

Translation of the Doctorate Regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin, including the first three amendments and one proposed amendment

Please note that this English translation is for information purposes only. Only the official German *Promotionsordnung* is legally binding. It was published in *FU Mitteilungen* 74/2007 of 3 December 2007, with amendments in *FU Mitteilungen* 13/2009 of 1 April 2009, 4/2012 of 23 January 2012, and 69/2012 of 30 July 2012. The proposed amendment has been submitted to the Legal Office of Freie Universität Berlin, but has not yet been approved.

Preamble

On the basis of §14 subsection 1 no. 2 of the Partial Basic Regulations (trial model) of Freie Universität Berlin dated 27 October 1998 (*FU Mitteilungen* 24/1998) in conjunction with §70 subsection 5 of the Berlin Higher Education Act (Berliner Hochschulgesetz- BerIHG) as amended by the revised version published on 13 February 2003 (GVBl. p. 81) most recently amended by the act of 6 July 2006 (GVBl. p. 713), the extended Department Council of the Department of Earth Sciences of Freie Universität Berlin issued the following Doctorate Regulations on 24 October 2007:¹

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¹ These regulations were approved on 15 November 2007 by the Senate administration in charge of higher education.

§1

Definition of the doctorate, doctoral degrees

(1) The Department of Earth Sciences of Freie Universität Berlin awards the academic degree of *Doktor/Doktorin der Naturwissenschaften* [Doctor of Natural Sciences] (doctor rerum naturalium, abbreviated: Dr. rer. nat.) on completion of a regular doctoral procedure in accordance with the following regulations.

(2) The doctorate attests to the capacity for specialized academic work based on individual research beyond successful completion of one of the degree programmes at the Department of Earth Sciences. Doctoral studies may be supported by postgraduate studies (*Aufbaustudium*) or by a structured doctoral programme.

(3) To gain a doctoral degree in natural sciences (Dr. rer. nat.), the following proofs of successful performance are required:

- a thesis (§7) and
- an examination colloquium (oral defense, §11) in the subject in which a doctorate is to be obtained.

(4) The degree of an honorary doctor of natural sciences (doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa, abbreviated: Dr. rer. nat. h.c.) may be awarded for special academic achievements in one of the disciplines of the Department of Earth Sciences.

(5) A degree in accordance with subsection 1 may be awarded to the same person only once for a discipline of the Department of Earth Sciences of Freie Universität Berlin.

§2

Doctoral committee (*Promotionsausschuss*)

(1) The department council appoints a doctoral committee to implement the doctoral procedure.

(2) The department council appoints the members of the doctoral committee at the start of its term of office. The committee comprises three regular professors (*hauptberufliche Hochschullehrer/innen*) and two members of the academic staff, both of whom have doctoral degrees. The department council appoints a deputy from each group. The department council appoints one of the three professors as chair and another as deputy chair of the doctoral committee.

(3) The doctoral committee decides whether applicants and their thesis proposals should be admitted to the doctoral procedure. Appropriate advice must be offered to the applicants. Doctoral committee meetings are not open to the public.

(4) In general, the doctoral committee may delegate responsibility for individual decisions or specific powers to the chair of the doctoral committee. The doctoral committee may retract such delegations of responsibility at any time.

(5) The doctoral committee reports to the department council at the end of each academic year. It informs the dean's office within the scope of its authority according to §15 subsection 3 sentence 2 of the Partial Basic Regulations, trial model, dated 27 October 1998 (*FU Mitteilungen 24/1998*).

(6) In cases of fundamental questions of procedure, the university management -legal office- shall be informed by the chair of the doctoral committee via the dean's office of the department.

Admission requirements

(1) Admission to the doctoral procedure is conditional on having obtained a master's degree at a university (*Hochschule*) within the purview of Germany's Basic Law, in a degree programme that is relevant for the doctorate and comprises a total of 300 credit points -including the previously completed first degree - or a higher education degree (*Hochschulabschluss*) at a comparable level with a final grade of at least "good".²

(2) If the applicant's course of study lacks major fundamental subjects for the doctorate studies, the doctoral committee may admit the applicant to the doctoral procedure on condition that, within a specific period, he or she supplies proof of results usually obtained in a higher education degree programme as described in (1) or necessary to supplement the applicant's proven knowledge for the proposed doctorate.

(3) If the degree was obtained by a bachelor's examination in a doctorate-relevant degree programme at an institution of higher education or legally equivalent institution within the purview of Germany's Basic Law, proof must be provided of the required aptitude. For this, the following conditions must be met:

- a) A degree (*Hochschulabschluss*) with a final grade of "very good".
- b) Submission of two expert opinions by professors who represent subjects that are relevant for the doctorate at a university or equivalent institution. They must assess the applicant's potential to perform independent scholarly work.
- c) Success in up to three oral assessment examinations, each lasting about 30 minutes, in the field of the proposed doctorate and in closely related fields. The chair of the doctoral committee appoints the examiners. In exceptional substantiated cases, an assessment examination may be waived.

If the higher education degree was obtained in a *Diplom* degree examination at a University of Applied Sciences (*Fachhochschule*) or legally equivalent institution within the purview of Germany's Basic Law in a degree programme relevant for the doctorate, proof must be provided of the required aptitude. For this, the final grade of the *Diplom* degree examination must be at least "good (2.0)". In addition, the prerequisites according to letters b) and c) must be fulfilled.³

(4) A degree in terms of subsection 1 also includes the equivalent successful completion of higher education study in a programme relevant for the doctorate at a higher education institution outside the purview of Germany's Basic Law. If the degree is not among the degrees generally accepted as equivalent, confirmation has to be obtained from the Central Office for Foreign Education at the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany. If equivalence is confirmed, subsections 1 to 3 apply accordingly. If the grading of the foreign degree has not been rated by the Central Office for Foreign Education, the chair of the doctoral committee, in agreement with the chair of the respective examination board, verifies the equivalence of this grading with the achievements required in subsections 1 and 3.

² § 3 subsection 1 corresponds to the second amendment to the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences (FU Mitteilungen 4/2012 - p. 20)

³ § 3 subsection 3 corresponds to the second amendment of the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences (FU Mitteilungen 4/2012 - p. 20)

If equivalence is not recognized, the doctoral committee will consider whether equivalence can be established according to subsection 2.

§4

Admission procedure

(1) Before the start of experimental and/or theoretical work for the proposed thesis, applications for admission to the doctoral procedure should be submitted to the chair of the doctoral committee with the following documents:

- a) documents, especially certificates and proof of performance, as required by §3,
- b) a curriculum vitae in tabular form, particularly including information about relevant activities and experience concerning the proposed doctorate;
- c) a declaration whether an application has already been made for admission to the doctoral procedure, or whether a doctorate procedure is under way at another higher education institution or another department, and, if so, full details about the outcome;
- d) a declaration that the applicant is conversant with the current doctorate regulations;
- e) if the doctoral work is to be done in German, applicants who are not German native speakers and who hold a degree from a foreign university or equivalent institution, must submit proof of German language skills by passing the German language university entrance test (DSH) or equivalent proof in accordance with the regulations for the German language test for admission of international students at Freie Universität Berlin (*Ordnung für die Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Bewerberinnen und Bewerber an der Freien Universität Berlin*);
- f) if the doctoral work is to be done in English, proof of appropriate English language skills must be provided. In agreement with the professor according to subsection 2 sentence 2, the chair of the doctoral committee decides which type of proof is required and whether the applicant's English-language skills are adequate.

(2) A work and time plan for the proposed thesis has to be submitted together with the application for admission. This work and time plan has to be endorsed by at least one regular professor (*hauptberufliche/r Hochschullehrer/in*) from the Department of Earth Sciences.⁴ The thesis proposal must derive from distinct and definable academic fields at the Department of Earth Sciences, for which degree programmes have been established and which are taught and researched by at least one professor. If possible, the applicant should suggest an academic supervisor who represents the field of study in accordance with sentence 2 and who is prepared to supervise his/ her work.

(3) An already completed thesis in an academic field in accordance with subsection 2 sentence 3 may also be submitted on condition that the thesis has not already been submitted in an earlier doctoral procedure.

(4) The doctoral committee normally decides on applications for admission to the doctoral procedure within one month. Notification of acceptance must be given in writing. Rejections must be substantiated in writing.

(5) The doctorate application will be rejected if:

- a) the requirements listed in §3 have not been met;
- b) the documents required in §4 subsection 1 are lacking;

⁴ §4 subsection 2 sentence 2 corresponds to the second amendment of the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences (FU Mitteilungen 4/201.2 - p. 20)

- c) a doctoral procedure in the same academic subject or field has already been success fully completed;
- d) another doctoral procedure by the applicant is being conducted in the same academic subject or field.

The doctorate application may be rejected if it does not fall within the academic fields described in §4 subsection 2.

§5

Enrolment as doctoral students

(1) Doctoral students who are not already members of Freie Universität Berlin because they work for the university or are enrolled in a degree programme must register or enroll as doctoral students at Freie Universität Berlin in accordance with §10 subsection 1 of the Bylaws on Academic Matters (*Satzung für Studienangelegenheiten*).

(2) If the enrolment application is not made within the period quoted in the notification of admission to the doctoral procedure or within the extension period, admission to the doctorate procedure will expire. This does not preclude a renewed application for admission to the doctoral procedure.

§6

Supervision of the thesis; standard processing time

(1) Upon the applicant's admission to the doctoral procedure, the Department undertakes to ensure the supervision of the thesis project and the assessment of the submitted thesis.

(2) Thesis supervisors are generally professors (*Hochschullehrer/Hochschullehrerinnen*) at the Department of Earth Sciences. In exceptional substantiated cases, external professors may be appointed as supervisors in collaboration with a professor at the Department of Earth Sciences. If all parties agree, other professors or academics holding a doctoral degree, who do not necessarily belong to the Department, may participate in the supervision.

(3) The topic of the proposed thesis may be freely chosen, taking §4 subsection 2 sentence 3 into consideration, but it should have the supervisor's approval. In general, it should be possible to complete a thesis within three years (standard processing time).

(4) If a doctoral student exceeds the standard processing time given in subsection 3 by more than one year, he or she has to submit confirmation by the doctoral committee to the Student Records and Registration Office (*Studierendenverwaltung*) stating the current status of the thesis and the estimated time still needed to complete it. If, for reasons within the applicant's control, this confirmation has not been submitted within three months after it was requested, admission to the doctoral procedure will expire.

(5) The supervisors declare to the doctoral student and the doctoral committee that they will supervise the thesis for a period of generally three years. If, in the course of thesis work, the supervisors or the applicant have to end the supervisory relationship for important reasons, they are obliged to inform the chair of the doctoral committee immediately, stating their reasons. If a supervisor leaves Freie Universität Berlin, he/she retain a three-year right to complete the supervision of an ongoing thesis and to remain a member of the doctoral commission.

(6) In substantiated individual cases, scientists may be allowed the right to participate in doctoral proceedings within a defined scope (as supervisors, reviewers, examiners) in the framework of

cooperation agreements and contracts with Freie Universität Berlin and with the approval of the Department of Earth Sciences. Within the agreed scope, the scientists named in the agreements and contracts shall then have the same participation rights and duties as part-time professors.

§7

Thesis

(1) The thesis is a dissertation written by the doctoral student in the Earth Science discipline according to §4 subsection 2 sentence 3 and represents an advance in scientific knowledge.

(2) Either of the following may be submitted as a thesis:

- a) an unpublished work or
- b) a completely or partially published work, in which case the previous publications have to be declared to the doctoral committee.

The thesis must include a self-contained description of the research work and its results. The thesis may have originated in research work with third parties. In such a case, the doctoral student's own contribution must be clearly definable and assessable. The doctoral student is obliged to describe in detail his or her share in the conception, implementation and documentation of the research work if third parties are involved.

(3) The thesis must be written in German or English.

(4) The doctoral student must specify all resources and aids and must affirm that the thesis was written independently on this basis. The thesis may not have already been submitted in a previous doctoral procedure. In case of doubt, work from earlier doctoral procedures (§4 subsection 1, c) must be submitted for comparison.

(5) The thesis must have a title page bearing the author's name, the designation as a thesis submitted to the Department of Earth Sciences of Freie Universität Berlin, and the year of submission, and a front page with the names of the reviewers. The thesis must contain summaries of the results in German and English. If the doctoral student agrees, it should also include a short CV.

(6) Three printed copies of the thesis must be submitted, including prior publications where applicable. One copy will remain at the Examinations Office of the Department. In addition, an electronic version of the thesis must be submitted in an accepted data format.

§8

Review of the thesis

(1) After the thesis has been submitted, the doctoral committee shall immediately appoint the reviewers.

(2) As a general rule, the thesis supervisor is appointed as reviewer. In agreement with the doctoral student and the supervisor, the doctoral committee appoints an additional reviewer. She or he must be a professor at the Department of Earth Sciences or a thematically related institution of Freie Universität Berlin or another university.⁵ At least one reviewer must be a regular professor

⁵ § 8 subsection 2 sentence 3 corresponds to the § third amendment to the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences (FU Mitteilungen 69/2012 - p. 1418)

(*hauptberufliche/r Hochschullehrer/in*) of the Department of Earth Sciences.⁶ If major methodological or factual aspects of the thesis touch on a field of science that is represented in teaching and research at another department, the second reviewer should be a member of the department concerned. §6 subsection 6 remains unaffected.

(3) The reviews are to be written independently of each other and should be submitted within six weeks of being requested. The doctoral committee and the doctoral commission must treat the reviews confidentially. If the reviewers agree, the doctoral student may be allowed access to the reviews. The reviews must assess the importance of the thesis and its results within a broader context and state any possible shortcomings. If a reviewer perceives shortcomings that can and should be amended within an appropriate period, she/he must specify them in her/ his review. In such a case, she or he may recommend revision of the thesis, giving appropriate details. In the overall evaluation, each reviewer has to recommend either acceptance with an assessment according to §12 subsection 1, rejection, or return of the thesis for amendment of specific shortcomings and re-submission within an appropriate period.

(4) In cases in which at least one reviewer recommends that the thesis be rejected or returned, the doctoral committee decides how to proceed (reject, return for specific shortcomings to be amended, or ask for an additional review). If the thesis is returned for amendment of specific shortcomings, the doctoral student must make the required corrections. The supervisor must give written confirmation to the chair of the doctoral committee that the shortcomings have been amended as required. Then three bound copies of the revised version must be submitted to the Examinations Office. If reviews that recommended the return of the thesis did not contain an assessment, the latter is to be given by the reviewer on the basis of the amended version. The amended version serves as the basis for fulfilling the submission requirements according to §14. If, for reasons within his/her control, the doctoral student does not submit the revised version within the period set by the doctoral committee, the doctorate will be considered failed. The chair of the doctoral committee must inform the doctoral student of this in writing, giving reasons.

(5) If a review does not clearly show the requisite assessments, the doctoral committee will return the review for revision.

(6) If the assessments in the reviews differ by more than one grade, the doctoral committee will appoint an additional reviewer.

(7) After the review process has been completed, the thesis and the grades proposed by the reviewers are displayed in the Department's Examinations Office for a period of two weeks during the lecture period, or four weeks during the semester break. All members of the department council, professors and members with doctoral degrees, as well as the women's representative of the Department of Earth Sciences, may view the thesis and the proposed grades and submit a statement that shall be added to the documents relating to the doctorate. This group of people is to be informed by the doctoral committee that the thesis is on display.

§9

Doctoral commission (*Promotionskommission*)

(1) After the thesis has been submitted, the doctoral committee immediately appoints the members of the doctoral commission for the doctoral procedure concerned. From among the commission

⁶ § 8 subsection 2 sentence 4 corresponds to the third amendment to the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences (FU Mitteilungen 69/2012 - p. 1418)

members, it appoints a chair and a deputy chair, who may not be the supervisor and who should be regular professors at the Department of Earth Sciences.⁷

(2) The doctoral commission generally consists of the reviewers and at least two other professors, of whom at least three must be members of Freie Universität Berlin, and one member of the academic staff holding a doctoral degree who is employed by Freie Universität Berlin or by a member of the Department of Earth Sciences. The doctoral commission should not include more than one retired professor. §6 paragraph 6 remains unaffected.⁸

(3) If the thesis deals with questions involving several academic fields according to §4 subsection 2 sentence 3, the academic fields and, where applicable, departments involved are to be taken into appropriate account when the doctoral commission is appointed, notwithstanding subsection 2.

(4) The doctoral commission's responsibilities are:

- a) to assess the thesis on the basis of the available reviews and statements according to §8 subsection 7⁹
- b) to schedule and conduct the oral defense;
- c) to assess the oral defense;
- d) to determine the final grade, which takes into account the individual assessments for the thesis and the oral defense (according to §§11, 12);
- e) if applicable, to state conditions for publication of the thesis.

(5) Meetings of the doctoral commission are not open to the public.

(6) The doctoral commission makes majority decisions. All voting on performance assessment is by open ballot; abstentions are not permitted.

§10

Decisions on the acceptance and assessment of the thesis, scheduling of the oral defense

(1) At the end of the display period, the doctoral commission decides on the acceptance, rejection or revision of the thesis. If the thesis is accepted, it is awarded one of the grades listed in §12 subsection 1.

(2) If the thesis is rejected, the doctoral commission shall declare the doctorate failed, stating the reasons for this decision. In this case, no date is set for an oral defense. The chair of the doctoral committee shall notify the doctoral student in writing, giving reasons.

(3) After acceptance of the thesis, the doctoral commission shall inform the doctoral student of its decision. In agreement with the doctoral student, the doctoral commission sets the date of the oral defense, which should normally be during the lecture period. The earliest possible date for the oral defense is 10 days after acceptance of the thesis. The period between receipt of the last review and the oral defense should not exceed three months. Invitations to the oral defense are issued by the chair of the doctoral committee at the suggestion of the doctoral commission. The oral defense is open to members of the university unless the doctoral student objects.

⁷ §9 subsection 1 corresponds to the second amendment of the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences (FU Mitteilungen 4/2012 - p. 20)

⁸ § 9 subsection 2 corresponds to the second amendment of the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences (FU Mitteilungen 4/2012 -p. 20)

⁹ subsection 4 letter a) content of reference changed

(4) If the thesis requires revision, the oral defense will be scheduled only after submission, assessment of the amended thesis, and expiration of the display period in accordance with §8 subsection 6.

(5) If the doctoral student declares that she/he will forgo the oral defense, the doctorate will be considered failed. The chair of the doctoral committee must inform the doctoral student in writing, stating reasons.

§11

Oral defense

(1) The purpose of the oral defense is to demonstrate the doctoral student's capacity to orally present and discuss scholarly issues. The oral defense is conducted in German or English.

(2) The oral defense begins with an approximately thirty-minute presentation in which the doctoral student describes and discusses the results of her/his thesis and their importance in a broader subject-related context. In the following discussion, the student defends her/his thesis against criticism and answers questions from members of the doctoral commission. The questions should generally address the positioning of the thesis issues within broader academic contexts. Subsequently, the chair of the doctoral commission may accept questions from the public on the topic of the oral defense. This discussion with the university public lasts approximately 30 minutes. Afterwards, the commission and the student retire for a non-public discussion lasting about 45 minutes at most.

(3) The chair of the doctoral commission coordinates the discussion and decides on the priority of questions and, if applicable, whether they are admissible. She or he may exclude the public if this is necessary to conduct the examination properly, provided that the student agrees.

(4) Minutes shall be kept of the oral defense. The members of the doctoral commission appoint one of their members to keep the minutes. The minutes shall be included in the doctoral file.

The minutes must include the following information: Date, time and place of the oral defense

- List of the doctoral commission members present
- Grade awarded to the thesis
- Duration of the presentation and the discussion
- Outline of the discussion contributions in note form
- Grade awarded to the oral defense according to §12 subsection 1 Final grade according to §12 subsection 1
- Any unusual incidents.

The minutes must be signed by the minute keeper and by the chair of the doctoral commission.

(5) If the doctoral student fails to attend the oral defense and does not provide a valid excuse, the oral defense shall be considered failed. The doctoral student must be notified in writing, giving reasons.

§12

Decision on the oral defense and the final grade

(1) Immediately after the oral defense, the doctoral commission assesses the oral defense. It uses the following grades:

- *mit Auszeichnung* (with distinction, summa cum laude)
- *sehr gut* (very good, magna cum laude)
- *gut* (good, cum laude)
- *genügend* (satisfactory, rite)

In the assessment of the oral defense, more weight should be given to the discussion than to the presentation. When the final grade is calculated, the thesis should generally count more than the oral defense. Subsequently, the doctoral commission determines a final grade based on the grades given in subsection I. It informs the doctoral student of the individual assessments of the thesis and the oral defense, as well as of the final grade. The final grade "with distinction (summa cum laude)" may be awarded only if the thesis and all parts of the oral defense received this grade.

(2) If the doctoral student fails the oral defense, she/he may retake it once: at the earliest after three months, at the latest after six months.

(3) If the doctoral student also fails the second oral defense, the doctoral commission declares the doctorate failed and gives reasons for its decision. The chair of the committee informs the doctoral student about the decision in writing, giving reasons.

(4) After the final grade has been set by the doctoral commission, the doctoral student receives an interim certificate stating the title of the thesis, the individual grades for the thesis and the oral defense, and the final grade. This interim certificate does not authorize he r/him to use the title of "Doctor".

(5) After the end of the doctoral procedure, the entire process shall continue to be treated confidentially. Access to the doctoral file is granted according to the provisions of the *Satzung für Allgemeine Prüfungsangelegenheiten (SfAP)* (Bylaws on General Examination Matters).

§13

Additional subjects for the doctorate

(1) If the doctoral student has gained knowledge in additional subjects during her/his research-related training, she/he must be given the opportunity to take an oral examination in these subjects, if so desired.

(2) Before a doctoral student is admitted to an examination in such an additional subject, the admission requirements must be determined in agreement with the department responsible for that subject. An examination in the additional subject lasts about 30 minutes. It must take place after the thesis has been submitted, but prior to, and independently of, the oral defense.

(3) The doctoral student may apply to the chair of the doctoral committee to have examination results obtained in the additional subject according to subsection 1 included in the doctoral certificate. The results are to be graded according to the respective examination regulations.

§14

Publication of the thesis and submission requirements

(1) The thesis must be made available to the scientific public by appropriate means of reproduction and distribution. The conditions stipulated by the doctoral commission for publication are to be made known to the doctoral student immediately after the oral defense and in an appropriate manner; he/she must take these requirements into account. Before publishing the thesis, the doctoral student has to obtain authorization of the text version to be published. This will be granted

by the chair of the doctoral committee after consultation with the supervisor. The thesis is made available in accordance with sentence 1 if -in addition to the three copies required by §7 subsection 6- the doctoral student hands in one of the following sets of copies to the University Library free of charge:

- a) 40 copies in book or photocopy form for distribution
- b) three original publications if the entire thesis is published in a journal;
- c) three copies if a commercial publishing company is responsible for distribution via the book trade, if proof of a minimum edition of 150 copies is provided, and if the back of the title page designates the publication as a thesis and states where the thesis was submitted;
- d) three copies in reproducible typescript, together with the master copy and 35 additional microfiche copies, or¹⁰
- e) an electronic version, whose data format and storage medium are acceptable to the University Library of Freie Universität Berlin, and six printed copies, of which five go to the University Library and one to the Department's Earth Sciences Library.¹¹

In the case of a), the University Library is obliged to keep an appropriate number of surplus copies for exchange purposes for a period of four years. In the case of b) and c), it must be specified that the publication is a thesis and where the thesis was submitted. In the case of a) and d), the doctoral student transfers to Freie Universität Berlin the right to produce and distribute additional copies of his/her thesis. In all cases, a thesis abstract not more than one page in length and approved by the first reviewer must be included for publication purposes.

(2) If a thesis is distributed by a commercial publisher and printing is subsidized from public funds, five copies must be made available to the University Library for exchange purposes.

(3) The thesis must be published and the submission requirements must be fulfilled as stated in subsection 1 within one year starting from the date of the oral defense. The doctoral student may apply to the doctoral committee to have this deadline extended by up to one further year.

§15

Doctoral certificate

(1) A German-language doctoral certificate will be issued.

(2) The certificate must contain the following details:

- a) the names *Freie Universität Berlin* and *Fachbereich Geowissenschaften*,
- b) the name, date and place of birth of the person awarded the doctorate,
- c) the degree awarded: *Doktor/Doktorin der Naturwissenschaften* [Doctor of Natural Sciences] (doctor rerum naturalium, abbreviated: Dr. rer. nat.),
- d) the title of the thesis,
- e) the date of the oral defense, which counts as the date on which the doctorate was obtained,
- f) the grades of the thesis and oral defense as well as the final grade,

¹⁰§14 subsection 1 sentence 5 d) corresponds to the third amendment of the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences (FU Mitteilungen 69/2012 - p. 1418)

¹¹ §14 subsection 1 sentence 5 e) corresponds to the third amendment of the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences (FU Mitteilungen 69/2012 - p. 1418)

- g) the grade of an examination in an additional subject according to §13 if so requested by the doctoral student,
- h) the names of the reviewers,
- i) the name and signature of the Dean,
- j) the seal of Freie Universität Berlin.

(3) If it becomes known before the doctoral certificate is issued that

- 1. the doctoral student
 - a) is unworthy of a doctoral degree
 - b) has been deceptive about major requirements for the conferral of the doctoral degree, or
- 2. major requirements for the conferral of the doctoral degree were mistakenly assumed to have been fulfilled, but no. 1 does not apply,

the doctoral certificate will not be issued and, in the case of the doctoral procedure according to §§1-14, the entire examination will be declared failed, unless the doctoral committee decides otherwise.

(4) The doctoral certificate should be issued within four weeks of fulfillment of the submission requirements in §14 subsection 1 and subsection 3. The doctoral certificate entitles the recipient to use the academic degree of *Doktor/Doktorin der Naturwissenschaften* [doctor of natural sciences] (doctor rerum naturalium, abbreviated: Dr. rer. nat.). The issuing of the doctoral certificate shall be put on record.

§16

Right of appeal

The persons concerned may submit an appeal to the doctoral committee objecting to the grades of the doctorate components after the end of the doctoral procedure in accordance with the *Satzung für Prüfungsangelegenheiten(SfAP)* (Bylaws on Examination Matters).

§17

Withdrawing a doctorate application, discontinuing the procedure, new doctoral procedure

(1) The doctoral committee may agree to a doctoral student's application to withdraw admission to the doctoral procedure only if the thesis has not yet been submitted. Prior procedural steps do not count as part of the doctoral procedure.

(2) If more than six years have passed since admission to the doctoral procedure, the doctoral committee may discontinue the proceedings after a written agreement and statement by the supervisor and after having heard the doctoral student's point of view. Reasons for discontinuing the proceedings must be given in writing by the chair of the doctoral committee. This does not preclude a new application for admission to the doctoral procedure.

(3) If the student fails the doctorate, he/she must wait at least a year before applying for admission to a new doctoral procedure and submitting the new thesis.

§18

Joint doctoral procedure with institutions abroad

(1) Doctoral procedures may be conducted jointly with higher education institutions or equivalent institutions abroad if

- a) the applicants fulfill the conditions for admission to the doctoral procedure as set down in these regulations at the Department of Earth Sciences of Freie Universität Berlin, and if
- b) the higher education institutions or equivalent institutions abroad have the right to confer doctoral degrees according to the legal provisions of their respective country and the degree to be awarded would be recognized as a doctoral degree within the scope of the Framework Act on Higher Education.

(2) Joint doctoral procedures must be regulated for each individual case or in general by agreement between the departments, faculties or equivalent institutions concerned. These agreements are valid along with the provisions of these doctorate regulations. With respect to requirements and procedure, an equal footing with the corresponding provisions of these regulations must be ensured.

§19

Honorary doctorate

On application by the Dean or the research committee or by at least three professors from the Department of Earth Sciences, the department council may confer the degree of Honorary Doctor of Natural Sciences (doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa, abbreviated: Dr. rer. nat. h. c.). This degree is awarded for outstanding academic achievements in those natural sciences that are important for one of the Department's academic fields according to §4 subsection 2, sentence 3. To assess these achievements, the doctoral committee appoints a doctoral commission in accordance with §9, which makes a recommendation to the department council, taking into account at least three external reviews. The department council's decision requires a majority agreement of those members with a doctoral degree.

§20

Revocation of a doctoral degree

A doctoral degree according to §1 may be revoked in accordance with the respective legal provisions.

§21

Entry into force, expiration, interim regulations

(1) These regulations come into force on the day after they are published in the *Mitteilungen* (Official Register of Freie Universität Berlin). At the same time, the doctorate regulations of the Department of Earth Sciences dated 22 May 1985 (Amtsblatt für Berlin, p. 1607), amended on 9 November 1988 (FU Mitteilungen 19/1989), become invalid.

(2) Doctoral students who, at the time these regulations come into force, have already been admitted to the doctoral procedure under the previously valid doctoral regulations according to subsection 1 sentence 2 may complete the doctoral proceedings under the doctoral regulations

according to subsection 1 sentence 2 until at most three years after these regulations come into force.