

Guidelines for the Preparation of the Dissertation of the Doctoral Centre “PRISMA Health – Promoting Research and Innovation for Sustainable Multidisciplinary Approaches in Health” at Deggendorf Institute of Technology in cooperation with Rosenheim Technical University of Applied Sciences

Please observe the requirements set out below when preparing your dissertation. These apply to all dissertations at the PRISMA Health Doctoral Centre. Please make a fundamental distinction between a dissertation consisting of published papers placed in an academic context (publication-based dissertation) and a monograph.

Contents:

1. Publication-based (cumulative) dissertation
2. Monograph
3. Regulations on the use of own previously published results for publication-based and monographic dissertations

1. Publication-based (cumulative) dissertation

1. Pursuant to Section 7(4) PromO, a publication-based dissertation consists of
 - a. at least two written papers that have been published or accepted for publication (acceptance), with the doctoral candidate as first author, in scientifically recognised publication outlets with independent review, together with one additional publication that has already been submitted to a publication outlet and has likewise been demonstrably authored by the doctoral candidate as first author, and
 - b. a previously unpublished framework document that explains the thematic relationship between the published papers and places the issues addressed in a broader academic context.
2. The framework text covers the following aspects:
 - Cover page
 - Affidavit and declaration of conformity (see template)
 - Table of Contents
 - List of abbreviations
 - Summary/abstract in German and English
 - List of publications
 - Introduction (approx. 5-10 pages): Explanation of the research topic, context and relevance, research question, overarching research question, contribution of the publications thereto; in the case of co-authorship, description of the doctoral candidate's own contribution to the respective publication (see point 4)
 - Declaration regarding the use of artificial intelligence bearing your original signature in accordance with separately defined requirements
 - Publications
 - Reflection/discussion (approx. 5-10 pages)
 - References

- Acknowledgements (optional)

Further written papers that form part of the overall work may also be listed. This also includes papers that are still “under review”. These papers must be identified as such.

- Where written papers with multiple authors are included in publication-based dissertations, it must be clearly and comprehensibly stated which academic activities carried out and which written content of the paper are attributable to the doctoral candidate. For the written papers pursuant to 1) a., the doctoral candidate must additionally demonstrate in the framework text that they are the main author. Main authorship is defined as follows: The author has made a significantly greater contribution than all other authors and has made the principal contribution to the content and writing of the respective paper. As a rule, main authorship is demonstrated by being the first author of a paper or by having made a contribution of at least 50%.
- A written paper may not be submitted as a publication pursuant to 1) a. under main authorship if it has already been submitted by a co-author under main authorship in another doctoral procedure.
Written papers are deemed to be original academic research papers or systematic reviews that comply with the relevant standards in the respective disciplines (e.g. PRISMA) (a maximum of one review). Other forms of contribution (e.g. abstracts, commentaries, short reports, letters or case studies) may be included as supplementary material, but do not qualify as principal papers of the doctorate. Active publication of partial results by doctoral candidates while the dissertation is being prepared is encouraged and therefore does not adversely affect the dissertation.
- As a rule, academically recognised publication outlets are those characterised by citation frequency. These include, among others, peer-reviewed publication outlets that are recognised within the relevant discipline. In consultation with the supervisor, other publication outlets regarded as academically equivalent may be used, provided that they have a mandatory peer-review process for submitted contributions.
- The dissertation submitted for review, comprising both the framework text and the published papers, must contain all texts and data relevant to its understanding, where applicable in an appendix.
- Written papers must be clearly identifiable as such and should retain the formatting of the original publication. For papers that have not yet been published, it is recommended that at least a preprint of the papers (“initial” or “accepted”) be included in the appendix in accordance with the relevant publisher’s regulations.
- The framework text may be written in German or English.
- For the final version of the dissertation to be published, the papers must have been published and at least the relevant reference (DOI, etc.) must be included in the appendix to the dissertation. Publications that have been accepted for publication and have appeared in print or in electronic journals are exempt from the publication requirement.

10. Assessment of the quality of the underlying published papers is the responsibility of the doctoral reviewers. If reviewers have been involved in previous peer-review processes, this must be disclosed (conflict of interest).
11. When appointing the examination committee, in addition to the provisions of the Doctorate Regulations, it must be ensured that at least one reviewer was not involved as an author in any of the submitted papers

2. Monograph

As an alternative to a publication-based dissertation, dissertations at the PRISMA Health Doctoral Centre may also be written as a monograph in consultation with the supervisors. The dissertation must be submitted digitally.

2.1. Requirements:

1. When preparing a dissertation in the form of a monograph, the key research results must additionally be presented to the international academic community for discussion. As a rule, this is done through publications in recognised academic journals or book contributions as first author. Alternatively, the doctoral candidate's own presentations and posters or contributions to proceedings of recognised academic conferences as first author may be submitted.
2. The monograph shall be written in German or English.

2.2. Structure

The structure of the dissertation in the form of a monograph should contain the following elements:

- In the case of a doctorate subject to temporary restrictions on access to its content, the approval letter from the Doctoral Examination Committee, stating the duration of the restriction, must be included before the cover page.
- Title page in accordance with the separately defined requirements
- Preface (if, for example, previously published results are incorporated, please include a clear reference to the prior publication).
- The following structure is recommended for the main text of the monograph:
 1. Table of contents (all content of the dissertation up to the final page must be listed here)
 2. where applicable, list of tables
 3. where applicable, list of figures
 4. where applicable, list of abbreviations
 5. Abstract (max. 3,000 characters including spaces, in both German and English)
 6. Dissertation text (introduction / research question / material / methodology / results / discussion)
 7. References (please list at least the first five authors as well as the last author for each reference)

- Affidavit regarding sources and good scientific practice in accordance with the separately defined requirements, bearing your original signature
- Declaration regarding the use of artificial intelligence bearing your original signature in accordance with separately defined requirements
- where applicable, declaration of contribution (if you have prior publications relating to your monograph), bearing your original signature
- Complete list of publications (if any publications are available)
- Acknowledgements (optional)

3. Regulations on the use of own previously published results for publication-based and monographic dissertations

- Results already published with the participation of the doctoral candidate may be reused in their dissertation, but must be identified accordingly at an appropriate point.
- Translations must be identified with reference to the original text.
- When using unaltered figures and tables from publications, permission must be obtained from the copyright holder (usually the original publisher) (unless the statutory right to reproduce images by way of quotation applies), both for use in the printed version and in the electronic/online version of the dissertation. Please include a copy of the permission with the dissertation.

Adopted on DD/MM/2026 by the PRISMA Health Doctoral Centre and confirmed on DD/MM/2026 by the University Leadership of Deggendorf Institute of Technology in agreement with the University Leadership of Rosenheim Technical University of Applied Sciences.