

The present English translation of the official document „Promotionsordnung des hochschulübergreifenden *Promotionszentrums* Digitale Technologien und ihre Anwendung an der Technischen Hochschule Deggendorf in Kooperation mit der Technischen Hochschule Augsburg und der Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Landshut“ is not legally binding and serves for information purposes only.

## **Doctorate Regulations of the cross-university *Promotionszentrum* DigiTech (Digital Technologies and their Application) of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology in cooperation with the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and Landshut University of Applied Sciences**

**From 31 January 2024 in the version dated 02.04.2025**

Based on Art. 9 sentence 2 in conjunction with Art. 96 (7) sentence 1 and 2 in conjunction with Art. 97 (1) sentence 3 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG) of 5 August 2022 (German law and ordinance gazette (GVBl.) p. 414, BayRS 2210-1-3-WK), last amended by Section 3 of the Act of 23 December 2022 (GVBl. p. 709), the Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT) hereby enacts the following Regulations:

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## **A) General**

### **Section 1 Scope and application of the right to award doctorates**

- (1) The Deggendorf Institute of Technology regulates the right to award doctorates through the following provisions. The doctoral degree shall be completed at the Graduate School of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT) and shall be awarded by the Deggendorf Institute of Technology, the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and Landshut University of Applied Sciences. Together with the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and Landshut University of Applied Sciences, the Deggendorf Institute of Technology shall run the *Promotionszentrum DigiTech* (Digital Technologies and their Application). The body responsible for the doctorate proceedings and therefore the leading body shall be the DIT Graduate School, within which the topic of the dissertation shall be represented by an authorised examiner from the DIT or the cooperating universities Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and Landshut University of Applied Sciences in accordance with Section 13 (2) AVBayHIG. The DIT Graduate School shall be responsible for the proper implementation of the doctorate proceedings.
- (2) At the Graduate School of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology, the doctoral degrees listed shall be awarded on behalf of the *Promotionszentrum* according to the focus of the dissertation:
  - Dr.-Ing.
  - Dr. phil.
  - Dr. rer. pol.
- (3) The DIT university management, in consultation with the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg, the Landshut University of Applied Sciences and the Steering Committee of the *Promotionszentrum*, shall adopt guidelines with positive criteria for defining the respective doctoral degree and the associated quality assurance measures. These shall form the basis for establishing the intended doctoral degree.

### **Section 2 Purpose and form of the doctorate**

- (1) The purpose of a doctorate is to provide evidence of the ability to carry out in-depth scientific work in a recognised specialist area or in a research field. A doctorate is an independent academic achievement that makes a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field of research relative to the current state of science. The doctoral work consists of an academic paper (dissertation) and an oral examination in the form of a defence of the dissertation and demonstrates the ability to carry out independent scientific work.
- (2) The doctorate is carried out within the framework of a structured doctoral programme. The requirements set out in Section 10 are part of the conditions for admission to the doctorate proceedings.
- (3) The duration of a doctorate should not exceed five years.

### **Section 3 Prerequisite for the doctorate**

- (1) A doctoral degree may be attained by anyone who
  1. has undergone the required prior education as set out in Sections 4 and 5;
  2. has completed the structured doctoral programme at the Graduate School at the Deggendorf Institute of Technology as set out in Section 10;
  3. demonstrates her/his ability to work in an independent and scientific manner and to present results clearly by means of an independently written scientific paper (dissertation as set out in Section 7);
  4. receives a grade of at least 3 in the oral examination (dissertation defence) as set out in Section 18 (1);
  5. is deemed worthy within the meaning of the legal regulations governing the awarding of academic degrees, i.e. the applicant has not been convicted of any criminal offence which would make them appear unworthy;
  6. does not yet hold the desired doctoral degree;
  7. has not definitively failed in an earlier doctoral proceeding for the same doctoral degree or for the same dissertation at the Deggendorf Institute of Technology or at another university.

- (2) The acquisition of the doctoral degree through the assistance of a commercial doctoral consulting agency is prohibited; the instruction on this must be confirmed by submitting the corresponding signed declaration.

#### **Section 4 Prerequisite for admission based on a German university degree**

Students deemed to have the required prior education are those who have attained a Master's degree with an above-average grade after having completed a Bachelor's degree programme or who can provide evidence of a comparable qualification. An above-average performance is deemed to be a final examination passed with an overall grade of better than 2.5 or of at least the grade "good pass". In exceptional cases, above-average performance can also be demonstrated by outstanding academic achievements that were achieved after completion of the degree programme. The decision as to whether a qualification comparable to a Master's degree examination was obtained shall be made by the Doctoral Committee of the *Promotionszentrum*.

#### **Section 5 Prerequisite for admission based on a foreign university degree**

- (1) Degrees obtained at a foreign university are recognised upon application if they are equivalent to one of the university degrees mentioned in Section 4. The equivalence shall be determined by the graduate centre/school responsible for the doctorate proceedings. The equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (German federal states; Kultusministerkonferenz) and the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz) must be considered. If the responsible graduate centre/school is unable to determine equivalence on the basis of these documents, the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs must be consulted on the question of equivalence; its comments must be taken into account and any deviating decision must be justified.
- (2) The responsible graduate centre/school shall also decide whether the candidate has demonstrated above-average performance within the meaning of Section 4. In order to determine whether the foreign degree examination fulfils the requirement for above-

average performance, the result of the foreign examination shall be converted into the German grading system in accordance with the "Agreement on the Determination of the Overall Grade for Foreign University Entrance Certificates" (resolution of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of 15 March 1991, as amended; Vereinbarung über die Festsetzung der Gesamtnote bei ausländischen Hochschulzugangszugnissen).

## **Section 6 Acceptance as a doctoral candidate and membership in the *Promotionszentrum***

- (1) The application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate and thus for entry in the doctoral candidacy list must be submitted in written form to the DIT Graduate School. The application must be approved if
  1. proof of the required prior education as set out in Sections 4 and 5 is submitted in electronic form;
  2. a dissertation topic has been agreed with a professorial member of the *Promotionszentrum* (the supervisor);
  3. the responsibility of the *Promotionszentrum* has been clarified;
  4. an Application for Admission to the *Promotionszentrum* within the framework of a supervision agreement and a doctorate agreement concluded between the applicant, the supervisor and the *Promotionszentrum* has been submitted, stating the desired doctoral degree, and
  5. a written exposé consisting of 3-10 pages plus list of references for the doctoral project to be worked on independently has been submitted. The exposé should consist of the proposed topic, the current status of the research, the objectives and the contribution of the work together with a description of the approach and the intended methods.
- (2) The applicant will receive notification of the Doctoral Committee's decision, in which the desired doctoral degree must also be documented; any rejection must be justified and accompanied by information on the right of appeal. Entry in the list of doctoral candidates does not imply a decision on the opening of the doctoral proceedings.

- (3) Doctoral candidates become members of the *Promotionszentrum* when they are entered in the list of doctoral candidates. At the end of the doctorate, they are removed from the list of doctoral candidates at the DIT Graduate School and their membership in the *Promotionszentrum* ends.
- (4) In the event that the doctoral candidate wishes to withdraw from her/his doctoral project, they may terminate the supervisory relationship at any time. The supervisory relationship can also be terminated at any time by mutual agreement. The supervisor can only terminate the supervision agreement unilaterally if there are valid academic reasons or if the relationship of trust has broken. For this to occur, a feedback meeting must have taken place with a negative outcome, a mediation procedure must have failed, and the conclusion must have been reached by the head of the Doctoral Committee after hearing both the supervisor and the doctoral candidate. Once these prerequisites have been met, the supervisory relationship will be discontinued. In this case, the Doctoral Committee shall facilitate an alternative, academically appropriate supervisory relationship, unless the doctoral candidate has forfeited their right to continue their doctorate proceedings through their behaviour. This will be assessed by the responsible Doctoral Committee. The doctoral candidate will be informed in written form by the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee. The decision must be accompanied by information on the right of appeal.

## **Section 7 Dissertation**

- (1) The dissertation shall consist of a monograph or published papers set in an academic context (publication-based dissertation).
- (2) Regardless of its form, the dissertation must demonstrate the doctoral candidate's ability to carry out in-depth and independent scientific work.
- (3) In the case of a publication-based dissertation, the scientific problem, the approaches used, the results and conclusions obtained as well as the related literature must be presented in a way that expresses the positioning and categorisation in an overarching scientific context and the added value beyond the publications used. To this end, the Steering Committee of the *Promotionszentrum* shall adopt guidelines that define the

scope of the text section and the number, type, requirements and weighting of the publications and ensure that, in the case of joint publications, the individual contributions of the doctoral candidate are clear and that corresponding acknowledgements from the co-authors are provided. Within the framework of the guidelines, the *Promotionszentrum* shall ensure that at least three accepted publications (peer-reviewed), which have been prepared under the leadership of the doctoral candidate, are included, while respecting the legal positions protected by copyright. The papers that have been accepted for publication and have been published in print or in electronic journals must be attached to the dissertation as an appendix.

- (4) The dissertation shall be written in German or English. After approval by the Doctoral Committee, the dissertation may be written in another language.
- (5) The dissertation must be written independently. It must contain a summary of the content and a complete list of the literature used and other sources of information.
- (6) Pre-publications of parts of the dissertation must be indicated as such. A candidate's own work that has already served for examination purposes may not be submitted as a dissertation; however, results from this work may be used for the dissertation, whereby the work in question must be identified as such in the text and labelled in the list of references.

## **Section 8 Appointment of the supervisor**

- (1) Dissertations shall be completed under the supervision of at least one professorial member of the *Promotionszentrum*. Professorial members of the *Promotionszentrum* may belong to any of the universities participating in the *Promotionszentrum*. The principal supervisor must be a member of the *Promotionszentrum*.
- (2) In justified cases,
  - a. professors from another subject area or university of applied sciences with correspondingly proven academic qualifications;



- b. professors as well as persons who have completed their post-doctoral lecturing qualification or persons with an equivalent post-doctoral lecturing qualification at a university;
  - c. professors who are involved in the provision of further research-related responsibilities and tasks and who are not members of the *Promotionszentrum*, such as mentors or project partners;
- can also be appointed as a second supervisor.
- (3) When appointing supervisors, it should be ensured that they have the necessary time available to supervise the dissertation until its expected completion.
- (4) If a supervisor leaves her/his employment before completion of the doctoral procedure, they can still be appointed to the examination board as an internal examiner for ongoing doctorate proceedings.
- (5) In justified cases, the Doctoral Committee may, at its own initiative or at the justified request of the persons involved, appoint substitute supervisors during the course of the proceedings, in particular in cases where a supervisor is no longer able to fulfil the supervision role.

## **Section 9 Supervision of the dissertation**

- (1) Together with the application for admission as a doctoral candidate, the applicant must submit the written confirmation by the supervisor in the form of the supervision agreement. The supervisory relationship shall commence upon acceptance as a doctoral candidate; this is a prerequisite for this.
- (2) Supervision includes regular academic counselling, receipt of outlines or interim reports and discussions on progress reporting as well as support for the doctoral candidate, which must be set out in the supervision agreement.

## **Section 10 Structured doctoral programme**

- (1) The structured doctoral programme supports doctoral candidates in their further development towards independent academic work and the facilitation of an academic career, which includes both an appropriate period of doctoral studies and participation in the academic publication process.
- (2) The structured doctoral programme is part of the doctorate proceedings.
- (3) The structured doctoral programme includes the following:
  1. annual reports and work plans in written form ;
  2. an interim report on the status of the dissertation in the form of an academic presentation and a written research outline at the *Promotionszentrum* after three years at the latest;
  3. the participation in academic qualification courses;
  4. the largely independent supervision of a course (lecture, tutorial or seminar).
- (4) The Steering Committee shall determine the details in a guideline.

## **B) Doctorate proceedings**

### **Section 11 Submission of the dissertation**

- (1) Applications for the opening of the doctorate proceedings must be submitted to the Graduate School's office at the Deggendorf Institute of Technology. Only doctoral candidates entered in the list of doctoral candidates may apply for the doctorate proceedings to be opened. The application must include:
  1. the title of the dissertation;
  2. an electronic version (pdf file) of the dissertation;
  3. a comprehensive one-page summary of the dissertation; an English translation of the title and the summary must also be provided if the dissertation has been written in German;
  4. a statutory declaration by the applicant;
  5. a list of previous publications in accordance with Section 7 (6);
  6. a confirmation of the successful completion of the structured doctoral programme;

7. a curriculum vitae of the applicant, which in particular provides information about the applicant's educational background;
8. a valid police clearance certificate (issued no more than one year ago).

(2) The DIT Graduate School's office will check whether the application fulfils the formal requirements and then forward the application to the Doctoral Committee for the opening of the doctoral proceedings.

## **Section 12 Opening of the doctorate proceedings**

- (1) The doctoral application may only be rejected if
- a. the prerequisites for admission set out in Section 3 are not met or
  - b. the information, documents and certificates required in Sections 10 and 11 are incomplete or incorrect or
  - c. none of the Promotionszentren of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology or the cooperating universities, Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and Landshut University of Applied Sciences, is responsible for conducting the doctorate proceedings.

The doctoral candidate must be informed immediately in written form stating a reasoned rejection. The rejection decision must be accompanied by information on how to appeal.

- (2) The Doctoral Committee shall reach a decision as quickly as possible and appoint an examination board.
- (3) If the doctorate proceedings are opened, the Doctoral Committee shall endeavour to conduct the oral examination within six months as a rule.

## **Section 13 Examination of the dissertation**

- (1) The Doctoral Committee submits the doctoral application with all pertaining documents to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Board. The chairperson forwards the dissertation to the examiners for examination.

- (2) The chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Board ensures that the assessment and examination of the dissertation is effectuated within a reasonable period of time.
- (3) The Doctoral Examination Board is responsible for convening and organising the oral examination (disputation).

#### **Section 14 Grading of the dissertation**

- (1) The examiners shall assess the dissertation by means of independent reviews, which must include a grading. The reviews must be submitted to the chairperson. The chairperson shall ensure that this is done within a reasonable period of time (usually no more than three months).
- (2) Once the first review has been submitted to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Board, the doctoral examination application can no longer be withdrawn.
- (3) Once all reviews have been submitted, an overall grade for the dissertation is determined. This is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades given. Individual grades are not weighted. If the calculation of the average results in fractions, the better grade is awarded for values up to 0.5. An overall grade of at least 3 is required for admission to the oral defence.
- (4) If a grade is "fail" („Nicht bestanden“), the doctoral project has failed; the doctorate proceeding is thereby terminated. The Doctoral Examination Board shall decide whether the dissertation can be resubmitted in a revised form or whether a new version is necessary; this requires unanimity. Section 19 (2) and Section 21 (2) apply accordingly.

#### **Section 15 Involvement of the professorial council**

The professorial council of a *Promotionszentrum* consists of all professors belonging to the *Promotionszentrum*. If the dissertation has been granted a grade of at least 3 by all examiners, the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Board shall ensure that the

dissertation, together with the reviews, is made available to the professorial council in digital form for comment.

## **Section 16 Acceptance of the dissertation**

- (1) The dissertation is accepted if no objections have been submitted by members of the professorial council within a period of two weeks, the time period to be determined by the Doctoral Committee. In the event of objections, a written justification must be submitted within two weeks. If there are appropriately substantiated objections, the Doctoral Committee shall make the final decision on the acceptance of the dissertation.
- (2) If the dissertation is rejected, the doctoral project is deemed failed and the doctorate proceeding shall be terminated. In this case, the doctoral candidate shall receive a reasoned written notification with information on how to appeal.

## **C) Oral defence**

### **Section 17 Invitation to the oral defence**

- (1) If the dissertation has been accepted, the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Board will schedule and chair the oral defence.
- (2) The chairperson shall invite the doctoral candidate and the Doctoral Examination Board as well as the other members of the *Promotionszentrum* to the oral defence with at least two weeks' notice. The invitation may also be issued by electronic communication. The provisions of data protection law must be observed. The Doctoral Examination Board may, by agreement with the doctoral candidate, authorise further members of the public to attend as an audience; in some circumstances only for parts of the examination; in this case, it will announce the date publicly.
- (3) The Doctoral Examination Board may, in consultation with the doctoral candidate, determine that the oral defence be conducted in the form of a video conference or by connecting one or more participants via video transmission. The software approved by the Deggendorf Institute of Technology for this purpose should be used. In this case,

the invitation shall be sent in electronic form together with the link; other members of the *Promotionszentrum* who are authorised examiners should express their interest in participation to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Board no later than three working days before the scheduled examination date. The chairperson will then authorise the participation.

### **Section 18 Oral defence and grading thereof**

- (1) In the oral defence, the dissertation shall be defended before the Doctoral Examination Board. During the oral defence, the content of the dissertation shall be discussed; this includes the expert reviews and also extends to the problems of the relevant disciplines which were addressed in the dissertation. The members of the Doctoral Examination Board must actively participate in the discussion with the doctoral candidate. The oral defence usually lasts between 60 and 90 minutes.
- (2) The oral defence is usually held in the same language as the dissertation.
- (3) The oral defence is conducted by the Doctoral Examination Board. The chairperson may allow questions from other authorised examiners present. Gradings are given by the examiners only. The chairperson shall ensure that all examiners are given an appropriate share of the examination time.
- (4) In the assessment of the oral defence, the grades specified in Section 20 (3) shall be granted. The examiners of the Doctoral Examination Board shall each award a grade. The overall grade of the oral examination is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades given by the examiners of the Doctoral Examination Board. If the calculation of the average results in fractions, the better grade is awarded for values up to 0.5. The oral examination is deemed as passed if an overall grade of at least 3 is achieved.
- (5) If a grade of "fail" („Nicht bestanden“) is given or if the doctoral candidate does not appear for the oral defence for reasons for which she/he is responsible, the examination shall be deemed as failed. In such a case Section 19 (2) is applicable.

## **D) Completion of the examination**

### **Section 19 Examination result**

- (1) At the end of the oral defence, the members of the Doctoral Examination Board shall determine in a closed meeting whether the examination has been passed and whether the doctorate is awarded. The members of the Doctoral Examination Board may require the doctoral candidate to make changes to the dissertation. These requirements must be noted on the examination form with a deadline (max. three months). The chairperson is responsible for checking the fulfilment of the requirements. The chairperson shall approve the dissertation for publication. Minutes must be taken of the oral examination and any requirements imposed.
- (2) The chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Board shall inform the doctoral candidate of the grading of the oral examination, the dissertation and the result determined following the examination. In the event of a failed examination, the doctoral candidate shall receive a written notification with information on the appeals process; this shall also provide information on the options for retaking the examination.
- (3) Doctoral candidates can inspect the examination documents within one year of completing the doctorate proceeding.

### **Section 20 Grading of the doctorate**

- (1) The date of the doctoral graduation is the day on which the oral examination is passed.
- (2) Both the dissertation and the disputation must each be passed with a grade of at least 3.
- (3) The overall grade is made up of the grade for the dissertation and the grade for the dissertation defence, whereby the grade for the dissertation is weighted at  $\frac{2}{3}$  and the grade for the defence at  $\frac{1}{3}$ . If the calculation of the average results in fractions, the better grade is awarded for values up to 0.5. The overall examination is deemed as passed if an overall grade of at least 3 is achieved. The following grades are awarded:

- summa cum laude = 0 = "excellent" = an outstanding achievement
- magna cum laude = 1 = "very good" = a particularly commendable achievement
- cum laude = 2 = "good" = a performance above average
- rite = 3 = "sufficient" = a performance that meets average requirements  
rite = 3 = "sufficient" = a performance that meets average requirements

## **Section 21 Storage of examination and dissertation documents**

- (1) After successful completion of the doctorate proceeding, the examination documents shall be kept in the relevant graduate centre/school; one copy shall remain in the files of the DIT Graduate School.
- (2) If the doctoral project has been deemed as ultimately failed, the dissertation and the assessment reports shall remain in the files of the respective graduate centre/school.

## **E) Repetition of doctoral work**

### **Section 22**

- (1) If the dissertation at the *Promotionszentrum* has for the first time been rejected in accordance with Section 14 (4) or Section 16 (2) and the doctoral project has therefore failed, the doctoral candidate may submit a new dissertation or a revised dissertation with the consent of the Doctoral Examination Board in accordance with Section 14 (4) via the relevant graduate centre/school within a period of two years after notification of the rejection decision.
- (2) If the doctoral candidate does not submit a revised or new dissertation within the period specified in para. 1, the doctoral project shall be deemed as definitively failed. In this case, the doctoral candidate shall receive a written notification with the information on how to appeal. The protective provisions of the Act on the Protection of Mothers at Work, in Training or at University (Maternity Protection Act – MuSchG), as amended, shall apply accordingly for the doctorate. The periods of protection set out in the MuSchG must be taken into account when calculating all deadlines specified in these Doctorate Regulations. This also applies to parental leave within the meaning of the



Federal Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz – BEEG), as amended.

- (3) If one of the grades awarded to the revised or newly submitted dissertation in accordance with Section 14 (2) is "fail" ("Nicht bestanden") or if the dissertation is not accepted as per Section 16 (1), the doctorate proceeding shall be deemed to have definitively failed. In this case, the doctoral candidate shall receive a written notification stating the reasons and providing information on how to appeal.
- (4) If the dissertation submitted to the *Promotionszentrum* has been assessed by all examiners with a grade corresponding to a "pass" ("Bestanden"), but the oral examination has not been passed, the doctoral candidate shall have to repeat the latter examination only. The retake can only take place once, at the earliest after three months and at the latest within one year of having taken the failed oral examination. If this period expires, the entitlement to recognition of the dissertation shall lapse and the doctoral project shall have definitively failed. Admission for a re-examination shall only be possible in cases of hardship, which must be presented in writing to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Board; the decision shall be made by the Doctoral Examination Board by unanimous vote.

## **F) Compensation for disadvantages**

### **Section 23**

- (1) The type and severity of any disability must be taken into account in the doctoral proceedings. If a doctoral candidate can credibly demonstrate that they are unable to take the examination in full or in part in the intended form due to a long-term or permanent physical disability or chronic illness, compensation can be made by extending the working phase accordingly or by organising the examination procedure differently. A medical certificate must be submitted on request.
- (2) The decision pursuant to para. 1 shall be made by the Doctoral Committee. The doctoral candidate must be informed of the decision in written form.

## **G) Publication of the dissertation**

### **Section 24**

After passing the oral examination, the doctoral candidate must make the approved version of the dissertation available to the academic public by reproducing and distributing it no later than one year after passing the dissertation defence. Publications that have been accepted for publication and have appeared in print or in electronic journals and that are attached as appendices to the dissertation in accordance with Section 7 (3) are exempt from the publication obligation. To this end, in addition to the abstract in German and English, the doctoral candidate must submit the following free of charge:

1. to the university library of the respective cooperative partner of the *Promotionszentrum* an electronic version of the dissertation, the file format and data carrier of which comply with the specifications of the respective university library; the doctoral candidate shall transfer to the respective university library, the German National Library (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek) and the Bavarian State Library (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek) the right to publish the electronic version in data networks for an unlimited period of time and to make it accessible to other databases. Furthermore, the doctoral candidate shall assure that the electronic version corresponds to the approved dissertation; the doctoral candidate is obliged to check the metadata and the network version of their dissertation for completeness, correctness and readability; the submission of files that do not meet the required specifications in terms of file format and data carrier is not deemed to be a publication; or
2. to the respective *Promotionszentrum* two copies in paper form or as an electronic version.

## **H) Execution of the doctorate and certificate**

### **Section 25**

- (1) As provisional proof of the awarding of the doctoral degree, the doctoral candidate shall receive a provisional certificate from the Graduate School at the Deggendorf Institute

of Technology, provided that the doctorate has been passed and the required copies have been submitted on time in accordance with Section 24.

- (2) The doctoral candidate is not authorised to use the title of Doctor until the certificate has been issued in accordance with paragraph 1.
- (3) The doctoral candidate shall receive a certificate in German and English bearing the DIT seal and the date of doctoral graduation in accordance with Section 20 (1). The time and form of the personal handover shall be determined by the DIT Graduate School. A decorative certificate is available for a fee.
- (4) The universities cooperating in the *Promotionszentrum*, the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and Landshut University of Applied Sciences, shall also be noted on the certificate with their names and seals.
- (5) The supervisors shall be listed on the certificate with their names and the name of the university they are affiliated with.

## **I) Annulment of the doctorate**

### **Section 26**

If it is established before the doctoral certificate is issued that admission to the doctorate was granted on the basis of false information provided by the doctoral candidate or that the doctoral candidate has attempted or committed fraud in connection with their performances, these doctoral achievements shall be declared invalid by the head of the DIT Graduate School and the doctorate proceedings shall be declared to have definitively failed. The doctoral candidate will receive a written notification of this decision with information on the right of appeal. After expiry of the appeal period, the President must be notified of the decision on the doctorate's annulment and the pertaining declaration and must inform all German universities.

## **J) Withdrawal of the doctoral degree**

### **Section 27**

The withdrawal of an already awarded doctoral degree shall be governed by Art. 101 BayHIG. The President shall notify all German universities of the withdrawal of the doctoral degree, stating the reasons.

### **Section 28 Doctorate in joint supervision with a domestic or foreign university (cotutelle procedure)**

- (1) A doctoral procedure conducted jointly with a domestic or foreign university requires that
  - a. the doctoral candidates meet the prerequisites for admission to the doctorate proceedings (Section 3) and for acceptance as a doctoral candidate at the *Promotionszentrum* DigiTech (Digital Technologies and their Application),
  - b. the domestic or foreign university is entitled to award doctoral degrees under its national legislation and the academic degree it awards is recognised in accordance with Section 1 (2), and
  - c. an agreement is concluded with the domestic or foreign university on the implementation of the joint doctorate proceedings, setting out the details of the joint doctorate proceedings.
- (2) The responsibility for conducting the proceedings may lie with either the *Promotionszentrum* DigiTech or the domestic or foreign university as stipulated in the agreement on the implementation of the joint doctorate proceedings. The agreement on the joint implementation of the joint doctorate proceedings governs in particular the jointly managed doctorate proceedings involving the responsible bodies of the *Promotionszentrum* DigiTech and the responsible bodies of the domestic or foreign university, regulations regarding the number of copies to be submitted and the required deposit copies to be submitted in the event of a successful doctorate. In addition, the agreement on the implementation of the joint doctorate proceedings must contain a regulation on the minimum period of residence at both institutions, with at least 12 months of on-site research at one of the universities participating in the *Promotionszentrum* DigiTech. The agreement on the joint implementation of the

doctorate proceedings also contains regulations on the joint examination, assessment and grading of the academic achievements by a joint examination board including its composition, the preparation of the expert reviews, the format, the language of the dissertation, the duration and language of the oral examination and the language and content of the doctoral degree certificate. Doctoral candidates shall receive a copy of the agreement.

- (3) The dissertation must be submitted to the institution in charge. A dissertation that was submitted to one of the participating universities and was either accepted or rejected before the agreement on the joint doctorate proceedings was concluded cannot be the subject of the joint doctorate proceedings.
- (4) During the work on the doctorate, supervision shall be provided by one professor from the *Promotionszentrum* DigiTech and one professor from the domestic or foreign university. The reviews must be written in German or English. Once received, the reviews and the dissertation are submitted to both institutions with the authority to award doctoral degrees. Each institution decides independently on whether to accept the dissertation or not. If one of the two institutions rejects the dissertation, the joint proceedings are terminated. If only the domestic or foreign university rejects the dissertation, the proceedings shall continue at the *Promotionszentrum* DigiTech under its current Doctorate Regulations.
- (5) If the dissertation has been accepted by both institutions, the oral examination shall take place at the institution in charge. Equal representation of both institutions in the Doctoral Examination Board must be ensured. If the representatives of either institution refuse to accept the performance in the oral examination, the joint proceedings shall be terminated; paragraph 4 sentence 6 shall apply accordingly.
- (6) Upon successful completion of the doctorate proceedings under joint supervision of a domestic or foreign university, a joint doctoral degree certificate signed by both institutions shall be issued, stating that the degree constitutes a doctoral degree for academic achievement jointly awarded by the participating institutions. The agreement on the implementation of the joint doctorate proceedings must also ensure that any

additional certificate awarded contains a reference to the joint doctorate proceedings within the *Promotionszentrum DigiTech*."

## **Section 29 Entry into force**

These Regulations shall enter into force on date 2 April 2025.

Notwithstanding paragraph 1, these amended Doctorate Regulations shall not apply to doctoral candidates who commenced their doctoral project before this date. The regulations on the cotutelle procedure shall apply to all doctoral candidates.

Issued based on the resolution of the Senate of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology dated 19 March 2025 and the approval of the President of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology dated 02 April 2025 (ref. no.: 0404).

Signed

Prof. Waldemar Berg

President

The Amendments to the Doctorate Regulations of the cross-university *Promotionszentrum DigiTech* (Digital Technologies and their Application) of the Deggendorf Institute of Technology in cooperation with the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and Landshut University of Applied Sciences in its version of 31 January 2024, was put into writing at the Deggendorf Institute of Technology on 2 April 2025. The filing was duly posted on the notice boards on 2 April 2025. The day of announcement is therefore the 2 April 2025.