Faculty Doctoral Regulations for the Faculty of Medicine (FPromO Med) of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen Nürnberg (FAU)

Dated 21 January 2013

Table of contents

I. General Conditions .......................................................... 2
   § 1 Scope ........................................................................ 2
   § 2 Doctoral Degrees ......................................................... 2
   § 3 Doctoral Titles ............................................................ 2
   § 4 Bodies Responsible and Procedural Regulations ................. 2
   § 5 Reviewers and Supervisors .......................................... 2

II. Admission to a Doctorate ..................................................... 3
    § 6 Admission Requirements ............................................. 3
    § 7 Doctoral Qualification Examination ............................... 4
    § 8 Admission to a Doctorate ............................................ 4

III. The Doctorate Procedure .................................................. 4
     § 9 Initiation of the Doctorate Procedure ............................ 4
     § 10 Thesis Requirements ................................................ 5
     § 11 Evaluation, Acceptance and Refusal of the Thesis ............ 5
     § 12 Oral Examinations ................................................... 6
     § 13 Resitting the Oral Examination ................................... 6
     § 14 Results of the Doctorate Procedure, Notification ............ 6
     § 15 Publication of the Thesis and Submission of the Mandatory Copies of the Thesis 6
     § 16 Completion of the Doctoral Degree ............................... 6

IV. Honorary Doctoral Degrees ................................................ 7
    § 17 Honorary Doctoral Degrees ........................................ 7

V. Interuniversity Co-operation ................................................. 7
    § 18 Interuniversity Co-operation ....................................... 7

VI. Doctoral Degrees in Co-operation with Foreign Universities ..... 7
    § 19 General Information .................................................. 7
    § 20 Examinations Procedure at FAU ................................. 7
    § 21 Examinations Procedure at the Partner Institution ............ 7
    § 22 Joint Doctoral Degree Certificate ................................ 7

VII. Invalidity and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees ..................... 7
    § 23 Invalidity of Doctoral Examinations ............................ 7
I. General Conditions

§ 1 Scope

These Faculty Doctoral Regulations (FPromO Med) supplement the General Doctoral Regulations of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (RPromO) for the Faculty of Medicine and are thus structured in a similar manner. The Faculty Doctoral Regulations are stipulated in the relevant sections, insofar as they shall apply.

§ 2 Doctoral Degrees

§ 3 Doctoral Titles

§ 4 Bodies Responsible and Procedural Regulations

(1) A doctoral affairs committee is responsible for each of the doctoral degrees in medicine, dentistry and human biology insofar as the doctoral regulations do not specify otherwise. The members of the doctoral affairs committees are:
   1. The Dean (chairperson)
   2. Two further members appointed by the Faculty Council from the authorised examiners for the examination of doctoral degrees at the Faculty of Medicine.
   The Dean may transfer their position as chair or any other of their tasks to the Vice Dean or another professor of the Faculty of Medicine. A university lecturer from the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology, the Faculty of Sciences, or the Faculty of Engineering shall also be appointed to the Doctoral Affairs Committee for Human Biology by the Faculty Council and shall be included from the doctoral qualification examination onwards.

(2) For each doctorate procedure, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall appoint an Examining Committee which consists of the chairperson and
   1. two (Dr. med, Dr. med. dent.) or
   2. four (Dr. rer. biol. hum)

authorised examiners for doctoral degrees. At least two members of the Examining Committee according to (1)(1) or three members according to (1)(2) must be professors. The supervisors and the reviewers shall be appointed to the Examining Committee according to 0. A maximum of two members of the Examining Committee according to (1)(b) may be appointed from another faculty or another university. One of the members listed in (1)(2) must be a member of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology, the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Law, or the Faculty of Engineering depending on the candidate’s degree.

§ 5 Reviewers and Supervisors
(1) The supervisor is generally also a reviewer.

(2) According to Section 5 (2)(1), RPromO, only primary and secondary members of the Faculty of Medicine are entitled to supervise doctoral degrees. Part-time lecturers and individuals with doctoral degrees (who are able to continually supervise the doctoral proposal due to their employment at FAU or an institution associated with FAU) can be appointed as supervisors on an individual basis.

II. Admission to a Doctorate

§ 6 Admission Requirements

(1) The requirements for admission to a doctorate procedure are:

1. Dr. med.
   A pass in the State Examination for medicine (ärztliche Prüfung) at a university within German jurisdiction and proof of study at FAU according to (2)
2. Dr. med. dent
   A pass in the State Examination for dentistry (zahnärztliche Prüfung) at a university within German jurisdiction and proof of study at FAU according to (2).
3. Dr. rer. biol. hum.
   A degree according to (3), evidence of qualifications specified in (4) and a pass in the doctoral qualification examination according to Section 7.

(2) 1Proof of study at FAU (in medicine or dentistry) for at least two semesters or employment as a research associate for at least one year at an FAU institute or department. 2The Dean can waive this admissions requirement in extraordinary circumstances at the candidates request and following consultation with a subject representative.

(3) 1A university degree in the relevant subject of the following type:

   1. Diplom, Master’s, State Examination or an equivalent university degree in philosophy, natural science, veterinary science, pharmaceutical science or engineering or a degree not related to medicine at a medical faculty at a German university or an equivalent German higher education institution or university of applied sciences.

   In conjunction with:
   2. An overall grade of 1.50 (sehr gut) or a result among the top 15 percent results of the year.

   The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall decide on the relevance of the degree and any exceptions to (1).

2If the doctoral regulations specify a minimum grade for admission to the doctoral degree programme, the candidate must provide evidence of having achieved this grade. 3The Dean can waive the admissions requirement in (2) if the candidate can provide evidence of employment according to (4) and a reference from the university lecturer who employed them at the Faculty of Medicine. 4Candidates who have achieved a degree according to (1)(1) and have successfully completed a doctoral degree may only apply for a doctoral degree in human biology if they have completed an additional degree according to (1).

(4) 1Proof of employment for at least two years as a full-time member of academic staff at the Faculty of Medicine of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg or a doctoral scholarship under the supervision of a university lecturer at the FAU Faculty of Medicine. 2The Doctoral Affairs Committee may consider employment at other faculties of
medicine as relevant to the admission requirements at the candidates request and in justified circumstances.

(5) The entitlement to bear a doctoral title for medicine, dentistry or human biology precludes the right to graduate in a doctoral degree programme leading to the same title.

§ 7 Doctoral Qualification Examination

(1) A doctoral qualification examination shall be held for every doctorate procedure for doctoral degrees in human biology. The examination shall assess the candidate's understanding of the subject.

(2) Applications can only be submitted three months at the earliest after the conditions for admission according to 0 (4) have been met.

(3) The Doctoral Affairs Committee appoints the examiners after considering suggestions for examiners from the candidate and from the supervisor where applicable. The following shall be appointed
1. An examiner from the institution the candidate is employed at or funded by
2. A secondary examiner from the authorised examiners for doctoral degrees
3. A member as a secondary examiner according to Section 4 (1)(3)

(4) The doctoral qualification examination shall be held in the form of an oral examination. Candidates specified in 3 (2)(1) shall be subject to 30 minutes of examination and candidates specified in 3 (2)(2) and (3) shall be subject to 15 minutes of examination. The doctoral qualification examination shall take place within three months of submission of the application according to (2). The examiners shall inform the candidates of the examination matter at least eight weeks before the examination. The examination matter should be relevant to the candidates' existing employment or funding according to 0 (§4) and bear appropriate relation to the field of medicine.

(5) The examiners shall announce the result directly after the examination as 'bestanden' (pass) or 'nicht bestanden' (fail). If at least two examiners award the result 'bestanden', the candidate has passed the doctoral qualification examination.

§ 8 Admission to a Doctorate

The director of the academic or clinical institution supervising the doctoral proposal must agree to the use of resources and patient data if applicable during the admissions process.

III. The Doctorate Procedure

§ 9 Initiation of the Doctorate Procedure

(1) The doctoral procedure shall be initiated by four years at the latest after admission according to 0. If this deadline is exceeded, the admission shall be considered void and the supervisory relationship shall expire. Exceptions shall be subject to the approval of the bodies responsible. Candidates shall submit a written application and a letter of recommendation from their supervisor in this case.
(2) If the doctoral proposal is administered by another institution which does not belong to the Faculty of Medicine, the agreement of the director of the institution must be submitted to the Faculty of Medicine during initiation of the doctorate procedure.

§ 10 Thesis Requirements

(1) All theses written in German must be accompanied by an abstract in English.

(2) Academic monographs which have already been published and where the candidate is the primary author may be accepted as an alternative to the typed thesis. In exceptional cases, such as a publication in a prestigious international journal, co-authored work in which the candidate was the secondary author may be accepted. These must be published in German or English language with the accompanying sheets mentioned above. In exceptional cases, confirmation required according to Section 10 (3)(3), RPromO may be replaced by confirmation from the supervisor.

§ 11 Evaluation, Acceptance and Refusal of the Thesis

(1) The evaluation shall include a grade. The following grade scales shall apply:

- magna cum laude = sehr gut (1) for outstanding achievement
- ‘cum laude’ = gut (2) for commendable achievement
- ‘rite’ = befriedigend (3) for satisfactory achievement
- ‘insufficienter’ = unzulänglich (4) for unsatisfactory achievement with significant omissions.

Outstanding achievements may be recognised with the assessment:

- 1* = summa cum laude (ausgezeichnet)
- 4 If both reviewers agree on the grade 'summa cum laude', two additional reviewers shall be appointed for the procedure according to (2). At least one of these reviewers shall be appointed from another university.

(2) To achieve the grade 'summa cum laude', the candidate must be the primary author of a monograph published or accepted for publication in a prestigious international journal with peer reviews – or in exceptional cases (such as publication in a prestigious interdisciplinary journal) secondary author.

(3) A third evaluation shall be requested for doctoral degrees in human biology if both initial evaluations are graded as 'magna cum laude'. The third evaluation according to Clause 1 and the additional evaluations according to (1)(4) shall in the case of a doctoral degree in human biology be carried out by members of a faculty of humanities, sciences or engineering at FAU or another university. The grade 'magna cum laude' may only be awarded if all of the evaluations propose this grade.

(4) If the thesis is accepted, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall decide on the grade based on the evaluations and the grades specified in (1). The Faculty Council shall take the decision to award the grade 'summa cum laude' based on the suggestion of the Doctoral Affairs Committee; only authorised examiners for doctoral degrees may take part in this decision.
§ 12  Oral Examinations

(1) The oral examination covers the topic of the thesis and the contextual relationships between the topic of the thesis and research questions in other disciplines, particularly in related disciplines in theory and practice.

(2) 1 In the case of Dr. rer. biol. hum or if the grade 'summa cum laude' is awarded, the oral examination shall be held in the form of a public Disputation in German or English. 2 The Disputation consists of a 20-minute presentation of the thesis results by the candidate. 3 An academic discussion led by the chairperson of the Examining Committee shall be conducted after the presentation. 4 The Dean can allow a Disputation to be held in cases other than specified in Clause 1 at the candidate's request. 5 The Disputation shall be held by four months at the latest after the thesis is submitted.

(3) 1 Admitted doctoral candidates may be admitted to the oral examination as listeners in restricted numbers, if the candidate does not object to their presence. 2 This shall not apply to the determination and notification of the examination results.

§ 13  Resitting the Oral Examination

§ 14  Results of the Doctorate Procedure, Notification

(1) 1 Each member of the Examining Committee shall assess the performance of the candidate in the oral examination with a grade specified in 0 (1)(2). 2 The grade for the oral examination is calculated from the arithmetic average of the individual grades from the examiners; the result is calculated to two decimal places.

(2) If the oral examination is graded as 'insufficienter' by at least two members of the Examining Committee (Dr. med. and Dr. med. dent) or three members of the Examining Committee (Dr. rer. biol. hum), the oral examination shall be considered as failed.

(3) 1 The overall grade is calculated from the average of the thesis grade and the oral examination. 2 The thesis grade is weighted twice. 3 The overall grades according to the average are:
- up to 1.50 'magna cum laude' (= sehr gut)
- between 1.51 and 2.50 "cum laude" (=gut)
- between 2.51 and 3.00 'rite' (=befriedigend)
4 The overall grade 'summa cum laude' (ausgezeichnet) is awarded when the thesis has this assessment and the result of the oral examination is at least 1.50.

§ 15  Publication of the Thesis and Submission of the Mandatory Copies of the Thesis

§ 16  Completion of the Doctoral Degree

1 The doctoral degree certificate is published in German language, an authorised translation of the doctoral degree certificate may be issued in English on request. 2 A traditional
The doctoral degree certificate includes the title of the doctoral degree, the topic of the thesis and the overall grade. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine shall sign the doctoral degree certificate.

IV. Honorary Doctoral Degrees

§ 17 Honorary Doctoral Degrees

A candidate may be proposed for an honorary doctoral degree at the request of at least two thirds of the authorised doctoral degree examiners on the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council shall decide whether to grant the request.

V. Interuniversity Co-operation

§ 18 Interuniversity Co-operation

VI. Doctoral Degrees in Co-operation with Foreign Universities

§ 19 General Information

§ 20 Examinations Procedure at FAU

§ 21 Examinations Procedure at the Partner Institution

§ 22 Joint Doctoral Degree Certificate

VII. Invalidity and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

§ 23 Invalidity of Doctoral Examinations

§ 24 Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

VIII. Concluding Provisions

§ 25 Legal Validity and Transitory Provisions

These regulations come into effect on the day after their publication. They shall apply to all doctorate procedures submitted after this FPromO has come into effect.

The Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Medicine at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, from 7 September 1989, last revised on 27 April 2011, shall no longer apply according to (3).

All existing doctorate procedures initiated prior to the RPromO and FPromO shall be governed according to the Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Medicine of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg from 7 September 1989, last amended on 27
April 2011. Candidates whose doctorate procedures have already been admitted but are not yet initiated may choose whether these doctoral regulations or the regulations according to (2) shall apply. The candidate shall inform the Office of Doctoral Affairs by 31 March 2013 at the latest.

Published according to the resolution of the University Senate on 19 December 2012 and the President's authorisation on 21 January 2013.

Erlangen, 21 January 2013

Prof. Dr. Karl-Dieter Grüske
President

These regulations were established on 21 January 2013 at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg and displayed for public inspection at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg on 21 January 2013. The date of publication is 21 January 2013.