



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF Promotionsordnung der Fakultät für Betriebswirtschaft

(Amtliche Bekanntmachung Nr. 47 vom 28. Juni 2024)

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ONLY THE GERMAN VERSION SHALL BE LEGALLY VALID AND
ENFORCEABLE!**

Doctoral Degree Regulations of the University of Hamburg Business School

dated 10 April 2024

On 15 May 2024 in accordance with Section 108 subsection 1 of the Hamburg higher education act (Hamburgisches Hochschulgesetz, HmbHG) dated 18 July 2001 (HmbGVBl. p. 171) as amended 11 July 2023 (HmbGVBl. p. 250, 254) the Executive University Board of the University of Hamburg ratified the Doctoral Degree Regulations adopted by the faculty council of the University of Hamburg Business School on 10 April 2024 pursuant to Section 91 subsection 2 number 1 HmbHG.

Section 1

Definition of doctoral studies, doctoral degree

- (1) The University of Hamburg Business School has the authority to confer the academic degree *Doktorin* or *Doktor der Wirtschaftswissenschaften Doctor rerum oeconomicarum* (abbreviated: *Dr. rer. oec.*).
- (2) Doctoral studies demonstrate the capacity for in-depth scientific and scholarly work through independent research activities.
- (3) Doctoral work consists of
 - creditable work totaling at least 12 ECTS credits as set forth in the annex to these Doctoral Degree Regulations,
 - a written doctoral thesis (dissertation) submitted as a monograph or as multiple individual papers or related essays, and
 - the oral defense of the dissertation.
- (4) For special scientific and scholarly achievements the honorary degree *Doktorin* or *Doktor der Wirtschaftswissenschaften ehrenhalber Doctor rerum oeconomicarum honoris causa* (abbreviated: *Dr. rer. oec. h. c.*) may be conferred.
- (5) The doctoral degree pursuant to subsection 1 above may be conferred to a person once only.

Section 2

Doctoral committee

- (1) The office of the dean must establish a doctoral committee for a 3-year period to implement doctoral procedures. The doctoral committee acts as an examinations board in accordance with Section 63 subsection 1 HmbHG in conjunction with Section 59 HmbHG with the competencies described therein. The doctoral committee consists of one approved member of the faculty eligible to take part in doctoral degree proceedings, one teaching or research faculty member with a doctoral degree, and 4 full-time faculty professors. A proxy must be appointed for each member of the doctoral committee. If a member should retire before the end of their term, a successor must be elected for the remaining term of office.
- (2) The doctoral committee elects a chairperson and vice-chairperson from the group of University teachers on the committee.
- (3) Doctoral committee meetings are not open to the public. The doctoral committee must account to the faculty council for its actions.

Section 3

Admission requirements

- (1) An application for admission to the doctoral degree procedure must be submitted to the doctoral committee before work on the dissertation commences. Generally, the prerequisite for admission to the doctoral procedure is the successful completion of a course of study from a university within the purview of (German) constitutional law in a degree program relevant to a doctorate in economics by completing or passing
 - a master's degree program encompassing a total of at least 300 ECTS credits including the previously completed undergraduate program,
 - a *Magister* in a degree program at a university,

- a *Diplom* in a degree program at a university, or
 - the first state examination for a degree in teacher training in general or vocational education, achieving an overall grade of at least “gut” (good) (2.50 or better).
- (2) If the applicant has a degree other than those specified in subsection 1 above, they may be admitted to the doctoral degree program if the doctoral committee determines the applicant has acquired the relevant qualifications. The doctoral committee may require such applicants to acquire ECTS credits within a specified period of time in order to meet standard university requirements in accordance with the respective university degree described in subsection 1 or to supplement the skills and knowledge demonstrated by the applicant as is necessary for the desired doctorate.
- (3) At least one university professor from the University of Hamburg Business School must endorse the dissertation project.
- (4) An applicant who has not acquired a degree in a German or English-speaking degree program must furnish proof of sufficient language skills to complete the doctoral degree program:
- Applicants with a degree from a non-German-speaking degree program who want to complete a doctoral degree program in the German language must pass a German-language proficiency examination for admission to a higher education institution (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang, DSH) or furnish equivalent proof. The doctoral committee determines equivalency.
 - Applicants with a degree from a non-English-speaking degree program who want to complete a doctoral degree program in the English language must provide proof of proficiency in the English language to at least the proficiency level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or such other equivalent. The doctoral committee determines equivalency.
 - If the doctoral degree procedure is to be completed in another academic language pursuant to Section 6 subsection 3 herein, then the doctoral committee must establish appropriate guidelines and requirements for proof of language proficiency.
- (5) Notwithstanding subsection 1, sentence 2, admission may also be granted upon the completion of a bachelor’s degree (“fast track”), provided that the aggregate grade received was “very good” (at least 1.50), and the candidate passes an assessment test given by 2 full-time university teachers from the faculty or members of the faculty that have completed a *Habilitation (venia legendi)*, of which at least one must be a professor in a related economics subject. Admission is granted on the condition that the applicant obtains a master’s degree in a subject relevant to the dissertation proposal during the doctoral procedure. Admission may also be subject to other conditions.

Section 4 Admission procedure

- (1) Applications for admission to the doctoral procedure must be submitted to the doctoral committee together with the following documents:
- a) academic transcripts, diplomas, and proof of qualifications that are necessary pursuant to Section 3 herein,
 - b) a tabular curriculum vitae with a summary of pertinent activities and experience related to the proposed doctoral project,
 - c) a statement attesting to whether the applicant has previously submitted an application for admission to a doctoral procedure or whether a doctoral procedure

is currently being pursued at another higher educational institution or in another faculty—where applicable, provide all details of previous doctoral applications or projects,

- d) the intended dissertation topic,
 - e) an opinion on the doctoral project along with a commitment to supervise the doctoral researcher from a member of the University of Hamburg Business School teaching staff (the opinion may contain proposed conditions pursuant to Section 3 subsection 2 herein),
 - f) a statement that the applicant is familiar with the applicable doctoral degree regulations, and
 - g) proof of sufficient language skills pursuant to Section 3 subsection 4 herein.
- (2) Research associates employed in positions reserved for doctoral researchers generally submit applications for admission no later than 3 months after commencing work.
- (3) The doctoral committee will generally decide on applications for admission to the doctoral procedure within one month during the lecture period.
- (4) Doctoral researchers who are members of externally funded graduate schools may be admitted to procedures provided that such admission occurs on the basis of a written agreement executed by the University of Hamburg Business School.
- (5) Applications to the doctoral procedure will be rejected if:
- a) the requirements set forth in Section 3 are not satisfied,
 - b) supporting documents pursuant to subsection 1 hereof are missing,
 - c) a doctoral procedure for the doctoral subject or a part of the doctoral subject has already been successfully completed,
 - d) the applicant has already been admitted to a doctoral procedure for the requested doctoral subject,
 - e) the declaration pursuant to subsection 1 letter c hereof was untruthfully submitted, or
 - f) the selected dissertation topic is not a subject within the competency of the University of Hamburg Business School.

Rejected proposals must be notified in writing grounds provided. The applicant must be informed of the reasons.

- (6) The University of Hamburg Business School processes doctoral procedures electronically. As part of admission to the doctoral procedure, all parties (i. e., the University of Hamburg Business School, the doctoral researcher, and all persons involved in procedural or administrative matters of the doctoral procedure) are authorized to communicate by electronic means for its duration (i. e., until issuance of the doctoral diploma or, where appropriate, termination of the procedure without a doctorate being awarded). This includes the transmission of documents such as letters for informational purposes, official notices, reviews, and the doctoral dissertation. The same applies to rejections of applications for admission to a doctoral procedure; the University of Hamburg Business School is authorized to electronically communicate its decision to reject an application.
- (7) Admitted doctoral students are granted membership of the Graduate School of Business Administration. They may choose to apply to take the Research in Business Administration doctoral degree program offered by the Graduate School of Business Administration. The Research in Business Administration certificate is only awarded upon successful completion of the program.

Section 5

Dissertation project supervision and standard completion time

- (1) Once a doctoral researcher has been admitted to the doctoral procedure, the faculty is then responsible for ensuring the supervision and later evaluation of the dissertation project. The faculty must also ensure the doctoral researcher is given the *Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice and Avoiding Scientific Misconduct at Universität Hamburg* as amended at the beginning of the doctoral degree procedure.
- (2) The doctoral committee establishes a 2-person supervisory commission for each doctoral project. At least one member of the supervisory commission must be a full-time faculty professor. The supervisory commission must supervise the dissertation academically and procedurally on an ongoing basis. Doctoral researchers may propose members for the supervisory commission. If the doctoral committee declines to accept proposed members, it must find suitable members for the supervisory commission.
- (3) Upon application, the doctoral committee may confer the rights and obligations of a professor in doctoral procedures to other academics with doctorates, provided
 - these persons are the heads of externally funded junior research groups for which the University of Hamburg is the hosting institution or
 - researchers in higher-level positions at nonuniversity research institutions have been granted the right to supervise doctoral procedures within the scope of cooperation agreements in agreement with the faculty.
- (4) Generally, each supervisor must meet with each of the doctoral researchers at least once per semester. The doctoral researcher should provide a progress report on their thesis for this meeting.
- (5) As a rule, doctoral researchers must submit an exposé of the dissertation to the supervisory commission composed in either German or English no later than one year after commencing doctoral studies. The proposal must contain the research question or thesis, the current state of research, methods and procedures, and a work plan and timetable.
- (6) As a rule, the dissertation should be submitted within 3 years and the doctoral procedure completed within 4 years (standard completion time). German regulations regarding the protection of mothers at work and during training or studies (Gesetz zum Schutz von Müttern bei der Arbeit, in der Ausbildung und im Studium, MuSchG) must be taken into account. The same also applies to deadlines in accordance with the federal parental allowance and parental leave act (Gesetz zum Elterngeld und zur Elternzeit, BEEG). The standard completion time will be extended by the respective term of statutory maternity leave and/or parental leave. If, a supervisor who is justifiably compelled to terminate the supervisory relationship during the course of dissertation work, they must inform the doctoral committee chairperson without undue delay of the reasons therefor.
- (7) On leaving the University of Hamburg a supervisor retains the right to supervise a dissertation that has commenced through to its completion for 5 years, and remain a voting member of the examination commission. This time limitation does not apply to former full-time University of Hamburg university teachers with valid teaching and examination authorization.

- (8) The faculty council appoints an ombudsperson nominated by the office of the dean for a 3-year term. In the event of conflict with a supervisor, the doctoral researcher can contact the ombudsperson.

Section 6 Dissertation

- (1) The written doctoral thesis must demonstrate a capacity for in-depth scholarly work through independent research.
- (2) A doctoral thesis may be submitted as
- a) a monograph—that is, a complete and detailed exposition of research work and findings, portions of which may be prepublished (the dissertation must contain a list of all publications derivative of the work)
 - or
 - b) a cumulative dissertation, which is generally comprised of three published and/or unpublished papers that, in their totality, represent an equivalent achievement of a dissertation pursuant to letter a above. A cumulative dissertation must have an overarching title and an introduction or connecting chapter that comprehensively interprets, evaluates, and discusses the individual papers included in the cumulative work. Moreover, a list of titles and coauthors of the individual papers or essays must be submitted.
- (3) The dissertation may be composed in either German or English. The dissertation or portions thereof may be composed in another language provided this has been approved by the doctoral committee.
- (4) When written doctoral theses are produced in collaboration with other scholars, the doctoral researcher must provide detailed clarification of their contribution to the conception, realization, and documentation.
- (5) Doctoral researchers must cite all resources and aids, and affirm in an affidavit that they wrote the dissertation themselves in accordance with the representations per subsection 4 hereof and that only the specified resources were used. They must also submit a declaration that they did not use any commercial services established to provide assistance to doctoral researchers. The thesis may not have been accepted as part of any previous doctoral procedure or graded as insufficient. In cases of doubt, work from previous doctoral procedures must be submitted for comparison.
- (6) The dissertation must have a title page with the name of the author, its designation as a dissertation submitted to the faculty at the University of Hamburg, the date, and a cover page with spaces provided for the names of the reviewers. The dissertation must include a short summary of results attached as an appendix in both English and German and a list of any publications ensuing from it.
- (7) The doctoral dissertation must be submitted electronically to the doctoral committee in a form suited to publication on the internet and for publication pursuant to Section 12 subsection 3, for which a bound printed copy must be provided. The doctoral researcher must ensure both versions are identical. Each reviewer and each member of the examination commission will receive an electronic copy of the dissertation for assessment, while the printed bound copy remains archived with the faculty. The doctoral researcher must provide an additional printed bound copy when requested by a reviewer

or a member of the doctoral committee. This printed copy must contain a declaration written and signed by the doctoral researcher, declaring that the electronic documents provided to the doctoral committee and the printed document are identical.

- (8) Proof of compliance with any additional requirements pursuant to Section 3 subsection 2 and the acquisition of 12 ECTS credits in accordance with Section 1 subsection 3 herein as well as the measures stipulated by the supervisory committee for archiving the research data used in the dissertation must be submitted along with the dissertation.

Section 7

Examination commission

- (1) The doctoral committee establishes an examination commission for every doctoral researcher within 4 weeks of the submission of the dissertation and the proof required pursuant to Section 3 subsection 2 and Section 1 subsection 3 herein. The doctoral researcher may recommend commission members to the committee. The doctoral committee appoints a chairperson from among the full-time professors in the faculty. The chairperson may not be a coauthor of any individual paper that has been submitted in accordance with Section 6 subsection 2 letter b.
- (2) The examination commission must be comprised of at least 3 university professors or individuals who have been granted the respective rights and obligations of university professors in doctoral degree proceedings commensurate with Section 5 subsection 3 herein. Where required by Section 8 subsection 3, the number of examination commission members may increase accordingly. At least half of the members of the examination commission must be full-time university professors of the University of Hamburg Business School. As a rule, a supervisor is appointed as a member of the examination commission as a reviewer. The second supervisor may likewise be appointed to the examination commission as a reviewer.
- (3) The doctoral committee supplements the examination commission in accordance with the conditions set forth in subsection 2 above if any member should retire from the commission or for compelling reasons be unable to discharge their duties for an extended period of time.
- (4) The examination commission's duties are:
 - a) to evaluate the dissertation based on the submitted reviews and any written positions submitted pursuant to Section 8 subsections 3 and 4 herein;
 - b) to organize and conduct the oral defense;
 - c) to evaluate the oral defense;
 - d) to assign a final grade, which takes into account the individual grades assigned to the dissertation and oral defense pursuant to Sections 9 and 10.
- (5) Examination commission meetings are not open to the public.
- (6) The examination commission decides matters on a simple majority vote of those members entitled to vote, unless otherwise provided for in these regulations. All votes on evaluations of performance will be cast by open ballot with no abstentions permitted. Decisions on the evaluation of performance may only be taken if voted upon by all members of the examination commission.

Section 8
Evaluation of the dissertation

- (1) Two reviews will be prepared for every dissertation. Generally, the doctoral committee must appoint 2 reviewers: one of the supervisors of the doctoral degree project and a member of the examination commission who is not its chairperson. At least one reviewer must be a full-time university teacher of the University of Hamburg Business School.
- (2) The reviews must be composed independently of each other and submitted within 3 months of the request therefor. Late submissions must be explained to the doctoral committee. The reviews must acknowledge the significance of the dissertation and its results and findings within a larger context and indicate any shortcomings. In the overall assessment, each reviewer must either recommend accepting the dissertation and specify a grade in accordance with Section 9, revising the dissertation pursuant to subsection 4, or rejecting the dissertation. If the requisite evaluations are not clear in a review, the doctoral committee must return the review for revision.
- (3) If the evaluations in the reviews deviate from one another, the examination commission will agree a grade for the written work. If the commission is unable to reach an agreement, the doctoral committee must appoint another reviewer to the examination commission. If both reviewers evaluate the dissertation as summa cum laude, the doctoral committee must appoint an additional reviewer to the examination commission. The first supervisor may propose a third reviewer.
- (4) A reviewer may once require the dissertation be fundamentally revised. In this instance, the reviewer does not assign a grade to the work, but rather specifies identified shortcomings and, where applicable, recommends appropriate measures to rectify these deficiencies. If a reviewer recommends that the dissertation be revised, the examination commission must return the dissertation to the doctoral researcher and set a date for the resubmission of the revised dissertation. If the revised dissertation is resubmitted within the deadline, it must then be reevaluated. Otherwise, the doctoral researcher will have failed the doctoral procedure. The examination commission decides on any exceptions.
- (5) Once the review phase of the dissertation process has been completed, the dissertation together with the reviews will be deposited with the faculty's administrative office for a period of 2 weeks. All individuals and members of the faculty entitled to supervise a dissertation pursuant to Section 5 subsections 2 and 3 may review the dissertation and proposed grades and submit a written opinion to be added to the doctoral file. The doctoral committee must inform this group of persons about the availability of the dissertation in an appropriate manner. Furthermore, members of the doctoral committee and the respective examination commission are also entitled to review the assessments during this review period. The doctoral committee may appoint an external reviewer in the event an opinion is submitted during the review period. The reviews will be made available to the doctoral researcher for review no later than one week before the oral defense, provided the written work is not subject to conditions pursuant to Section 9 subsection 8.

Section 9
Decision about approval of the dissertation and scheduling the oral defense

- (1) After the review period has expired, the examination commission must decide whether to accept or reject the dissertation, the admission of the doctoral researcher to the oral defense phase, and the dissertation grade.

- (2) The grade must be awarded unanimously, unless an additional reviewer was appointed in accordance with Section 8 subsection 3 sentence 2 herein, in which case, the grade is determined by commission majority.
- The grade of summa cum laude for a dissertation may only be awarded if all reviewers so recommend. If the first 2 reviewers propose the grade of summa cum laude but the third reviewer—pursuant to Section 8 subsection 3 sentence 3—does not, then only the grade of magna cum laude may be awarded.
- (3) Provided that a dissertation has been approved and accepted, the examination commission uses the following grading scale:
- with distinction (summa cum laude, 0.7)
 - very good (magna cum laude, 1)
 - good (cum laude, 2)
 - sufficient (rite, 3)
- (4) The following criteria are used as a basis to establish a grade:
- capacity for in-depth and independent scholarly work
 - independent research
 - originality and topicality
 - clarity of argumentation
 - strength of reasoning
 - methodological coherence
 - accuracy of style and form
 - critical treatment of literature
 - discussion of findings and results
- (5) The exposé or rather the congruence of the content contained in the exposé and the written dissertation is not material for the assessment of the dissertation.
- (6) In the event the dissertation is rejected, the examination commission declares the doctoral procedure has not been successfully completed and set forth the reasons for the decision without scheduling an oral defense. The doctoral committee chairperson must inform the doctoral researcher in writing about the rejection and specify the reasons for the examination commission's decision.
- (7) If the dissertation is approved, the examination commission will inform the doctoral researcher of its decision and the grade together with the time scheduled for the oral defense. The oral defense must be held within 2 months of receipt of the last review.
- (8) If the reviews have conditions attached, then a doctoral researcher may only proceed to the oral defense phase of the doctoral degree proceedings once the conditions have been reflected in the dissertation. The examination commission must specify the conditions and verify whether they have been complied with. Approval to publish the dissertation is deemed granted once the oral defense has been successfully completed, marking the end of the doctoral procedure.

Section 10 **Oral defense**

- (1) The purpose of the oral defense is to allow the doctoral researcher to demonstrate their aptitude for oral recitation and discussion of scholarly problems. The oral defense may be conducted in German or English at the doctoral researcher's discretion. The oral defense is open to the University public. The examination commission chairperson may exclude

the public for compelling reasons upon the doctoral researcher's request therefor. In such a case, doctoral committee members are not considered members of the public. Examination commission members must attend the oral defense.

- (2) The disputation commences with an oral recitation in which the doctoral researcher presents and elucidates the important results of the dissertation and their significance within a broader subject-related context. Subsequently, the doctoral researcher must defend the dissertation and answer questions posed by members of the examination commission. Questions must refer to the dissertation and the classification of the problems therefrom in a larger scholarly context. The oral defense lasts for approximately 60 minutes.
- (3) The examination commission chairperson coordinates the scholarly discussion and decides on the priority and, if necessary, the permissibility of the questions.
- (4) The examination commission members appoint one member of the commission to act as secretary. A transcript of the minutes must be placed in the doctoral file. Minutes must contain the following information:
 - date, time, and location of the oral defense
 - attendance list for the members of the examination commission
 - doctoral dissertation grade
 - bulleted information about the topics discussed
 - decision about whether the oral defense was successful and grade for the oral defense
 - overall grade pursuant to Section 11, especially any extenuating circumstancesAll members of the examination commission must sign the transcript of the minutes.
- (5) The doctoral researcher is deemed to have failed the oral defense if he or she fails to attend without a valid excuse. The doctoral researcher must be informed.

Section 11

Decision about the oral defense and doctorate

- (1) The examination commission will withdraw into a closed session immediately following the oral defense to confer on the results of the oral defense and assign it a grade in accordance with the grading standards set forth in Section 9 subsection 3 herein. If members of the examination commission cannot agree a grade for the oral defense, every member of the examination commission must confer a single grade. The oral defense grade is then determined as the arithmetic mean of all single grades. The first 2 positions behind the decimal point are included in the calculation of grades; all other values after that are ignored and not used as a rounding function. Thereafter, the examination commission assigns an overall final grade, provided the oral defense has been evaluated as passed. In calculating the overall final grade, the dissertation grade is weighted three-quarters and the oral defense grade one-quarter. The final grade for the doctorate is based on the correspondingly rounded weighted arithmetical average as follows:
 - from 1.00 to less than 1.50: very good (*magna cum laude*),
 - from 1.50 to less than 2.50: good (*cum laude*),
 - from 2.50: sufficient (*rite*).The grade "with distinction" (*summa cum laude*) may only be awarded as an overall final grade if the dissertation was awarded this grade. The examination commission must inform the doctoral researcher about the individual grades for the dissertation and oral defense as well as the overall final grade.

- (2) Once the examination commission has established the overall grade, the doctoral researcher will receive an interim certificate displaying the title of the dissertation, the individual grades for the dissertation and the oral defense as well as the overall grade. This transcript of records does not entitle the doctoral researcher to use the academic title "doctor."
- (3) If the doctoral researcher fails the oral defense, the doctoral committee chairperson must inform the doctoral researcher of this decision within 2 weeks, providing reasons. The oral defense may be repeated once no later than 6 months thereafter.
- (4) If the doctoral researcher fails the second oral defense attempt, the examination commission declares the candidate has failed doctoral studies, and provide the reasons therefor. Within 2 weeks, the doctoral committee chairperson must inform the doctoral researcher of this decision in writing.

Section 12

Publication and submission obligations

- (1) The dissertation must be published within 12 months of the completion of the doctoral studies. If the dissertation cannot be published within the set time frame, the doctoral committee chairperson may grant an extension upon submission of a well-grounded application.
- (2) The doctoral committee decides how many printed or reproduced copies of the dissertation must be submitted by the doctoral researcher in accordance with State and University Library requirements. Moreover, the office of the dean also determines in what form printed copies may be substituted with other information media.
- (3) If the deadlines and any extensions set forth in subsections 1 and 2 above have elapsed without publication of the dissertation, the State and University Library will publish the dissertation or previously unpublished portions of the dissertation for cumulative dissertations, on the internet.

Section 13

Diploma

- (1) A diploma conferring the doctorate will be issued in German as will a copy in English. The diploma must contain information pertaining to the field of the doctoral studies, the title of the dissertation submitted, the final overall grade, and the date the oral defense was successfully completed.
- (2) The dean of the University of Hamburg Business School will sign the diploma and affix the seal of the faculty.
- (3) The diploma will not be awarded to the applicant if, before being conferred, it becomes apparent that conditions have been met that warrant divestiture of the doctorate pursuant to Section 17 herein. In such an event, the applicant must be notified about the reasons underlying the decision not to tender the diploma. Moreover, the applicant must be informed about their option to appeal this decision.
- (4) The diploma will be issued within 4 weeks subsequent to the receipt of the notification that the publication obligations pursuant to Section 12 herein have been discharged. The diploma conferring the doctorate entitles the person to use the doctor title.

Section 14

Appeal and procedural review

A doctoral researcher may submit an application for reconsideration of an examination commission decision to the chairperson of the examination commission within one month of the decision, provided that the doctoral researcher has been given information about the legal remedies; otherwise, they have one year from the date of notification of the decision to submit an application for reconsideration. If an application for reconsideration is denied relief by the examination commission, the matter must be remitted to the Doctoral Degree Appeals Committee at the University (Section 66 HmbHG dated 18 July 2001 as amended). Doctoral researchers may also appeal doctoral committee decisions.

Section 15

Joint doctoral studies with institutions abroad

- (1) The doctoral degree may be completed in a joint program with foreign universities or equivalent higher education and research institutions if
 - a) the applicant meets the requirements for admission to the University of Hamburg Business School's doctoral procedure and
 - b) the institution abroad confers a doctorate according to its national laws and regulations that would be recognized within the territorial jurisdiction of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic Germany (Grundgesetz für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland, GG).
- (2) A joint doctoral procedure must be governed by agreement. The contractual provisions of the agreement apply in addition to the provisions contained in these Doctoral Degree Regulations. When agreeing the conditions, the provisions contained in these Doctoral Degree Regulations must be taken into consideration with respect to ensuring equivalence of the requirements and procedure. Which doctoral degree regulations apply must be mutually agreed. Where applicable, a German or English translation of the doctoral degree regulations of the institution from abroad must be submitted in order to determine whether these regulations are equivalent to the faculty's Doctoral Degree Regulations with respect to requirements and procedures. The essential provisions of the Doctoral Degree Regulations for the University of Hamburg Business School must be complied with, even where the doctoral degree regulations from abroad prevail.
- (3) The doctoral researcher must be admitted to both participating institutions.
- (4) The languages in which the dissertation may be written must be contractually stipulated.
- (5) The examination commission is to be comprised of 2 university professors from each participating university or equivalent research or educational institution. It must be warranted that members of the examination commission are proficient in the examination language.
- (6) If both countries have divergent grading systems, then an agreement must be reached on the denomination and uniform documentation of jointly determined examination grades.
- (7) Both universities will jointly award a bilingual diploma according to the template developed by the German Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz—HRK). This will entitle the doctoral researcher to carry the academic title in either its German or international variation. However, only one doctorate will be conferred.

Section 16

Honorary doctorate

- (1) The honorary degree *Doktorin* or *Doktor der Wirtschaftswissenschaften ehrenhalber Doctor rerum oeconomicarum honoris causa* (abbreviated: *Dr. rer. oec. h. c.*) will be conferred upon recognition of exceptional scholarly achievement at the recommendation of the office of the dean for the University of Hamburg Business School.
- (2) A commission established by the doctoral committee must review scholarly achievements. The commission is comprised of one approved member of the faculty eligible to take part in the doctoral procedure, one faculty research associate with a doctorate, and 3 full-time university teachers from the faculty, and a university teacher from another higher education institution. Three-fourths of the members of the faculty council must assent to the conferral.
- (3) The award of the honorary doctorate is complete upon the tender of the diploma acknowledging the scholarly achievements of the honoree.

Section 17

Revocation of the doctoral degree

- (1) If a doctoral graduate who has perpetrated fraud with respect to the proof submitted for the admission requirements or the work performed during the course of a doctoral procedure may be divested of their doctorate. Divestiture is determined by the faculty's doctoral committee subsequent to a hearing of the doctoral graduate. The affected individual may appeal the decision to divest.
- (2) This notwithstanding, legal provisions apply with respect to the divestiture of a doctoral degree.

Section 18

Discontinuing the doctoral procedure

- (1) If more than 8 years have passed since admission to the doctoral procedure, the doctoral committee may discontinue the procedure by dismissing the student subsequent to a hearing of the doctoral researcher and upon the supervisor's prior consent and comment. Reasons must be provided for the notice of discontinuance. The administrative notice of discontinuance must be made by the doctoral committee chairperson. Discontinuance does not prevent the doctoral researcher from applying for admission to the doctoral procedure at a later date.
- (2) The doctoral researcher may withdraw at any time prior to submitting the dissertation. Procedural steps completed by the withdrawal no longer count as part of the doctoral procedure.

Section 19

Legal effect and repeal

- (1) These Doctoral Degree Regulations become effective on the day following official publication by the University of Hamburg. It applies to doctoral researchers who have applied or are applying for admission to the doctoral procedure after 1 October 2014.
- (2) At the same time, the doctoral degree regulations of the University of Hamburg Business School dated 26 April 2023 expire.

Appendix
Provisions governing eligible work pursuant to Section 1 subsection 3 of the Doctoral Degree Regulations

The following work may be credited towards the required 12 ETCS credits pursuant to Section subsection 3 of the Doctoral Degree Regulations:

- a) doctoral courses
 - doctoral courses offered by the University of Hamburg Business School
 - doctoral courses offered by the graduate school of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences
 - courses at other graduate schools
 - research workshops, summer schools, etc.generally, at least 6 ECTS credits
- b) lectures at scientific and scholarly events
 - lectures at conferences
 - lectures at doctoral colloquiamaximum of 4 ECTS credits
- c) teaching activities including practical courses (if a course is taught repeatedly, it may only be credited once)
maximum 6 ECTS credits
- d) continuing education in the area of higher education teaching
maximum of 4 ECTS credits
- e) other equivalent forms of academic performance and continuing education that must be approved by the doctoral committee
- f) The faculty council must establish rules governing the number of ECTS credits awarded for performance.

Hamburg, 28 June 2024
University of Hamburg