

This document is provided for informational purposes only. It contains relevant sections from the corresponding doctoral regulations at the four faculties of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. You can find detailed information in the corresponding original versions of these regulations in German.

## Doctoral study at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

### Doctoral degrees and purpose of doctoral study

The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar confers the following academic degrees through its faculties:

- Doktor-Ingenieur (Dr.-Ing.)  
(Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Media)
- Doctor philosophiae (Dr. phil.)  
(Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Faculty of Art and Design, Faculty of Media)
- Doctor rerum naturalium (Dr. rer. nat.)  
(Faculty of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Media)
- Doctor rerum politicarum (Dr. rer. pol.)  
(Faculty of Media)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD.) in the disciplines of "Art and Design" and "Fine Arts"  
(Faculty of Art and Design)
- Doktor-Ingenieur ehrenhalber (Dr.- Ing. E.h.) – *honorary doctorate of the natural sciences*  
(Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism)
- Doctor philosophiae honoris causa (Dr. phil. h.c.) – *honorary doctorate of philosophy*  
(Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism)

Doctoral study demonstrates the candidate's ability to conduct in-depth academic work and is based on independent scientific thesis (dissertation) and oral examination (defence).

### General admission requirements for doctoral study

Eligibility for admission to doctoral study generally requires that the candidate successfully earn a *Diplom* or master's degree (with a mark of "good" or better) from a German university or an equivalent degree from a foreign university which corresponds to the profile of the respective faculty.

If the course of study of the *Diplom*, master's degree or equivalent degree from a German or foreign university does not correspond to the profile of the faculty, a doctoral commission determines what additional work is required for gaining admission.

If the candidate has earned a bachelor's degree or degree from a technical college with a mark of at least "good" or "very good" (depending on the faculty) from a German or foreign university, the candidate may be conditionally allowed to pursue doctoral study. The conditions for admission vary from case to case and faculty.

### General requirements of the doctoral examination process

#### Application as a doctoral candidate and securing doctoral supervision

Those who meet the admission requirements for doctoral study may apply for acceptance as a doctoral candidate and propose a topic for their doctoral thesis. Following a review of the application, the doctoral commission decides on whether to approve the candidate and the candidate's proposed doctoral supervisor.

Applicants, who are not in a PhD programme or in the employment of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, should or must (according to the requirements of the respective faculty) apply for acceptance as a doctoral candidate at least one year prior to when they plan to submit their dissertation for assessment.

Doctoral candidates are generally supervised by at least one professor of the university. One of the two supervisors must be a member of the faculty (Faculty of Media) or habilitated member of the university (Faculty of Art and Design).

Should supervision by the doctoral supervisor end prematurely for reasons which the doctoral candidate is not responsible, the doctoral commission must endeavour to assign the candidate another supervisor upon request.

### **Dissertation**

The dissertation submitted by the candidate must meet academic standards and contain original academic work.

Candidates are generally required to write their dissertations in German. An exception can be made by the doctoral commission if a suitable assessor can be found. Dissertations written in a language other than German must include an extensive summary in German.

The dissertation must include a complete list of publications which were used as sources or aids by the candidate in writing the dissertation. All literal or roughly quoted citations must be designated as such.

The dissertation must also include a statement by the doctoral candidate confirming that he/she independently completed the thesis and used no additional sources or aids other than those specified as such (Declaration of Honour).

The dissertation must be submitted in printed form.

### **Commencement of the doctoral examination process**

The doctoral examination process can only begin when the candidate has submitted a dissertation upon confirmation that the admission requirements to doctoral study are fulfilled. The request to begin the process is submitted to the chairperson of the doctoral commission and should include the following documents (for specific details, see the doctoral examination requirements of the respective faculty):

- Curriculum vitae with information about the candidate's professional and academic career and list of prior publications
- Confirmation that admission requirements for doctoral study are fulfilled. (Required documents are to be submitted as notarised copies. Certificates and documents issued in a language other than German must be submitted together with certified translations.)
- Statement as to whether and, if applicable, with what success the candidate has already requested to commence and/or completed the doctoral examination process
- Four printed and bound copies of the dissertation
- Abstract containing the essential findings of the thesis (max. length is stipulated by the faculties)
- Proof of payment of the doctoral study fees

If the doctoral commission rejects the candidate's request to commence the process, the candidate must be notified of the decision in writing with its justification, along with instructions on means of legal recourse. The candidate is permitted to retract his/her dissertation within one month of commencement of the process and before the first assessment has been completed.

### **Assessment of the dissertation**

Upon commencement of the doctoral examination process, the doctoral commission appoints at least two assessors (Faculties of Architecture, Media), or three assessors (Faculties of Civil Engineering, Art and Design). Assessments are to be made independently from one another and must be completed within three months following the request for evaluation.

Should the assessors recommend that the dissertation be accepted, they may also include suggestions for changes prior to its publication. However, suggestions regarding changes may only apply to the form of the work, not aspects of its content.

## Acceptance of the dissertation

The doctoral commission must decide on whether to accept the dissertation within six weeks after receiving all of the assessments. This time limit is suspended for lecture-free periods.

The doctoral commission bases its decision to accept (or reject) the dissertation on the submitted assessments and statements. In case of rejection, the candidate is notified of the decision in writing, after which time he/she has four weeks to review the assessments. The candidate then has the option to revise and re-submit the dissertation. The doctoral regulations are structured according to specific deadlines and time limits.

## Examination board

If the dissertation is accepted, the doctoral commission appoints an examination board which is responsible for conducting the further proceedings. The examination board is comprised of the assessors, other professors and doctorate-holding academic staff members.

## Defence

The defence of the dissertation is open to the public and must be held within six weeks following acceptance. The dissertation is put on public display at the main library 14 days prior to the defence. In the defence, the candidate presents the essential results of his or her dissertation. Following the candidate's presentation, the assessors and the other members of the examination board have the right to ask the candidate questions.

Directly following the defence, the examination board meets in closed session to decide whether the defence passed or failed, and to determine the grade of the defence. The doctoral candidate must be notified of the results immediately following the board's decision.

If the defence receives a failing mark, the candidate is allowed to present his or her defence within one year, but no earlier than two months, after the date of the first failed attempt. If the defence receives a failing mark a second time, it may not be repeated again and the defence stands as failed.

## Evaluation of doctoral achievement:

1) Doctoral achievement is marked according to the following grading scheme:

- magna cum laude (m.c.l.) – very good, 1
- cum laude (c.l.) – good, 2
- rite (r.) – passed, 3
- non sufficit (n.s.) – failed, 4

If all of the assessments and the defence receive marks of "very good", the examination board may confer a total grade of "summa cum laude (with honours)".

## Statutory copies

After passing the defence, the chairperson of the examination board informs the candidate whether he or she is required to make any changes to the dissertation before publication. In addition to the statutory copies which are required for commencing the doctoral process, the candidate is also required to present additional copies to the university library (see doctoral regulations for specific requirements).

### **Conferral of the doctoral degree**

The university issues a doctoral certificate to the candidate, dated on the day of its defence, marking the official conferral of the doctoral degree. From this time onward, the candidate is permitted to carry the doctoral title.

### **Denial or retraction of the doctoral degree**

The doctoral degree is to be retracted, or the conferral thereof, denied, if the doctoral commission should discover that the candidate committed fraudulent acts with regard to his or her doctoral achievements or information becomes known which would have barred the candidate from receiving the doctoral degree.