

**Doctoral Regulations
of the Department of History/Philosophy
at Münster University
of June 10, 2024**

In accordance with paragraph 67 section 3 sentence 2 of the law regarding the universities of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act - HG) in the version of the law on the amendment to the Higher Education Act from July 12, 2019 (GV.NRW. S. 377), Münster University has issued the following regulations:

Table of contents

Preamble

I. Basic Principles

§ 1 Objectives

§ 2 Implementation of the Doctoral Studies Program

§ 3 Structure of the Doctoral Studies Program

§ 4 Forms of the Doctoral Studies Program

§ 5 Doctoral Subjects

II. Doctoral Studies

§ 6 Admission to the Doctoral Studies Program

§ 7 Crediting of Requirements of Doctoral Program

§ 8 Supervision/Advisors

§ 9 Study Requirements of the Doctoral Program

III. Doctoral Examination

§ 10 Admission to the doctoral examination

§ 11 Review of the Dissertation

§ 12 Oral Defense

§ 13 Calculation of the Overall Grade

§ 14 Publication of the Dissertation

§ 15 Conferral of the Diploma

§ 16 Invalidity of Doctoral Requirements

§ 17 Honorary Doctorate

IV. Final Clauses

§ 18 Transition Phase

§ 19 Entry into Force

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

Appendix D

Preamble

Preamble

The department of History/Philosophy considers itself a community of disciplines with a high potential for interdisciplinary discourse. It pursues the goal of strengthening the humanities and social sciences at Münster University, making them visible both nationally and internationally. It recognizes that the training of future academics is of particular importance.

The department of History/Philosophy awards the degree of *Doctor philosophiae* (Dr. phil.) in the expectation that its bearer will continue to demonstrate in future life the objectivity and independence proven during his/her studies and with his/her dissertation.

I. Basic Principles

§ 1 Objectives

(1) With the doctorate, the department of History/Philosophy offers particularly qualified future academics the opportunity to do independent academic work within an area of expertise of their discipline, in the framework of a structured and closely supervised study program of usually three to four years. The arguments elaborated in the dissertation and publicly defended in the oral defense claim to enhance the state of research in the area covered.

(2) In appreciation of this achievement, the degree of *Doctor philosophiae* (Dr. phil.) is awarded by the department of History/Philosophy.

§ 2 Implementation of the Doctoral Program

(1) The department of History/Philosophy forms a doctoral examination committee. Subject to the approval of the *Fachbereichsräte* (department councils) of the department of History/Philosophy, disciplines from other departments can also join these doctoral regulations.

(2) The members of the committee are determined by the *Fachbereichsrat* (department council). The committee consists of four members from the group of university professors, two members from the group of research associates, and one member from the group of students. The details are provided by the regulations for the doctoral examination committee of the department of History/Philosophy.

(3) The committee should meet regularly at least once each semester and additionally whenever needed. The committee shall have a quorum if no less than three members are present (at least two of them from the status group of university professors). Minutes of the meeting shall be taken. Decisions can be taken in writing by circular resolution.

(4) The committee elects a chairperson from the group of university professors as well as a deputy chairperson, optionally from the group of university professors or research associates, for the duration of the electoral term. The chairperson convokes and leads the committee meetings, manages day-to-day business and represents the committee. He/she is obliged to keep the committee informed on a regular basis. The committee may assign tasks to the chairperson that are the responsibility of the committee according to the doctoral regulations. This does not apply to decisions as stated under § 11 section 8.

(5) Unless these doctoral regulations stipulate otherwise, the doctoral examination committee takes all decisions in view of the implementation of the doctoral procedure. It ensures that the doctoral procedure is carried out correctly and in line with these regulations. Upon request of the department council (*Fachbereichsrat*), it gives an account of the progress made in the examinations, study

periods and assessments. Acting on its own initiative, it shall draw attention to possible undesirable developments and the need for changes to the doctoral regulations. The committee also deals with objections.

§ 3 Structure of the Doctoral Program

- (1) The doctoral degree is obtained in *one* subject. It consists of
 - a) a doctoral studies period of usually four years which includes writing a dissertation as per section 4 and attending a structured and individually supervised doctoral studies program (see appendix B). It is not possible to turn a previously concluded qualification thesis that was part of a university or state examination procedure into a dissertation if the qualification thesis in question has been published in full or in part.
 - b. an oral defense.
- (2) The subject of the supervised academic doctoral studies program is also the subject of the dissertation. The details are provided in the supervision agreement (see § 8 section 4).
- (3) The regular study period can be shortened, usually by not more than two years. It can be extended if full-time doctoral studies are not possible because the student is working, takes care of children, etc., or else if the subject cannot be dealt with in four years for academic reasons. The details are provided in the supervision agreement (see § 8 section 4).
- (4) The doctorate is completed by the following exam requirements:
 - a dissertation written in German or, in justified cases, another language. On the reasoned request of particular disciplines, the doctoral examination committee can admit several written papers as a cumulative dissertation, provided that they equal a regular dissertation in length and quality. Appendix C stipulates whether the subject allows for a cumulative dissertation and under which conditions.
 - a final oral examination held in German or English language in which the arguments of the dissertation are justified and defended in the context of the whole academic field (oral defense, see § 12).

§ 4 Forms of the Doctoral Program

- (1) The doctorate at the Department of History/Philosophy includes a supervised, structured doctoral studies program, either
 - as an individual doctorate or
 - as part of a graduate school or graduate college affiliated with the departments or
 - in the context of an agreement between the doctoral examination committee and institutions (such as departments, graduate schools, research facilities, etc.) which are not part of the Department of History/Philosophy or Münster University (see appendix A).
- (2) If the doctorate is conducted within the framework of a graduate school, in addition to these doctoral regulations of the Department of History/Philosophy, regulations may be adopted by the doctoral examination committee containing supplementary policies for this graduate school.

§ 5 Doctoral Subjects

Doctoral subjects are:

1. Christian Archaeology
2. Classical Archaeology
3. Byzantine Studies
4. Ethnology (Social and Cultural Anthropology)
5. Ancient History
6. Medieval History
7. Modern and Contemporary History
8. History Didactics
9. Eastern European History
10. Auxiliary Sciences of History
11. Cultural Anthropology
12. Art History
13. Musicology
14. Dutch Studies
15. Greek Studies
16. Latin Studies
17. Medieval and Neo-Latin Studies
18. Philosophy
19. Prehistory and Early History
20. Religious Studies

II. Doctoral Studies

§ 6 Admission to the Doctoral Program

(1) The admission to the doctoral program requires enrolment to the doctoral studies program. Doctoral students should be enrolled at Münster University during the time of their doctorate. When registering for the examination and during the time period of the examination process itself, doctoral students must be enrolled at Münster University.

(2) The doctoral subject is usually the discipline or one of the disciplines in which the university degree was obtained. In justified cases, a different subject can be chosen (see § 6 section 4).

(3) Enrolment requires proof of having obtained one of the following degrees:

- a) a degree obtained after completing a program with a standard course of study of at least 8 semesters, for which a diploma is awarded that does not bear the title "Bachelor" (see § 67 section 4 No 1 HG)
- b) a degree obtained from a relevant course of study with, as a rule, the grade of 1,50 or better and a study period of at least six semesters and a subsequent study program preparing adequately for the doctoral degree in the subject of the dissertation (see § 67 section 4 No 2 HG). This program may be concluded before enrolling in the doctoral program or else during. The details are provided by the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee at the suggestion of the first advisor or the supervising group within the framework of the supervision agreement (see section 4).
- c) or a degree obtained after completing a Master's program of a standard study period of two to four semesters, preceded by a Bachelor's degree (see § 67 section 4 No 3 HG and § 61 section 2 sentence 2 HG).

The grade point average of the degrees as per a) and c) must be at least 2,50. Exceptions from this rule require the decision of the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee in consultation with the suggested first advisor.

(4) Relevant degrees from universities outside the scope of the German Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*) may be recognized upon request if they are equivalent to the degrees stated in section 2.

(5) A degree is considered relevant if the subject of the degree matches the chosen doctoral subject. In exceptional cases, the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee may recognize another subject as relevant if the advisor or the supervising group confirms the professional and personal aptitude of the candidate for the doctoral subject. In consultation with the first advisor, the chairperson may oblige the candidate to complete additional studies during the doctoral program in order to compensate for academic deficits.

(6) The candidate must provide certification of foreign language proficiency in accordance with appendix B. In consultation with the first advisor or the supervising group, the chairperson can allow that

a) one of the languages stated in appendix B is replaced by another foreign language

b) the candidate does not need to provide certification of proficiency in one of the required languages if an adequate substitute is offered.

(7) Acceptance to the doctoral program further requires signing a supervision agreement, in which the first advisor or the supervising group or else the educational institution (graduate school)

- names the members of the supervising group

- sees to the candidate's supervision within the framework of a structured academic studies program and, if need be, additional qualification measures, all bindingly agreed upon between the doctoral candidate and the members of the supervising group.

(8) The supervision agreement is to be submitted to the Student Admissions Office when enrolling in a doctoral studies program.

§ 7 Crediting of Requirements of Doctoral Program

(1) Academic credits in the doctoral subject earned at another German or foreign university as well as relevant requirements stemming from academic activity at a university or academic institution may be credited in part or to the full extent of the doctoral studies program.

(3) The crediting is granted on the grounds of a statement of the first advisor.

§ 8 Supervision/Advisors

(1) The doctoral candidate is supported by an individual supervising group of at least two and not more than three members. The advisors must belong to the group of university teachers or be qualified through a "habilitation", without prejudice to the application of sentences 3 and 4. Retired professors or those relieved of their position as well as, upon special request, honorary professors may also serve as advisors. Furthermore, fellows of the DFG Emmy-Noether program who lead a research team at Münster University are permitted to supervise members of their own group in a doctoral procedure. Fellows from other programs leading a research team at Münster University are only allowed to be an advisor to a member of their team if their academic position is found equal to the position of junior professor by the doctoral examination committee by a two-thirds majority.

Heads of research teams may only serve as advisors to doctoral candidates outside of their group if they have been solicited to do so by the doctoral examination committee of department 8 on reasoned request. In any case, supervision is carried out by a *group* of advisors. This group is at least made up of

- one first advisor who usually represents the doctoral subject at Münster University as a full-time professor. If appointed to another university after accepting the supervising position, he/she can continue the procedures within the framework of these doctoral regulations.
- one second advisor who may also represent a subject different from those stated under § 5 or may be a member of another department or another German or foreign university. The second advisor can be appointed at a later stage. The chairperson of the doctoral examination committee decides on the appointment of the second advisor.

(2) The doctoral candidate may submit a proposal for the composition of the supervising group. However, there is no obligation to meet his/her request.

(3) The responsibilities of the supervising group are the development of a structured study plan geared towards the individual strengths and needs of the doctoral candidate as well as counselling and support with academic questions, always based on the continued revision and assessment of the candidate's progress with regard to the doctoral program and the dissertation.

(4) A written supervision agreement is agreed upon between the doctoral candidate and the advisors (see appendix D). The supervision agreement contains:

- a. the plans and goals of the candidate,
- b. the qualifications to be gained by the candidate from the viewpoint of the advisors (see appendix B),
- c. the individual study program (see appendix B)
- d. the work and time schedule
- e. the responsibilities and obligations of the advisors

If, at some point, the process requires a change of the original planning, the supervision agreement must be adapted accordingly.

5) The agreement can be terminated unilaterally if the continuation does not seem to make sense anymore. However, a mediator should be consulted beforehand (e.g. the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee or the head of a graduate school).

(6) The doctoral examination committee can dissolve the supervision agreement when both parties are in serious breach of the same, and end the procedures.

(7) For the individual doctorate, details about structure and content of the doctoral studies program are stipulated on a case-by-case basis. Graduate schools or graduate colleges have their own regulations.

§ 9 Study Requirements of the Doctoral Program

The doctoral studies program (see § 3 section 1) usually takes six semesters and includes

- a dissertation (see § 3 section 4)
- subject-specific complementary studies according to appendix B or as provided by a graduate

school

- an oral defense (see § 3 section 4)

III. Doctoral Examination

§ 10 Admission to the Doctoral Examination

(1) The doctoral candidate submits an application for admission to the doctoral examination in German or English to the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee. The application must state the topic of the dissertation, the advisor and the examination subject.

(2) The following documents are to be attached:

- a study or job-related curriculum vitae
- proof of the course work properly performed in the context of the doctoral studies program (see § 9 and appendix B) or full credits in accordance with § 7
- certification of the language skills that might have had to be made up (see § 6 section 5 and appendix B)
- the dissertation in 3 copies, or in the case of a cumulative dissertation:
 - all parts of the dissertation
 - a confirmation from the group of advisors that all parts of the dissertation are available in a published or publishable version in accordance with the supervision agreement (subject-specific regulations see appendix C)
 - in the case of co-authorship, an exact definition of the individual contribution
- if available, a listing of other academic publications
- a written declaration that the doctoral candidate wrote the dissertation independently, indicated all sources and resources used, and has not already submitted the dissertation as part of an exam at a different institution.
- a common data carrier with the text of the dissertation stored in a common data format as well as a written declaration by the candidate in which he/she consents to
 - a comparison of the dissertation with other texts in order to find matches and
 - the storage of the dissertation in a data base for the same purpose

(3) If the application is rejected, the candidate may file an objection, on which the doctoral examination committee decides in consultation with the group of advisors. The notice of objection must be justified, provided with information on legal remedies and delivered by mail. Once the shortcomings have been remedied, the doctoral candidate may apply for admission to the oral defense again.

(4) The application for admission to the oral defense can be withdrawn as long as neither one of the dissertation reviews has been turned in. In case of withdrawal, the application is deemed not submitted.

§ 11 Review of the Dissertation

(1) For the submitted dissertation, the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee appoints two reviewers, whose qualifications must correspond to the qualifications specified in § 8 section 1. At least one of them must be a full-time representative of the doctoral subject at Münster University.

As a rule, the first advisor prepares the first review. The second report is usually prepared by the second advisor or by a representative of one of the subjects listed under § 5. One of the reviewers can be a professor from another university. In case of an interdisciplinary dissertation, the second review may also be prepared by a representative of a subject not mentioned in § 5, provided that a separate explanatory statement is given.

(2) In special cases, a third expert can be called in who usually represents the doctoral subject and who may also be a member of another university.

(3) The reviewers report to the doctoral examination committee within three months in the form of a written review of the dissertation. Stating and justifying their reasons, they propose the acceptance or rejection of the dissertation. At the same time, they suggest a mark. The following rating system applies:

- summa cum laude (1 = with distinction)
- magna cum laude (2 = very good)
- cum laude (3 = good)
- rite (4 = passed)
- insufficienter (5 = insufficient)

(4) Based on the reviews, the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee determines the grade of the dissertation by forming the arithmetic mean of all the reviews' grades. Decimal values are deleted without rounding except for the first one. For decimal values up to '5', the overall grade is rounded down; for decimal values of '6' or more, it is rounded up. The distinction "summa cum laude" can only be assigned if it is awarded unanimously by all reviewers. If one of the reviewers does not award "summa cum laude", the overall grade cannot be better than "magna cum laude". Should the grades be more than one whole grade apart, the doctoral examination committee can appoint a third reviewer (see section 2). The third assessment is taken into account, again, by forming the arithmetic mean of all three grades.

(5) The reviewers may require the doctoral candidate to revise the dissertation in a certain way before publication.

(6) The dissertation together with the reports are made available for all authorized examiners of the department as well as of any co-opted subjects in accordance with § 8 section 1. All authorized examiners are notified by an announcement on the homepage of the Doctoral Examinations Office and are entitled to submit a statement within the display period of four weeks. Intended statements are to be announced within the display period and must be submitted two weeks after the end of the display period at the latest.

(7) The dissertation is considered rejected if both reviewers suggest a rejection. It is considered accepted if both reviewers suggest their acceptance and no other authorized examiner has recommended a rejection.

(8) If one of the reviewers or another authorized examiner in a reasoned statement suggests the rejection of the dissertation, the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee may solicit a third review (see section 2). If the majority of the reviewers recommend a rejection, the dissertation is considered rejected. In cases of doubt, the doctoral examination committee decides upon the matter in consultation with the group of advisors or the board of the educational institution (graduate school, graduate college).

(9) If the dissertation is rejected, the doctoral candidate must be informed of this in a reasoned statement. § 10 section 3 shall apply accordingly. With the rejection of the dissertation the doctoral examination is finished.

(10) The doctoral candidate may submit one revised version of the dissertation within two years after receiving the notification of rejection of the dissertation. If the doctoral candidate misses the deadline or if the dissertation is rejected again within the retry period of two years, the doctoral examination is considered as irreversibly failed. Another repetition, even with a dissertation on a different topic, is not possible. Hardship provisions are the responsibility of the doctoral examination committee of the department.

(11) The original copies of the dissertation are handed over to the graduates after completion of the doctoral program (see § 11 section 9 as well as § 15 section 3).

§ 12 Oral Defense

(1) The subject of the oral defense is the same as the subject area of the dissertation. The exam consists of an academic discussion of 90 minutes. Generally, it takes place no later than six months after the end of the display period. It can be attended by all members of the University. On a reasoned request, the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee can allow people from outside the University as participants. Doctoral candidates and examiners must be notified separately.

(2) Only after completing the oral examination, the doctoral candidate may request to see the reviewers' reports on the dissertation by contacting the examinations office.

(3) When justified, the defense may be held as a video conference, provided that all requirements set out in the doctoral regulations for proper implementation are met and that the doctoral candidate and the participating examiners gave their consent in writing. The implementation of the defense as a video conference must be announced when setting the date for the oral defense and must be mentioned in the minutes.

(4) The members of the group of advisors as well as the reviewers serve as examiners, i.e. the examination board. The first advisor is usually the chairperson of the board. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken.

(5) At least two examiners must be present. On request of the advisors and upon approval of the candidate, the doctoral examination committee may solicit additional examiners.

(6) In the defense, the doctoral candidate first presents the theses of his/her dissertation. In the subsequent discussion, the candidate must prove that he/she is capable of a) looking at the thesis of the dissertation from different perspectives within the scope of the subject area, and b) reflecting upon his/her own research on an interdisciplinary level. Academic follow-up projects and career prospects can also be topics of the defense. The doctoral candidate does not have the right to see the reviewers' reports on his/her thesis before the oral examination.

(7) The questions of the examiners are to be given priority. In general, however, all members of the department with a PhD degree have the right to ask questions in connection with the subject represented by the doctoral candidate.

(8) After the defense, the board determines the grade by calculating the arithmetic mean using the evaluation scale stipulated in § 11 section 3. Decimal values are disregarded except for the first one. For decimal values up to '5', the overall grade is rounded down; for decimal values of '6' or more, it is

rounded up. The distinction "summa cum laude" may be assigned, in the case of two examiners, if the votes are unanimous, and, in the case of three or more examiners, if there is no more than one deviating vote which, however, must not be worse than "magna cum laude".

(9) The defense is graded as failed if the overall grade is worse than rite (4.0). The examination is also failed if the doctoral candidate negligently misses the date of the oral defense or withdraws from it after it has begun without conclusive reasons. The doctoral candidate must state the reasons for his/her absence or withdrawal immediately in writing. The decision on whether the defense has been failed is made by the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee.

(10) The chairperson of the doctoral examination committee communicates the results to the candidate.

(11) If the doctoral candidate passes the defense, he/she will obtain a certificate from the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee confirming that the dissertation has been accepted and the defense passed.

(12) A failed defense may be repeated once within a period of 18 months, but no earlier than 14 days after the first attempt.

(13) If the doctoral candidate fails the defense, the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee provides him/her with a written notification, informing also about the possibility of repeating the examination within the time frame mentioned above. The notification of the failed examination shall provide information on legal remedies. § 10 section 3 shall apply accordingly. If the doctoral candidate allows the opposition period to lapse, if he/she waives the repetition of the exam, or if the candidate does not pass the retry exam, the doctorate is considered as failed.

§ 13 Calculation of the Overall Grade

(1) In line with the evaluation scale specified in § 11 section 3, the doctoral examination committee calculates the overall grade based on the unrounded grades of the dissertation and the oral defense.

(2) The unrounded grade of the dissertation is counted twice, the grade of the oral defense once. For decimal values up to '5', the overall grade is rounded down; for decimal values of '6' or more, it is rounded up.

(3) The final distinction "summa cum laude" can be only assigned if both the dissertation in all the reviews (see § 11 section 4) and the oral defense (see § 12 section 7) have been awarded "summa cum laude."

§ 14 Publication of the Dissertation

(1) A monographic dissertation may be published as soon as the first advisor has declared it ready for printing and all possible requirements as per § 11 section 5 have been met. Pre-publication of partial results of a dissertation project is possible with the written consent of the first advisor, to be submitted by the doctoral candidate to the examinations office, if they contain a reference to the fact that they are part of a dissertation in progress in the Department of Philosophy/History at the University of Münster.

(2) In case of a cumulative dissertation (see § 3 section 4 and appendix C), parts of the thesis may already be published during the doctoral program. The publication is considered concluded if the

group of advisors confirms that all parts have been published with the previous consent of the advisors.

(3) Upon request of the doctoral candidate, the chairperson of the doctoral examination committee, in consultation with the first advisor, may permit for the dissertation to be published in a language different from those specified in § 3 section 4.

(4) Publication of the dissertation should be completed in printed, reproduced or electronic form within two years of passing the examination. In exceptional cases, the period can be extended. The chairperson of the doctoral examination committee decides upon this on request of the doctoral candidate. If the doctoral candidate negligently misses the deadline, all rights acquired through credits gained during the doctoral studies shall expire.

(5) If a monographic dissertation is printed, it must show a minimum print run of 50 copies and be available in book retail. The dissertation must be designated as such on the back of the title page, indicating the place where the dissertation was completed and defended. Upon request, the dissertation may also be published by way of book-on-demand (BOD)-publishing. In any case, 6 deposit copies must be submitted. If the dissertation is reproduced in any other way, 50 copies must be submitted for deposit (or else 4 deposit copies and 96 microfiche printouts).

(6) If publication takes place in electronic form, it must be available in a common online data format at a university library or a scientific publishing house within the deadline stipulated in section 4. A written confirmation by the university library or the scientific publishing house stating the date of electronic publication is to be attached. In addition to the electronic version, 4 bound computer printouts must be submitted.

(7) All stated forms of publication must be identical with the dissertation approved according to section 1.

(8) In the case of a cumulative dissertation (see § 3 section 4 and appendix C), six bound copies containing all parts of the dissertation including the corresponding title pages must be submitted for deposit.

§ 15 Conferral of the Diploma

(1) A doctoral diploma is issued in German and in an English translation. The document includes the topic and the grade of the dissertation as well as the overall grade of the doctorate. It bears the date of the last oral examination (defense) and is presented or sent to the doctoral candidate by the dean of the department or his/her deputy.

(2) With the diploma being awarded, the doctoral program is completed, and the doctoral candidate is granted the right to bear the title of Doctor.

§ 16 Invalidity of Doctoral Requirements

(1) All measures in connection with the derecognition of doctoral performances require a separate resolution of the doctoral examination committee.

(2) If it turns out, before the diploma has been awarded, that the doctoral candidate willingly attempted or committed fraud with regard to the admission requirements or the implementation of the doctoral program, the doctoral examination committee may declare the doctoral requirements invalid and discontinue the procedure.

(3) If such fraud or attempted fraud becomes known after the diploma has been awarded, the doctoral examination committee may declare the doctoral examination as failed retroactively. The diploma will be withdrawn.

(4) If the conditions for the admission to the oral defense were not fulfilled without the doctoral candidate being aware of it, this deficiency is remedied by the successful examination. This must be explicitly confirmed by the doctoral examination committee.

(5) The doctoral examination committee may withdraw the doctoral degree if the doctoral graduate

a) has been sentenced to an imprisonment of one year or more because of a deliberate crime, or

b) has been convicted of a deliberate crime and for the preparation or implementation of which he/she abused his/her academic qualification.

(6) Before the decision is made, the candidate must be given the opportunity to comment. § 10 section 3 shall apply accordingly.

§ 17 Honorary Doctorate

(1) The doctoral degree *honoris causa* (Dr. phil. h. c.) can be awarded in recognition of outstanding academic achievements or exceptional merits regarding the academic mission.

(2) The procedures for awarding an honorary doctorate are initiated on written request to the dean of the department to which those requesting the reward belong. The request must provide an in-depth acknowledgement of the possible candidate in line with section 1 and is to be submitted by at least two authorized examiners of the department in question. The Dean submits the request to the department council (*Fachbereichsrat*) for discussion and recommendation. An application for an honorary doctorate decided by the department council requires the approval of the majority of the members of the group of university professors with a permanent employment contract.

(3) The honorary doctorate first requires the positive decision of department council. After that, the doctoral examination committee takes the final decision on whether to award an honorary doctorate. A majority of at least two thirds of the group of university professors is necessary to take a decision; the votes may be obtained in written form.

(4) The honorary doctorate procedures are concluded by the dean of the department in charge or his/her deputy signing and presenting a diploma to the candidate, thus honoring his/her achievements and contributions.

IV. Final Clauses

§ 18 Transition Phase

These doctoral regulations apply to all doctoral candidates who enroll in the doctoral program at Münster University after their entry into force. Doctoral candidates who, in consultation with an advisor working at Münster University, started preparing a dissertation before these doctoral regulations came into force continue their doctorate in accordance with the previously applicable regulations from July 26, 2012, unless they request the application of the current doctoral regulations, at the latest when being admitted to the examination. The request is irrevocable.

Please note: This is an unofficial translation provided for your convenience! Only the German version is legally binding!

§ 19 Entry into Force

- (1) These doctoral regulations come into force on the day after their publication.
- (2) These doctoral regulations are published in the official announcements of Münster University.