These doctoral regulations have been worded carefully to be up to date; however, errors cannot be completely excluded. The official German text available at the Office of Doctoral Affairs is the version that is legally binding.

Faculty Doctoral Regulations of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) for the degree Dr. phil. – FPromO Phil – Dated 21 January 2013

amended by statutes of 5 December 2017

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I. General Provisions

Section 1 Scope
1. These Faculty Doctoral Regulations (FPromO Phil) supplement the General Doctoral Regulations of FAU (RPromO) for the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology excluding the School of Theology and are thus structured in a similar manner. 2. The Faculty Doctoral Regulations are stipulated in the relevant sections, insofar as they shall apply.

Section 2 Doctoral Degrees

Section 3 Doctoral Titles

Section 4 Bodies Responsible and Procedural Regulations
(1) The bodies responsible are
1. The Doctoral Affairs Committee
2. The Examining Committee.

(2) 1. A Doctoral Affairs Committee shall be established for administering the Dr. phil. doctoral degree programme. 2. The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall consist of six individuals who sufficiently represent the breadth of subjects at the Faculty.

(3) The members of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall be elected by the Faculty Council.

(4) 1. A substitute member shall be elected for every member of the Doctoral Affairs Committee. 2. Paragraph 2 shall apply accordingly.

(5) 1. Only university professors from the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology excluding the School of Theology may be elected as members or substitute members of the Doctoral Affairs Committee. 2. Secondary members cannot be elected as members or substitute members.

(6) 1. Each member is elected for a term of three years. 2. Reappointment shall be permitted.

(7) 1. The Examining Committee elects a chairperson and a deputy chairperson from the members of the committee, who shall both be appointed for a term of one year. 2. Reappointment shall be permitted.

(8) 1. The Doctoral Affairs Committee is responsible for administering the doctorate procedure. 2. Its duties include ensuring that the provisions of the doctoral regulations are observed. 3. It reports its actions and recommends any changes to the doctoral regulations to the bodies responsible.

(9) 1. The chairperson may transfer tasks within his or her responsibility to a member of the Doctoral Affairs Committee. 2. Furthermore, unless the doctoral regulations state otherwise, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall have the right to transfer individual tasks to the chairperson as well as revoke these.
(10) 1 The chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall appoint an Examining Committee for every doctorate procedure. 2 The Dean shall be informed of every doctorate procedure and have the right to participate in the oral examination. 3 The Examining Committee shall consist of the reviewers appointed for assessing the thesis and an additional representative from a non-related subject for the oral examination. 4 If an external reviewer appointed in the doctorate procedure cannot attend the oral examination, they may be replaced with a person eligible to be an examiner at FAU according to Section 5 RPromO. 5 The chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall appoint a chairperson from the members of the Examining Committee.

Section 5 Reviewers and Supervisors

(1) 1 The supervisor of a doctorate procedure is generally also a reviewer and must represent a subject at FAU for which the doctoral title Dr. phil can be awarded. 2 Other full-time university lecturers at FAU may be appointed supervisors on an individual or general basis by the Doctoral Affairs Committee upon justified request. 3 Part-time lecturers and other outstanding young researchers who are able to continually supervise the doctoral research due to their employment at FAU or an institution associated with FAU can be appointed as supervisors according to Section 5 (2)(3) RPromO on an individual basis. 4 Outstanding young researchers within the meaning of sentence 4 are individuals with doctoral degrees with a strong background in practical research, in particular heads of junior research groups within the Emmy Noether Programme run by the German Research Foundation or comparable programmes.

(2) At least one of the reviewers must be a university professor of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology (excluding the School of Theology).

II. Admission to a Doctorate

Section 6 Admission Requirements

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

1. 1 A completed Magister, Master's, or Diplom degree or the first State Examination in teaching from a German University or an equivalent institute of higher education in Germany, or a degree completed with a Master's examination from a German University of Applied Sciences. 2 The Magister, Master's, Diplom or admissions thesis for the State Examination must have received at least the grade 'gut'. The Doctoral Affairs Committee may permit exceptions in justified cases. 3 The candidate must have taken a final examination in the subject chosen for their doctoral degree as part of a completed degree programme or partial degree programme. As an alternative the candidate may have studied an additional academic programme in the subject with a duration of at least six semesters. 4 If a candidate chooses subject-specific teaching methods (Fachdidaktik) as a doctoral degree subject, they must have studied this at least at a basic level as part of a teaching degree programme. 5 Proof of additional subject knowledge may be acceptable as an alternative admission requirement. 6 The decision as to whether further study is relevant and can be accepted shall be taken by the Doctoral Affairs Committee in consultation with the appropriate subject representatives.

2. Proof of language proficiency according to paragraphs (2) to (5).
(2) If the supervisor determines that proficiency in a foreign language is required for the successful academic treatment of the thesis, the candidate must provide evidence of this knowledge.


(4) The following courses require proficiency in Ancient Greek: Ancient History, Classical Archaeology, Indo-European Studies, Latin.

(5) 1Language proficiency can be certified by at least five consecutive years of schooling in a foreign language if at least the grade 'ausreichend/satisfactory' was achieved in the final report. 2Latin proficiency can be demonstrated by sufficient knowledge of the Latin language and Ancient Greek proficiency may be demonstrated by the Graecum or an equivalent examination at FAU. 3Elementary level examinations (UNICERT II) offered by the FAU Language Centre or an equivalent qualification shall be accepted as proof of proficiency in other foreign languages. 4Proficiency in German as a foreign language shall be demonstrated by the examination conducted by the FAU Language Centre. 5The chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall decide on the equivalence of other qualifications.

Section 7 Qualifying Examination
(1) Candidates who have obtained a different Diplom or Master's degree than specified in Section 6 (1)(1) may request to be admitted to the qualifying examination.

(2) 1The qualifying examination consists of:
1. A written assignment in the subject of the doctoral degree which should be completed according to (3) in four months.
2. An oral examination in the subject of the doctoral degree.
2The aim of the qualifying examination is to determine the candidate's ability to work academically in the subject of the pursued doctoral degree. 3In the written assignment, the candidate should particularly demonstrate their ability to solve an academic problem in the subject of the pursued doctoral degree within a specific deadline according to academic methods. 4The written assignment must be accepted for the candidate to be admitted to the oral examination.

(3) 1The topic of the written assignment shall be determined in consultation with the candidate by an authorised examiner from the subject of the pursued doctoral degree according to Section 5 (2) RPromO. 2The chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall assign the candidate the topic of the written assignment and determine the deadline. 3The topic and the formulation of the task must be such that it can be completed within four months. 4In individual cases with justifiable cause, the deadline may be extended by a maximum of two months. 5The written assignment shall be assessed by two reviewers appointed by the chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee from the persons named in Section 5 (3) RPromO who may grade the assignment as 'angenommen' (accepted) or 'abgelehnt' (refused). 6The assignment is accepted or refused if both reviewers reach a consensus. 7If one of the reviewers rejects the written assignment, the Doctoral Affairs Committee decides on whether to
accept or refuse the assignment and may request a further evaluation if necessary.  

The written assignment shall count as refused if it is not submitted by the candidate before the deadline.  

If the written assignment is refused or counts as refused, the qualifying examination shall be failed.

(4) 1 If the written assignment is accepted, the candidate has six months to sit the oral examination.  
2 The candidate shall be admitted to the oral examination one week in advance.  
3 The oral examination shall be conducted by two examiners and last for approximately 30 minutes.  
4 The chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall determine the date for the oral examination and appoint the examiners from the group of individuals specified in Section 5 (3) RPromO and appoint one of the examiners as a chairperson.  
5 The Examining Committee shall determine whether the achievements of the candidate are sufficient.  
6 If the achievements of the candidate are not considered sufficient, the qualifying examination shall be failed and may be repeated according to Section 7 (5) RPromO.  
7 A written assignment accepted in the qualifying examination may also be accepted in the resit examination.

Section 8 Admission to a Doctorate
(1) Proof of any required proficiency in foreign languages according to Section 6 1 (2) must be submitted together with the application for admission to a doctorate.

(2) The candidate’s CV according to Section 8 (2)(1) RPromO may also be submitted in English.

(3) Admission may be made subject to conditions if the admission requirements according to Section 6 are not entirely fulfilled but can be fulfilled during the doctoral research.

III. The Doctorate Procedure

Section 9 Initiation of the Doctorate Procedure
Where applicable, the candidate shall submit a suggestion of suitable reviewers with the application for initiation of the doctorate procedure.

Section 10 Requirements for the Thesis
1 In the doctoral degree subjects Psychology, Psychogerontology, Education and Sport Sciences, the candidate may submit several (at least three) articles published or accepted for publication in reputable academic journals instead of a thesis (cumulative thesis).  
2 The candidate must be the leading author for at least one of the publications.  
3 Cumulative theses shall include a 40-page exposition which illustrates the contextual links between the published articles and relates their content to broader knowledge of the subject.  
4 Collectively, the submitted publications must represent an independent achievement worthy of academic recognition.

Section 11 Evaluation, Acceptance and Refusal of the Thesis
(1) 1 The evaluations shall include a grade.  
2 The following grades shall apply:  
1 = magna cum laude (sehr gut),  
2 = cum laude (gut),  
3 = rite (genügend),  
4 = insufficienter (ungenügend).
Outstanding achievements may be recognised with the assessment 1* = summa cum laude (ausgezeichnet). If a cumulative thesis consists of publications which the candidate has written as a co-author the exposition according to Section 10 (3) shall be given particular weighting.

(2) If the assessment ‘summa cum laude’ is awarded in the first two evaluations, an additional (usually external) evaluation shall be requested. The same shall apply if one or more publications included in the cumulative thesis are written as a co-author together with the supervisor.

(3) The accepted thesis and dissertation shall be displayed for a minimum of 14 days or four weeks during the semester break according to Section 11 (4) RPromO.

(4) If the right of publication is restricted according to certain conditions pursuant to Section 15 (3)(2) RPromO, these conditions shall be listed by the reviewers and provided to the candidate after the oral examination is passed.

(5) In justifiable exceptional circumstances, the bodies responsible can make exceptions to the deadline in Section 11 (8) RPromO.

Section 12   Oral Examination

(1) The oral examination shall be conducted in the form of a disputation. The oral examination demonstrates that the candidate is capable of academic presentation, has in-depth knowledge of the subject of their thesis, is aware of all related areas of the subject and can support their research with links to related disciplines.

(2) The oral examination shall be conducted by the Examining Committee under the supervision of the Dean or a member of the Examining Committee appointed by the Dean. The oral examination shall last between 90 and 120 minutes and take place within two months after the thesis has been accepted. Authorised examiners according to Section 5 (2) RPromO may be admitted to attend the oral examination as listeners. Other students, doctoral candidates or graduates with a doctoral degree may attend the oral examination as listeners following registration with the chairperson of the Examining Committee and with the candidate’s agreement. Listeners shall not be permitted to attend the deliberation process and the announcement of the examination result.

(3) The chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall invite the candidate to the oral examination with two weeks notice. At the same time, the chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall request that the candidate submits their arguments for the oral examination within one week.

(4) The candidate must submit at least three arguments for the oral examination in writing (with a short written explanation if necessary). The arguments must be related to the pursued subject and include interdisciplinary aspects. One of the arguments must be related to the thesis; the other arguments must be clearly different in content. The oral examination begins with a 15-minute presentation, in which the candidate reports the most important results of their thesis. This is followed by a scientific debate based on the candidate’s arguments which shall include interdisciplinary aspects.
Following the oral examination, the Examining Committee shall decide on the result based on a simple majority; in the event of a tie the chairperson’s vote is the deciding vote. The Examining Committee shall determine a grade according to Section 11 (1). The oral examination is failed if the grade is ‘4 = insufficienter (un- genügend)’.

Section 13    Resitting the Oral Examination

Section 14    Results of the Doctorate Procedure, Notification

(1) A preliminary overall grade is proposed by the chairperson of the committee and finally determined by the chairperson of the Doctoral Affairs Committee. The overall result is calculated from the arithmetic average of the double-weighted individual grade of the thesis and the single-weighted grade from the oral examination. For this, one decimal place shall be considered. Further decimal places shall be omitted without rounding. The overall grade shall be assessed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0*</td>
<td>summa cum laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 –1.5</td>
<td>magna cum laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 –2.5</td>
<td>cum laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 –3.0</td>
<td>rite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) The overall achievement shall be assessed as ‘summa cum laude’ (ausgezeichnet) if both the thesis and the oral examination are graded with ‘summa cum laude’.

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

(1) The deadline for submitting the mandatory copies specified in the RPromO can be extended by an additional two years.

(2) In the case of a cumulative thesis, in addition to the articles accepted for publication, the exposition according to Section 10 (3) must be accessible to the public in an appropriate form.

Section 16    Completion of the Doctoral Degree

(1) The doctoral degree certificate shall be issued in German and signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology.

(2) In addition to the information stated in Section 16 (2) (1) RPromO, the subject of the doctoral degree shall also be included on the doctoral degree certificate.

IV.    Honorary Doctoral Degrees

Section 17    Honorary Doctoral Degree Certificates

(1) The honorary doctoral degree for a doctor of philosophy (Dr. phil. h. c.) may be awarded according to Section 3 (1)(3) RPromO for outstanding contributions to culture.

(2) The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology (excluding the School of Theology) takes the decision on awarding an honorary doctoral degree at the request of the Dean. The request must be passed with a majority of two thirds. The Dean has the sole right to suggest candidates for honorary
V. Cooperation with Universities of Applied Sciences and Art Schools

Section 18 Cooperative Doctoral Degrees/Joint Doctoral Degrees

VI. Doctoral Degrees in Cooperation with Foreign Universities

Section 19 General

Section 20 Examination Procedure at FAU

Section 21 Examination Procedure at the Partner Institution

Section 22 Joint Doctoral Degree Certificate

VII. Invalidity and Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

Section 23 Invalidity of Doctoral Examinations

Section 24 Revocation of Doctoral Degrees

VIII. Concluding Provisions

Section 25 Legal Validity and Transitory Provisions

(1) These regulations come into effect on the day after their publication. They shall apply to all doctorate procedures submitted after these doctoral regulations have come into effect.

The doctoral regulations of the University for the doctoral degree of Dr. Phil from 8 October 1991, last amended on 27 April 2011, shall no longer apply subject to the regulations according to (3).

(3) All existing doctorate procedures initiated prior to the RPromO and FPromO shall be governed according to the Doctoral Regulations of the University for the doctoral degree of Dr. Phil from 8 October 1991, last amended on 27 April 2011. Candidates whose doctorate procedures have already been admitted but have not yet been 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.

(4) The first amendment statute shall come into effect on the day after its publication.