

The most important differences between the old and **new Doctoral Regulations** and their **first amended version**
(does not substitute for reading the regulations!)

	Doc Regs 2007/14/16 Registration prior to 30 Nov. 2019 ⁰	Doc Regs 2019 Registration 30 Nov. 2019–24 Aug. 2020 ⁰	Amended 2020 Registration starting 25 Aug. 2020 ⁰
Preparatory doctoral courses	required, based on paper form	upon request placement test ¹	upon request placement test
Registration with the doctoral exam. office	within 6 months at least 2 years prior to handing in the dissertation	within 6 months at least 2 years prior to handing in the dissertation	within 6 months at least 2 years prior to handing in the dissertation
Principal supervisor (assigns topic)	post-doctoral qualification or equivalent	post-doctoral qualification or equivalent default guarantee if the supervisor is not a full-time employee of the WWU²	post-doctoral qualification or equivalent default guarantee if the supervisor is not a full-time employee of the WWU
Doctoral committee	3 members w. post-doctoral qualification ≥ 2 with Dr rer nat ≥ 1 from Faculty of Biology upon registration	3 members w. post-doctoral qualification ≥ 2 with Dr rer nat ≥ 1 from Faculty of Biology upon registration in first 6 months, if appl.³	3 members w. post-doctoral qualification ≥ 2 with Dr rer nat ≥ 1 from Faculty of Biology upon registration in first 6 months, if appl.
Supervision agreement	not required	not required	within first 6 months⁴
Enrolment	2 semesters	6 semesters	6 semesters
Doctoral programme	traditional or structured 5 SWS instruction SDP, if appl.	traditional or structured 5 SWS instruction AG-comprehensive seminar⁶ Good Scientific Practice⁷ SDP, if appl.	traditional or structured⁵ 5 SWS instruction AG-comprehensive seminar Good Scientific Practice SDP⁸ if appl.
Committee meetings	voluntary	annually⁹	annually
Duration	not specified	usually 3-4 years > 4.5 years upon request¹⁰	usually 3-4 years > 4.5 years upon request
Dissertation	traditional <i>or</i> cumulative	traditional or cumulative <i>or</i> traditionally supplemented ¹¹	klassisch <i>oder</i> kumulativ <i>or</i> traditionally supplemented
Submission	Teaching certificate by biologist in committee	Teaching cert. (with list ¹²) Seminar certificate⁵ + GSP⁶ by biologist in committee	Teaching cert. (with list) Seminar certificate⁵ + GSP⁶ by biologist in committee
Assessments	1 st : principal supervisor 2 nd : biologist from FB 13 if principal supervisor is not from FB 13	As a rule: 1 st : principal supervisor 2 nd : another member of the doctoral committee	As a rule: 1 st : principal supervisor 2 nd : another member of the doctoral committee
summa cum laude	3 rd external assessor before review and defence	3 rd external assessor during review and defence	3 rd external assessor during review and defence

⁰ Based on the date of application for admission to the doctoral programme

¹ §2 (3) 4-5 administered by three examiners from FB 13 (not including the principal supervisor)

² §5 (2) 2 pledge by a full-time academic staff member of the WWU to assume the role of principal supervisor if necessary

³ §5 (1) 1 if a member in a structured doctoral programme to whom this right has been granted by the faculty board

⁴ §2 (6) 3 supervision agreement in the corresponding structured doctoral programme (SDP), signed by the candidate and his/her principal supervisor

⁵ §6 (2) 1 automatic membership in the structured doctoral programme (SDP) BioSciences⁸, if not a member of another SDP

⁶ §6 (1) 4 at least 20 meetings in e.g. SFB seminar, GRK seminar, plant biology colloquium etc.

⁷ §6 (1) 4 a working group-based, comprehensive course totalling at least one day of instruction or 1 SWS

⁸ For the SDP BioSciences, see https://www.uni-muenster.de/Biologie/Promovieren/sp_biosciences/index.html

⁹ §5 (5) 2-3 a project presentation in the second half of first year, and final planning meeting in third year

¹⁰ §5 (5) 4 dissertation should be submitted at least 18 months after the doctoral committee meeting in the 3rd year

¹¹ §8 (3) 2 a traditional dissertation can be supplemented by one or more publication(s)

¹² §7 (3) 4 activities and courses must include corresponding dates and scope