



Specific Regulations of the Department of Law and Economics

on the General Doctoral Regulations of Technical University of Darmstadt dated 12 January 1990 (ABl. 1990, p. 658) as amended for the 8th time in the version dated 21 December 2017 (PO/AT)

During its session on 12 December 2019, the Departmental Council of the Department of Law and Economics passed the following Specific Regulations on the General Doctoral Regulations of Technical University of Darmstadt dated 12 January 1990 (ABl. [Hessisches Amtsblatt - gazette of the Hessian Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts] 1990, p. 658) as amended for the 8th time in the version dated 21 December 2017 (PO/AT [Prüfungsordnung/Allgemeiner Teil - doctoral regulations/general part]):

Re § 1 Doctorate

The Department of Law and Economics awards the academic titles Doctor rerum politicarum (Dr. rer. pol.) for doctorates in economics and Doctor iuris (Dr. iur.) for doctorates in law.

Re § 3 Doctoral board

When summoning the members of the Doctoral Board according to § 3 (1) b) of the PO/AT, the subject areas Business Administration, Economics and Law must be represented by one professor each.

Re § 4 Examination committee

The chairperson as well as the professors chosen according to § 4 (1) c) of the PO/AT are summoned by the Doctoral Board.

Re § 7 (3) Acceptance as a doctoral candidate for Dr. rer. pol.

(1) To be accepted as a doctoral candidate, a Master of Science or Master of Arts in the following subject areas is required: Business Administration/Industrial Engineering, Business Information Systems, Business Administration, Economics, Business Mathematics. The Doctoral Board decides whether or not similar degrees are recognised as equivalent for acceptance as a doctoral candidate.



(2) Should the applicant have a degree in other subject areas than stated in paragraph (1), the applicant can still be accepted as a doctoral candidate according to § 7 (5) d) of the PO/AT by presenting an appraisal by a supervisor. Reasons given in this appraisal must indicate benefits to interdisciplinary research and the necessary specialised knowledge of the prospective doctoral candidate in the field of the intended dissertation. The Doctoral Board decides on possible additional requirements for acceptance based on the recommendations of the supervisor. The prospective doctoral candidate must give proof of having successfully completed these additional requirements. These additional requirements must be met within two semesters following the acceptance as a doctoral candidate. Retaking these required courses is ruled out.

(3) To be accepted as a doctoral candidate, the applicant must at least have passed the required degree with the grade “good”.

(4) Should the applicant have completed the Master’s degree with the grade “satisfactory” instead, the applicant can still be accepted by the Doctoral Board by way of exception. To that end, a member of the group of professors of the department must confirm and endorse the applicant’s academic capability as a doctoral candidate in an appraisal. This professor must also indicate an overall willingness to supervise the applicant’s dissertation.

(5) An acceptance according to § 7 (5) c) of the PO/AT is possible, if the doctoral candidate takes part in a structured programme of a research training group or a graduate school and can submit proof of a Master’s degree indicating the qualifications stated in paragraph (1) prior to initiating the doctoral examination procedure.

Re § 7 (3) Acceptance as a doctoral candidate for Dr. iur.

To be accepted as doctoral candidate, the applicant must have completed the first or second examination in law (Germany) successfully. One of these examinations must have been completed with the grade “vollbefriedigend”, which is an honours-level examination score. Should the applicant have at least passed one examination with the grade “satisfactory”, the Doctoral Board can accept the applicant as a doctoral candidate by way of exception based on the applicant’s academic and scientific capabilities. To that end, the applicant must present a graded certificate of academic achievement in a law course following the first examination in law. In addition, a member of the group of professors in the department must endorse the applicant’s acceptance in an appraisal. This professor must also indicate an overall willingness to supervise the applicant’s dissertation. Apart from the first and second examination in law (Germany), a foreign examination in law considered equivalent in its academic requirements and grading criteria may suffice, provided the examination was passed with the grade “satisfactory”. Then sentences 3 and 4 apply respectively.



Re § 7a Aptitude assessment procedure for acceptance as a doctoral candidate for Dr. rer. pol.

Should the requirements according to § 7 (5) of the PO/AT not be met or should there be doubts about the special focus of a degree, an aptitude assessment procedure shall be initiated. The Doctoral Board and expert representatives then decide based on recommendations of the supervisor on the requirements for an additional training programme and the required proofs of qualification for scientific work while taking into account the already completed degree programme of the applicant. This shall include future achievements in at least two modules totalling 12 credit points (CPs) minimum in the fields of Business Administration or Economics, including a written research assignment or seminar paper to be assessed by members of the group of professors at the Department of Law and Economics. A recommendation as to which modules the applicant should enrol in and the supervisor's appraisal according to § 7 (1) of the PO/AT should be added to the application of acceptance as a doctoral candidate. One of the three achievements to be earned should not be completed at the institute of the supervisor. These certificates of academic achievement must be obtained according to § 7a (2) of the PO/AT within two semesters following the acceptance as a doctoral candidate.

Re § 8 Initiating the doctoral examination procedure and proof of research contributions

(1) Apart from providing proof satisfying the approval requirements according to § 8 of the PO/AT, the applicant must give proof of three research contributions up until the doctoral examination procedure is initiated. These contributions can be any of the options listed below:

- A contribution published or accepted for publishing (letter of acceptance from the publisher required) in a publishing medium recognised by the scientific community. In case of a cumulative dissertation according to § 9 (4) and (5) of the PO/AT, these research contributions must be different from those being part of the cumulative dissertation.
- Speech at a conference recognised by the scientific community
- Speech at a doctoral colloquium
- Speech in one of the research clusters of the department

The doctoral board decides on the recognition at the request of the doctoral candidate based on the recommendations of the supervisor.

(2) According to § 8 (1) b) of the PO/AT, three written copies and one identical digital copy of the dissertation must be enclosed with the application to initiate the doctoral examination procedure.

Re § 9 (4) The dissertation

The Department allows for the option of a cumulative dissertation for the academic degree Dr. rer. pol. according to § 9 (4) of the PO/AT. In addition to the requirements stated in § 9 (4) of the PO/AT, the following minimum requirements apply to cumulative dissertations at the Department of Law and Economics.

The cumulative dissertation must be preceded by a detailed synopsis that presents the scientific framework and classifies the individual publications within the overall context.

The minimum number of accepted publications is two (letter of acceptance from the publisher required). The cumulative dissertation may contain additional research papers.

The publications must appear in peer-reviewed academic publications (letter of acceptance from the publisher required). The supervisor is responsible for assessing the quality of the selected publishing media. Further details in this regard must be specified in a supervision agreement.

In the appraisals of the referees, a statement about the quality of the selected publishing media must be included.

At the most, one publication (letter of acceptance from publisher required) submitted as part of the cumulative dissertation may also be part of another dissertation.

Re § 11 (3) Appointment of referees

According to § 11 (3) of the PO/AT, one of the referees must be from the group of full professors of the department.

Re § 16 (5) The dissertation defence process

According to § 16 (5) of the PO/AT, one of the referees may participate in the dissertation defence via electronic video and audio transmission if unable to attend in person. The supervising institute or research group is responsible for proper electronic video and voice transmission compliant with current privacy protection law.

Re § 17 (1) Overall verdict

All members of the group of professors at the Department of Law and Economics may participate in the non-public session according to § 17 (1).

Re § 26 Transition and concluding provisions

These Specific Regulations take effect on 1 April 2020. They will be published in the appendix to the statutes of Technical University of Darmstadt. At the same time, the Specific Regulations of the Department of Law and Economics dated 31 March 2011 (StAnz. [Staatsanzeiger - gazette of the State of Hesse] 2004, p. 2847) cease to be effective. Doctoral candidates that have been accepted within a year of this updated Specific Regulations becoming effective can apply to work on their dissertation based on the former Specific Regulations. § 27 (2) of the General Doctoral Regulations of the Technical University of Darmstadt from 12 January 1990 (ABl. 1990, p. 658) as amended for the 8th time in the version from 21 December 2017 (PO/AT) remains unaffected.

Darmstadt, 13 February 2020

The Departmental Chairperson of the Department of Law and Economics of Technical University of Darmstadt

Prof. Dr. Alexander Benlian