) the dissertation topic has a focus on mathematics-natural sciences or economic sciences.

(6) The regulations in the specific subject may specify that the applicant must, as requirements for admission, demonstrate additional or other languages or other prerequisites than those set forth in the provisions stated under sections 3 and 4.

(7) ¹Separate regulations will define the details of admission and any selection procedure for doctoral degree programmes. ²Regulations as defined under sentence 1 may contain provisions that deviate from those contained in sections 1, 3 and 4.

§ 7 Application

(1) ¹The application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate or admission to a programme must be addressed to the GFA office together with the documents listed under section 2. ²The university is not obligated to review the details of the applicants as a matter of course.

(2) The following documents must be enclosed with the personally signed application:

- a) the degree certificate(s) of the applicant, including a transcript of the applicant's record in the form of attested copies or certified German or English translations if the originals are not in English or German; if a degree certificate have not yet been received,

a certificate of the acquired examination prerequisites, the credits and the grade point average should be submitted;

b) a tabular curriculum vitae written in German or English with a meaningful description of the educational background; the applicant may enclose a photograph;

c) one copy in an electronic form of the written thesis from the successfully completed master degree programmes or comparable degree programmes;

d) proof of sufficient knowledge of the German or English language and any other qualifications for entry as stated in the specific regulations of the subject;

e) statement of the selected programme and the preliminary working title of the dissertation;

f) a declaration on whether the applicant has successfully/unsuccessfully completed a doctoral degree programme in the same discipline or has not completed it yet,

g) confirmation of supervision as specified under § 6 section 2 sentence 1;

h) a declaration according to § 6 section 2 sentence 2 as defined in appendix 2.

(3) ¹The graduate committee is responsible for reviewing the application documents and if relevant also for defining the qualifications for entry. ²It determines the eligibility for admission and issues acceptance as a doctoral candidate or admission to the programme.

§ 8 Thesis committee

(1) ¹Upon admission to a programme, or no later than 3 months thereafter, the graduate committee shall appoint a thesis committee comprising at least two other persons holding a doctoral degree, including at least one other authorised examiner, in addition to the authorised examiner whose confirmation of supervision formed the basis of acceptance (first academic advisor). ²The members of the thesis committee who are authorised examiners should not be in a dependent relationship.

(2) ¹The thesis committee provides support and assistance to the doctoral candidate. ²The said candidate must provide the thesis committee with a comprehensive, regular report, at least however once per year, on the progress in the doctoral project and must also report on examination prerequisites completed to date.

(3) ¹The members of the thesis committee and the doctoral candidate conclude a supervision agreement based on the appendix to the regulations for the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences within three months after the thesis committee is established. ²The supervision agreement must at least include the tasks set down in the said appendix; further, it should describe in particular which resources will be placed at the disposal of the doctoral candidate for his or her project. ³The graduate committee can issue an instruction to amend the supervision agreements as per the applicable legal provisions in each case. ⁴The doctoral candidate must submit to the thesis committee a preliminary schedule for the doctoral project by no later than upon conclusion of the supervision agreement.

(4) ¹The graduate committee may make changes to the membership of the thesis committee, subject to application by a member of the thesis committee or the doctoral candidate. ²A change in the first academic advisor is possible only if the assistance for the doctoral studies is no longer guaranteed for good reason, in particular due to his or her prolonged absence or continuation of support cannot be reasonably expected, especially due to a breakdown in mutual trust. ³The doctoral candidate must be given opportunity to speak before the committee before any decision in respect to sentence 1; he or she shall have the right to submit a proposal in the event of a change in the first academic advisor, which shall not constitute any legal entitlement. ⁴In the event of conflict between the academic advisors and the doctoral candidate, there should be an initial attempt by a confidential person at GFA to mediate between the parties.

**§ 9 Scope and nature of the doctoral studies;
deception; termination for good cause**

(1) ¹The standard course length for the doctoral degree programme is three years. ²The doctoral studies also have a standard length of three years in other programmes. ³A longer period is possible, subject to agreement with the thesis committee. ⁴Any right to examination shall lapse with finality if the dissertation has not been submitted by the start of the 15th subject semester; the doctoral examination shall be considered unequivocally failed in this case. ⁵The period specified in sentence 4 may be exceeded if the failure to adhere thereto is not within the responsibility of the doctoral candidate; the graduate committee shall rule on this, subject to application by the doctoral candidate. ⁶The details concerning extensions or reductions may be defined in the specialist provisions of a programme. ⁷The doctoral candidate must enrol for the duration of the doctoral studies and the doctoral examination. ⁸Unlike in sentence 7, enrolment may be waived in exceptional cases for doctoral degree programmes upon application and subject to the presentation of good material cause.

(2) ¹The doctoral candidates are required to complete their scientific research over the course of their doctoral studies. ²The preliminary topic and work schedule for the research must be agreed between the thesis committee and the doctoral candidate before the start of the doctoral project. ³Further, doctoral candidates must successfully complete examination prerequisites in a scope totalling at least 20 credits and no more than 30 credits (hereafter C) in accordance with the specialist provisions defined in the programme or in a module catalogue published separately. ⁴The regulations in specific subjects contain recommendations for a materially meaningful structure in the doctoral degree programme.

(3) The doctoral candidates are entitled to complete additional, freely electable components in addition to the minimum required examination prerequisites, in particular those provided by the GFA and by other graduate schools.

(4) In the event that prerequisites as specified under section 1 sentence 3 are not provided for reasons for which the doctoral student must bear no responsibility, or if the provision of said achievements shall be associated with undue severity, the graduate committee shall waive the demand to provide proof of individual achievements by no later than admission to the doctoral examination, subject to application by the doctoral student; a different responsibility may be defined in the specialist sections of a programme.

(5) ¹Examination prerequisites completed on the basis of an agreement between the University of Göttingen, the doctoral candidate and a different university shall be credited without any assessment of equivalence. ²Any examination prerequisites completed within or outside of a university shall otherwise be recognised, provided that equivalence is ascertained. ³The doctoral candidate is responsible for submission of the documents required for these credits. ⁴Examination prerequisites shall not be recognised in the event that they were completed in the degree course or in the consecutive degree courses whose completion provided the basis for entry into the doctoral degree programme and which were necessary in order to complete said degree programme or degree programmes. ⁵The university is required to provide reasoning for any decision not to recognise examination prerequisites (reversal of the burden of proof as specified in the Lisbon Convention). ⁶The graduate committee decides on the transfer of credits.

(6) ¹Should the doctoral candidate undertake by means of deception or the use of unauthorised aids or by subsequent exertion of influence on a person involved in the examination to distort the results of examination prerequisites to his or her own benefit or to the benefit of a third party (hereafter in general: deception), the examination prerequisites in question shall be assessed as 'failed'. ² The consequences given in sentence 1 can also come into effect if the doctoral candidate carries any prohibited aids with himself or herself. ³The examiner or adjudicator in question can exclude any doctoral candidate who grossly violates this regulation from a continuation of the examination prerequisites; in this case, the examination prerequisites in question shall be assessed as 'failed'. ⁴In the event of severe cases, the graduate committee is entitled to exclude the doctoral candidate from the completion of any further examination or degree prerequisites. ⁵A decision may be made to refrain from imposing sanctions in less serious cases. ⁶If there is suspicion of the use of prohibited aids, the doctoral candidate is obligated to assist in the clarification and return the aids; should this be refused, the relevant study or examination prerequisites are assessed as 'failed'. ⁷Before a decision under sentence 4, the doctoral candidate should be heard.

(7) ¹The doctoral studies end with

- a) revocation or withdrawal of admission, acceptance of the doctoral candidate or admission to the programme, or
- b) cancellation or termination of the doctoral candidate relationship.

²Withdrawal, revocation or termination may take place for good cause; the graduate committee is responsible in this respect. ³In general, an important reason is deemed prevalent if the doctoral candidate

- a) proves consistently unsuitable despite sufficient supervision,
- b) fails repeatedly or to a significant extent in fulfilling the tasks with which he or she has been charged, in particular if he or she repeatedly and despite caution violates his or her reporting duties,
- c) has breached the regulation to ensure good scientific practice,
- d) his or her acceptance as doctoral candidate in the programme was acquired wrongfully by means of deception as concerns provision of the qualifications for entry, or
- e) if the relationship of trust with the doctoral candidate is irretrievably broken for reasons for which the he or she must carry responsibility,

⁴Moreover, the doctoral degree studies end upon declaration in this respect by the doctoral candidate.

**§ 10 Modules; performance record;
courses with limited numbers of places**

(1) ¹Examination prerequisites according to § 9 section 2 sentence 3 are usually completed in modules. ²Modules may consist of several types of course:

(2) ¹Modules are completed by successfully finishing performance assessments, which most commonly are graded as 'passed' or 'failed'. ²In the event that a grade is awarded, this shall be included in the certificate on application by the doctoral candidate.

(3) Voluntary additional modules can be included in the certificate upon application.

(4) ¹Certain modules are offered with limited number of participants. ²These include:

- a) workshops,
- b) exercises, field courses, excursions and courses.

³The persons responsible for the modules shall take suitable measures to provide information on the scheduled number of participants.

(5) ¹Participation in modules with limited number of participants shall be granted with preferential treatment to such doctoral candidates who must attend this course as an examination prerequisite for the doctoral examination. ²In the process, those doctoral candidates in the highest semester and prove that they possess appropriate entry requirements or are not responsible for a delay of the course, have priority. ³Selection of students with equal entitlement to admission is decided by a draw. ⁴A deferment under sentence 2 is permitted no more than twice.

(6) Module descriptions and the module overview of the programme shall be published separately in an electronic version (digital module catalogue); they are integral elements of this regulation, i.e. the specific regulations of the subject.

Part III

Doctoral examination; eligibility to sit the examination, requirements and procedure

§ 11 Doctoral examination

(1) The degrees to be awarded under § 2 section 1 are awarded on the basis of a successful doctoral examination.

(2) The doctoral examination includes a scientific treatise (dissertation) and an oral examination.

(3) The graduate committee shall suspend the doctoral process in the event that it becomes aware that proceedings are pending against the doctoral candidate concerning a breach of good scientific practice or that a judicial inquiry or criminal proceedings are pending in connection with the doctoral studies.

(4) ¹Should the doctoral candidate undertake to influence the results of the examination by means of deceit, in particular through the use of unauthorised aids in producing the dissertation or by retroactive exertion of influence on a person involved in the examination, the examination components in question shall be assessed as 'failed'. ²Should the doctoral candidate grossly violate the regulations, the graduate committee may decide on termination of the oral examination; in this case the oral examination shall be assessed as 'failed'. ³The graduate committee is entitled in serious cases to exclude the doctoral candidate from the completion of any further examination components; any breach of § 12 section 3 sentence 1 letter a) in particular shall be deemed a serious breach. ⁴A decision may be made to refrain from imposing sanctions in less serious cases. ⁵Before reaching a decision under sentence 3, the doctoral candidate should be heard.

§ 12 Prerequisites for admission to sit the doctoral examination

- (1) ¹Admission to the doctoral examination has the prerequisite that the applicant
- a) is enrolled as doctoral student at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in accordance with the specifications defined in the statutory provisions,
 - b) has properly completed the doctoral studies in accordance with § 9 section 2,
 - c) has independently completed a written scientific treatise (dissertation) and has provided written assurance

- ca) that he or she did complete this dissertation independently and that he or she did not use any other sources or resources than those stated, and
- cb) no equivalent doctoral studies have been applied for elsewhere, and that the proposed dissertation or parts thereof have not been submitted elsewhere.

²In the event that the candidate is seeking to acquire the title of doctor of natural sciences (Doctor rerum naturalium, in short "Dr. rer. nat.") or the title of doctor of economic sciences (Doctor rerum politicarum, in short "Dr. rer. pol."), this shall require additionally that the requirements as stated under § 6 section 5 letters a) and b) are satisfied, and that the dissertation shall possess a focus on mathematics-natural sciences or economic sciences.

(2) Admission to the doctoral examination must be refused, or the admission suspended at any time, insofar as it was simultaneously applied for with a different faculty or at a different university.

(3) ¹Persons shall be ineligible for admission to the doctoral examination if they

- a) have not prepared parts of the dissertation by himself or herself, but has sought the help of a third person in a manner violating examination regulations and scientific honesty, which includes strict compliance with the quotation requirement, so that inclusion of external ideas in the dissertation is clearly marked;
- b) use the services of a paid agent for the purpose of obtaining information on doctorate opportunities;
- c) pay fees or deliver paid services or use services free-of-charge that contradict the sense and purpose of an examination procedure;
- d) satisfy the requirements for which the doctoral examination might be declared void or the doctoral degree withdrawn.

²In these cases, reapplication for permission to take the doctoral examination exam is not permitted.

§ 13 Application for admission to the doctoral examination

(1) After completion of the dissertation, a written application for admission to the doctoral examination and commencement of the doctoral process must be submitted to the graduate committee.

(2) The following should be enclosed with the application:

- a) at least three copies of the scientific treatise (dissertation) in a written form, one copy in a digital form in the format of a standard word processing programme or as a PDF document (that permits extraction of the text) and any published manuscripts by the applicant connected to the dissertation in a written or digital form; the doctoral candidate must bindingly confirm that the contents of the digital version are identical with the written scientific treatise;

- b) a synopsis of the dissertation in the German and English languages that presents the research question, methodology, results and conclusions;
- c) a statement of the academic title that is to be awarded in accordance with § 2 and any evidence required under § 12 section 1 sentence 2;
- d) a proposal for the reviewers of the dissertation and the other members of the examination board;
- e) a resume that is written in German or English and also furnishes information on the scientific progress of the applicant;
- f) proof of proper enrolment;
- g) proof of proper completion of the examination prerequisites as described under § 9 section 2;
- h) an assurance as specified under § 12 section 1 letter c).

(3) ¹After submission of the application and review of the formal prerequisites, the graduate committee decides on admission to sit the doctoral examination. ²Once all prerequisites have been satisfied, it shall thereupon open the examination process and shall appoint the examination board and its chairperson. ³In the admission to the doctoral examination, the doctoral candidate acquires the rightful claim to a review of his or her dissertation.

(4) The applicant receives a written notice regarding the permission. Information on legal remedies shall be enclosed with any rejection notice.

(5) ¹It is permitted to withdraw an application for admission to the doctoral examination as long as a decision on acceptance or rejection of a dissertation is pending. ²An attempt to take the doctoral examination does not count as 'taken' in case of a legal withdrawal.

§ 14 Dissertation, cumulative dissertation

(1) The topic of the dissertation must be selected in a relevant area of the programme into which the doctoral candidate was accepted.

(2) ¹The dissertation must be an independent scientific achievement by the doctoral candidate, and must represent a substantial and innovative contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge. ²Insofar as the topic of a dissertation is inferred from the research work conducted by a group, the doctoral candidate must clearly delimit his or her personal contribution and must document his or her personal, useful contribution in a separate paper for which he or she is solely responsible. ³The dissertation must show that the doctoral candidate has the capacity to resolve scientific questions in the specialist field to which the paper relates, and is capable of developing an individual, methodically faultless concept.

(3) ¹The dissertation must not have been or be used for any other doctoral or comparable process at a university in Germany or abroad, unless otherwise specified in these regulations. ²Sentence 1 applies accordingly to use within the context of other, individual examination

components, in particular a master, Magister or Diplom thesis, unless specified and admitted otherwise.

(4) ¹As a rule, the dissertation must be drafted in German or English. ²It must have a first page based on the template shown in appendix 4 and a short curriculum vitae indicating the candidate's academic career. ³Unlike in sentence 1, the dissertation can also be drafted in a different language; the graduate committee rules on an application by the doctoral candidate for exceptional treatment in this respect; the application can be rejected without statement of reasons. ⁴All members of the examination board must have a sufficient command of the examination language. ⁵A synopsis in English and German must be submitted, irrespective of the selected language.

(5) ¹Results that are published before acceptance of the doctoral candidate or admission to a programme can be incorporated in the dissertation, provided in an aggregate sense they do not account for more than 15 per cent of the overall scope of the dissertation; they must be annotated according to good scientific practice. ²Results of other examination components produced by the doctoral candidate may be used up to an aggregate amount of 15 per cent of the total scope of the dissertation; they must be annotated according to good scientific practice.

(6) ¹The submission of at least three topically independent scientific articles in a related research area can count as a dissertation, provided that in at least two of the articles the doctoral candidate was sole author or was responsible as lead author, and provided that at least one article was accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal based on an external process of scientific assessment (so-called cumulative dissertation). ²For a publication with several authors, it should be possible to clearly delimit and assess the contributions of each doctoral candidate; a declaration confirming the contribution made by the candidate must be submitted in this respect. ³Publications must include a meaningful introduction into the scientific questions underlying the publications as well as a summary in which the candidate's results are classified in their technical context (synopsis); also a bibliography. ⁴The cumulative dissertation should be presented in a bound form, § 13 section 2 letter a) applies accordingly. ⁵In the event that individual contributions are not yet published, the submission of a letter by the publishing house, which confirms acceptance of the contribution for publication and essential compliance to the submitted version with regard to content, is also sufficient for meeting the obligation for publication under § 24. ⁶This is without prejudice to the right to publish the cumulative dissertation as a whole in accordance with § 25.

§ 15 Evaluators; examination board

(1) ¹The graduate committee appoints at least two evaluators authorised to adjudicate examinations in the programme to review the dissertation, including at least one member of the thesis committee, who in most cases will be the first academic advisor. ²In exceptional cases, it shall name additional evaluators who are authorised examiners, especially in the case

of interdisciplinary or inter-faculty work. (3) At least one of the evaluators must be a full-time member of the professoral group of the faculty carrying or organising the programme. ⁴The doctoral candidate has the right to propose appointments as evaluators, but this shall not constitute a legal entitlement.

(2) ¹Besides the evaluators according to section 1, the examination board shall consist of the members of the thesis committee who are authorised examiners and may include other members who are authorised examiners. ²It has at least three members. ³At least two members must be authorised examiners in the respective programme; in addition, there must be authorisation to adjudicate examinations in at least one other programme at the GFA or in related research areas, provided the required technical expertise is needed in the examination process. ⁴The graduate committee appoints the members, including the chairperson. ⁵The doctoral candidate has the right to make proposals, but this shall not constitute a legal entitlement.

(3) ¹In the event that an academic title as set forth in § 2 section 3 is to be awarded, at least half of the examination board must be authorised examiners in a relevant sense as defined in § 5 section 4, including the first evaluator and at least one other evaluator. ²The graduate committee may make exceptions in this respect, especially in respect to interdisciplinary work, but not in the person of the first evaluator.

(4) ¹Retired professors or professors granted leave of access may not act as evaluators or examiners in the doctoral process for a period longer than three years after the end of their tenure. ²The graduate committee will decide on exceptions upon receipt of an application in this respect; exceptions should be approved in particular if the professor continues to engage in research or teaching.

(5) In the event that additional evaluators or examiners are appointed over the course of the examination process, they shall also be appointed members of the examination board as specified under the provisions of this regulation. ²The thesis committee may propose in advance of the examination procedure that an additional evaluator be appointed in the event that it appears possible that the degree "summa cum laude" shall be awarded; this evaluator must not belong to the University of Göttingen unless one of the other appointed evaluators is already an external member.

(6) Abstentions are not permitted in rulings by the examination board.

§ 16 Acceptance and rejection of the dissertation

(1) Each evaluator should produce an assessment of the dissertation within six weeks after filing the dissertation and propose:

- a) to accept the dissertation,

- b) to reject the dissertation or
- c) to return the dissertation for revision, if he or she would recommend a rejection otherwise.

(2) At least one evaluator is entitled to use suitable software, in particular plagiarism detection software, to determine whether the dissertation submitted was completed independently and without unauthorised assistance and in particular to determine whether any text passages or other sources were incorporated without annotation.

(3) In the event that acceptance of the dissertation is recommended, the review as described under section 1 should also award a grade as set forth in § 20.

(4) If all evaluators agree on acceptance or rejection of the dissertation, it is accepted or rejected, subject to an appeal as stated under § 17 section 2.

(5) ¹Insofar as the evaluators do not agree on acceptance or rejection, or insofar as their assessments deviate by more than one grade, the examination committee will make a final decision on acceptance and grade, rejection or return of the dissertation for revision, upon consultation of a further assessment. ²The additional evaluator becomes a member of the examination board; the additional review is to be treated in the same manner as the reviews previously carried out. ³The graduate committee shall otherwise decide on the acceptance and grade, rejection or return of the dissertation for revision based on the assessments on hand, especially in the case of an objection in accordance with § 17 section 2. ⁴The grade "summa cum laude" can only be awarded if given by at least three evaluators, including at least on external evaluator. ⁵Objections according to § 17 section 2 must be given appropriate consideration.

(6) ¹The examination board must set an appropriate deadline for completion of the revision. ²If a dissertation returned for revision is not submitted once more within this deadline, it is regarded as rejected. ³In the event that the dissertation is submitted within the specified deadline, the further procedure will be decided based on sections 1 to 5; however, the dissertation may not be returned for revision on another occasion.

(7) ¹In the case of rejection of dissertation, reapplication for permission to take the doctoral examination is possible only once and not before the end of a year. ²In this case, a new or considerably improved dissertation should be submitted. ³In doing this, the unsuccessful attempt should be notified. ⁴If this dissertation is also rejected, then the doctoral examination is definitively failed. ⁵All faculties, i.e. departments, at German universities that could conceivably be suitable for resubmission of the dissertation must be informed of a rejection.

(8) ¹The Dean of Studies informs the doctoral candidate in writing of the decision to accept or reject the dissertation. ²Acceptance of the dissertation shall also constitute admission to the oral defense. ³In the event of rejection on the first occasion, notification will be provided with

reference to the terms of section 8 concerning the option to resubmit the proposal. Instructions on the rights of legal recourse will be provided with a notice of rejection.

§ 17 Review

(1) After receipt of the reviews and assessments in accordance with § 16 sections 1 and 3, the authorised examiners at the graduate school will receive notification on the received reviews; the office of the dean of studies will then set a deadline of at least two weeks for a confidential inspection of the reviews and the dissertation.

(2) ¹The graduate committee may appoint a further evaluator for the dissertation insofar as an authorised examiner raises written and reasoned objections to the proposed acceptance or marking of a dissertation before a deadline defined under section 1. ²The additional evaluator becomes a member of the examination board; the additional review is to be treated in the same manner as the reviews previously carried out.

§ 18 Reference copy

At least one submitted copy of the dissertation containing all reviews remains in the examination files.

§ 19 Oral examination (oral defense)

(1) ¹The oral exam takes place as an oral defense in German or in English. ²The examination board may permit a different language upon reasoned proposal by the doctoral candidate, provided all members of the examination board are sufficiently competent in the examination language; the proposal does not constitute any legal entitlement.

(2) ¹The date for the oral defense is set by the office of the dean of studies after the decision on accepting the dissertation. ²The oral defense should take place no later than 12 weeks after submission of the dissertation.

(3) ¹The oral defense is open to the university public and will be announced by posting on the noticeboard. ²Upon application of the doctoral candidate, the university public may be excluded, provided there is an important reason; the examination board decides in this respect. ³Unlike in sentence 1, guests of the doctoral candidate may also attend the oral defense.

(4) The oral defense lasts at least 60, at the most 90 minutes.

(5) The oral defense is heard by the examination board. ²At least three, and at least two thirds, of the members of the examination board must be in attendance, including at least two evaluators of the dissertation. ³The examination commission is entitled to allow questions to be put to the doctoral candidate from the audience.

(6) ¹The oral defense consists of two parts. ²In the first part, the doctoral candidate shall explain the goals and results of his or her dissertation in the form of a presentation lasting a maximum

of 30 minutes, and shall furthermore answer relevant questions. ³In the second part of the oral defense, the doctoral candidate will receive questions from the examiners that relate to the subject areas and methodical questions concerning the speciality as a whole and related research areas, also on the larger scientific context that includes the dissertation.

(7) ¹Minutes on the course of the oral defense; it must be signed by the other members of the examination board. ²The examination board can call on an assessor holding a doctoral degree to produce the minutes.

(8) The examination board reaches a decision after the oral examination on whether it has been passed.

Part IV

Pass, fail, appeals procedure; completion of the doctoral studies

§ 20 Individual and overall grades of the doctoral studies

(1) ¹The following can be awarded as grades of the single reviews for the dissertation and for the oral examination:

summa cum laude	(excellent)	(0)
magna cum laude	(very good)	(1)
cum laude	(good)	(2)
rite	(pass)	(3).

²The grades can be improved (with exception of the grade summa cum laude) respectively by the value 0.3 or devalued (with exception of the grade rite) by the value 0.3.

(2) A grade calculated as the arithmetic average of several assessments can be:

up to and including	0.30	summa cum laude,
up to and including	1.50	magna cum laude,
up to and including	2.50	cum laude,
up to and including	3.00	rite.

(3) ¹The grade of the dissertation results from the arithmetic mean of the grades given by each of the evaluators: ²In the case of § 16 section 5, the examination board shall, unlike in sentence 1, award the grade on the basis of the submitted review.

(4) If the oral examination is passed, the grade is produced by the arithmetic mean of the grades given in the individual assessments, whereby each member of the examination board shall award a grade for the entire oral examination with grades assigned as indicated in section 1.

(5) ¹The examination board shall award the overall grade for the doctoral studies after the oral examination is passed. ²The current average grade represents the weighted arithmetic mean

from the grade of the oral examination and the grade of the dissertation. ³The dissertation with the factor 2 and the oral examination with the factor 1 are included in the calculation.

(6) ¹The doctoral candidate is notified of the result of the doctoral examination immediately after it is decided. ²In the event of passing, he or she shall inform the candidate immediately that the doctoral degree must not be used before completion of the doctoral studies. ³Upon application, the doctoral candidate receives a certificate on the examination result; this must also show that the doctoral degree may not be held before award of the doctoral studies.

§ 21 Failure, discontinuance, retake of the oral examination

(1) ¹The oral examination will be graded as a fail if the candidate shows insufficient knowledge. ²If the candidate fails to attend the examination or withdraws from the examination, then the examination is considered failed, unless an important reason occurs. ³Important reasons must be notified immediately in writing to the graduate committee and must be made plausible. ⁴In case of withdrawal or failure to attend due to illness, a medical certificate specifying the expected duration of the disease causing the inability to take the examination should be produced immediately, unless the illness is obvious. ⁵If the reasons are accepted, a new examination date is scheduled.

(2) ¹A failed oral examination can be repeated within a year upon application of the doctoral candidate; however, this shall be no earlier than after three months. ²Any further repetition shall not be permitted; failed examinations in a comparable doctoral degree programme at other universities shall be added. ³If the oral examination has been irrevocably failed, the doctoral examination shall also be deemed irrevocably unsuccessful.

(3) ¹An attempt at repetition should be completed before the same examination board. ²The graduate committee will appoint new examiners as necessary.

§ 22 Safeguarding provisions

(1) ¹If the examinee makes it plausible that he or she is not in a position (e.g. due to long-lasting or permanent physical impairment) to complete the examination components entirely or partly in the intended form, then he or she should be able to complete the examination components in an extended examination time or equivalent examination components in another form. ²A medical certificate from a specialist physician must be produced in original. ³Submission of a copy is not sufficient. ⁴The examination committee rules in this effect.

(2) ¹Insofar as compliance with the deadlines for the initial registration for examinations, resits of examinations, reasons for not attending the examinations and the free attempt and compliance with processing times for examination work are affected, the illness of the candidate and the necessary sole care by of one of a close relative are deemed equivalent. ²Close relatives are the candidate's children, parents, grandparents, married partner and life partner, also their children.

(3) ¹Study or examination components may not be fulfilled by pregnant women, if life or health of the mother or child is endangered according to the medical certificate. ²Furthermore, the safeguarding provisions corresponding to §§ 3, 4, 6 and 8 of the Maternal Protection Act apply.

(4) ¹The doctoral candidate must not be placed at a disadvantage due to the provisions under section 3. ²Fulfilment of the prerequisites under sections 1 to 3 should be evidenced through suitable documents, for example medical certificates from specialist physicians, birth certificates, certifications of the local residents' registration office, etc.

§ 23 Decision, objection

(1) ¹Rejections and other negative acts of administration that are ruled according to these regulations or other programme regulations must be reasoned in writing and provided with information on legal remedies and communicated to the doctoral candidate. ²These decisions can be objected within a month after publication of the notice, as far as this notice concerns the review of an examination result.

(2) The objection must be lodged in writing or in transcript.

(3) The graduate committee decides on the appeal in consideration of the procedure under section 4, unless the appeal is sustained.

(4) ¹Insofar as the appeal is against an assessment by an examiner, the graduate committee forwards the appeal by this person for review. ²If the examiner changes the assessment according to the appeal, the examination committee sustains the appeal. ³Otherwise, it reviews the decision based on the statement by the examiner, especially based on whether

- a) The examination procedure has been properly carried out,
- b) The generally valid assessment principles have been followed,

c) the examiner has not been influenced by irrelevant considerations.

⁴The same applies if the appeal is against an assessment by several examiners. ⁵In the event that there should be a violation in accordance with sentence 3, a further review on the dissertation shall be obtained accordingly or the oral examination will be repeated with an examiner as yet uninvolved in the procedure. ⁶Reassessment must not lead to deterioration in the examination assessment.

(5) ¹If the objection is not sustained, a notice of rejection is issued. ²This shall be issued by the chairman of the graduate committee. ³The notice of rejection should be reasoned, issued with instructions on rights of legal remedy and delivered.

§ 24 Publication of the dissertation

(1) Doctoral candidates must publish, and pay for the publication of, their dissertations.

(2) ¹The dissertation must be published no later than one year from the day of passing the oral examination. ²The graduate committee can grant an extension to this deadline lasting not longer than one year upon receipt of a reasoned application. ³If this deadline is not met, all rights acquired through the test become void.

(3) ¹The examination board may consent to publication of an abridged version of the dissertation in a scientific journal upon application by the doctoral candidate. ²In this respect, the version intended for publication must be approved by the first academic advisor.

(4) ¹Conditions imposed by the evaluators concerning changes in content must be considered in the publication. ²The graduate committee decides in the event of differences. ³Once all of the conditions are satisfied, the first academic advisor must without delay approve by signature on the corrections slip (appendix 4) the final version for publication; in the event that he or she did not act as an evaluator, the examination board will appoint one of its members to issue the corrections slip.

(5) Publication is proven to the examination office by submission of five (Faculty of Agricultural Sciences), i.e. ten (Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology) free reference copies within the period stipulated under section 2 and in one of the three possible forms of publication:

a) VLB-listed edition for sale in book shops if a commercial publisher is responsible for distribution to book shops, and a minimum edition of at least 100 copies or if an availability of five years is proven;

b) dissemination in the unabridged, approved version in the form of an electronic publication based on the regulation issued by the Senate of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in respect to electronic publications of dissertations; the eDiss procedure includes the production of two printed copies included in the number of compulsory reference copies as described under section 5;

c) cumulative dissertation, including an introduction, a synopsis and a bibliography according to § 14 section 6; electronic publication as described in letter b) is recommended unless there are legal provisions that do not permit this form.

(6) ¹The compulsory copies should be provided with a title page, whose front and rear side should be designed according to the template in appendix 3. ²At the end of the dissertation, a short curriculum vitae that represents the scientific education of the doctoral candidate career must be printed. ³These regulations do not apply to the copies of the dissertation sold in book shops.

(7) ¹All publications of the dissertation must include the entire contents in the event that cumulative dissertations are published. ²This is confirmed in the corrections slip. ³The provision of the section 6 applies correspondingly. ⁴If the dissertation is published in parts in accordance with sentence 1, but without reflecting the contents as a whole, the provisions of the sections 1 to 6 apply accordingly to the as yet unpublished parts.

(8) ¹Should there be an important reason and upon joint application of the doctoral student and his or her first academic advisor, publication may be managed initially in the manner that only the abstract is made publicly available for a certain period and not the complete dissertation manuscript. ²An important reason is present especially when

- a) parts of the dissertation were accepted for publication in a journal or a publishing house and prior publication of these parts is inadmissible according to the underlying contract,
- b) This is required for protection of intellectual property.

³The period under sentence 1 ends six months after the date of the passed oral examination; provided a reasoned application is submitted, the period can be extended once by an additional six months. ⁴Ruling thereon is passed by the examinations board. ⁵The application should be placed before the oral examination scheduled. ⁶The compulsory copies according to section 4 must be submitted at the latest upon expiry of the time period under lines 1 and 3.

§ 25 Award of the doctorate

(1) ¹Once the doctoral candidate has satisfied all obligations as defined under these regulations, in particular submission of the compulsory copies, the Dean shall conclude the doctoral studies by awarding the doctoral certificate (appendix 5) and the PhD certificate (appendix 6); an official translation at the discretion of the doctoral candidate shall be completed for all certificates and documents submitted in the German or English languages.

²An "Official Translation" will be produced in English if these documents are in German.

(2) ¹The time at which the certificate is issued is the day on which the compulsory copies of the dissertation are received by the faculty. ²The day of the passed oral examination is considered the date of doctoral graduation.

(3) ¹Contrary to sections 1 and 2, the doctorate can be awarded before the compulsory copies under § 24 section 5 are submitted, if

a) instead of the compulsory copies, a publishing house contract with an accredited scientific publishing house is submitted and moreover declares in writing that the printing and submission of the obligatory copies are guaranteed within a maximum period of a year following the oral examination, and

b) publication takes place in accordance with § 24 section section 8.

²The doctorate is awarded in this case under reservation of the fulfilment of obligations according to § 24 section 5. ³If this obligation is violated, all rights acquired through the examination, especially the right to carry the doctoral degree, become void. ⁴The PhD certificate should be returned immediately.

(4) The doctoral degree may not be used before award of the PhD certificate. ²The title "Dr. des." must not be used.

(5) Doctoral studies are complete upon award of the doctoral certificate.

(6) A copy of the certificate is posted on the noticeboard for 14 days.

§ 26 Inspection of the Examination Records

¹In the period between conclusion of the oral examination and awarding the doctoral degree or within four weeks after return or rejection of the dissertation or after failure of the oral examination, the doctoral candidate is entitled to inspect the written reviews and the minutes of the examination.²Copies of the record content can also be issued, subject to payment of an administrative fee.

Part V

Invalidity of the doctoral examination; withdrawal of the doctorate

§ 27 Invalidity of the doctoral degree examination; withdrawal of the doctorate

- (1) The doctoral examination can be declared void and the doctorate can be withdrawn,
- a) if it is subsequently ascertained that the doctorate was acquired through fraudulence, or if essential prerequisites for the admission to the doctoral examination were wrongly presumed to be fulfilled,
 - b) if it is subsequently ascertained that the holder of the doctoral degree did, due to grossly negligent or intentional conduct in violation of the obligation to uphold scientific integrity,
 - ba) prove unworthy of being awarded a doctoral degree, or
 - bb) prove unworthy of holding an academic degree due to subsequent behaviour.
- (2) In the event that there is a lawful conviction for a criminal offence in connection with the doctoral studies, the doctoral examination shall be declared void and the doctorate shall be withdrawn.
- (3) ¹The faculty council shall rule in cases governed by sections 1 and 2 by a majority vote of its members holding a doctoral degree; in cases in which there is a suspicion of scientific misconduct, the ruling shall be preceded by an arbitration procedure as defined in the regulations of Georg-August-Universität intended to safeguard good scientific practice. ²Notification is issued by the dean. ³The notice must be sent to the recipient in question.

Part VI

Honorary doctorates

§ 28 Awarding the honorary doctorate

- (1) ¹The faculty council may, in recognition of an outstanding academic performance or other suitable contributions to the advancement of science, award the title of honorary doctor of forest sciences (Doctor forestalium honoris causa, in short "Dr. forest. h.c.") or the title of honorary doctor of agricultural sciences (Doctor scientarum agrariarum honoris causa, in short "Dr. sc. agr. h.c."), although these awards are seldom. ²Exclusively members and staff of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology shall be entitled to propose persons to be honoured in this way. ³The honorary doctorate is awarded by resolution of the faculty council; a resolution shall require a majority of two thirds of the members eligible to vote, including a majority of four fifths of the members of the professoral group. ⁴The decision should be prepared by a commission of the faculty council, assembled in a group.

(2) ¹The honorary doctorate is awarded by the Dean of Studies in the form of a degree certificate. ²This degree certificate shall list the scientific merits or achievements in advancing the cause of science that led to the award of the honorary doctorate.

Part VII

Double doctorates

§ 29 Prerequisites for a joint doctoral process

(1) A doctoral process carried out jointly with a foreign university or faculty sets the prerequisites that

a) an agreement on the cross-border supervision of this doctoral studies has been made with the foreign university or faculty or an individual cooperation contract for completion of a double doctoral degree has been concluded with the foreign university or faculty, and

b) admission to the doctoral degree or acceptance as a doctoral candidate has been granted both at the University of Göttingen and the foreign university or faculty.

(2) ¹The dissertation can be submitted at the University of Göttingen or the foreign university or faculty according to more detailed regulation in the agreement under section 1. ²A dissertation that has been submitted at the foreign university or faculty before conclusion of the agreement in accordance with section 1 and has been accepted or rejected there cannot be resubmitted at the University of Göttingen. ³The agreement under section 1 must ensure that a dissertation submitted at the University of Göttingen and accepted or rejected there before conclusion of the agreement cannot be resubmitted at the foreign university or faculty.

(3) If the dissertation is submitted at the University of Göttingen, then § 30 should be applied. If the dissertation is submitted at the foreign university or faculty, then § 31 should be applied.

§ 30 Submission at the University of Göttingen

(1) ¹During the execution of the doctoral process, the supervision is provided by at least one authorised examiner of the University of Göttingen and at least one authorised examiner of the foreign university or faculty. ²The execution of supervision results from the agreement under § 29 section 1.

(2) ¹Notwithstanding § 15, the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences appoints in agreement with the foreign university or faculty an examination board, which is to be equally constituted by scientists and scholars of both institutions; further information is regulated in the agreement under § 29 section 1. ²Both academic advisers to the dissertation should be appointed as examiners.

(3) ¹If the dissertation was accepted at the University of Göttingen, then it is transferred to the foreign university or faculty for approval on the continuation of the process. ²If the foreign university or faculty issues the approval on continuation of the process, then an oral

examination takes place at the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Göttingen according to the provisions of §§ 19–21; this may differ from the provisions of §§ 19–21 in established exceptional cases in accordance with the agreement under § 29 section 1.

(4) ¹If the dissertation is accepted by the University of Göttingen, but the approval for continuing the process is rejected by the foreign university or faculty, the joint procedure is terminated.

²The doctoral process is continued according to the general provisions of these regulations. ³A new examination board is to be appointed for the examination in accordance with § 15.

§ 31 Submission at the foreign university or faculty

(1) ¹If the dissertation is submitted at the foreign university or faculty, then the foreign university or faculty decides on its acceptance or continuation of the process respectively, after reviewing the dissertation. ²If the result of the decision is positive, the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Göttingen decides in accordance with § 16 on the acceptance of the dissertation after submission of all of the necessary expert opinions by the advisers at the University of Göttingen. ³The competent office of the dean of studies announces the result to the foreign university or faculty. ⁴Furthermore he/she notifies the names of the examiners to be appointed. ⁵The oral examination takes place at the foreign university or faculty.

(2) ¹If the dissertation is rejected at the University of Göttingen, then the joint procedure is concluded. ²The rejected dissertation may not be resubmitted at the University of Göttingen. ³The decisions on the reassessment of the doctoral degree remain unaffected.

(3) ¹If the dissertation is rejected at the foreign university or faculty, then the joint procedure is concluded. ²The process shall be continued in accordance with the terms of §§ 11-26.

§ 32 Joint PhD certificate

¹Successful completion of the doctoral process in co-supervision with a foreign university or faculty is followed by the award of a joint PhD certificate, which is signed by both universities and from which it is clear that it is a doctoral degree for scientific achievement awarded jointly by the concerned universities. ²In the event that it is not possible to issue a joint doctoral certificate, the doctoral certificate of the University of Göttingen will be issued with the addendum that the doctoral degree was earned based on a joint doctoral process conducted with the foreign university or faculty.

Part VIII

Final provisions

§ 33 Entry into force and provisional regulations

(1) ¹This regulation enters into force the day after its promulgation in the Official Bulletin I of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen retroactively on 01.10.2015. ²The following cease to be in force at the same time:

- the examination regulations for the doctoral studies in "Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology" at the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology in the version of the announcement dated 09.03.2005 (Official Bulletin 1/2005 p. 53),
- the examination regulations for the doctoral studies in "Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology" at the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology in the version of the announcement dated 09.03.2005 (Official Bulletin 1/2005 p. 79), amended by the announcement dated 05.04.2007 (Official Bulletin 4/2007 p. 199),
- the examination regulations for the doctoral studies in "Holzbiologie und Holztechnologie" (international name: "Wood Biology and Wood Technology") in the version of the announcement dated 22.07.2005 (Official Bulletin 6/2005 p. 380),
- the examination regulations for the doctoral studies in "Holzbiologie und Holztechnologie" (international name: "Wood Biology and Wood Technology") in the version of the announcement dated 22.07.2005 (Official Bulletin 6/2005 p. 414), last amended by the announcement dated 05.04.2007 (Official Bulletin 4/2007 p. 205),
- the examination regulations for the doctoral studies in agricultural sciences in the version of the announcement dated 23.03.2013 (Official Bulletin I no. 12/2003 p. 173), last amended by the announcement dated 16.05.2014 (Official Bulletin no. 18/2014 p. 573),

(2) ¹Unlike in section 1, the following shall apply to doctoral candidates who commenced their academic programme before these doctoral degree regulations came into force and have since been enrolled without interruption,

- a) in the doctoral degree course for agricultural sciences,
- b) in the doctoral degree course "Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology", or
- c) in the doctoral degree course "Wood Biology and Wood Technology",

will continue to be examined in accordance with the provisions of the authoritative regulations in the meaning section 1 sentence 2. ²An examination according to the provisions of the regulations set forth in section 1 sentence 2, also the assessment procedure, must have been completed by no later than the summer semester 2019.

(3) Upon application, doctoral candidates shall be examined in total on the basis of the terms of this regulation as specified in section 2.

Appendix 1 Doctoral studies and doctoral degree programmes; doctoral degree

Doctoral studies	Corresponding doctoral degree programmes	Doctoral degree in accordance with § 2 section 1
a) Doctoral degree programme in agricultural sciences in Göttingen	a) Doctoral degree programme in agricultural sciences in Göttingen (PAG) b) Doctoral degree programme "International PhD Program for Agricultural Sciences in Göttingen (IPAG)" c) Research training group 1666 GlobalFood d) Doctoral research training group Agricultural Economics e) Graduate School 1644 Scaling Problems in Statistics f) Doctoral research training group Upgrading Qualification in SME, g) Animal Welfare in Intensive Livestock Production Systems, h) Research training group 1703 Resource Efficiency in Company Networks	Dr. sc. agr.
Doctoral degree programme "Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology"		Dr. forest.
Doctoral degree programme "Wood Biology and Wood Technology"		Dr. forest.
Doctoral degree programme		
Molecular Sciences and Biotechnology of Crop Plants" (BioNutz)		Dr. forest.
Wood Material Research		Dr. forest.
Forest and Nature for Society (FONASO)		Dr. forest.
Diversity Turn in Land Use Science		Dr. forest. / Dr. sc. agr.

Appendix 2

Declaration by the doctoral candidate at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Surname
(Surname, First Name)

Address
(Country / Postcode / Place)

I intend to produce a dissertation on the topic of

.....

.....

at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.

In this, I shall be supervised by Prof.

I submit the following declaration:

1. The opportunity for the existing doctoral project was not made commercially available to me. Especially, I have not engaged any organisation that seeks thesis advisers against a fee for the preparation of dissertations or performs my obligations with respect to examination components entirely or partly.

2. I have until now and shall in future accept the assistance of third parties only in a scope that is scientifically justifiable and compliant with the legal statutes of the examinations. I shall specifically complete all parts of the dissertation myself; I have neither, nor will I, accept unauthorised outside assistance either free of charge or subject to a fee.

Furthermore, I am aware of the fact that untruthfulness with respect to the above declaration repeals the admission to complete the doctoral studies and/or subsequently entitle termination of the doctoral process or withdrawal of the title attained."

....., the

(Place)

.....

(Signature)

Appendix 3: Sample for the front page of a dissertation (front side in German)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

[Titel der Dissertation]

Dissertation
zur Erlangung des Doktorgrades (Dr. forest./Dr. sc. agr./Dr. rer. nat. /Dr. rer. pol.)*/akademischen
Grades Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.)*
der Fakultät für Forstwissenschaften und Waldökologie/Agrarwissenschaften*
der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

vorgelegt von

.....

[Name]

geboren am in

Göttingen,

[Erscheinungsmonat und -jahr]

* Nichtzutreffendes streichen

Appendix 3: Sample for the front page of a dissertation (back side in German)

1. Gutachterin / 1. Gutachter:
[Name]

2. Gutachterin / 2. Gutachter:
[Name]

ggf. 3. Gutachterin / 3. Gutachter:
[Name]

Tag der mündlichen Prüfung:
[Datum]

Appendix 3: Sample of the title page of a dissertation (front side, English)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

[title of thesis]

Dissertation
to attain the doctoral degree (Dr. forest./Dr. sc. agr./Dr. rer. nat./Dr. rer. pol.)*/degree Doctor of
Philosophy (Ph. D.)*
of the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology/Agricultural Sciences
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Submitted by

.....

[name]

born on the in

Göttingen,

(month and year of publication)

* delete as applicable

Appendix 3: Sample of the title page of a dissertation (back side, English)

1st Referee:
[name]

2nd Referee:
[name]

if applicable 3rd Referee:
[name]

Date of oral examination:
[date]

Appendix 4: Sample for the correction slip

Correction slip

The printed copy of the dissertation by Mr./Ms*

.....

with the title:

.....

.....

.....

.....

has been submitted to me. I have no objections to the printing of this dissertation and confirm this in accordance with § 24 section 4 of the doctoral degree regulations for the Graduate School of Forest and Agricultural Sciences by my signature.

I confirm that the published version corresponds fully with the content of the dissertation.

Göttingen, the

.....

[Signature of the 1st referee]

* Delete where inapplicable

Appendix 5: Sample of the examination certificate (German)

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Graduiertenschule Forst- und Agrarwissenschaften
Fakultät für Forstwissenschaften und Waldökologie/Agrarwissenschaften*

Zeugnis über die Doktorprüfung
im Promotionsstudiengang/Promotionsprogramm*

Frau Herr* geboren am in
hat die Doktorprüfung gemäß der Promotionsordnung vom
mit dem Gesamturteil am.....bestanden.

Leistungen im Promotionsstudium:

[Module]	Credits
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Thema der Dissertation:

Note der Dissertation:

Note der mündlichen Prüfung:

Gesamtnote der Doktorprüfung:

Göttingen, den

Die Dekanin/Der Dekan*

* Nichtzutreffendes streichen

Appendix 5: Sample of the examination certificate (English)

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Graduate School Forest- and Agricultural Sciences
Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology / Agricultural Sciences

Transcript of Records

Doctorate / PhD* Programme

Mrs / Mr* born on the in
passed the doctoral examination on thepursuant to the examination regulations
of thewith the overall grade

Achieved credits:

[Modules]	Credits
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Subject of thesis:
.....
.....

Grade of thesis:

Grade of thesis defence:

Overall grade of the doctoral examination:

Göttingen,

Dean

* Delete where inapplicable

Appendix 6: Sample of the doctoral certificate (German)

Die Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

unter

der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten*

.....
[Name]

verleiht

durch die Fakultät für Forstwissenschaften und Waldökologie/Agrarwissenschaften*

unter

der Dekanin/dem Dekan*

.....
[Name]

Frau / Herrn*
[Name der Doktorandin/des Doktoranden]

geboren am in

den Grad einer Doktorin/eines Doktors* der Forstwissenschaften/Agrarwissenschaften/
eines Doctor of Philosophy/
einer Doktorin/eines Doktors* der Naturwissenschaften/Wirtschaftswissenschaften*

Sie/Er* hat im ordnungsgemäßen Promotionsverfahren durch die Dissertation

.....
.....
.....
[Titel der Dissertation]

sowie durch eine mündliche Prüfung (Disputation) am

ihre / seine* wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen und dabei das Gesamturteil

.....
[Note]

erhalten.

Göttingen, den [Universitätssiegel]

Die Dekanin/Der Dekan*

* Nichtzutreffendes streichen

Appendix 6: Sample of the doctoral certificate (English)

The Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

under the presidency of

.....
[name]

through the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology/Agricultural Sciences*

under the deanship of

.....
[name]

confers upon

Mrs / Mr*
[name of the postgraduate]

born on the in

the degree Doktorin/Doktor der Forstwissenschaften/Agrarwissenschaften / Doctor of
Philosophy/Doktorin/Doktor* der Naturwissenschaften/Wirtschaftswissenschaften *

She/He* has proved pursuant to the regulations by
successful completion of a doctoral thesis (dissertation)

.....
.....
.....
[title of thesis]

and an oral defense (Disputation) on

her / his* scientific competence and thereby reached the final grade

.....
[grade]

Göttingen, [seal of the university]

Dean*

* delete as applicable
