

Doctoral Regulations

**for the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science (FB 10)
of the University of Münster
of 17 November 2025**

This is a translation of the original German text and is intended for your information only. Under German law, only the official German version of the “*Promotionsordnung für den Fachbereich Mathematik und Informatik der Universität Münster vom 17.05.2026*” is legally binding. It was published in the *Amtliche Bekanntmachungen* (Official Announcements – AB Uni) on 25 November 2026, pp. 4516-4532.

On the basis of § 2 (4) and § 67 (3) of the Higher Education Act of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia [*Hochschulgesetz – HG*] as amended by the Act on the Future of Higher Education [*Hochschulzukunftsgesetz – HZG NRW*] of 16 September 2014 (GV. NRW. 2014, p. 547), as amended most recently by the Act of 19 December 2024 (GV. NRW. p. 1222), the University of Münster has issued the following Doctoral Regulations (*Promotionsordnung*) for the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science:

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I. Doctoral Procedure at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

§ 1

Purpose of the Doctoral Programme and Academic Degree

- (1) By completing the doctoral degree, candidates are to demonstrate their ability to carry out independent academic work beyond the general academic objective of the programme.
- (2) Upon successful completion of the programme, candidates are awarded a doctoral degree in the natural sciences "*Doktor der Naturwissenschaften*" (*doctor rerum naturalium*, abbreviated to Dr rer nat) or a doctoral degree in philosophy "*Doktor der Philosophie*" (*doctor philosophiae*, abbreviated to Dr phil).

§ 2

Doctoral Examinations

- (1) The doctoral degree is awarded by the faculty (*Fachbereich*) in recognition of the successful completion of a doctoral examination. The examination consists of an academically significant written thesis (doctoral thesis (*Dissertation*)) and an oral examination (doctoral defence (*Disputation*)).
- (2) A doctoral degree can also be completed as an interdisciplinary doctoral degree (doctoral degree with an interdisciplinary topic). In the latter case, the doctoral degree is pursued with the involvement of an additional faculty of the University of Münster. In terms of content, the focus of the topic must lie within the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science.

§ 3

Doctoral Examinations Board

- (1) The faculty board (*Fachbereichsrat*) appoints a doctoral examinations board (*Promotionsausschuss*). The doctoral examinations board consists of:
 1. the head of faculty or a vice-dean as the chair, as well as three additional members from the group of professors
 2. one member from the group of academic staff
 3. one member from the group of non-academic staff who attends in an advisory capacity
 4. one member from the group of students.

The members of the doctoral examinations board are elected for a two-year term.

- (2) The doctoral examinations board conducts the doctoral procedure (*Promotionsverfahren*) and decides on all matters except determining the final overall grade. The doctoral examinations board may delegate the execution of its tasks related to all regular matters to the chair of the doctoral examinations board.
- (3) The Examinations Office for the Faculties of Mathematics and Natural Sciences acts as the administrative office of the doctoral examinations board and the chair of the doctoral examinations board.

§ 4

Admission to the Doctoral Programme

- (1) To be eligible for admission to the doctoral programme at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, the candidate must hold one of the following degrees:
 - a) a degree awarded upon completion of subject-relevant university studies with a general standard duration of at least eight semesters and for which the candidate received a degree other than a bachelor's degree, or
 - b) a degree awarded upon completion of subject-relevant university studies with a general standard duration of at least six semesters and subsequent, suitable pre-doctoral preparatory courses in the doctoral subjects, or
 - c) a degree awarded upon completion of a subject-relevant master's programme as referred to in § 61 (2) sentence 2 of the Higher Education Act of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia [HG NRW]. In the case of doctoral studies leading to a "Dr phil" degree, the candidate should hold a master's degree in mathematics or computer science or another relevant subject, a Master of Education teaching degree in a subject taught at the faculty or a degree comparable to b) or c).
- (2) Subject-relevant degrees from other state or state-recognised universities, state or state-recognised universities of cooperative education (*Berufsakademien*) or foreign state or state-recognised universities can be recognised upon request unless these differ substantially from the degrees described in § 4 (1) (a) to (c).
- (3) Before embarking on their doctoral studies, candidates are required to submit an application for admission to the doctoral programme to the doctoral examinations board. The application must also include a supervision agreement (*Betreuungsvereinbarung*) and certified copies of the required degree certificates.
- (4) The doctoral examinations board is responsible for all decisions concerning the recognition of degrees in accordance with § 4 (1) (a) to (c), the suitable pre-doctoral preparatory courses in accordance with (b), the absence of substantial differences as referred to in § 4 (2) as well as all cases of doubt and exemptions from the requirement referred to in § 4 (1) (a) to (c). The doctoral examinations board may delegate these decisions to the chair.

§ 5

Enrolment

Enrolment on the doctoral programme is governed by the current version of the Enrolment Regulations (*Einschreibeordnung*) of the University of Münster.

§ 6

Supervisors

- (1) The supervisors of a doctoral project are named in the supervision agreement. One or two supervisors may be appointed. The candidate must be able to provide their supervisors with a full account of the progress of the doctoral thesis at any time upon request.
- (2) The primary supervisor (*Erstbetreuer*in*) must belong to the following group of persons:
 - a) full-time habilitated or professorial members (§ 37 HG) of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science;

- b) habilitated staff or habilitated members of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Münster employed at a research institute within or outside the University of Münster;
 - c) full-time habilitated or professorial members (§ 37 HG) employed at a different faculty of the University of Münster;
 - d) professors emeriti or retired professors of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, as well as professors who have left the faculty and the employ of the University of Münster, as a rule for no longer than three years after their retiring/leaving the faculty;
 - e) leaders of independent junior research groups employed at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science who can demonstrate their ability to be appointed as an associate professor, and who have been approved as a primary supervisor by the faculty board on the recommendation of the doctoral examinations board.
- (3) If the primary supervisor belongs to the group of persons specified in § 6 (2) (e), a co-supervisor (Zweitbetreuer*in) must be appointed from the group of persons specified in § 6 (2) (a) to (c). If the primary supervisor belongs to the group of persons specified in § 6 (2) (a) to (d), the co-supervisor for a doctoral thesis with two supervisors may be a suitably qualified member of an external academic institution.
- (4) In the case of an interdisciplinary doctoral thesis conducted in cooperation with another faculty of the University of Münster, two supervisors must be appointed in any case, by way of derogation from § 6 (1) sentence 2. The primary supervisor must be appointed from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. The co-supervisor must be appointed from the other faculty; they must have completed their habilitation or have been appointed as a professor there (§ 37 HG) and be employed full-time at that faculty. Particularly in the case of interdisciplinary doctoral theses conducted in cooperation with another faculty of the University of Münster, § 6 (3) sentence 2 does not apply.
- (5) The chair of the doctoral examinations board decides on exceptions to § 6 (2), (3) and (4).

§ 7

Principles of Doctoral Supervision and Options in Cases of Conflict

- (1) The collaboration between the supervisors and the doctoral student throughout the course of the doctoral project aims to enable the latter to conduct independent research and takes particular account of the “Regulations for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice at the University of Münster” and the University of Münster’s Code of Conduct.
- (2) At the beginning of the doctoral programme, the primary supervisor and the doctoral student discuss which other aspects of their collaboration are important for the success of the doctoral project. Where possible, any co-supervisors should be involved in this process.
- (3) In the case of conflicts between supervisors and doctoral students, various points of contact and contact persons are available throughout the University and within the faculty, depending on the nature of the conflict. Both doctoral students and their supervisors are encouraged to turn to these relevant points of contact if they need advice or support.
- (4) In cases of prolonged conflict, a suitable point of contact at the University, chosen in agreement with the supervisors, is to be involved in the conflict resolution process at the request of the doctoral student.

- (5) If no suitable point of contact can be found, or if the supervisory relationship must be formally terminated due to a conflict, the doctoral examinations board must be informed. If the supervisory relationship is terminated, the doctoral examinations board will help the doctoral student find a new supervisor upon request. The doctoral examinations board will only be given details about the conflict if the doctoral student requests it, provided that there are no legal requirements preventing this.

§ 8 Doctoral Thesis

- (1) The doctoral thesis must be academically noteworthy and should demonstrate the candidate's ability to conduct independent research and present their findings appropriately in written form. In the case of a doctoral procedure for the conferral of a "Dr rer nat" degree, the doctoral thesis must deal with a topic from a field of mathematics or computer science; in the case of a doctoral procedure for the conferral of a "Dr phil" degree, the doctoral thesis must primarily address a humanities or social science topic from the area of mathematics or computer science or mathematics education or computer science education, e.g. on the history of mathematics or computer science; the philosophy of mathematics or computer science; or the theory and practice of teaching and learning mathematics or computer science.
- (2) Candidates should choose the topic of their doctoral thesis in agreement with one or two supervisors and should carry out the work under their supervision, generally at an institute of the University of Münster.
- (3) The doctoral thesis must be written in German or English.
- (4) Prior publication of research findings that are to form part of the doctoral thesis is permitted. The following, in particular, are considered prior publications within the meaning of these Doctoral Regulations:
- a. publications that have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed publication medium
 - b. preprints with a persistent identifier (e.g. a Digital Object Identifier (DOI)) that have been made publicly available on a subject-specific preprint platform (e.g. arxiv.org).
- For the rest, § 8 (5) to (10) are to be observed.
- (5) A doctoral thesis may take the form of either a monograph or a cumulative doctorate.
- (6) In the case of a monograph, the doctoral thesis must begin with an appropriate description of which, if any, of the candidate's previously published research results have been included, and how the content of these prior publications has been incorporated into the doctoral thesis.
- (7) In the case of a cumulative doctorate, the thesis must consist of at least three separate, yet thematically related publications that have previously been published, at least two of which must be prior publications as defined in § 8 (4) (a). The cumulative doctorate must contain a thorough introduction and discussion of the work, detailing the links between the different prior publications and summarising the overall results. In its entirety, a cumulative doctorate must represent an academic achievement equivalent to a doctoral thesis as defined in § 8 (1) and (6).
- (8) If the prior publications used as per § 8 (6) or (7) were written by two or more authors, the candidate's own contribution to these publications must be clearly indicated when

submitting their doctoral thesis. In addition, written confirmation from the co-authors stating that the candidate's contribution has been correctly stated must be submitted. In the case of prior publications with more than two co-authors, confirmation from at least two of the co-authors must be submitted. A prior publication by multiple authors may also be included in several doctoral theses.

- (9) Publication of the doctoral thesis in accordance with § 18 is also required for doctorates by publication under § 8 (6) and (7). Doctoral students are responsible for ensuring that any agreements with scientific journals, publishers, etc. do not prevent the publication of their doctoral thesis in accordance with § 18.
- (10) At least one assessment must be obtained from an external person who is neither a supervisor, as defined in § 6, nor a co-author of a prior publication, as defined in § 8 (4) to (8). A person is considered to be external if they do not belong to the group of persons defined in § 6 (2). All assessors evaluate the doctoral thesis independently, without reference to the publication media's peer-review procedures relating to the prior publications.

§ 9

Admission to the Doctoral Procedure

- (1) Candidates must submit an application to be admitted to the doctoral procedure. This application for admission to the doctoral procedure, written in either German or English, must be submitted in writing to the head of faculty by the candidates.
- (2) The application must contain the topic of the doctoral thesis and the supervision agreement concluded at the start of the doctoral programme. In the case of an interdisciplinary doctoral thesis, both supervision agreements must be enclosed, if applicable.
- (3) Candidates must submit a doctoral thesis with their application that has not previously been the subject of a state or academic examination in this form.
- (4) When the bound version of the doctoral thesis is submitted, an appropriate digital copy must also be provided to enable an optional plagiarism check to be carried out. The doctoral examinations board, in agreement with the Examinations Office, will announce which forms of digital submission are considered appropriate. The doctoral thesis may be stored in a database for plagiarism checking purposes and compared with other texts to identify any plagiarised passages. The candidate must attach a written declaration to their application confirming both their awareness of this fact and their consent.
- (5) The following must also be included with the application:
 1. Four copies of the doctoral thesis, which must include a summary. The doctoral thesis must be bound or stapled in such a way that pages cannot be added to or removed from it at a later date (as they could with a spiral binding, for example). The number of printed copies to be submitted may be reduced to less than four following an announcement on the Examinations Office website.
 2. A written declaration concerning previous attempts at earning a doctorate and their corresponding results, if applicable.
 3. A written declaration stating that the candidate completed the submitted doctoral thesis themselves without impermissible aids, has cited all sources and aids used in the doctoral thesis, and has not submitted the doctoral thesis as a final thesis elsewhere in the past (§ 9 (3)).
 4. A declaration by the candidate if they request that the public be excluded from the doctoral defence (§ 12 (1)).

5. A declaration by the candidate confirming that they have not been convicted of a crime involving the misuse of their academic qualification.
6. In the case of an interdisciplinary doctoral degree with another faculty of the University of Münster, the following documents must also be enclosed with the application:
 - a) a declaration from the head of the other faculty confirming that admission to the doctoral procedure is approved and that it should take place in the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science (FB 10)
 - b) a declaration from a member of the other faculty confirming their willingness to assess the doctoral thesis
 - c) proof of at least one semester of study at the other faculty.
- (6) In addition, candidates should have studied a mathematical or scientific subject, or the relevant subject-specific didactics, for at least two semesters, unless these subjects were covered in the degrees that led to their admission to the doctoral programme. In the case of an interdisciplinary doctoral thesis, the applicant should additionally have studied in the other subject area for at least one semester.
- (7) Candidates may withdraw their application for admission to the doctoral procedure as long as none of the examiners have yet assessed the doctoral thesis. In this case, the application is considered as having never been submitted.
- (8) The doctoral examinations board decides on candidates' admission to the doctoral procedure based on the application and submitted documents.
- (9) Admission can only be denied if the requirements referred to in § 9 (1) to (5) have not been met. The doctoral examinations board decides on exceptions to the requirements referred to in § 9 (1) to (6).
- (10) If the doctoral examinations board denies admission to a candidate, they must be informed in writing together with the reasons for rejection. The notification must contain information on the legal remedies available. Once the deficiencies identified by the doctoral examinations board have been addressed, the candidate can resubmit their application for admission to the doctoral procedure.
- (11) The doctoral examinations board may delegate the decisions referred to in § 9 (8) to (10) to the chair.

§ 10

Assessment of the Doctoral Thesis

- (1) In the case of a non-interdisciplinary doctoral degree, the chair of the doctoral examinations board appoints – usually in consultation with the supervisors – at least two assessors:
 - a. Assessors either belong to the group of persons specified in § 6 (2), or are suitably qualified members of an external academic institution. The chair of the doctoral examinations board decides on any exceptions to this rule.
 - b. One assessor acts as the primary supervisor of the doctoral thesis.
 - c. One of the assessors must be a habilitated or professorial member (§ 37 HG) of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Münster who works full-time at that faculty.

In the case of an interdisciplinary doctoral degree, the chair of the doctoral examinations board usually appoints the co-supervisor of the doctoral thesis from the other faculty involved as the second assessor.

When appointing assessors, § 8 (10) must also be observed.

- (2) If possible within one month of their appointment, all assessors must submit a detailed and substantiated assessment of the doctoral thesis to the head of faculty, recommending

acceptance or rejection; if acceptance is recommended, the assessor must propose one of the following grades, which will be included in the overall assessment (§ 16):

- *summa cum laude* (“an outstanding achievement”)
- *magna cum laude* (“an excellent achievement”)
- *cum laude* (“a good achievement”)
- *rite* (“a satisfactory achievement”)

In order to differentiate better between grades, “plus” and “minus” may be added to the grades “*magna cum laude*” and “*cum laude*”.

- (3) If one or more (but not all) assessors recommend that the doctoral thesis be rejected, the assessments are made available to the candidate. In this case, the candidate has six months in which to submit a corrected version of their doctoral thesis. The assessors will then submit a once-only extended assessment based on the corrected version. If one or more (but not all) assessors reject the doctoral thesis again, the chair of the doctoral examinations board will appoint another assessor, in consultation with the responsible subject representatives, in accordance with the provisions of § 10 (1); this assessor will also prepare an assessment in accordance with § 10 (2). If the additional assessment likewise recommends rejection, then the doctoral thesis is deemed to be recommended for rejection overall. Otherwise, the doctoral thesis is deemed to be recommended for acceptance overall.
- (4) Following the return of all the assessments, the habilitated or professorial members of the faculty (§ 37 HG) have the opportunity to review and comment on both assessments and thesis. Digital circulation is also an option.
- (5) The doctoral thesis is accepted if the assessors recommend that the doctoral thesis be accepted (or if it is deemed to be recommended for acceptance in accordance with § 10 (3) sentence 6) and no substantiated objection is raised by a habilitated or professorial member of the faculty within the review period.
- (6) The doctoral thesis is rejected if the assessors recommend that the doctoral thesis be rejected (or if it is deemed to be recommended for rejection in accordance with § 10 (3) sentence 5), and no substantiated objection is raised by a habilitated or professorial member of the faculty within the review period.
- (7) If, within the review period, a habilitated or professorial member of the faculty submits
 - a) a substantiated objection to the recommendation to accept or reject the doctoral thesis, or
 - b) a substantiated objection to the proposed grades in the assessments,
 the doctoral examinations board will make a final decision with its postdoctoral members after consultation with the responsible subject representatives. The board may also arrange for a review by external reviewers and/or a revision of the doctoral thesis.
- (8) The chair of the doctoral examinations board promptly notifies the candidate of the acceptance of their doctoral thesis, and, if applicable, of any conditions specified in § 10 (7), or of its rejection. In the latter case, the candidate is informed of the provisions on retaking the doctoral examination (§ 15) and information on the legal remedies available is enclosed. A rejected doctoral thesis is placed on file in the faculty together with all of the assessments.

§ 11 Examination Committee

- (1) The examination committee (*Prüfungskommission*) for each candidate is appointed by the chair of the doctoral examinations board and comprises the following individuals:
 - a. the primary supervisor of the doctoral thesis as an examiner;
 - b. a minimum of two other examiners, who can be either members of the group specified in § 6 (2) or suitably qualified members of an external academic institution. Assessors and co-supervisors may be appointed as examiners.
 - c. the head of faculty or a Vice-Dean of the faculty, who acts as the chair.

All members of the committee are entitled to vote.

- (2) A minimum of two examiners must be full-time professors at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Münster.
- (3) In the case of an interdisciplinary doctoral degree, the chair appoints the examiners in accordance with § 11 (1) and (2), as well as an additional examiner from the other faculty involved. As a rule, the latter is the co-supervisor of the doctoral thesis from the other faculty.

§ 12

Oral Examination

- (1) The oral examination is generally conducted in the form of a public doctoral defence. In justified exceptional cases, the public can be barred from attending. The candidate must submit their request to exclude the public from the doctoral defence with the application for admission to the doctoral procedure.
- (2) In justified cases, the doctoral defence may be conducted as an online or hybrid examination, provided that all the requirements set out in the Doctoral Regulations for its proper implementation are met, and provided that the candidate and the examiners involved give their consent. If an oral examination is to be conducted as an online or hybrid examination, this must be announced when the date for the oral examination is set and noted in the minutes.
- (3) The doctoral defence, which the examiners conduct with the candidate, is an academic oral examination which concerns topics related to the content or methodology of the doctoral thesis. The doctoral defence begins with a presentation by the candidate on their doctoral thesis, which should not exceed 30 minutes in length.
- (4) One of the examiners serves as the chair of the doctoral defence. The doctoral defence should have a total duration of around 60 to 90 minutes. Minutes of the examination are taken and are signed by the examiners.
- (5) Even if the doctoral defence takes place with the exclusion of the public, all professors and habilitated members of the faculty have the right to attend the examination as silent observers without speaking rights.

§ 13

Scheduling of the Oral Examination

- (1) The chair of the doctoral examinations board schedules a date for the oral examination and invites the examination committee members and the candidates to the examination.

- (2) The examination dates are announced to the members of the faculty by a notice posted on the bulletin board.
- (3) The oral examination must take place within six months of the candidate being informed of the acceptance of their doctoral thesis. If the candidate fails to complete the doctoral defence within this six-month period, the defence is graded as failed. If the doctoral defence must be delayed or interrupted for a valid reason (e.g. maternity or parental leave, illness of the candidate or of an examiner), the chair of the doctoral examinations board must grant the candidate an extension of suitable length.

§ 14

Assessment of the Oral Examination

The grade of the doctoral defence is determined by the examiners conducting the defence. Grades are to be awarded in accordance with the grading scheme provided in § 10 (2). The oral examination is marked as failed if it does not receive a grade of at least “*rite*”.

§ 15

Retaking Doctoral Examinations

- (1) If the doctoral thesis is rejected, the candidate can apply for admission to the doctoral procedure one more time and not until a year has passed. The candidate must then submit a new or revised version of the thesis. In accordance with § 9 (5) (2), the candidate is required to disclose the previous failed attempt.
- (2) If the oral examination is graded as failed, the candidate may repeat it only once and no earlier than six months and no later than one year after failing the oral examination. As a rule, the candidate presents the defence to the same examiners who evaluated the first attempt.

§ 16

Decision concerning the Doctorate and Overall Assessment

- (1) Following the doctoral defence, the overall grade is determined based on the grades awarded for the doctoral thesis and the oral examination in accordance with the rules set out in § 16 (2) to (4). The following overall grades are possible:
 - *summa cum laude*
 - *magna cum laude*
 - *cum laude*
 - *rite*.
- (2) The overall grade “*summa cum laude*” may only be awarded
 1. if all the assessors recommended that the doctoral thesis receive a grade of “*summa cum laude*” and
 2. if the doctoral defence also received a grade of “*summa cum laude*”.
- (3) In all other cases, the following applies: If there are two assessments, each assessment and the doctoral defence account for one third of the overall grade. If more than two assessments have been obtained, they are weighted equally, without reducing the proportion of the overall

grade awarded for the doctoral defence. When calculating the overall grade, if the result is not an integer, any decimal place greater than five is rounded up to the next integer, and any decimal place less than five is rounded down. It is not possible to round down to “*summa cum laude*”.

§ 17

Completion of the Doctoral Degree

If the candidate passes the oral examination, the head of faculty confers the title “*Doktor der Naturwissenschaften*” (*Doctor rerum naturalium*, Dr rer nat) or “*Doktor der Philosophie*” (*Doctor philosophiae*, Dr phil), accepting the candidate’s pledge by handshake that the candidate will strive at all times to protect their doctoral title from any taint, to prove themselves worthy of this title in all future academic and personal endeavours, and to always seek and uphold academic truth to the best of their knowledge and belief. The candidate is then presented with a certificate confirming the successful completion of the doctoral examination with the corresponding overall grade (§ 16). The certificate does not yet authorise the holder to use the doctoral title.

§ 18

Publication of the Doctoral Thesis

- (1) The doctoral procedure is only considered to be concluded when the doctoral thesis has been published. Publication is required within two years of the candidate successfully completing their doctoral defence. Publication is only permitted once the primary supervisor confirms in writing that they approve of its publication in the version as submitted. Upon the candidate’s or the primary supervisor’s request, the head of faculty decides on whether to grant the candidate an extension to the given deadline. If the candidate fails to publish the doctoral thesis within the given deadline and does not request and receive approval for an extension, or if the candidate fails to publish the doctoral thesis by an extended deadline, the rights granted by the examination are rendered null and void.
- (2) The doctoral thesis must be published or accepted for publication in one of the following forms:
 1. a printed or duplicated version of the entire doctoral thesis;
 2. publication of the essential content of the doctoral thesis in one or more academic journals or books;
 3. delivery of an electronic version, for which the data format and data carrier have been agreed with the University Library.
- (3) Candidates must ensure that their doctoral thesis is published in accordance with the applicable rules of the University Library of Münster by submitting an appropriate number of copies to the University Library. The Doctoral Examinations Office of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science provides the candidate with an information sheet containing current information on this requirement. Candidates then submit to the doctoral examinations board the University Library’s confirmation that the doctoral thesis has been duly delivered.

§ 19

Doctoral Degree Certificate

- (1) If the conditions referred to in § 18 are fulfilled, the candidate has successfully completed the requirements for the doctorate. A doctoral degree certificate is issued, containing the overall grade in accordance with § 16. The certificate is dated the day of the doctoral defence, personally signed by the head of faculty and presented to the candidate.
- (2) Only upon receiving the doctoral degree certificate is the candidate authorised to use the doctoral title.

§ 20

Refusal to Confer the Doctoral Degree

If it becomes known before the doctoral degree certificate is awarded that candidate deliberately used grossly dishonest means to prove the completion of doctoral examinations, or if significant requirements for admission to the doctoral procedure were erroneously assumed to be fulfilled, the faculty board – after consultation with the examination committee – may declare their doctoral examinations null and void. The reasons for the decision must be stated in writing and sent to the candidate concerned together with information on the legal remedies available.

§ 21

Revocation of the Doctoral Degree

- (1) If it becomes apparent at a later date that the candidate gained their doctoral degree through deception, the doctoral degree is to be revoked by resolution of the faculty board. The doctoral degree may also be revoked by resolution of the faculty board if
 - its holder has received a custodial sentence of at least one year for intentionally committing an academia-related serious criminal offence, or
 - its holder has been convicted of an intentional criminal offence involving the misuse of their academic qualification in the preparation for or perpetration of the criminal offence.
- (2) The same applies to honorary doctoral degrees (§ 23).

§ 22

Legal Remedies and Decisions on Objections

Candidates may appeal decisions adverse to them that are based on the assessment of their performance in a profession-related examination (*berufsbezogene Prüfung*). The doctoral examinations board is responsible for deciding on objections. The notification of a decision regarding an objection must state the reasons for the decision and provide information on the legal remedies available.

§ 23 Honorary Doctoral Degrees

Requests for the conferral of an honorary doctoral degree (Dr rer nat hc or Dr phil hc) must be made by at least two full-time professors of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. The conferral of an honorary doctorate (Dr rer nat hc or Dr phil hc) for outstanding academic achievement requires the approval of two-thirds of the faculty board's postdoctoral members. The conferral of an honorary doctorate (Dr rer nat hc or Dr phil hc) for exceptional contributions requires the unanimous approval of the faculty board's postdoctoral members.

§ 24 Renewal of the Doctoral Certificate

The doctoral certificate can be renewed after 50 years if warranted in consideration of the individual's exceptional academic achievements or their especially close ties to the University.

II. Doctoral Procedure in Cooperation with another University in Germany or Abroad with the Right to Award Doctoral Degrees

§ 25 Doctoral Procedure in Cooperation with another University in Germany or Abroad with the Right to Award Doctoral Degrees

The Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science also confers the academic degrees of "*Doktor der Naturwissenschaften*" (Dr rer nat) and "*Doktor der Philosophie*" (Dr phil) in cooperation with another German or foreign university with the right to award doctoral degrees.

§ 26 Agreement

For the purpose specified in § 25, the University of Münster and the other university must conclude an agreement setting out the details of the procedure and their cooperation. In doing so, the formal regulations of the University of Münster are to be taken into account. The agreement must stipulate that the University of Münster is represented at least equally in the procedure (e.g. in the composition of the examination committee). Taking into account the following paragraphs, different arrangements can be made regarding the practical implementation (e.g. the number of supervisors or examination committee members) than those set out in these Doctoral Regulations, provided that the essence of these Doctoral Regulations remains unchanged.

§ 27

Duration of Stays and Enrolment

Enrolment on the doctoral programme at the University of Münster is subject to the University's current version of the Enrolment Regulations. Doctoral students should spend roughly the same amount of time at both the University of Münster and the other university, with a minimum of one year at each.

§ 28

Doctoral Thesis

The doctoral thesis must be written in German or English.

§ 29

Supervision

- (1) The doctoral thesis is supervised by one authorised examiner from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science and one authorised examiner from the partner university's faculty.

§ 30

Assessors

- (1) The doctoral thesis is assessed by at least one authorised examiner from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science and at least one authorised examiner from the partner university's faculty.
- (2) The language used in the assessments is governed by the provisions set out in § 28.

§ 31

Oral Examination

- (1) The partnership agreement states that the oral examination is to be conducted as a doctoral defence, in accordance with § 12.
- (2) § 28 applies by analogy to the language of the doctoral defence.
- (3) The examination committee is made up of a minimum of four examiners.

§ 32

Completion of the Doctoral Degree

§ 17 applies by analogy to the completion of a doctoral degree on the part of the University of Münster, whereby the required pledge may be accepted by means other than a handshake in order to take into account the specific organisational circumstances of a doctoral procedure conducted in cooperation with another German or foreign university.

§ 33**Publication of the Doctoral Thesis**

§ 18 applies by analogy to the publication of the doctoral thesis on the part of the University of Münster.

§ 34**Doctoral Degree Certificate**

§ 19 applies by analogy on the part of the University of Münster. At the end of the procedure, the University of Münster and the other university will award either a joint certificate or separate certificates; the latter certificates are only valid in conjunction with the other doctoral degree certificate. In any case, the doctoral degree certificate must indicate that the doctorate was awarded upon successful completion of a joint doctoral programme at the University of Münster and the other university.

III. Final Provisions**§ 35****Transitional Provisions and Entry into Force**

- (1) These Doctoral Regulations (in their original German version) enter into force on the day following their publication in the *Amtliche Bekanntmachungen* (Official Announcements – AB Uni) of the University of Münster.
- (2) These Doctoral Regulations apply to all candidates who submit an application for admission to the doctoral procedure, together with copies of their doctoral thesis (see § 9 (1) and (3)), after these Doctoral Regulations enter into force. Reference is made to the possibility of submitting an application in accordance with § 35 (3), sentence 2.
- (3) For candidates who submitted an application for admission to the doctoral procedure, together with copies of their doctoral thesis, before these Regulations came into force, the “Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Münster (WWU) of 25 January 2016” continue to apply. In addition, within one year of these Regulations entering into force, an application to undertake the doctoral procedure in accordance with the “Doctoral Regulations of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Münster (WWU) of 25 January 2016” may be submitted alongside the application for admission to the doctoral procedure and the copies of their doctoral thesis (see § 9 (1) and (3)).

Glossary of English-German translations

co-supervisor	<i>Zweitbetreuer*in</i>
doctoral defence	<i>Disputation</i>
doctoral examinations board	<i>Promotionsausschuss</i>
doctoral procedure	<i>Promotionsverfahren</i>
Doctoral Regulations	<i>Promotionsordnung</i>
doctoral thesis	<i>Dissertation</i>
Enrolment Regulations	<i>Einschreibeordnung</i>
examination committee	<i>Prüfungskommission</i>

faculty	<i>Fachbereich</i>
faculty board	<i>Fachbereichsrat</i>
primary supervisor	<i>Erstbetreuer*in</i>
supervision agreement	<i>Betreuungsvereinbarung</i>
university of cooperative education	<i>Berufsakademie</i>

Issued (in the original German version) upon the resolution of the faculty board of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science (FB 10) of the University of Münster on 22 October 2025. The above Regulations are hereby announced.

Please note that in accordance with § 12 (5) of the Higher Education Act of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia [*Hochschulgesetz – HG NRW*], violations of procedural or formal requirements of the HG NRW or the University's regulations or other legal provisions pertaining to university autonomy can no longer be asserted more than one year after this announcement unless

1. these Regulations were not properly published
2. the Rectorate previously raised an objection to the resolution passed by the deciding committee
3. the University had already been given notice of a formal or procedural defect and had been informed of the legal provision that has been violated and of the fact giving rise to the defect or
4. the legal consequence of a deadline for violation notifications was not included in the public announcement of the Regulations.

Münster, 17 November 2025

The Rector

Professor Dr Johannes Wessels

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