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**Regulations and Procedures Governing the Doctoral Dissertation  
to Earn a Doctoral Degree in Philosophy at the University of Mannheim**

**Section 1 – Type and Purpose of the Doctorate**

- (1) The School of Humanities of the University of Mannheim awards the degree of the Doctor of Philosophy (doctor philosophiae – Dr. phil.) based on the successful completion of a dissertation and an oral defense.
- (2) The doctoral dissertation shall result from independent work, make a significant contribution to academics and be made available for the scientific community. The dissertation and the oral defense serve to prove that the doctoral student is able to pursue independent scientific research.
- (3) If the subject-specific attachments of these Regulations and Procedures Governing the Doctoral Dissertation allow for an article-based dissertation, the doctoral dissertation may include manuscripts of the doctoral candidate that are destined for publication. However, this type of dissertation also requires a coherent general concept that supports the research topic. In addition, doctoral candidates shall comply with all further subject-specific requirements defined in the attachments.

**Section 2 – Doctoral Committee**

- (1) The doctoral committee of the school makes decisions in the doctoral process, unless another body is in charge according to these Regulations and Procedures.
- (2) The doctoral committee is composed of university teachers, auxiliary professors (außerplanmäßige Professoren) and senior academic staff members (Privatdozent) of the School of Humanities. Senior academic staff members (Privatdozenten) who work part-time and less than fifty percent of their work time for the University of Mannheim only have an advisory role in the decision-making processes. The dean or a designated university teacher chairs the doctoral committee.
- (3) During all meetings of the doctoral committee the Rules and Regulations on the Procedures of Decision-Making Bodies of the University of Mannheim apply, unless, according to these Regulations and Procedures Governing the Doctoral Dissertation, no other rules apply.

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- (4) The doctoral committee has a quorum if at least a quarter of the members are present. Its meetings are not open to the public. The doctoral committee may entrust the chair with tasks the committee is normally in charge of.

**Section 3 – Supervisors, Evaluators, and Examiners; Supervision**

- (1) As a rule, the supervisors of the doctoral candidates as well as the evaluators and examiners shall belong to the group of university teachers, auxiliary professors (außerplanmäßige Professoren) and senior academic staff members (Privatdozent) affiliated with one of the fields of study at the School of Humanities listed in section 4. In exceptional cases, academic staff members with a doctoral degree whom the President's Office has entrusted with the authority to conduct examinations shall be appointed as supervisors, evaluators or examiners. With their consent, professors emeriti, university teachers and senior academic staff members (Privatdozenten) shall also serve as supervisors, examiners or evaluators.
- (2) By way of derogation from subsection 1, the doctoral committee can decide to appoint university teachers, auxiliary professor (außerplanmäßiger Professor) and senior academic staff members (Privatdozent) from other schools of the University of Mannheim or other higher education institutions as supervisors, evaluators and examiners. Professors of universities of applied sciences or cooperative state universities shall also serve as supervisors, evaluators or examiners.
- (3) In case of an article-based dissertation, co-authors may not be appointed as evaluators or examiners.
- (4) If a supervisor no longer meets the requirements listed in subsection 1 and 2 or is no longer capable of supervising the doctoral candidate, the doctoral committee evaluates how to ensure the successful completion of the dissertation project if the supervisor cannot be replaced.
- (5) The supervisors will supervise and advise the doctoral candidate during the doctoral program, receive the report on the status of the dissertation from the doctoral candidate and meet with him or her on a regular basis to discuss the progress of the dissertation; it shall be made sure that the doctoral candidate works independently at all times.
- (6) The school shall ensure that all doctoral candidates are supervised adequately. For this purpose, an advising agreement shall be concluded between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor. The doctoral candidate and the supervisor each receive a copy of the advising agreement. The school receives another copy of the advising agreement. The advising agreement covers the following topics:
1. the dissertation project and an individual schedule for regular meetings in order to discuss the progress of the dissertation;

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2. information on individually conducted studies and/or a schedule listing subprojects;
3. the mutual commitment to adhere to the principles of good research practice;
4. rules and regulations on how to settle a dispute, section 17 remains unaffected;
5. the evaluation period for the doctoral dissertation; section 9 subsection 2(4) remains unaffected.

**Section 4 - Field of Study**

(1) The following fields of study are available at the School of Humanities of the University of Mannheim:

1. English Literary and Cultural Studies
2. American Literary and Cultural Studies
3. German Literary and Media Studies
4. Romance Literary and Media Studies
5. English Linguistics and Media Studies
6. German Linguistics and Media Studies
7. Romance Languages Linguistics and Media Studies
8. Linguistics and Communication
9. History
10. Media and Communication Studies
11. Philosophy

(2) The dissertation may be submitted in English or German. If requested, the doctoral committee decides whether the doctoral dissertation may be submitted in another language.

**Section 5 - General Requirements for the Doctorate**

(1) In order to be admitted as a doctoral candidate, the applicant shall have finished his or her

1. master's degree or
2. bachelor's degree with a standard period of study of at least four years at a university, college of education or a college of art or
3. a degree from a consecutive program at a university, college of education or another higher education institution entitled to confer doctorates

in the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of study of the desired doctorate.

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- (2) As a rule, the applicant's final grade shall be at least "gut" ("good"). In justified cases, the doctoral committee may waive the last requirement upon written application from the supervisor.
- (3) The doctoral committee may also admit applicants who have completed a program of study acknowledged as comparable and with a comparable final grade at a foreign higher education institution. If applicants are admitted who did not complete a program of study acknowledged as comparable at a foreign higher education institution, they are required to complete four advanced seminars at master's level in the field of study of their doctorate with a grade of 1.7 or better during their doctorate. The four advanced seminars at master's level shall be taught by at least two different instructors. For the recognition of foreign degrees, the recommendations of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs as well as agreements within the scope of the cooperations between universities shall be taken into account. In cases of doubt, the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen - ZAB) is consulted.
- (4) Foreign applicants have to provide proof of German proficiency if they do not have a German Higher Education Entrance Qualification (HZB) or a degree with German as the language of instruction from a foreign higher education institution. The provided proof shall be in line with the admission requirements for writing a doctoral dissertation. The documents listed in section 7 subsection 1 No. 3 of the Regulations on Admission and Enrollment (ZulImmaO) may serve as proof. In exceptional cases and upon request, the doctoral committee may admit applicants even though they did not provide any of the aforementioned documents as proof of their German proficiency.
- (5) In exceptional cases, in particular if an applicant has only pursued the prospective field of study for the doctorate as his or her minor, the doctoral committee may recognize a degree in a field of study other than the prospective field of study for the doctorate as sufficient to be admitted as a doctoral candidate. In these cases, the doctoral committee can determine further requirements for the admission to the doctoral process. If candidates do not yet meet all of the requirements upon enrollment, they are obliged to provide proof within the first three semesters after enrollment.
- (6) For qualified graduates of a bachelor's degree to whom subsection 1 does not apply, deviating admission requirements are in place. Applicants are required to prove their eligibility for pursuing a doctorate in their prospective field of study by completing their bachelor's degree with a final grade of 1.0. Before the admission procedure begins, the applicant shall submit a research proposal of 15 to 20 pages to his or her future supervisor. In this research proposal the applicant shall also indicate his or her reasons for wanting to pursue a doctorate. In those cases, the doctoral committee decides on the suitability of the applicant and the reasons justifying the exception. As part of the decision-making process, the committee considers a detailed statement from the supervisor and reviews the research proposal. In addition, the dean may have an external evaluator review the research proposal. The detailed statement shall be taken

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into account in the decision-making process of the doctoral committee. If an applicant is admitted, he or she is required to complete four advanced seminars at master's level in the field of study of his or her doctorate with a grade of 1.7 or better during the doctorate. The four advanced seminars at master's level shall be taught by at least two different instructors.

- (7) The doctoral committee may also admit particularly qualified graduates of a Diplom program of a University of Applied Sciences, a Cooperative University or of the Notarakademie Baden-Württemberg in the field of study of the doctoral dissertation or a related field of study in line with section 4. In this case, the final grade of the degree shall be at least 1.0 ("sehr gut"/"very good"). Before the admission procedure begins, the applicant shall submit a research proposal of 15 to 20 pages to his or her future supervisor. In this research proposal the applicant shall also indicate his or her reasons for wanting to pursue a doctorate. In those cases, the doctoral committee decides on the suitability of the applicant and the reasons justifying the exception. As part of the decision-making process, the committee considers a detailed statement from the supervisor and reviews the research proposal. In addition, the dean may have an external evaluator review the research proposal. The detailed statement shall be taken into account in the decision-making process of the doctoral committee. In this case, admission is subject to the proven suitability of an applicant. In order to determine the applicant's suitability, he or she is required to complete four advanced seminars at master's level in the field of study of his or her doctorate with a grade of 1.7 or better during the doctorate. The four advanced seminars at master's level shall be taught by at least two different instructors.

**Section 6 - Admission as a Doctoral Candidate**

- (1) The application for admission as a doctoral candidate shall be submitted in writing to the dean of the school.
- (2) The following information shall be provided as part of the application alongside with the other required documents listed below:
- a) the title of the prospective topic of the doctoral dissertation and an informal declaration if the candidate intends to write an article-based dissertation;
  - b) a copy of the advising agreement concluded with the prospective supervisor;
  - c) a notarized copy of the Higher Education Entrance Qualification (HZB);
  - d) notarized copies of the proofs necessary in order to meet the admission requirements listed in section 5;

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- e) a CV and a description of the program of study the applicant completed, including detailed information on passed and failed academic and state examinations, in particular unsuccessful attempts to obtain a doctoral degree;
  - f) a statement ensuring that the applicant did not seek any agency or advisory services in return for payment.
- (3) If the admission requirements are met and there are no reasons for rejection according to section 7, the doctoral committee admits the applicant and adds him or her to the list of doctoral candidates of the school. An applicant cannot be accepted if he or she has already undertaken a doctorate in the same field of study and was unsuccessful. The doctoral committee decides on exceptions. Once the applicant has been added to the list of doctoral candidates, he or she receives an official notification which allows him or her to enroll as a doctoral student in line with section 38 subsection 5 of the Act on Higher Education of the Land of Baden-Württemberg. Regardless of whether or not the doctoral candidate decides to enroll as a doctoral student, he or she is entitled to use all facilities of the university in line with the respective rules and regulations for the duration of the doctorate.
- (4) If the doctoral candidate intends to write an article-based dissertation, subject-specific rules and regulations determined in the attachments to these Regulations and Procedures effective on the day the candidate was added to the list of doctoral candidates apply for the duration of the doctorate. Mandatory changes in accordance with regulations of higher-ranking legislation, court decisions or orders from an authority remain unaffected. A copy of these subject-specific rules and regulations shall be signed by the doctoral candidate and put on file.
- (5) The dean shall appoint the supervisor shortly after the admission of the candidate.

**Section 7 - Rejection as a Doctoral Candidate, Revocation of Admission**

- (1) The doctoral committee may deny the admission of an applicant if the application is not submitted in the required form, the topic of the dissertation is not appropriate or originates from a field of study that is not sufficiently represented at the School of Humanities of the University of Mannheim or the candidate does not fulfill the admission requirements.
- (2) Moreover, the application for admission can be denied on the grounds of reasons that would legally justify the revocation of the doctoral degree.
- (3) If the doctoral committee denies the admission of an applicant to the list of doctoral candidates, the candidate receives an official notification including a short explanation.
- (4) The admission as a doctoral candidate expires if the doctorate is not completed within a maximum of ten semesters. The doctorate shall be completed after no more than six

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years. In justified cases and upon request, the doctoral candidate may interrupt the doctorate or extend the aforementioned period of time. Upon request from the doctoral candidate to the dean, the doctoral committee decides on the matter. It is the doctoral candidate's responsibility to include all necessary documents and proof in his or her request.

- (5) The admission of a doctoral candidate may be revoked by the doctoral committee at the earliest two years after his or her admission if the doctoral candidate does not produce a written statement on the sufficient progress of his or her dissertation, which is confirmed by the supervisor, within one month of receiving a written request for such a statement. The deadline for providing the required proof may be extended by the doctoral committee where there are important reasons for doing so.

## **Section 8 - Admission to the Doctoral Process**

- (1) The doctoral candidate shall submit a written request to obtain a doctoral degree to the dean of the School of Humanities.
- (2) The request shall include:
  - a) The doctoral dissertation in triplicate. The cover page of the dissertation shall read "Inauguraldissertation zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades eines Doktors der Philosophie der Universität Mannheim". The back of the cover page shall indicate the name of the dean. In addition an electronic version of the doctoral dissertation and a written statement of the doctoral candidate confirming that both versions are identical shall be submitted. The copies submitted become property of the university.
  - b) The following declaration:
  - c) "I hereby declare that the doctoral dissertation presented is my own work. I have employed no other sources or means except the ones listed. I clearly marked any quotations derived from the works of others. I did not seek unauthorized assistance from a third party."
  - d) In case of an article-based dissertation: a list of all of his or her academic publications and a list of all academic publications forming part of the doctoral dissertation. In addition, the candidate shall include a statement from his or her supervisor naming the contents of the dissertation the candidate worked on independently. Moreover, if the doctoral candidate presents joint work in an article-based dissertation, the candidate shall include a statement from his or her co-authors that confirms the declaration. Further subject-specific rules and regulations determined in the attachments to these Regulations and Procedures shall be observed.

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- (3) The request to obtain a doctoral degree may be withdrawn, provided the oral defense has not yet been scheduled and the dissertation has not been rejected.
- (4) The dean checks the request and decides on the admission to the doctoral process. For admission, the documents according to section 6 subsection 2 letters b to f shall have been submitted and the admission requirements according to section 5 shall have been met. Concerning the rejection of the request to obtain a doctoral degree, section 7 subsections 1 to 3 apply correspondingly.

**Section 9 - Acceptance and Grade of the Doctoral Dissertation**

- (1) After the doctoral candidate has been admitted to the doctoral process, the dean, in consultation with the doctoral committee, appoints the members of the examination committee. The dean serves as the chair of the committee which consists of at least five members. The dean may pass on the task to a university teacher working at the University of Mannheim. The examination committee consists of the supervisor of the doctoral candidate as well as two university teachers working in the field of study of the doctoral dissertation or a similar field of study, an auxiliary professor (außerplanmäßiger Professor) or a senior academic staff member (Privatdozent). No more than one member shall either be a professor emeriti or a senior academic staff member (Privatdozenten), who works part-time and less than fifty percent of their work time for the University of Mannheim. The doctoral candidate shall be granted the chance to put forward suggestions for the examination committee, however, no legal right arises to appoint a member to the examination committee. In case the doctoral candidate presents joint work in an article-based dissertation, his or her co-authors may not be appointed as members of the examination committee.
- (2) The dean appoints two evaluators (first and second evaluator) for the doctoral dissertation; subsection 3 remains unaffected. At least one of the evaluators shall form part of the group of people listed in section 3 subsection 1(1) and be working at the University of Mannheim. The first evaluator shall be the supervisor of the doctoral candidate unless important reasons suggest otherwise. In particular, these important reasons include joint publication or co-authorship in case of an article-based dissertation. The evaluations shall be provided within a period of three months time. Each evaluator proposes one of the following grades for the doctoral dissertation in his or her evaluation:
  1. summa cum laude (excellent/grade "1"),
  2. magna cum laude (very good/grade "2"),
  3. cum laude (good/grade "3"),
  4. rite (acceptable/grade "4") oder
  5. non rite (not acceptable/grade "5").

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If the evaluators both propose a grade in line with sentence 5 numbers 1 to 4, they support the acceptance of the dissertation. If both evaluators propose the grade in line with sentence 5 number 5, they support the rejection of the dissertation.

- (3) If the grades proposed by both evaluators differ by more than one whole grade or if at least one of the two evaluators proposes the grade "non rite", the dean appoints a third evaluator and informs the other evaluators of this.
- (4) If the evaluators support the acceptance of the dissertation in their evaluations, the dean gives all members of the doctoral committee the opportunity to read the dissertation within an appropriate period of time and make a statement. As a rule, this period is three weeks.
- (5) The dissertation is considered accepted if the evaluators support its acceptance and none of the members of the doctoral committee objects to the recommendation in writing during the designated period (subsection 4). In case not all evaluators support the acceptance of the dissertation or at least one member of the doctoral committee objects to the acceptance, the doctoral committee decides. If all required evaluators support the rejection of the dissertation or the doctoral committee objects to the acceptance in line with sentence 2, the doctoral dissertation is considered rejected.
- (6) The grade of the dissertation shall be determined by the examination committee, which decides with a simply majority on the basis of the obtained evaluations.
- (7) In order to award the grade „summa cum laude“ a qualified majority of at least four fifths of the members of the examination committee who are eligible to vote is required. If, even though one member of the examination committee proposed the grade "summa cum laude", no qualified majority is achieved, the dean appoints another evaluator. The newly prepared evaluation shall be taken into consideration in the decision-making process of the examination committee. If no qualified majority for the grade "summa cum laude" is achieved even after taking the newly prepared evaluation into consideration, the examination committee awards the grade "magna cum laude" for the doctoral dissertation.
- (8) If the doctoral committee has accepted the doctoral dissertation in line with subsection 5(2), the examination committee is bound by this decision. Thus, the examination committee cannot award the grade "non rite".
- (9) In case the dissertation is rejected, the examination committee shall set the grade "non rite" in line with section 5(3). In this case, the doctoral candidate has failed and the doctoral process is terminated. He or she shall be informed of this in writing.
- (10) If the doctoral dissertation is accepted, the doctoral candidate receives the evaluations.

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**Section 10 - Oral Defense and Final Grade**

- (1) The oral defense is a public event held in front of the examination committee chaired by the dean or a university teacher of the School of Humanities he or she designated as chair. In justified cases and upon request from the doctoral candidate, the dean may decide to close the oral defense to the public.
- (2) The oral defense is usually held either in German or English. Upon request, the doctoral committee decides whether or not the oral defense will be held in another language.
- (3) The date for the oral defense is set at least six weeks in advance. The deadline starts on the day on which the doctoral candidate is granted access to the evaluations. The dean may shorten the deadline in justified cases upon request. In this case, the period of time during which the doctoral candidate may access the evaluations is shortened in line with section 9 subsection 4. There is no legal right to request a specific date for the oral defense.
- (4) The topics of the oral defense are the topic of the doctoral dissertation and another topic accepted by the examination committee<sup>1</sup>. The doctoral candidate is required to submit the two topics in the form of scientific theses to the examination committee at the latest two weeks prior to the oral defense. If the topics are not submitted in due time or the examination committee does not accept the second topic, the dean may extend the deadline for the doctoral candidate by two weeks. In this case, a new date for the oral defense shall be set. If the doctoral candidate does not submit the topics in due time or the examination committee does not accept the second topic, the first attempt at the oral defense is considered failed.
- (5) The duration of the oral defense is 90 minutes. 45 minutes shall be spent on each topic.
- (6) After the oral defense, the examination committee decides on a final grade for the doctorate according to section 9 subsection 2(5). In the event of a tie, the vote of the chair shall decide the matter.
- (7) The oral defense and the grading process shall be recorded in minutes. The minutes shall be signed by the examiners and put on file.
- (8) If the examination committee does not accept the oral defense, the candidate may present himself or herself once again after three months. The oral defense shall be retaken no later than 12 months after the first defense. If the oral defense is once again not accepted, the doctoral candidate has failed.

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<sup>1</sup> If the doctoral dissertation deals with Romance Studies in accordance with section 4 subsection 1(4, 7), the second topic shall be selected among a second Romance language.

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- (9) The overall grade for the doctorate is the rounded average of the grades for the doctoral dissertation and the oral defense. The dissertation grade is weighted with 2/3 and oral defense is weighted with 1/3.

**Section 11 - Printing and Publication of the Dissertation**

- (1) The dissertation shall be published within a period of two years in the version that has been approved by the first evaluator. The dean decides on the extension of the deadline upon request. If the first evaluator does not approve of the print version of the dissertation, the examination committee decides the matter. In justified cases, the dean may allow the printing of a short version in agreement with the examination committee.
- (2) The school shall receive one copy of the doctoral dissertation. Altogether, 55 printed copies of the dissertation shall be given to the university free of charge. The number of mandatory copies can be reduced to five if the dissertation is published
- a) in an academic journal or series;
  - b) by a publishing house with at least 80 copies;
  - c) in electronic form in a format that is approved by the university library and stored on a University of Mannheim server upon approval of the university. The university library receives four and the school one of the mandatory copies.
- (3) If the doctoral dissertation is published in print, the mandatory copies shall be submitted to the dean shortly after its publication. If the doctoral candidate fails to deliver the copies in time, he or she forfeits all rights acquired with the examination.
- (4) If the dissertation is published with a publishing house, the publication shall indicate that it is based on a dissertation of the School of Humanities at the University of Mannheim.

**Section 12 - Doctoral Degree Certificate**

- (1) After the mandatory copies are submitted or after the publication of the dissertation, the doctoral degree is granted with the handover of the doctoral degree certificate. With the official granting of the degree, the candidate is authorized to use the title "doctor".
- (2) The doctoral degree certificate is signed by the President of the University of Mannheim and the dean. The doctoral degree certificate bears the date and the school seal.

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- (3) In justified cases and upon request, the doctoral committee may decide to grant the candidate the doctoral degree and handover the doctoral degree certificate early if the publisher and the doctoral committee are in possession of the manuscript of the print version of the doctoral dissertation and if the publishing house confirms that the publication of the dissertation is contractually guaranteed. In addition, the publishing house agrees to mail the required mandatory copies of the dissertation to the doctoral committee and the university library free of charge.

**Section 13 - Withdrawal of Admission, Annulment and Revocation of the Doctoral Degree**

- (1) The admission to the doctoral process shall be withdrawn if it becomes evident that, before the degree has been granted, the doctoral candidate cheated during admission to the doctoral process or during one of the examinations. The same applies based on facts that would justify the revocation of the doctoral degree under the laws of the Land of Baden-Württemberg.
- (2) The doctoral degree shall be annulled if it becomes evident that, before the degree has been granted, the doctoral candidate cheated during one of the examinations. In especially severe cases, the doctoral candidate shall be excluded without the option to retake the doctoral process.
- (3) If the requirements to be admitted to the doctoral process were not met without the doctoral candidate's intent to disguise this fact and if this fact is revealed after he or she has received his or her doctoral degree certificate, this defect is remedied by having passed the examination.
- (4) In case the doctoral candidate has manipulated an examination by cheating and this fact is revealed after the candidate has received his or her doctoral degree certificate, the doctoral committee may revise the respective grades retroactively and declare the doctorate as completely or partially failed.
- (5) The illegitimate doctoral degree certificate shall be recalled and, if applicable, a new one issued.
- (6) The doctoral candidate in question shall be granted the chance to comment on the issue prior to the decision. The doctoral candidate shall be provided with a reason as well as the legal basis and information on rights to appeal.
- (7) The doctoral committee is responsible for the revocation of the doctoral degree.

**Section 14 – Access to Examination Records**

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After completing the doctoral process, the doctoral candidate may be granted access to his or her written examination records (evaluations of the doctoral dissertation, minutes) upon request. The dean decides on the time and place for accessing the examination records.

**Section 15 – Structured Doctorate in a Graduate Program**

By way of derogation from the general rules and regulations of these Regulations and Procedures Governing the Doctoral Dissertation and if the School of Humanities at the University of Mannheim offers a doctoral program, the doctoral dissertation shall be completed in the course of a doctoral program.

**Section 16 – Special Conditions for Obtaining a Doctorate in Cooperation with a Foreign Higher Education Institution**

- (1) A doctoral candidate may request to obtain a doctoral degree in cooperation with a foreign higher education institution. This allows for the doctoral candidate to acquire intercultural competencies and encourages the candidate to immerse into two different academic systems and educational cultures. In this case, a framework agreement shall be signed with the respective institution. The presidents of both higher education institutions need to sign the agreement. The doctoral committee of the School of Humanities at the University of Mannheim shall give its approval. The dean of the School of Humanities at the University of Mannheim needs to sign the approval. The agreement shall include the detailed regulations of the joint doctoral process. The existing Regulations and Procedures Governing the Doctoral Dissertation shall be taken into consideration. For each doctoral candidate an individual agreement shall be concluded and signed by the deans of both higher education institutions involved.
- (2) The contents of these Regulations and Procedures Governing the Doctoral Dissertation remain unaffected provided that no deviating regulations were agreed upon in the individual agreement.

**Section 17 - Final Provisions**

In case of conflicts between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor, the parties may consult the respective ombudsman or woman. All details in regards to the appointment of ombudsmen and women are governed by the Statutes of the University of Mannheim on the Appointment of Ombudsmen and Women for Doctoral Candidates and their Supervisors (Satzung der Universität Mannheim zur Bestellung von Ombudspersonen für Promovierende und deren Betreuer/innen).

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**English translations of *Promotionsordnungen* are intended solely as a convenience to non-German-reading students. Only the German text published in the Bulletin of the President's Office ("Bekanntmachungen des Rektorats") is legally binding. In the event of any conflict between the English and German text, its structure, meaning or interpretation, the German text, its structure, meaning or interpretation shall prevail.**

**Section 18 - Renewal of the Doctoral Degree Certificate, Honorary Doctoral Degree**

- (1) In order to honor its graduates, the school can renew doctoral degree certificates on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the awarding of the doctorate. In the laudation, the school honors the academic and public achievements of the graduate.
- (2) The School of Humanities of the University of Mannheim awards the honorary doctoral degree in Philosophy (doctor philosophiae – Dr. phil. h. c.). The honorary doctoral degree in Philosophy may be awarded to people for outstanding achievements in the fields of study of the School of Humanities. Suggestions, shall include in-depth reasoning and be submitted to the dean. People holding a statutory office at the University of Mannheim or serving as an elected member of one of the statutory bodies of the University of Mannheim may submit a suggestion for an honorary doctoral degree to the dean. The honorary doctoral degree is awarded on the basis of unanimous decisions of the school council of the school council of the School of Humanities and the senate of the University of Mannheim. The dean awards the honorary doctoral degree. The honorary doctoral degree can be revoked on the grounds of reasons which, if known, would have prevented its conferment in the first place or on the grounds of reasons which have arisen after the conferment. Sentence 5 applies to the revocation of the honorary doctoral degree accordingly.

**Section 19 - Final Provisions**

- (1) These Regulations and Procedures will come into effect on the day after their publication in the Bulletin of the President's Office (Amtliche Bekanntmachungen des Rektorats). At the same time, the regulations and procedures of 11 March 2011 cease to be effective.
- (2) In case a doctoral candidate was admitted to the list of doctoral candidates of the School of Humanities of the University of Mannheim before these Regulations and Procedures Governing the Doctoral Dissertation became effective, he or she may put forward a written request to continue his or her doctoral studies according to the regulations and procedures governing the doctoral dissertation of 11 March 2011. In these cases, the former regulations of 11 March 2011 still apply. In line with section 18 subsection 2 of the regulations and procedures governing the doctoral dissertation of 11 March 2011, the option of requesting to continue the doctoral studies according to the regulations and procedures governing the doctoral dissertation of 19 February 2003 remains unaffected. Sentences 1 and 2 apply accordingly to all applicants who had already submitted their application for admission as a doctoral candidate before these Regulations and Procedures became effective and who had not yet been admitted upon commencement of these Regulations and Procedures.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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- (3) Ongoing dissertation processes at the time of the commencement of these Regulations and Procedures shall be governed by the regulations and procedures governing the doctoral dissertation of 19 February 2003 which cease to be effective for future doctoral candidates.
- (4) Section 17 shall apply to all doctoral candidates who continue their doctoral studies according to the regulations and procedures governing the doctoral dissertation of 19 February 2003 or of 11 March 2011.