

The present English translation of the official document "Promotionsordnung des hochschulübergreifenden Promotionszentrums „Nachhaltige intelligente Technologien für eine ressourcenoptimierte Produktion (NITRO)“ an der Technischen Hochschule Augsburg in Kooperation mit der Technischen Hochschule Deggendorf und der Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften Landshut" is not legally binding and serves for information purposes only.

Based on Art. 9 sentence 1, Art. 97 para. 1 sentences 3 and 6 in conjunction with Art. 84 para. 2 sentence 1 of the Bavarian Higher Education Innovation Act (BayHIG) of August 5, 2022 (GVBl. p. 414, BayRS 2210-1-3-WK), which was last amended by section 1 of the act of July 23, 2024 (GVBl. p. 257), the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg (TUA) issues the following statutes:

Editorial note: This doctoral regulation is written in German and English. The English version is a translation of the German version. Only the German version is binding.

Doctoral regulations of the cross-university doctoral center "Sustainable Intelligent Technologies for Resource-Optimized Production (NITRO)" at the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg in cooperation with Deggendorf Institute of Technology and Landshut University of Applied Sciences

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A) General information

Section 1 Doctoral center

¹The Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg (TUA) regulates the right to award doctorates at TUA and the participating partner universities Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT) and Landshut University of Applied Sciences (HaWL) for the doctoral center "Nitro", (hereinafter "doctoral center") by the following provisions.

²The doctoral degree is obtained at the doctoral center of TUA in cooperation with the partner universities DIT and HaWL and awarded by the TUA. ³The doctoral center is responsible for the organization and implementation of the doctoral procedure at an academic level as an academic institution in accordance with Art. 96 para. 7 in conjunction with Art. 29 para. 5 BayHIG.

Section 2 Doctorate

(1) ¹The doctorate serves as proof of the ability to carry out in-depth academic work in a designated subject area or in a research focus. ²A doctorate is an independent academic achievement that makes a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field of research in relation to the current state of science. ³The doctoral work consists of a scientific paper (dissertation) and the oral examination (disputation) and demonstrates the ability to carry out independent scientific work.

(2) ¹The doctorate takes place within the framework of a structured doctoral program.

²The requirements set out in section 13 are part of the requirements for admission to the doctoral procedure.

(3) The duration of a doctorate should not exceed five years.

Section 3 Doctoral degree

(1) The following doctoral degree is awarded for the doctoral center:

Dr.-Ing. (Doctor of Engineering)

(2) ¹The Executive Committee of TUA, in agreement with DIT and HaWL and the steering committee of the doctoral center, adopts guidelines with positive criteria for determining the respective doctoral degree and the associated quality assurance measures. ²These are the basis for justifying the doctoral degree sought.

B) General access requirements and procedural principles

Section 4 Requirements for the acquisition of the doctoral degree

(1) The doctoral degree may be awarded to anyone who

1. has the required previous education in accordance with sections 5 and 6;
2. has completed the structured doctoral program at the TUA Graduate School in accordance with section 13;
3. demonstrates his or her ability to work independently in a scientific manner and to present results clearly by means of an independently written scientific paper (dissertation in accordance with section 9);
4. receives a grade of at least 3 in an oral examination (disputation) in accordance with section 22 para. 1;
5. is worthy in the sense of the legal regulations on the use of academic degrees, i.e. there is no legally binding criminal conviction that would make the applicant appear unworthy;
6. does not yet hold the desired doctoral degree;
7. has not definitively failed in a previous doctoral procedure for the same doctoral degree or for the same dissertation at TUA or at another university.

(2) The acquisition of the doctoral degree through the use of commercial doctoral mediation or advice is prohibited; the instruction on this must be confirmed by submitting a corresponding declaration.

Section 5 Admission requirements based on a domestic university degree

¹The required previous education is possessed by anyone who has passed a Master's examination with an above-average performance after completing their studies or can prove a comparable qualification. ²Above-average performance is deemed to exist if the final examination was passed with an overall grade of 2.0 or better or with a grade equivalent to an overall grade of at least 2.0. ³In exceptional cases, above-average performance can also be demonstrated by outstanding academic achievements, such as publications, which were produced after completion of the degree course; the Doctoral Committee of the relevant doctoral center will decide on this. ⁴The Doctoral Committee is also responsible for deciding whether a comparable qualification to a Master's examination exists; the Doctoral Committee also decides whether or not in cases of doubt an aptitude interview should take place. ⁵The purpose of the aptitude interview is to assess the candidate's technical and methodological competence in an academic discussion lasting no more than one hour. ⁶The aptitude interview is conducted by at least two professorial members of the doctoral center appointed by the Doctoral Committee, at least one of whom must be a member of the Doctoral Committee. ⁷A written record of the subject matter and content of the aptitude interview must be prepared and submitted to the Doctoral Committee for a decision. ⁸If the Doctoral Committee concludes that no qualification comparable to a Master's examination is present, it must be determined that the required previous education for the doctorate in accordance with sentence 1 are not given. ⁹The chairperson of the Doctoral Committee ensures that the decision on this matter is made within a reasonable period of time (generally no more than three months).

Section 6 Admission requirements based on a foreign university degree

(1) ¹Degrees obtained at a foreign university shall be recognized upon application if they are equivalent to one of the examinations listed in section 5. ²The determination of equivalence shall be made by the Doctoral Committee. ³The equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and the German Rectors' Conference shall be taken into account. ⁴If the responsible Graduate School is unable to make a determination of equivalence on the basis of these documents, the Central Office for Foreign Education of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs shall be consulted on the question of equivalence; its comments shall be taken into account and any deviating decision shall be justified.

(2)¹The responsible Graduate School shall also decide whether above-average performance within the meaning of section 5 is present. ²In order to determine whether the foreign degree examination meets the requirement for above-average performance, the result of the foreign examination is converted into the German grading system in accordance with the "Agreement on the Determination of the Overall Grade for Foreign Higher Education Entrance Certificates" (Resolution of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of March 15, 1991, as amended).

Section 7 Doctoral Committee

- (1) The Doctoral Committee decides on acceptance of a doctoral candidate.
- (2) The Doctoral Committee decides on admission to the doctoral procedure and opens the doctoral procedure.
- (3) The Doctoral Committee appoints the supervising professors (first and second supervisors) at the request of the doctoral candidate.
- (4) The Doctoral Committee appoints the Examination Board.
- (5)¹The professorial members of the doctoral center of each university elect one professorial member and one deputy from their circle for the Doctoral Committee by simple majority. ²The members of the Doctoral Committee then appoint a chairperson from among their number.
- (6) The doctoral candidates elect one representative and one deputy from their circle to the Doctoral Committee in an advisory capacity without voting rights.
- (7) The members of the Doctoral Committee are elected for 2 years.
- (8) The Doctoral Committee meets at least once per quarter.
- (9) ¹The Doctoral Committee constitute a quorum if all members have been duly invited and the majority of voting rights are present. ²It passes resolutions by a majority of the votes cast. ³In the event of a tie, the chairperson has the casting vote. ⁴Each member may exercise a proxy vote.

Section 8 Acceptance as a doctoral candidate and membership of the doctoral center

- (1) ¹At the beginning of the doctoral project, a written application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate must be submitted to the doctoral center via the TUA Graduate School.

(2) ¹The application must state the doctoral degree sought. ²The application must be granted if

1. the proof of the required prior education in accordance with sections 5 and 6 is available which must be submitted on request in electronic form with a verification code or as an officially certified copy;
2. a dissertation topic has been agreed with a professorial member of the doctoral center (the supervisor);
3. the responsibility of the doctoral center is clarified;
4. an application for admission to the doctoral center has been submitted within the framework of a supervision agreement concluded between the applicant, the supervisor and the doctoral center, stating the doctoral degree sought
5. a written exposé of at least 5 pages plus bibliography for the doctoral project to be worked on independently is available; the exposé should not exceed 10 pages and must consist of the proposed topic, the state of research, the objectives and the contribution of the thesis together with a description of the approach and the intended methods; in addition, the relevance of the desired topic to the content focus of the doctoral center must be described;
6. a declaration that the Statutes or Guidelines for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice at the University of the first supervisor have been noted and will be complied with.

(3) ¹The Doctoral Committee accept the applicant as a doctoral candidate if she or he has the required previous education in accordance with Sections 5 and 6, the admission requirements in accordance with para 2 are met, and there are no grounds for refusal. ²Admission shall be refused in particular if

1. the subject area of the doctoral project is not represented at the doctoral center,
2. the documents to be submitted in accordance with para 2 are incomplete,
3. the exposé does not sufficiently meet the content requirements specified in para 2, sentence 2 no. 5, or
3. the requirements of section 4, para 1 nos. 5 to 7 are not met.

³The applicant shall receive notification of the decision of the Doctoral Committee, in which the doctoral degree sought shall also be documented; a rejection shall be substantiated and accompanied by information on legal remedies. ⁴Acceptance may be subject to conditions. ⁵If the application is approved, registration is made with the TUA Graduate School. ⁶Registration in the doctoral candidacy list does not imply a decision on the opening of the doctoral procedure.

- (4) ¹Doctoral candidates become members of the doctoral center upon registration in the doctoral candidacy list. ²At the end of the doctorate, the doctoral candidate is removed from the TUA Graduate School's doctoral candidacy list and thus membership of the doctoral center ends.
- (5) ¹In the event that the doctoral candidate wishes to withdraw from his or her doctoral project, he or she may terminate the supervisory relationship at any time. ²The supervisory relationship may also be terminated at any time by mutual agreement. ³The supervisor may only terminate the supervision agreement unilaterally if there are valid academic reasons or if the relationship of trust has broken down. ⁴For this purpose, a feedback meeting must have taken place with a negative result, a mediation procedure must have failed and, after hearing the supervisor and the doctoral candidate, the Chair of the Doctoral Committee must determine that the supervisory relationship is to be terminated. ⁵Once these requirements have been met, the supervisory relationship shall be terminated. ⁶In this case, the Doctoral Committee shall facilitate an alternative, professionally appropriate supervisory relationship, unless the doctoral candidate has forfeited his or her right to continue his or her doctoral procedure through his or her conduct. ⁷This shall be assessed by the relevant Doctoral Committee and the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee shall inform the doctoral candidate in writing. ⁸The decision is accompanied by information on legal remedies.

Section 9 Dissertation

- (1) ¹The written doctoral thesis consists of an independently written dissertation that promotes scientific knowledge and demonstrates the doctoral candidate's ability to solve and appropriately present scientifically noteworthy research questions in a methodologically sound and independent manner (dissertation). ²The dissertation consists of a monograph or published articles set in a scientific context (publication-based dissertation).
- (2) Irrespective of its form, the dissertation must demonstrate the doctoral candidate's ability to carry out in-depth and independent academic work and it must make an independent, new, further-reaching and coherent academic contribution.
- (3) ¹The monograph has to be written as part of the structured doctoral program. ²In addition, at least two scientific articles must have been published in peer-reviewed journals or in peer-reviewed conference proceedings as lead authors by the time the doctoral procedure is opened. ³The Steering Committee of the doctoral center determines the details in a guideline in accordance with section 13 para. 4.

- (4) ¹In the case of a publication-based dissertation, the scientific problem, the solution approaches used, the results and conclusions achieved and the related literature must be presented in such a way that the positioning and classification in an overarching scientific context and the added value beyond the publications used are expressed. ²To this end, the steering committee of the doctoral center adopts a guideline that defines the scope of the text section and the number, type, requirements and weighting of the publications and ensures that the individual contributions of the doctoral candidate are clear in the case of joint publications and that corresponding confirmations of the co-authors are available. ³Within the framework of the guideline, the Doctoral Committee ensures that at least three accepted publications (peer-reviewed) are included, which have been prepared under the supervision of the doctoral candidate, while safeguarding the legal positions protected by copyright. ⁴The publications accepted for publication and published in print or in electronic journals must be attached to the dissertation as an appendix.
- (5) ¹The dissertation should be written in German or English. ²After approval by the Doctoral Committee, the dissertation may be written in another language.
- (6) ¹The dissertation must be written independently. ²It must contain a summary of the content and a complete list of the literature used and other sources of information.
- (7) ¹Pre-publications of parts of the dissertation must be indicated as such. ²Own work that has already served examination purposes may not be submitted as a dissertation; however, results from such work may be used for the dissertation, whereby the work in question must be identified as such in the text and marked in the bibliography.

Section 10 Doctoral Examination Committee

- (1) ¹Upon admission to the doctoral procedure, the Doctoral Committee appoints a relevant Examination Committee for each doctoral procedure. ²This Examination Committee prepares the written reports, evaluates the dissertation and conducts the oral examination.
- (2) The Doctoral Examination Committee consists of the following members:
1. a chairperson who may not also be a reviewer or examiner,
 2. the first reviewer and the second reviewer, and
 3. another examiner authorized to accept doctoral thesis, who may belong to a different subject group than the reviewers.

- (3) The chairperson and at least one examiner or reviewer must be professorial members of the respective doctoral center.
- (4) ¹The first reviewer in accordance with para. 2 no. 2 must meet the requirements set out in section 19 para. 2 AVBayHIG and have appropriate experience in the supervision of doctoral procedures and in the assessment of dissertations. ²The Doctoral Committee determines whether the criteria set out in section 19 para. 1 sentence 1 no. 4a, para. 2 AVBayHIG have been met for the first reviewer. ³As a rule, the first supervisor is appointed as the first reviewer. ⁴If the first supervisor is not appointed as the first reviewer, he or she is usually appointed as the second reviewer. ⁵The first supervisor and the second supervisor may not both be members of the Doctoral Examination Committee in accordance with section 10 para. 2.
- (5) The following may only be appointed as second reviewer in accordance with para. 2 no. 2 and further examiners in accordance with para. 2 no. 3
1. Professors who are members of a doctoral center and meet all requirements according to section 19 para. 2 AVBayHIG, even if they do not yet have adequate experience in the supervision of doctoral procedures and in the evaluation of dissertations according to section 19 para. 1 sentence 1 no. 4a or
 2. Professors at a university of applied sciences or at a university (possibly also outside Bavaria) with the right to award doctorates
 3. retired professors who were members of the doctoral center or at a university.
- (6) Upon appointment, the examination authorization of the members of the Doctoral Examination Committee for this doctoral procedure is deemed to be established.

Section 11 Appointment of the supervisor

- (1) ¹Dissertations are completed under the supervision of at least one professorial member of the doctoral center. ²Professorial members of the doctoral center may belong to all universities participating in the doctoral center. ³The first supervisor must be a member of the doctoral center.
- (2) In justified cases, the following may also be appointed as second supervisors
1. Professors from another subject area or university of applied sciences with correspondingly proven academic qualifications;
 2. Professors and habilitated persons or persons with habilitation-equivalent achievements at a university;

3. Professors who are involved in the provision of further research-related responsibilities and tasks and who are not members of the doctoral center, such as mentors or project partners.

(3) When making the appointment, it should be ensured that the supervisors have the necessary time available to supervise the dissertation until its expected completion.

(4) If a supervisor leaves the university before the doctoral proceedings are completed, he or she may nevertheless continue to supervise the ongoing doctoral proceedings and may be appointed as an advisory member or to the examination committee in accordance with section 10 para. 5 no. 3.

(5) In justified cases, the Doctoral Committee may appoint substitute supervisors on its own initiative or at the justified request of the persons involved during the course of the procedure, in particular in cases in which a supervisor is no longer able to provide supervision.

Section 12 Supervision of the dissertation

(1) ¹Together with the application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate in accordance with section 8 para. 1, the applicant must submit the written confirmation of the supervisor in the form of the supervision agreement. ²The supervisory relationship begins with the acceptance as a doctoral candidate and requires this.

(2) Supervision includes regular academic advice, receipt of outlines or interim reports and discussions on progress reporting as well as support for the doctoral candidate, which must be regulated in the supervision agreement.

Section 13 Structured doctoral program

(1) The structured doctoral program supports doctoral candidates in their further development towards independent scientific work and the facilitation of a scientific career, which includes participation in the scientific publication process in addition to an appropriate doctoral period.

(2) The structured doctoral program is part of the doctoral procedure.

(3) The structured doctoral program includes the following points:

1. annual reports and work plans in written form;
2. an interim report on the status of the dissertation in the form of a scientific presentation and a written research outline at the doctoral center after 3 years at the latest;

3. participation in scientific qualification courses;
 4. largely independent supervision of a course (lecture, tutorial or seminar).
- (4) The Steering Committee determines the details in a guideline.

Section 14 Compensation for disadvantages and protective provisions

- (1)¹The type and severity of a disability have to be taken in account in the doctoral procedure. ²If a doctoral candidate can credibly demonstrate that he or she is unable to take the examination in full or in part in the intended form due to a long-term or permanent physical disability or chronic illness, this can be compensated for by extending the working hours accordingly or by organizing the examination procedure differently. ³A medical certificate must be presented on request.
- (2)¹The decision pursuant to para. 1 is made by the Doctoral Committee. ²The decision must be communicated to the doctoral candidate in writing.
- (3)¹The protective provisions of the Act for the Protection of Working Mothers (Mutterschutzgesetz - MuSchG), as amended, shall apply accordingly to the doctorate. ²The periods of protection contained in the MuSchG have to be taken in account when calculating all deadlines in accordance with these doctoral degree regulations. ³This also applies to parental leave within the meaning of the Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz - BEEG) and the periods for care according to the Caregiver Leave Act (Pflegezeitgesetz - PflegeZG), as amended.

C) Doctoral procedure

Section 15 Application for the opening of the doctoral procedure

- ¹The opening of the doctoral procedure has to be applied for at the doctoral center.
- ²The application for the opening of the doctoral procedure may only be submitted by doctoral candidates entered in the doctoral list in accordance with section 8 (3). ³The application must include the name of the doctoral degree sought and the title of the dissertation. ⁴The application must be accompanied by:
1. an electronic version (pdf file) of the dissertation;
 2. a generally one-page comprehensive summary of the dissertation; an English translation of the title and the summary must also be provided if the dissertation was written in German;
 3. a sworn declaration by the applicant on the independence of the academic work performed in accordance with Art. 97 para. 1 sentence 8 BayHIG
 4. a list of prior publications in accordance with section 9 para. 7;

5. a confirmation of successful completion of the structured doctoral program;
6. a confirmation of instruction according to section 4 para. 2;
7. a curriculum vitae of the applicant, which in particular provides information about the educational background;
8. a current police clearance certificate, which is not older than three months.

⁵The doctoral center, with support of the TUA Graduate School, checks whether the application meets the formal requirements and then submits the application for the doctoral procedure to the Doctoral Committee.

Section 16 Admission to the doctoral procedure

- (1) ¹The application for a doctorate may only be rejected if
- a) the conditions for admission required in section 4 are not fulfilled or
 - b) the evidence required under section 13 and 15 is incomplete or incorrect, or
 - c) none of the doctoral centers of TUA or the cooperating universities DIT and HaWL is responsible for the doctoral procedure.

²The doctoral candidate must be notified immediately in writing of a reasoned rejection. ³The rejection decision must be accompanied by information on legal remedies.

- (2) The Doctoral Committee makes decisions as quickly as possible and appoints an Examination Committee.

- (3) If the doctoral examination procedure is initiated, the Doctoral Committee ensures that the oral examination is generally conducted within six months.

Section 17 Examination of the dissertation

- (1) ¹The Doctoral Committee submits the doctoral application with all documents to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee. ²The chairperson forwards the dissertation to the other members of the Doctoral Examination Committee for examination.

- (2) The chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee ensures that the assessment and examination of the dissertation takes place within a reasonable period of time (generally no more than three months).

Section 18 Assessment of the dissertation

- (1) ¹The first and the second reviewer each independently and autonomously prepare a written report, which must contain a grade according to the grading scale in

accordance with section 24 para. 3. ²If the highest grade is to be awarded based on the first two evaluations, or if the grades from the first and second evaluations differ by more than one grade level, the additional examiner shall, pursuant to section 10 para. 2 no. 3, also prepare an independent and separate written evaluation, which must include a grade in accordance with the grading scale set forth in section 24 para. 3. ³The reports must be submitted to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee.

(2) Once the first report has been submitted to the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee, the doctoral application may no longer be withdrawn.

(3) ¹On submission of all reports, an overall grade for the dissertation is determined.

²This is calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades awarded. ³If fractions result from the average calculation, the better grade shall be awarded for values up to 0.5. ⁴For admission to the disputation an overall grade of at least 3 is required.

(4) ¹If a grade is "fail", the doctoral project has failed; the doctoral procedure is thus terminated. ²The Examination Committee shall decide whether the dissertation can be resubmitted in a revised form or whether a new version is necessary; this requires unanimity. ³Section 23 para. 2 and section 25 para. 1 apply accordingly.

Section 19 Involvement of the professorial college

If the dissertation has been assessed by the examining members authorized to assign grades pursuant to section 18 para 1 of the Doctoral Examination Committee with a grade of at least 3, the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee ensures that the dissertation, together with the report is made available to all professors of the doctoral center (professorial college) in digital form for comment.

Section 20 Acceptance of the dissertation

(1) ¹The dissertation is accepted if no objection has been submitted by members of the professorial college within a period of two weeks to be determined by the Doctoral Committee. ²In the case of objections, a written justification must be submitted within two weeks. ³If there are appropriately substantiated objections, the Doctoral Committee makes the final decision on the acceptance of the thesis.

(2) ¹If the thesis is rejected, the doctoral project has failed and the doctoral procedure is terminated. ²In this case, the doctoral candidate receives a written notification with reasons and information on legal remedies.

Section 21 Invitation to the disputation

- (1) If the dissertation has been accepted, the disputation is scheduled and conducted by the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee.
- (2)¹The chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee invites the doctoral candidate and the Examination Committee as well as the other members of the doctoral center to the oral defense at least two weeks in advance. ²The invitation may be issued in written or digital form. ³The data protection regulations must be observed. ⁴The Examination Committee may, in agreement with the doctoral candidate, allow other members of the public to attend as an audience; in some circumstances only for parts of the examination; in this case, it announces the date publicly on the homepage.
- (3)¹In justified cases and if special circumstances justify this, the Doctoral Examination Committee may, in consultation with the doctoral candidate, determine that the disputation is to be conducted in the form of a video conference or the connection of one or more participants via video transmission. ²The software approved for this purpose by TUA should be used. ³In this case, the invitation is sent in electronic form by sending the link; other members of the doctoral center who are authorized to take examinations should express their interest in participating to the chairperson of the Examination Committee no later than three working days before the scheduled examination. ⁴The chairperson allows the participation. ⁵Otherwise, the chairperson cancels the examination and schedules a new date. ⁶Data protection regulations must be observed.

Section 22 Disputation and its assessment

- (1) ¹In the disputation, the dissertation is defended before the Doctoral Examination Committee. ²During the disputation, the content of the dissertation is discussed, it includes the expert opinions and also extends to problems of the relevant sciences affected by the dissertation. ³The active participation in the discussion with the doctoral candidate is the responsibility of the members of the Doctoral Examination Committee. ⁴As a rule, the disputation lasts between 60 and 90 minutes.
- (2) The disputation is usually held in the same language as the dissertation.
- (3)¹The disputation is conducted by the Doctoral Examination Committee. ²The chairperson may allow questions from other members of the doctoral center who are present and authorized to examine. ³Only the examining members of the Doctoral Examination Committee are allowed to give any assessments. ⁴The

chairperson ensures that all members of the Doctoral Examination Committee have an appropriate share of the examination time.

- (4) ¹The grades specified in section 24 para. 3 have to be awarded when assessing the disputation. ²The examining members of the Doctoral Examination Committee award a grade. ³The overall grade of the oral examination has to be calculated from the arithmetic mean of the individual grades awarded by the members of the Doctoral Examination Committee. ⁴If fractions result from the calculation of the average, the better grade shall be awarded for values up to 0.5. ⁵The oral examination is passed if an overall grade of at least 3 is achieved.
- (5) ¹If a grade of "fail" is given or if the doctoral candidate does not appear for the examination date without good reason, the oral examination is deemed to have been failed; the decision is made by the Doctoral Committee. ²In this case, section 23 para. 2 shall apply. ³The reasons for non-attendance in accordance with sentence 1 must be reported to the Doctoral Committee immediately in writing and substantiated. ⁴If the reasons are recognized, a new date has to be set. ⁵Any inability to take the examination that occurs before or during the examination must be reported immediately to the Examination Committee and the Doctoral Committee. ⁶In cases of inability to take an examination due to illness, a medical certificate must be submitted; a medical certificate from a public health officer may be requested.

Section 23 Examination result

- (1) ¹After completion of the disputation, the members of the Doctoral Examination Committee determine in a closed session whether the examination has been passed and whether the doctorate is awarded. ²The members of the Doctoral Examination Committee order any changes to the dissertation that the doctoral candidate still has to make. ³These conditions are to be noted on the examination form with a deadline (max. three months). ⁴The chairperson is responsible for checking that the conditions have been fulfilled. ⁵He or she gives approval before publication. ⁶A record of the oral examination shall be drawn up containing the subject matter and results of the examination as well as any conditions imposed.
- (2) ¹The chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee informs the doctoral candidate of the assessment of the oral examination, the dissertation and the result determined following the examination. ²In the event of failure of the examination, the doctoral candidate receives a written notification with information on legal remedies, which also provides information on the options for retaking the examination.

- (3) Doctoral candidates can inspect the examination documents within one year of completing the doctoral procedure.

Section 24 Assessment of the doctorate

- (1) The date of graduation is the day on which the oral examination is passed.
- (2) Both the dissertation and the disputation must each be passed with a grade of at least 3.
- (3)¹The overall grade is made up of the grade for the dissertation and the grade for the disputation, whereby the grade for the dissertation is weighted with 2/3 and the grade for the disputation with 1/3. ²If fractions result from the calculation of the average, the better grade is awarded for values up to 0.5. ³The overall performance is passed if the overall grade of at least 3 is achieved. ⁴The grades are:
- summa cum laude = 0.7 = "excellent" = a very outstanding achievement
 - magna cum laude = 1 = "very good" = a particularly commendable achievement
 - cum laude = 2 = "good" = a performance above the average
 - rite = 3 = "sufficient" = a performance that meets average requirements.

⁵The distinction "summa cum laude" requires an outstanding academic performance in international comparison and can only be awarded if the dissertation and the oral examination are assessed in the same way.

Section 25 Repetition of doctoral examinations

- (1) If the dissertation has been rejected for the first time at the doctoral center in accordance with section 18 para. 4 or section 20 para. 2 and the doctoral project has thus failed, the doctoral candidate may submit a new dissertation or a revised dissertation with the consent of the Doctoral Examination Committee in accordance with section 18 para. 4 via the doctoral center within a period of two years after notification of the rejection notice.
- (2)¹If the doctoral candidate does not submit a revised or new dissertation within the period specified in para. 1, the doctoral project has to be deemed to have failed definitively. ²In this case, the doctoral candidate shall receive a written notification with information on legal remedies.
- (3)¹If one of the grades given to the revised or newly submitted dissertation in accordance with section 18 para. 4 is "failed" or if the dissertation is not accepted in accordance with section 20 para. 1, the doctoral procedure shall be deemed to have failed definitively. ²In this case, the doctoral candidate shall receive a written notification stating the reasons and providing information on legal remedies.

- (4) ¹If the dissertation submitted to the doctoral center has been assessed by the examining members authorized to assign grades pursuant to section 18 para. 1 of the Doctoral Examination Committee with a grade corresponding to a "pass", but the oral examination has not been passed, the doctoral candidate need only repeat this examination. ²The repetition may only take place once, at the earliest after three months and at the latest within one year of taking the failed oral examination. ³If this period expires, the entitlement to recognition of the dissertation expires and the doctoral project has definitively failed. ⁴Admission to a re-examination is only possible in cases of hardship, which must be presented in writing to the chairperson of the Examination Committee; the decision is made by the Doctoral Examination Committee by unanimous vote.

Section 26 Publication of the dissertation

¹After passing the oral examination, the doctoral candidate must make the dissertation in the approved version available to the academic public by copying and distributing it no later than one year after passing the oral examination. ²The respective doctoral center may not incur any costs in doing so. ³The obligation to publish does not apply to publications that have been accepted for publication and have appeared in print or in electronic journals and are attached as appendices in accordance with section 9 para. 3. ⁴In addition to the abstract in German and English, the doctoral candidate must submit it free of charge for this purpose:

1. an electronic version of the dissertation to the university library of the respective network partner of the doctoral center whose file format and data carrier correspond to the specifications of the respective university library; the doctoral candidate transfers to the respective university library, the German National Library and the Bavarian State Library the right to publish the electronic version in data networks for an unlimited period of time and to make it accessible to other databases and assures that the electronic version corresponds to the accepted dissertation; the doctoral candidate is obliged to check the metadata and the network version of his/her dissertation for completeness, correctness and legibility; the submission of files that do not comply with the required specifications regarding file format and data carrier is not permitted; the doctoral candidate is obliged to check the metadata and the network version of his/her dissertation for completeness, correctness and readability; the submission of files that do not meet the required specifications regarding file format and data carrier is not considered publication; and
2. two copies in paper form (DIN A 4 or DIN A 5 bound) or as an electronic version at the respective doctoral center.

Section 27 Completion of the doctorate and certificate

- (1) As provisional proof of the award of the doctoral degree, the doctoral candidate shall receive a provisional certificate from the doctoral center, provided that the doctorate has been passed and the required copies have been submitted on time in accordance with section 26.
- (2) The doctoral candidate is not authorized to use the doctoral degree until the certificate has been issued in accordance with paragraph 1.
- (3)¹The doctoral candidate receives a certificate in German and English bearing the seal of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg and the date of the doctorate in accordance with section 24 para. 1 and, in the case of a distinction, the addition "magna cum laude" or "summa cum laude". ²The time and form of the personal presentation are determined by the doctoral center. ³A decorative certificate is available on request from the doctoral candidate.
- (4) The universities cooperating in the doctoral center, DIT and HaWL, are also noted on the certificate with their name and seal.
- (5) The supervisors are identified on the certificate by name and the name of the associated university.

Section 28 Retention of examination and dissertation documents

- (1) ¹After successful completion of the doctoral procedure, the examination documents are kept in the respective Graduate School for at least 5 years. ²The reduced examination file, which in addition to the documents on the duration of the doctorate also contains the examination results and a copy of the doctoral certificate, has to be kept for a period of 50 years. ³The file may also be stored in digital form.
- (2) If the doctoral project has finally failed, the dissertation and the reviews remain on file at the doctoral center for a period of at least 5 years.

D) Invalidity and withdrawal of the doctoral degree

Section 29 Invalidity of doctoral achievements

¹If it is established before the doctoral certificate is issued that admission to the doctorate was granted on the basis of false information provided by the doctoral candidate or that the doctoral candidate has attempted or committed fraud in his/her performance, these doctoral achievements must be declared invalid by the chairperson of the Doctoral Committee and the doctoral procedure must be declared

definitively failed. ²Before such a decision is made, the doctoral candidate has to be given the opportunity to comment on the relevant facts. ³The doctoral candidate shall receive a written notification of the decision with information on legal remedies. ⁴After expiry of the appeal period, the declaration of nullity of the doctorate must be notified to the President and communicated by him/her to all German universities.

Section 30 Withdrawal of the doctoral degree

¹The withdrawal of an already awarded doctoral degree is governed by Art. 101 BayHIG. ²The President notifies all German academic universities of the withdrawal of the doctoral degree, stating the reasons.

E) Final provisions

Section 31 Entry into force

These doctoral regulations enter into force on December 15, 2024.

Issued on the basis of the resolution of the Senate of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg dated 26.11.2024 and the approval of the President of the Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg dated 05.12.2024.

Augsburg, December 15, 2024

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gordon T. Rohrmair
President