

OTTO-VON-GUERICKE-UNIVERSITY MAGDEBURG
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT



**Regulations regarding the conferral of a Ph.D.
in Economics or Management
in the international study programme
*from 30.06.1999***

The Otto-von-Guericke-University of Magdeburg has adopted the following regulations regarding the conferral of a Ph.D. in Economics or Management in the international study programme as its statutes, in accordance with § 23 of the University Education Law of the State of Saxony-Anhalt.

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§ 1
Principles

- (1) Receiving of a doctorate reflects the ability to work independently and scientifically through original research. Independence also implies the competence in communication required in order to flourish as an academic, both within and beyond the university system.
- (2) The Faculty of Economics and Management of the Otto-von-Guericke University of Magdeburg (from now on referred to as faculty) will award the academic title of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics or Management within its international study programme framework.

§ 2
Admissions Committee

- (1) Decisions relating to the requirements for working towards a doctorate in the international study programme will be taken by a three-member admissions committee drawn from the faculty. For each member up to four substitutes may be elected. Members and their substitutes are appointed for two year terms by the faculty council. Only those persons who have lectured or are lecturing in the international graduate programme and possess Ph.D. titles or who are faculty professors or senior lecturers (“Privatdozenten”) may be appointed. Decisions require a simple majority, unless there are other stipulations.
- (2) Decisions may only be taken when the committee members are fully represented.

§ 3
Acceptance onto the Doctoral Programme

- (1) To be accepted onto the faculty's Doctoral Programme in the international study programme, candidates must:
 1. prove having taken a Graduate Record Examination in Economics (GRE) or a Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), depending on the subject choice, and
 2. have gained an academic degree in an English-based course of studies.

The Admissions Committee can decide to waive these requirements in special cases where the candidate fulfils the admissions requirements to the doctoral programme corresponding to the faculty regulations governing the award of a doctorate and can present an equivalent proof of academic and linguistic competence. Successful applicants will be accepted initially for one year, following an appraisal of the academic performance to date and presentation of the proposed doctoral project in the formal application. There is no automatic right of acceptance into the programme.

- (2) When informing successful candidates about acceptance onto the programme, the Admissions Committee will recommend some courses which should be taken in the first year. These form the basis of the qualifying examinations which have to be passed at the end of the first year. The recommendations will contain a list of optional fields of study, one of which relating to the doctoral project the candidate

should choose.

- (3) The qualifying examinations are based on the contents of the faculty's doctoral programme courses. They consist of two four-hour examinations conducted in English. One examination is based on the chosen field, the other takes 50% of its content from Advanced Microeconomics and 50% from:
 - Advanced Macroeconomics (for a doctorate in Economics), or
 - Management (for a doctorate in Management).
- (4) The course requirements of the doctoral programme can also be reading courses, not necessarily involving regular lectures.
- (5) The candidate must choose his/her optional course from the list offered when accepted. This must be done at the latest before 6 months have elapsed following acceptance into the doctoral programme.
- (6) At least two examiners will study the results of each exam to determine whether the candidate has the capacity to meet the requirements of his/her Ph.D. field of study. Should the examiners not be able to agree on a result, the Admission's Committee will nominate a further advisor whose vote will determine the result.
- (7) Upon receiving a negative examination result, the candidate can ask for an extra oral examination, to be conducted in English. This examination will take place within eight weeks following the results of the written examination and will last approx. 30 minutes. The examination is successfully passed only upon majority agreement in the Admissions Committee. Should the candidate fail to pass the oral examination, his/her participation in the doctoral programme will be terminated. A renewed application to the doctoral programme can be denied without stating the reasons. The candidate then has the right to participate in the faculty's Master Programme.

§ 4

Advancement to Thesis Stage

The acceptance into the thesis stage is dependent upon the candidate successfully passing the qualifying examinations. Applications are to be made to the Dean. To gain acceptance, the proposed project must be agreed upon by two supervisors who are university professors at the faculty. One of the supervisors can also be a senior lecturer ("Privatdozent") of the faculty. The votes of the supervisors must demonstrate their agreement to supervise the proposed dissertation.

§ 5

Ph.D. Requirements

The requirements for the academic title of Ph.D. are a written thesis (Dissertation) and its oral defence (Disputation), both of which are conducted through English. In the Dissertation a specific theme is to be treated in such a way as to make a contribution to the body of scientific knowledge.

§ 6

Application for Doctoral Title

- (1) The application for the academic title of Ph.D. is to be made in writing to the Dean within six years of being admitted to the doctoral programme, indicating the grade aimed at. Included in the application should be:
 1. Four copies of the dissertation;
 2. An index of scientific publications to date, preferably including publication copies;
 3. Solemn declaration of earlier attempts to gain the doctoral title and that the dissertation was compiled and researched independently and a list of all aids used;
 4. A description of academic development giving higher education institutes attended and examination results according to type, subject, time and result.
- (2) When applying, the candidate can suggest referees for the dissertation.
- (3) The application can be withdrawn as long as the Ph.D. conferral process has not yet begun. In this case the application is considered not to have been undertaken
- (4) The time limit given in paragraph 1 can be extended by a maximum of two years upon presentation of an application giving just grounds. This application is to be sent to the Dean and the faculty will take a decision relating to it.

§ 7

Commencement of the Doctorate Conferral Process

- (1) Once the candidate has passed the qualifying examinations, has applied for the doctoral title within the time-frame permitted and has delivered the complete documentation as set out in § 6 paragraph 1, the faculty will pass a resolution establishing a committee charged with assessing the dissertation. The committee will be comprised of three persons. Each member must be a university professor, one of whom is to be external to the Otto-von-Guericke University of Magdeburg; rather than being a university professor, one of the members may be a senior lecturer.
- (2) The conferral process will be begun by the resolution described in paragraph 1.

§ 8

Evaluating the Dissertation

- (1) Each member of the evaluation committee described in § 7 paragraph 1 will produce, within a maximum time-frame of four months following the formation of the committee, a written report evaluating the dissertation according to the following grades:

summa cum laude	(excellent),
magna cum laude	(very good),
cum laude	(good),
rite	(satisfactory),
non sufficit	(fail).

- (2) Once all the reports have been submitted, the Dean will inform all members of the faculty council with doctoral titles and all university professors and senior lecturers of the faculty of the title of the work and the grades assigned to it and will make the dissertation and the reports available for these persons and the author to view for a period of two weeks.

§ 9

Acceptance of the Dissertation

- (1) A dissertation that has received at least the grade "rite" from all members of the evaluation committee will be accepted, providing no persons mentioned in § 8 section 2 raises a justifiable objection within the two-week period when the work is open to view.
- (2) Should one report assign the grade "non sufficit" to the work, or a justifiable objection is raised within the viewing period, the faculty will decide whether to accept the dissertation or not.
- (3) Should more than one report assign the grade "non sufficit" to the dissertation, the work will not be accepted.

§ 10

Disputation

- (1) Having accepted the dissertation, the faculty will form a three-member disputation committee, two members of which should belong to the evaluation committee, and one as chairperson. The composition of the committee will be according to § 7 section 1 sentence 3.
- (2) The Dean will invite the candidate to a disputation, at least 14 days in advance. Should the candidate fail to appear at the appointed time due to reasons of his/her own doing, the disputation is considered as having been failed.
- (3) The disputation should last 90 minutes and is open to the public; the process of discussing and setting the results is not made public. During the disputation, the candidate should present and defend the most important results of his/her dissertation and, furthermore, show that he/she is competent in the methods of the academic area from which the substance of the dissertation is taken. After approx. 80 minutes, the chairman may open the disputation up for questions from the public who are not members of the Disputation Committee.
- (4) At the conclusion of the disputation, the Disputation Committee will decide whether the disputation has been successfully passed and will recommend, where the disputation has been successfully passed, a grade for the total doctoral performance. These grades are given in § 8 paragraph 1.
- (5) The unsuccessful candidate has the option of repeating the disputation once; a second repeat is not permissible. The disputation will be considered irrevocably failed when the repeated disputation has also been failed, or an application to repeat the disputation has not been submitted within six months of failing the first disputation.

§ 11

Conclusion of the Doctorate Conferral Process

- (1) Once a dissertation has been accepted and the disputation successfully completed, the faculty will, based on the report of the Disputation Committee chairperson, decide on the grade recommended by the Disputation Committee and their grounds for assigning the given grade according to § 8 section 1 for the total doctoral performance. The faculty can decide on conditions to be met by the version published.
- (2) Once the appropriate number of dissertation copies have been published, the Dean will immediately approve the publication and prepare a certificate showing the date of the disputation, the theme of the work and the final grade. The doctoral process will be completed by a ceremonial presentation of the certificate. The presentation entitles the candidate to assume the Ph.D. title.
- (3) Should the dissertation have been refused or the disputation irrevocably failed, the doctoral process will not have been successfully completed. The Dean will inform the candidate of this by means of written notification giving the grounds for the decision and including the legal basis for lodging an appeal against the decision.
- (4) In both cases the doctoral process is concluded and the candidate has the right to inspect the records. All documents submitted will remain in the faculty files.

§ 12

Publication of the Dissertation

- (1) The candidate must submit 150 printed copies of the version of the dissertation approved by the Dean to the faculty within one year. Should the dissertation have been published in an academic journal or publication series, or independently as a book, the number of copies to be delivered to the faculty is reduced to 10.
- (2) The copies to be delivered must have the following text on their title page: "Inaugural Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics (where applicable, in Management) of the Otto-von-Guericke University of Magdeburg". On the underside of the title page should be the name of the Dean and the members of the Evaluation Committee, and the date of the disputation. A short curriculum vitae of the author is to be attached to the dissertation.
- (3) The Dean can, in certain cases, prolong the time limit imposed by paragraph 1.

§ 13

Withdrawal of Ph.D. Degree

- (1) Should the obligatory copies described in § 12 not be submitted within the time allowed, the candidate will be stripped of their Ph.D. title and the certificate will be withdrawn.
- (2) In addition, the degree may be withdrawn if:
 1. by the candidate's doing a mistake has been made made, leading to the essential requirements of the doctorate not being fulfilled;

2. the title holder proves unworthy of the title through his/her later behaviour.
- (3) The withdrawal of the degree requires a majority vote of three-quarters of the faculty. Before a decision can be reached, the candidate concerned must be given the opportunity to orally justify his/her behaviour before the faculty.
- (4) The decision to withdraw the degree must be made known to the candidate and be supported by sufficient grounds and include the legal basis on which the candidate may lodge an appeal against the decision.

§ 14

Coming into effect and publication

- (1) These regulations will be published in the Ministerial Papers of the State of Saxony-Anhalt. The validity of the faculty's doctoral regulations remain unchanged.
- (2) They come into effect the day immediately following their publication.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Management of 30.06.1999 and the Otto-von-Guericke University of Magdeburg Senate of 21.07.1999, along with the approval of the Saxony-Anhalt State Ministry of Culture.