

**Revised version of the Regulation on Special Admission Requirements for the  
doctoral degree programmes and structured doctoral programmes of  
School V – Mathematics and Natural Sciences, School VI – Medicine and Health  
Sciences, the Department of Computing Science (Dfl) of School II – Computing Science,  
Economics and Law, and the Graduate School of Natural Sciences, Medicine and  
Technology of the University of Oldenburg**

dated 18 July 2022

On 23 March 2022, in accordance with Section 44 (1) (2) of the Lower Saxony University Act (NHG), the School Councils of School II – Computing Science, Economics and Law, School V – Mathematics and Natural Sciences and School VI – Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Oldenburg resolved the following revised version of the Regulation on Special Admission Requirements for the doctoral degree programmes and structured doctoral programmes of School V – Mathematics and Natural Sciences, School VI – Medicine and Health Sciences and the Department of Computing Science (Dfl) of School II – Computing Science, Economics and Law in the Graduate School Natural Sciences, Medicine and Technology of the University of Oldenburg. The regulation was approved by the Presidential Board on 4 July 2022 in accordance with Section 44 (1) (3) NHG.

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**Section 1  
Scope of application, purpose**

(1) This regulation defines the responsibilities and the admission procedure for the doctoral degree programmes and structured doctoral programmes of the Graduate School of Natural Sciences, Medicine and Technology (currently "Neurosensory Science and Systems", "Molecular and Nanoscale Science", "Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity", "Renewable Energy" and "Mathematics and Fundamental Physics", "Medicine and Health Sciences"). By resolution of the respective School Council, the scope of application of this regulation can also be extended to further doctoral degree programmes and structured doctoral programmes of the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences as well as, with the agreement of the Presidential Board and the School Council of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, to such programmes of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Department of Computing Science (Dfl) of School II: Computing Science, Economics and Law.

(2) The doctoral degree programmes and structured doctoral programmes qualify the doctoral candidates to conduct more in-depth scientific activities independently.

**Section 2  
Responsibilities**

(1) The doctoral degree programmes and structured doctoral programmes of the Graduate School of Natural Sciences, Medicine and Technology are allocated to School V or School VI of the University of Oldenburg.

(2) The lecturers involved in the doctoral degree programmes and structured doctoral programmes determine and conduct the teaching activities of the programmes in an interdisciplinary manner.

**Section 3  
Scope and duration of the programme**

- (1) As a rule, the doctoral programme consists of 6 semesters. During this period, students must attend lectures which confer a total of at least 30 credit points (CP) according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).
- (2) The examination regulations define the type and content of lectures.
- (3) The programme ends with the commencement of the doctoral procedure.

#### **Section 4 Commencement of the programme**

The doctoral degree programmes and structured doctoral programmes begin in the summer and winter semesters.

#### **Section 5 Admission requirements**

- (1) Applicants for doctoral degree programmes or structured doctoral programmes will be admitted if they
  - a) submit evidence of a university study course and a master's degree, diploma or state examination degree in the disciplines specified in the Appendices for the respective programmes. In exceptional cases, the Admissions Committee can admit applicants without such a degree, however the degree must then be attained at the latest before submission of the application for the doctoral programme in accordance with Section 8 of the joint Doctoral Degree Regulations of School II – Computing Science, Economics and Law (for the Department of Computing Science), School V – Mathematics and Natural Sciences and School VI – Medicine and Health Sciences. As for the rest, reference is made to Section 6 (2) of these Regulations.
  - b) submit evidence of corresponding eligibility according to Section 4 of these Regulations.
    - (2) Master students of one of the Schools of the University of Oldenburg or comparable study programmes of a different university can apply to the Admissions Committee for admission to a doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme immediately after successfully completing the necessary study units according to the examination regulations for master's programmes of the University of Oldenburg even before completing the master's programme with a master thesis. The decision on the equivalence of study programmes of other schools or universities with the master's programmes in the same disciplines of School V – Mathematics and Natural Sciences and School VI – Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Oldenburg is taken by the responsible Admissions Committee of the corresponding doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme of the University of Oldenburg.
    - (3) A fast-track option is available for especially qualified and motivated German and foreign applicants with an appropriate bachelor's degree. This means that, after an examination of eligibility for the doctoral phase by the Admissions Committee, such candidates can be admitted to a doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme. The requirements for admission to the fast-track procedure and the admission procedure are specified in the current version of the "Regulation on Participation Requirements for the Fast-Track Programmes for Doctorates in School V of the University of Oldenburg".
    - (4) Re Section 1: The Admissions Committee recognises equivalent degrees attained in an EU country. Degrees attained in a country outside the EU require recognition by the Examining Board, taking into account the equivalence agreements determined by the Conference of Education Ministers and the Conference of University Rectors or other international agreements. Deviations from 1) and 2) are possible if evidence can be provided of previous education which is equivalent to the scientific level of the degree according to Section 1 and the majority of the members of the Admissions Committee agree to this.
    - (5) If essential admission requirements for acceptance for a doctoral degree in School V, School VI and the Department of Computing Science (Dfl) of School II: Computing Science, Economics and Law are missing, the Admissions Committee responsible for the doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme can also withdraw the admission to the doctoral degree programme or doctoral programme.

#### **Section 6 Application and selection procedure**

- (1) The applicant sends a written application for acceptance to the doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme via the university to the chairperson of the responsible Admissions Committee. Applications are only considered for the relevant admission date.

(2) If the applicant has already submitted the application for acceptance/admission to the doctoral programme, or if they have already received acceptance/admission for a doctoral degree programme in School V, School VI or the Department of Computing Science (DfI) of School II: Computing Science, Economics and Law, the applicant submits the letter of acceptance/admission as a doctoral student. With the agreement of the applicant, copies of the documents submitted with the application will be passed on by the responsible Doctorate Committee to the Graduate School for Natural Sciences and Technology. The appendices for the various disciplines may specify different regulations.

(3) If no application for acceptance as a doctoral student has yet been submitted to the responsible Doctorate Committee, the following documents must be attached to the application:

- a) A curriculum vitae
- b) The subject of the thesis (working title) with a brief description of the project which has been agreed with the planned doctoral supervisor
- c) Documentation of university entrance qualification
- d) Certificates and documents according to Section 5, subs. 1 a) and 2, and if applicable applications with certificates and documents according to Section 5, subs. 3
- e) A list of the applicant's publications to date
- f) A declaration of any previous unsuccessful attempts to gain a doctorate, with details of the time of the first application, the university and the school or the department to which the thesis was submitted, as well as the subject of the thesis
- g) Declaration of a professor, a junior professor or a research scientist at the University of Oldenburg or another doctoral supervisor according to Section 11, subs. 1 of the joint doctoral degree regulations of School II – Computing Science, Economics and Law (Department of Computing Science), School V – Mathematics and Natural Sciences or School VI – Medicine and Health Sciences stating their willingness to supervise a planned thesis by the applicant
- h) Confirmation by the supervisor that they will provide the necessary materials and equipment for the thesis, and if necessary a laboratory workplace, for a period which is usual for the preparation of a thesis
- i) If applicable, an application for performance of a bi-national doctoral programme or another joint doctoral procedure (Section 3 of the joint doctoral degree regulations of School II – Computing Science, Economics and Law (Department of Computing Science), School V – Mathematics and Natural Sciences and School VI – Medicine and Health Sciences), specifying the cooperation partner
- j) A declaration that the applicant knows and will follow the guidelines for good scientific practice of the University of Oldenburg
- k) A declaration that the applicant has not used any commercial brokerage or consulting services (doctoral counselling) in connection with the doctoral project
- l) If applicable, a supervision agreement between the doctoral candidate and the primary supervisor or a doctoral committee which contains a declaration regarding items b), c), h) g), i) and j)
- m) A letter of motivation

(4) After receipt of the complete documentation according to Section 2, subs. 3 a) – l) and the results of the hearing according to Section 6, subs. 5 c), the Admissions Committee determines the corresponding eligibility.

(5) The extent of eligibility is determined as follows:

- a) Grade of the most recent professional qualification

Grades from 1 to 1.49 = 2 points; grades from 1.5 to 2.5 = 1 point; grades over 2.5 = 0 points

- b) Relevance of the degree already held to the doctoral project and the letter of motivation

0 points - 1 point,  
whereby 0 points, 0.5 points or 1 point can be awarded

c) Result of the hearing with a 15-minute presentation in English followed by a discussion

0 points - 1 point,  
whereby 0 points, 0.5 points or 1 point can be awarded

The degree of eligibility is calculated from the sums of a) to c), whereby at least 0.5 points must be achieved for b) and c).

(6) The requirement for admission to the doctoral programme is an evaluation of the degree of eligibility of at least 2.5 points. The Admissions Committee can decide to waive a hearing according to Section 6, subs. 5 c) if according to Section 6, subs. 5 a) and 5 b) the total is 3 points and an English language certificate of level B2 of the European Reference Framework has been submitted. If the study course of a degree already held was conducted entirely in the English language and/or the supervisor confirms adequate language skills, this is also acceptable evidence. If English is the native language of the applicant, the requirements for proof of language skills can also be waived.

(7) If the applicant has already been accepted as a doctoral candidate, the discipline-specific appendices can determine that the requirement for establishment of eligibility according to Section 6 (5) is waived.

(8) If there are more applicants than places, the Admissions Committee compiles a ranking for admission according to the points scored as described in Section 5.

(9) Applicants who are accepted must confirm whether or not they accept the place at the latest 14 days after the notice has been served.

(10) Applicants who are not accepted receive a rejection letter stating the grounds and with information on their legal right of appeal within two months after the hearing.

## **Section 7 Admissions Committee**

(1) The Admissions Committee responsible for a doctoral degree programme or a structured doctoral programme consists of three lecturers of the university and one doctoral candidate of the School which is responsible for the respective doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme. At least one member must be a lecturer in the respective doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme. The doctoral candidate on the committee has an advisory vote in the evaluation of applicants. The Admissions Committee has a quorum when at least two lecturers are present.

(2) The responsible School Council elects the lecturers who sit on the Admissions Committee on suggestion by the lecturers of the university, and the doctoral candidate on suggestion by the doctoral candidates of the respective doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme. The term of office of the members of the Admissions Committee is two years, and one year for the student members. Re-election of members is possible.

## **Section 8 Entry into force**

(1) This regulation enters into force after approval by the Presidential Board on the day after publication in the official notices of the University of Oldenburg. It is applicable for the first time for the admissions procedure in the winter semester 2018/19.

(2) Upon entry into force of this regulation, the "Regulation on Special Admission and Acceptance Requirements for the Doctoral Degree Programmes and Structured Doctoral Programmes of the Graduate School Natural Sciences and Technology of School V of the University of Oldenburg" dated 14 October 2010 (AM 7/2010) ceases to be in force.

## **Appendices to the Regulation:**

- Appendix 1: Special features of the doctoral degree programme "Neurosensory Science and Systems"
- Appendix 2: Special features of the doctoral degree programme "Molecular and Nanoscale Science"
- Appendix 3: Special features of the doctoral degree programme "Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity"
- Appendix 4: Special features of the structured doctoral programme "Renewable Energy"
- Appendix 5: Special features of the structured doctoral programme "Mathematics and Fundamental Physics"
- Appendix 6: Special features of the structured doctoral programme "Medicine and Health Sciences"
- Appendix 7: Special features of the structured doctoral programme "Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity"

### **Appendix 1**

#### **Special features of the doctoral degree programme "Neurosensory Science and Systems"**

##### **Re Section 2**

###### **(1):**

The Research Centre for Neurosensory Sciences of the University of Oldenburg is responsible for the administration and organisation of the programme.

##### **Re Section 5**

###### **(1)**

Applicants for the doctoral degree programme will be admitted if they:

- a) submit evidence of a relevant university degree. A relevant university degree in the disciplines Biology, Physics, Computing Science, Psychology or related disciplines is recommended.

##### **Re Sections 5 and 6:**

Eligibility for the doctorate, as determined by the Doctorate Committee of School V or School VI, is also valid for the doctoral degree programme. If the Doctorate Committee of School V or School VI has not yet accepted the applicant as a doctoral candidate, the applicant's eligibility is determined according to Section 6 (5).

The responsible Admissions Committee decides on whether a master's degree is suitable for a doctoral degree. In the case of doctoral candidates who are tackling a field in their doctoral degree programme which is new to them (lateral entrants), the Admissions Committee can require that they attend additional lectures (modules) to learn the basic foundations of the doctoral degree programme or the structured doctoral programme.

The additional courses may not exceed a maximum of 30 credit points and are determined by the Admissions Committee. To assess the applicant, the Admissions Committee can require a hearing with a 15-minute presentation in English followed by a discussion. After the hearing, the Admissions Committee can reject admission if the applicant has not met the language requirements.

##### **Re Section 7 (2):**

The School Council elects the lecturers who sit on the Admissions Committee on suggestion by the lecturers of the university, and the doctoral candidate on suggestion by the doctoral candidates of the respective doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme, in agreement with the Chair of the Neurosensory Science Research Centre.

### **Appendix 2**

#### **Special features of the doctoral degree programme "Molecular and Nanoscale Science"**

##### **Re Section 2 (1):**

The Centre of Interface Science (CIS) of the University of Oldenburg is responsible for the administration and organization of the degree programme.

### **Re Section 5 (1)**

Applicants for the doctoral degree programme will be admitted if they:

- a)....submit evidence of a relevant university degree. A relevant university degree in the disciplines Chemistry, Physics, Material Sciences, Computing Science, Biochemistry, Biology or related disciplines is recommended.

### **Re Sections 5 and 6:**

Eligibility for the doctorate, as determined by the Doctorate Committee of School V, is also valid for the doctoral degree programme. If the Doctorate Committee of School V has not yet accepted the applicant as a doctoral candidate, the applicant's eligibility is determined according to Section 6 (5).

### **Re Section 7 (2):**

The School Council elects the lecturers who sit on the Admissions Committee on suggestion by the lecturers of the university, and the doctoral candidate on suggestion by the doctoral candidates of the respective doctoral degree programme or structured doctoral programme, in agreement with the Chair of the Centre of Interface Science.

## **Appendix 3**

### **Special features of the doctoral degree programme "Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity"**

The doctoral degree programme "Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity" will be terminated as of the winter semester 2022/23 and be replaced by a similar doctoral programme of the same name (Appendix 7). Enrolment in this doctoral degree programme is still possible for the summer semester 2022. Supervision is ensured for all doctoral candidates already enrolled in this programme up to 31 March 2029.

### **Re Section 2 (1):**

The Institute of Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) of the University of Oldenburg is responsible for the administration and organization of the doctoral degree programme.

### **Re Section 5 (1)**

Applicants for the doctoral degree programme will be admitted if they:

- a) submit evidence of a relevant university degree. Relevant study in the fields of environmental science, biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, mathematics or related subjects is recommended.

### **Re Sections 5 and 6:**

Eligibility for the doctorate, as determined by the Doctorate Committee of School V, is also valid for the doctoral degree programme. If the Doctorate Committee of School V has not yet accepted the applicant as a doctoral candidate, the applicant's eligibility is determined according to Section 6 (5).

## **Appendix 4**

### **Special features of the structured doctoral programme "Renewable Energy"**

### **Re Section 2 (1):**

The Institute of Physics of the University of Oldenburg is responsible for the administration and organisation of the structured doctoral programme.

### **Re Section 5 (1)**

Applicants for structured doctoral programmes will be admitted if they:

- a) Submit evidence of a relevant university degree. A relevant university degree in the disciplines Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering Sciences, Computing Science, Mathematics, Economics or related disciplines is recommended.

**Re Sections 5 and 6:**

Eligibility for the doctorate, as determined by the Doctorate Committee of School V, is also applicable for the structured doctoral degree programme. If the Doctorate Committee of School V has not yet accepted the applicant as a doctoral candidate, the applicant's eligibility is determined according to Section 6 (5).

**Appendix 5**

**Special features of the structured doctoral programme "Mathematics and Fundamental Physics"**

**Re Section 2 (1):**

The Institute of Physics of the University of Oldenburg is responsible for the administration and organisation of the structured doctoral programme.

**Re Section 5 (1)**

Applicants for the structured doctoral programme will be admitted if they submit evidence of a relevant university degree. Relevant study in the areas of Physics, Mathematics or related subjects is recommended.

**Re Sections 5 and 6:**

Eligibility for the doctorate is determined by the Doctorate Committee of School V. If the applicant has been accepted for a doctoral programme, no determination of eligibility according to Section 6 (5) is required. If the Doctorate Committee of School V has not yet accepted the applicant as a doctoral candidate, the applicant's eligibility can be determined according to Section 6 (5).

**Appendix 6**

**Special features of the structured doctoral programme "Medicine and Health Sciences"**

**Re Section 2 (1):**

School VI of the University of Oldenburg is responsible for the administration and organisation of the structured doctoral programme.

**Re Section 5 (1)**

Applicants for the structured doctoral programme (graduate programme) will be admitted if they

- a) submit evidence of a relevant university degree in Medicine or a discipline which is relevant for Medicine/Health Sciences.

**Re Sections 5 and 6:**

Eligibility for the doctorate is determined by the Doctorate Committee of School VI. If the applicant has been accepted for a doctoral programme, no determination of eligibility according to Section 6 (5) is required. If the Doctorate Committee of School VI has not yet accepted the applicant as a doctoral candidate, the applicant's eligibility can be determined according to Section 6 (5).

**Re Section 7 (2):**

The School Council of School VI elects the lecturers who sit on the Admissions Committee on suggestion by the lecturers, and the doctoral candidates on suggestion by the doctoral candidates of the structured doctoral programme.

## Appendix 7

### Special features of the structured doctoral programme "Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity"

The new structured doctoral programme "Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity" will start in the winter semester 2022/23. It replaces the doctoral degree programme "Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity".

#### Re Section 2 (1):

The Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) of the University of Oldenburg is responsible for the administration and organization of the structured doctoral programme in Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity.

#### Re Section 5 (1)

Applicants for the structured doctoral programme will be admitted if they

a) submit evidence of a relevant university degree. Relevant study in the fields of environmental science, biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, mathematics or related subjects is recommended.

#### Re Sections 5 and 6:

Eligibility for the doctorate, as determined by the Doctorate Committee of School V, is also valid for the structured doctoral degree programme. If the Doctorate Committee of School V has not yet accepted the applicant as a doctoral candidate, the applicant's eligibility is determined according to Section 6 (5).

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