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Important Information on the Doctoral Examination Process

I. **Language of the doctoral thesis**

As a rule, the thesis must be written in German (see Doctoral Regulations § 8 para. 1). The department-specific regulations may permit writing the thesis in a modern foreign language; in this case a German summary must be attached.

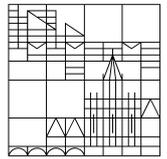
The regulations of the individual departments are:

The doctoral thesis can be written in English in the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics, Computer and Information Science, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, History and Sociology, Economics as well as Politics and Public Administration. The Doctoral Committees of the Departments of Psychology, Physics as well as History and Sociology will decide if additional languages are permitted. In the Departments of Philosophy, Literature, and Linguistics, the doctoral thesis can be written in a foreign language in justified cases and upon request. In the Department of Law you must obtain the permission to write the doctoral thesis in a foreign language when applying for acceptance as a doctoral candidate.

II. **Where can I apply for commencement of the doctoral examination process and what documents are required?**

Please submit your application for commencement of the doctoral examination process to the *Studentische Abteilung* (Division of Student Affairs)/*Zentrales Prüfungsamt* (Central Examination Office) of the University of Konstanz, Universitätsstrasse 10, 78464 Konstanz, Germany.

You can get the application here: *Zentrales Prüfungsamt*, Ms Matzner, room C 401 or go to: <http://www.zpa.uni-konstanz.de/pruefungen/wichtige-mitteilungen-des-zentralen-pruefungsamtes/>



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Please attach **all** documents to your application that are required according to § 6 para. 2 of the Doctoral Regulations. If your oral doctoral examination will be an **extended colloquium on the thesis and hypotheses**, please submit a printed version of the hypotheses as well as a version on a CD ROM or send the hypotheses via email. We can only process **complete applications**.

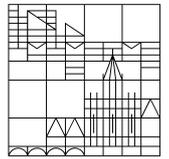
III. **When should I apply for commencement of the doctoral examination process? (Recommendation)**

The doctoral examination process is based on the Doctoral Regulations of the University of Konstanz. These Doctoral Regulations contain binding deadlines (e.g. inspection period for the dissertation and referees' reports). The inspection period lasts two weeks during the semester (all departments), and four weeks outside of the semester in the following departments: Mathematics and Statistics, Philosophy, History and Sociology, Literature, and Law. **Exceptions:** In the Department of Computer and Information Science the inspection period outside of the semester lasts three weeks. In the Departments of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Psychology, Linguistics, Economics as well as Politics and Public Administration the period lasts two weeks. The oral examination will take place within a period of no less than two weeks and no more than eight weeks following the end of the inspection period. The inspection period will start only after all referees' reports have been obtained (see § 8 para. 6 Doctoral Regulations). **Important note: As there are no lectures during the Christmas break, no inspection period can be scheduled during this time.**

If you wish to have your doctoral examination process completed by the end of the winter semester (mid-February), we r e c o m m e n d that you hand in your application at the start of the winter semester (beginning of October) at the **latest**.

If you wish to have your doctoral examination process completed by the end of the summer semester (middle/end of July), we r e c o m m e n d that you hand in your application at the start of the summer semester (beginning of April) at the **latest**.

Please note that only if you **apply** for the commencement of the doctoral examination process **in time** can we prevent deadline pressure.



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IV. Form of the oral doctoral examination in the individual subjects

Essentially, the doctoral thesis is always a part of the oral doctoral examination. This means that the oral doctoral examination will be a thesis defence, or an extended colloquium on the doctoral thesis and hypotheses, or an extended colloquium on the doctoral thesis and special areas. The options you have for the oral examination in the individual subjects are:

a) Only thesis defence: *)

- Computer and Information Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Linguistics
- Politics and Public Administration

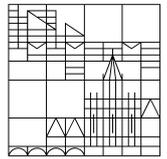
b) Extended colloquium on the thesis and special areas, or solely thesis defence: *)

- Mathematics and Statistics
(colloquium on the thesis and a maximum of three special areas or thesis defence)
- Physics (doctoral thesis and 2 special subjects)

Please list the special subjects. Please use the form that is part of the application packet for the commencement of the doctoral examination process.

c) Extended colloquium on the thesis and hypotheses, or solely thesis defence:*)

- Literature (doctoral thesis and 2 hypotheses)
- Philosophy (doctoral thesis and 2 hypotheses or doctoral thesis)
- History (doctoral thesis and 1 hypothesis or doctoral thesis)
- Sociology (doctoral thesis and 1 hypothesis or doctoral thesis)
- Educational Sciences and Empirical Educational Research,
(doctoral thesis and 1 hypothesis or doctoral thesis)
- Sports Sciences (doctoral thesis and 1 hypothesis or doctoral thesis)
- Economics (doctoral thesis and 2 hypotheses or doctoral thesis)
- Psychology (doctoral thesis) or in case of
a doctor of philosophy: doctoral thesis and 1 hypothesis or doctoral thesis)



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d) The oral doctoral examination in Law

In Law, the oral doctoral examination will be either solely a thesis defence or an extended colloquium on the thesis and 1 special area or 1 hypothesis, as suggested by the applicant and agreed upon with the examiners.

Please list the special subjects/hypotheses. Please use the form that is part of the application packet for the commencement of the doctoral examination process.

- *) **If you are a doctoral candidate of a doctoral programme in the Faculty of Humanities, the Departments of Economics, or Politics and Public Administration, as well as the Graduate School of Decision Sciences, please note the special regulations stated in the Doctoral Regulations.**

V. How to formulate a hypothesis

The following sample hypothesis provides an example of how to formulate and structure your hypothesis in accordance with the requirements of the Doctoral Regulations.

Please note that the sample hypothesis was selected solely for formal reasons, not for its content.

If the oral doctoral examination is an extended colloquium on the doctoral thesis and hypotheses, you have to attach 1 or 2 proposed hypotheses (see your subject-specific regulations) with a short discussion to your application for commencement of the doctoral examination process (see § 13 para. 1 Doctoral Regulations). The proposed hypotheses must provide a basis for a colloquium on **two fields which are not closely related**. Generally, they should enable a scientific debate, with expert questions, that goes beyond the field of the doctoral thesis. A hypothesis is a well-founded statement or assertion about a particular issue in a given field. The best way to meet these requirements is to name one or two literature references and the corresponding authors. A **brief written explanation on each hypothesis (around 3 pages)** is required. You must state the position of the hypothesis within the scientific discourse, analyse the significance of the hypothesis, and outline the direction to be taken in justifying the hypothesis. Complying with these regulations minimises the chances that the Examination Committee will reject your hypotheses on the grounds of unsuitability (see § 13 para. 3, Doctoral Regulations).