

This is a translation of the regulations published by the Georg-August-Universität in its official bulletin (*Amtliche Mitteilungen*) No. 31 dated September 22, 2008. Only those regulations published by the Georg-August-Universität in this bulletin are legally binding. Any claims to rights or titles resulting from the English translation or regulations are expressly excluded.

Pursuant to a resolution taken by the Faculty of Medicine on April 21, 2008, the Faculty of Physics on April 08, 2008, the Faculty of Chemistry on April 09, 2008, and the Faculty of Biology on April 30, 2008, and in accordance with a statement issued by the Senate on August 13, 2008, the Presidential Board of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen has adopted the Doctoral Degree Regulations for the doctoral programs of the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences and Molecular (GGNB) on September 17, 2008. This is in accordance with section 9, para. 3, sentence 1 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) in the version of the notification of February 26, 2007 (Lower Saxony Law and Ordinance Gazette (Nds. GVBl), p. 69), as amended by law on September 13, 2007 (Nds. GVBl., p. 444); section 44, para. 2, sentence 2; section 41, para. 1, sentence 2 NHG; section 37, para. 1, sentence 3, no. 5 b) NHG).

## **Doctoral Degree Regulations for the Doctoral Programs of the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences and Molecular Biosciences**

### **REGULATION 1**

#### **Purpose of the Doctoral Degree Regulations**

These Doctoral Degree Regulations regulate the implementation and completion of doctoral studies for students participating in the doctoral programs of the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences and Molecular Biosciences (hereinafter referred to as GGNB). The doctoral programs are listed in Appendix 6, which can be amended by decision of the Managing Board of the GGNB in agreement with the Managing Board of the Graduate School for Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the Georg August University Göttingen (Georg August University School of Science, abbreviated to GAUSS).

### **REGULATION 2**

#### **Purview**

(1) The provisions of these doctoral degree regulations are binding for the doctoral programs outlined in Regulation 1 and supplement the Regulations of GAUSS and the Framework

Doctoral Degree Regulations of GAUSS (*Rahmenpromotionsordnung*; hereinafter referred to as FDDR) in the version currently effective.

### **REGULATION 3**

#### **Conditions for Admission to a Doctoral Program**

(1) As prerequisite for admission to one of the doctoral programs in accordance with Regulation 1, a candidate must have successfully completed a consecutive Master's degree program in mathematics or natural sciences having a standard period of study of at least one year and an overall period of study of at least four years; alternatively, the candidate must have successfully completed a degree program in a field of mathematics or natural sciences of at least eight semesters, or hold an equivalent degree at a higher education institution in Germany or in one of the signatory states of the Bologna declaration. The decision as to whether a degree program is acceptable as equivalent will be taken by the responsible Study and Examinations Committee (hereinafter referred to as Program Committee). If the Program Committee requests the completion of certain modules/courses by the applicant as a condition for admission, these must be completed within two semesters following admission to the program.

(2) Degrees which have been obtained in a country not signatory to the Bologna declaration must be formally confirmed to be equivalent based on the recommendations regarding the recognition and evaluation of foreign educational qualifications, issued by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the secretary of the Standing Conference of the Ministers for Education and Cultural Affairs of the States in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK), which are posted at the URL [www.anabin.de](http://www.anabin.de).

(3) Applicants whose native language is not English must be able to demonstrate sufficient English language skills. Sufficient knowledge of English can be demonstrated by means of minimum grades obtained in an internationally recognized test or equivalent achievements:

- a) Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English with a minimum grade of "C";
- b) Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English with a minimum grade of "C"
- c) "International English Language Testing System" (IELTS) with a minimum level of 6.5;
- d) a minimum of 550 points in the written test of the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (paper based TOEFL);
- e) a minimum of 230 points in the computer based test of the "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (computer based TOEFL);

- f) a minimum of 90 points in the new internet based TOEFL – “Test of English as a Foreign Language”.

The test must have been completed within two years prior to the submission of an application to the Master’s program. Applicants who spent at least two years of education or professional activities in an Anglophone country within the three years prior to the submission of their application to the program are exempt from the requirement to submit a language test.

(4) Further conditions for admission include proof of excellent performance and examination results in any previous course of study and demonstration of relevant professional aptitude in the selection interviews. In particular, the results achieved by the same graduation class in the previous course of study completed by the applicant will serve as a benchmark for excellent results.

(5) The responsible Program Committee is responsible for the evaluation and approval of the admission requirements. The Program Committee decides about an applicant’s eligibility for admission to a doctoral program on the basis of previous performance and examination results and the results of the selection interviews. A minimum of three selection interviews will be conducted with candidates by faculty members of GGNB appointed by the Program Committee, who will prepare a written evaluation.

(6) The interview is based on the applicant’s motivation and in particular the following eligibility criteria:

- a) the applicant’s previous performance and examination results together with solid knowledge and experience in the scientific field relevant for the doctoral program,
- b) the applicant’s ability to work according to scientific and method-based principles.

(7) Decision on the acceptance or rejection of applications is taken pending proof of completion of the previous degree and a letter by a faculty member of the doctoral program stating that he/she accepts the student as thesis supervisor. Both documents are to be submitted by the time of enrolment. If it is foreseeable at the time of application that the previous degree will not be completed prior to beginning the doctoral project, the application will not be processed further and will be excluded from the admissions procedure.

8) Successful applicants will be provided with written confirmation of admission. This confirmation sets a deadline by which the applicant must declare in writing whether she/he will accept the place. If this declaration is not delivered in the correct form by the outlined

deadline, the letter of admission will cease to be valid. This legal consequence is to be outlined in the letter of admission.

(9) Applicants who cannot be admitted to the program will receive a letter of rejection. This letter of rejection contains information on the right to appeal the decision. For applicants who fulfill the eligibility criteria, it also contains the request and a fixed deadline by which to declare in writing whether the application for admission should be retained for a potential short list or clearing procedure. If the applicant does not submit a formal declaration by this deadline, she/he will be excluded from the short list. This legal consequence is to be outlined.

(10) For accredited doctoral programs, in particular the international Master's/PhD programs "Molecular Biology" and "Neurosciences", the stipulations of the respective program regulations apply for the evaluation of eligibility and for the selection procedure.

#### **REGULATION 4**

##### **Nature and Scope of the Doctoral Program**

(1) In the course of the doctoral program, doctoral students are to conduct their scientific research projects. In addition, students are required to complete courses corresponding to a minimum of 20 credits (hereinafter referred to as C) (see Appendix 5). In a separate appendix to these regulations, individual doctoral programs can stipulate the completion of additional courses, up to a maximum of 30 credits. This appendix is to be decided upon and confirmed by the faculty's Advisory Board (*Fakultätsrat*) of the respective Faculty responsible for the doctoral program.

(2) Research projects are to be completed within three years of admission to the doctoral program, cumulating in the submission of the dissertation (doctoral thesis). In justified cases, the deadline for submission of the dissertation may be extended up to two times by a period of six months each; the decision to approve this extension is taken by the responsible Program Committee on the basis of a written request to be submitted by the student. Any request for an extension beyond the period outlined in sentence 2 is to be decided upon by the responsible Program Committee in agreement with the Managing Board of the GGNB.

**REGULATION 5**  
**Thesis Committee, Supervision**

The responsible Program Committee will appoint a Thesis Committee comprising three members for each doctoral thesis project. The Thesis Committee will consist of at least two faculty members of the responsible doctoral program, who generally serve as reviewers of the dissertation, and at least one of whom must be a professor employed by the University of Göttingen. All members of the Thesis Committee must hold a doctoral degree. The Thesis Committee constitutes a quorum as long as not more than one member is absent. The supervisor of the dissertation is a member of the Thesis Committee and a faculty member or associate member of the doctoral program.

**REGULATION 6**  
**Dissertation**

(1) The dissertation must focus on a research area which is covered under the GGNB. The topic and work plan are to be agreed with the Thesis Committee before the start of the project.

(2) A cumulative dissertation consisting of several scientific publications authored by the doctoral student and which have been accepted for publication in refereed academic journals may be submitted in place of a dissertation. Cumulative dissertations can be accepted if the doctoral supervisor confirms that these publications represent a major part of the doctoral project. A summary of the topics presented in the publications combined with a discussion section must be submitted as part of a cumulative dissertation. In addition, a declaration confirming the student's own contribution to the work is to be included. The submission of a cumulative dissertation must be approved by the responsible Program Committee; applications to submit a cumulative dissertation are to be applied for at least three months before submission of the dissertation.

(3) The research project is to be conducted at one of the primary scientific institutions of the doctoral program. Any exceptions to sentence 1 require the prior approval of the responsible Program Committee.

(4) Upon submission of the dissertation, the doctoral student should indicate whether he/she wishes to be awarded the degree of "Dr. rer. nat" or "Ph.D." in accordance with Regulation 3 FDDR.

(5) Doctoral students who have successfully completed a degree in medicine prior to beginning the doctoral program and who have received a license to practice medicine can alternatively apply to be awarded the title of "Medical Doctor – Doctor of Philosophy" (abbreviated: "M.D.-Ph.D."). The decision to award this title lies with the Program Committee of the Faculty of Medicine. If the application is approved, the doctoral certificate will be issued by the Faculty of Medicine in English, or, upon request in German; no further certificate will be issued by the responsible Program Committee.

## **REGULATION 7**

### **Admission to the Doctoral Examination**

(1) The written application for admission to the doctoral examination is to be submitted to the responsible Program Committee within the period set out in Regulation 4, para. 2. The Program Committee decides on admission to the procedure for the doctoral examination. The application to the committee is to include:

- a) a copy of the dissertation,
- b) a proof of completion of the credit requirements,
- c) a curriculum vitae in English or German which also contains details about the academic background of the candidate,
- d) a written statement confirming that the dissertation was completed independently and without any unauthorized support,
- e) a declaration outlining whether the candidate has previously applied for a doctoral degree at another university,
- f) certified copies of previous university degrees obtained by the candidate; these must be submitted as a German or English translation of the original if applicable,
- (g) proof of continuous enrolment as a graduate student at the University since admission to the doctoral program,
- (h) a list of suggested reviewers for the dissertation and for the further members of the Examination Board in accordance with Regulation 8, together with a proposed date for the oral examination agreed with all those concerned. If such a date cannot be agreed, the responsible Program Committee will decide.

(2) The candidate will receive written notice of his/her admission to the doctoral examination. A rejection shall be accompanied by instructions about the right to appeal.

**REGULATION 8**  
**Examination Board**

(1) For each doctoral examination procedure, the responsible Program Committee will appoint an Examination Board of at least six members, which is to include the GGNB faculty members of the Thesis Committee and the reviewers of the dissertation. Reviewers include the referee and at least one co-referee. At least one of the reviewers must be on the Thesis Committee. The Program Committee will appoint a member of the Examination Board as the chairperson. The Examination Board must be composed in a way that the research areas dealt with in the dissertation are represented.

(2) Retired professors or professors who have been released from their duties can only be involved in doctoral conferral procedures as reviewers or examiners up to three years after the end of their retirement/release from duty. Decisions on exceptions to this regulation are to be taken by the responsible Program Committee by the majority of their members holding a doctorate.

**REGULATION 9**  
**Review of the Dissertation**

(1) The reviewers propose either the acceptance or rejection of the dissertation and – for accepted dissertations - one of the following grades:

- a. Magna cum laude,
- b. Cum laude,
- c. Rite.

Each of the reviewers will provide a detailed written justification with regard to their proposed grade.

(2) If reviewers decide on the grade "magna cum laude", they may recommend the award of a distinction for excellent dissertations. The grade "summa cum laude" can only be awarded as an overall grade for the doctoral degree in accordance with Regulation 15 FDDR.

(3) If the grades proposed by the reviewers differ from each other, the Examination Board may decide to obtain an additional expert opinion; para. 1, sentence 1 applies accordingly. Having been informed about both existing expert opinions, the third reviewer provides a written justified recommendation.

(4) The dissertation is to be made available for inspection by the faculty members of GAUSS before it can be accepted. In this time, any faculty member may submit a formal written and justified objection to the dissertation to the GGNB Managing Board.

(5) If the dissertation is rejected by one of the reviewers or if the Examination Board finds that an objection in accordance with para. 4 is justified, the responsible Program Committee appoints a further, possibly external, co-referee. If the dissertation is then recommended for acceptance, said co-referee proposes a grade; para. 1, sentence 1 applies accordingly. In agreement with the speaker of the responsible Program Committee and in consideration of all expert opinions, the Examination Board then takes a final decision regarding the acceptance or rejection of the dissertation. The decision outlined in sentence 3 must be taken within three months. The procedure will then be conducted outside of the time line indicated in these regulations.

(6) The responsible speaker notifies the candidate of the decision regarding the acceptance or rejection of the dissertation in writing. In the case that the dissertation is accepted, the notification includes the date for the oral examination. In the case of a first-time rejection of the dissertation, the candidate will be informed of the provisions under which the procedure can be repeated. In the case of a final rejection, the candidate will receive instructions about the right to appeal.

## **REGULATION 10**

### **Deadlines for the Oral Examination**

The date of the oral examination should not be later than six weeks following the date of enrolment in the doctoral examination procedure. The date is determined by the respective doctoral program and the candidate is to be given notice of the date at the latest one week in advance of the examination.

## **REGULATION 11**

### **Oral Examination**

(1) The oral examination is conducted as a colloquium (dissertation defense) in English, or on the request of the examination candidate, in German. If the defense is to be conducted in German, the responsible Program Committee must be informed in advance. The defense is headed by the chairperson of the Examination Board. At least two thirds of the members of

the Examination Board must be present to form a quorum, including at least two reviewers and two GGNB faculty members of the Thesis Committee.

(2) The candidate and the Examination Board will receive a written invitation by the responsible Program Committee to attend the defense, with details of the date and location. As a rule, the defense is open to the university community. Exemptions need to be applied for and are decided by the Examination Board. A corresponding invitation will be posted on the University's bulletin boards or be announced on the internet.

(3) In the defense, the candidate should place their dissertation in a larger scientific context by giving a presentation and, after the presentation, answer the related questions. Questions are initially permitted only by members of the Examination Board. The Examination Board or the chairperson ensures that, thereafter, all members of the audience can ask questions within reasonable limits.

(4) In the defense, candidates shall demonstrate extensive knowledge of current research in the field covered by the dissertation, evidenced by in-depth and independent work and familiarity with the topics and methods in this area. Further, extensive knowledge of scientific results and methods in areas outside the research area of the dissertation is to be demonstrated.

(5) The total duration of the defense shall be not less than 60 minutes and not more than 90 minutes. The presentation should not be longer than 30 minutes and is followed by the questions and answers session.

(6) Oral examinations are graded according to the same scale as the dissertation.

(7) The Examination Board determines one grade for the defense and one grade for the dissertation. The grade "summa cum laude" may only be awarded as an overall grade for the doctoral degree in accordance with Regulation 15 FDDR.

(8) The course and grade of the defense and the grade awarded for the dissertation are recorded in writing and signed by the members of the examination present. This record must be submitted to the Office of the Examination Board at least one day prior to the proclamation of the results of the doctoral examination.

## **REGULATION 12**

### **Proclamation of the Results of the Doctoral Examination**

(1) Following the oral examination, the chairperson of the Examination Board will inform the candidate whether he/she has passed the examination.

(2) A dean of one of the faculties of mathematics and natural sciences shall inform the candidate about the result of the doctoral procedure on a date jointly set for the doctoral programs of the mathematics and natural science faculties. The dean also advises the candidate about the requirement to publish the dissertation and about the provisions governing fulfillment of the doctoral examination process.

(3) Within four weeks of the completion of the oral examination, the candidate has the right to view his/her examination records and expert opinions at the Office of the Examination Board. A preliminary certificate will be issued within a reasonable period of time.

## **REGULATION 13**

### **Repeat Examinations, Withdrawal, Default, Fraud**

A repeat oral examination is to be conducted under the same Examination Board as the original examination. If necessary, the responsible Program Committee will appoint new examiners.

## **REGULATION 14**

### **Publication of the Dissertation**

(1) The dissertation is to be published according to the provisions of Regulation 18, para. 1 and 2 FDDR.

(2) The reviewers can request the candidate to make content-related changes for the publication of the dissertation. Any disputes shall be resolved by the Examination Board.

(3) Reviewers who have rejected a dissertation can request not to be named in the dissertation.

(4) The final version of the dissertation is deemed to be approved upon submission of a signed revision certificate (Appendix 4). This approval is given by the reviewer who

supervised the research project. If neither of the reviewers are the supervisor of the research project, the responsible Program Committee decides which of the reviewers is responsible for the approval.

(5) Notwithstanding para. 1, publications may also be submitted as follows:

a) Three copies of the fully approved version if significant parts of the dissertation have been published in academic journals. Of these at least ten offprints or print copies of each article are to be submitted as proof of publication. If the dissertation has been published in its entirety, only ten offprints are required;

or

b) Three copies of the book trade version if a commercial publisher is responsible for the distribution via the book trade and a minimum circulation of at least 100 copies can be proven. In addition, three copies of the fully approved version are to be submitted.

(6) Proof of publication is demonstrated by the signed revision certificate (Appendix 4) and by the submission of the required copies at the examinations administration office.

## **REGULATION 15**

### **Fulfillment of the Doctoral Examination Process**

The doctoral degree certificate will be issued according to the format outlined in Appendix 2.

## **REGULATION 16**

### **Effective Date**

These regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in the official bulletin (*Amtliche Mitteilungen*) of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.

## Appendix 1

### Sample Title Page of a Dissertation

Title

Dissertation  
for the award of the degree  
“Doctor of Philosophy” (Ph.D.)  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

submitted by

.....

from ..... (place of birth)  
Göttingen ..... (year)

On the back of the title page:

Member of the Thesis Committee (indicate function: Reviewer)

Name of Department / Research Group, Institution

Member of the Thesis Committee (indicate function: Reviewer)

Name of Department / Research Group, Institution

Member of the Thesis Committee

Name of Department / Research Group, Institution

Additional reviewers (if applicable)

Date of the oral examination:

## **Appendix 2: Sample Doctoral Diplomas (Dr. rer. nat. und Ph.D.)**

The recipient of the doctoral degree is awarded exactly one diploma according to the following samples, depending on whether the degree of “Dr. rer. nat.” or “Ph.D.” was conferred, whether the grade “summa cum laude” was awarded, and whether the doctoral studies were pursued in an International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS).

If the degree “Dr. rer. nat.” is conferred, the diploma is in German; if the degree “Ph.D.” is conferred, the recipient of the doctoral degree may choose if the diploma is issued in German or English.

If the diploma is issued in German, the recipient of the doctoral degree receives an English translation of the diploma (“official translation”).

**Appendix 2a: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Dr. rer. nat.)**

Die Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht  
durch das Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Promotionskolleg  
Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
unter der Sprecherin/dem Sprecher  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad eines Doktors der Naturwissenschaften (Dr. rer. nat.),

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im GAUSS-Promotionsprogramm „                    “

durch die mit dem Prädikat „                    “ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „                    “ bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Die Sprecherin/Der Sprecher von GAUSS

**Appendix 2b: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Dr. rer. nat.; grade: „summa cum laude“)**

Die Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht  
durch das Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Promotionskolleg  
Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
unter der Sprecherin/dem Sprecher  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad eines Doktors der Naturwissenschaften (Dr. rer. nat.),

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im GAUSS-Promotionsprogramm „ „

durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“  
bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Als Auszeichnung für hervorragende Leistungen wird das Gesamtprädikat  
„summa cum laude“ vergeben.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Die Sprecherin/Der Sprecher von GAUSS

**Appendix 2c: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Dr. rer. nat. for IMPRS candidates)**

Die Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht  
durch das Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Promotionskolleg  
Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
unter der Sprecherin/dem Sprecher  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad eines Doktors der Naturwissenschaften (Dr. rer. nat.),

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im GAUSS-Promotionsprogramm „                    “

durch die mit dem Prädikat „                    “ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „                    “ bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Sie/Er hat die Promotion im Rahmen der  
International Max Planck Research School  
„IMPRS for                    “ durchgeführt.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Sprecherin/Sprecher von GAUSS

(Minerva Logo)

Sprecherin/Sprecher der IMPRS

**Appendix 2d: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Dr. rer. nat. for IMPRS candidates; grade: „summa cum laude“)**

Die Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht  
durch das Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Promotionskolleg  
Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
unter der Sprecherin/dem Sprecher  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad eines Doktors der Naturwissenschaften (Dr. rer. nat.),

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im GAUSS-Promotionsprogramm „ „

durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“  
bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Als Auszeichnung für hervorragende Leistungen wird das Gesamtprädikat  
„summa cum laude“ vergeben.

Sie/Er hat die Promotion im Rahmen der  
International Max Planck Research School  
„ IMPRS for „ durchgeführt.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Sprecherin/Sprecher von GAUSS

(Minerva Logo)

Sprecherin/Sprecher der IMPRS

**Appendix 2e: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Ph.D.; German version)**

Die Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht  
durch das Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Promotionskolleg  
Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
unter der Sprecherin/dem Sprecher  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad „Doctor of Philosophy“ (Ph.D.)  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences,

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im GAUSS-Promotionsprogramm „ „

durch die mit dem Prädikat „ „ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „ „ bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Die Sprecherin/Der Sprecher von GAUSS

**Appendix 2f: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Ph.D.; English version)**

The Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

awards

Ms./Mrs./Mr.

from

the degree Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

under the President  
Professor

through the Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
under the Dean  
Professor

She/He proved her/his scientific qualifications  
according to the regulations of the  
doctoral programme " "

by completing her/his doctoral thesis (Dissertation)  
entitled  
" "

with grade " "

and thesis defence (Disputation) with grade " ", dated

Göttingen,

(Seal of the University)

Dean of GAUSS

**Appendix 2g: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Ph.D.; grade: „summa cum laude“; German version)**

Die Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht  
durch das Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Promotionskolleg  
Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
unter der Sprecherin/dem Sprecher  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad „Doctor of Philosophy“ (Ph.D.)  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences,

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im GAUSS-Promotionsprogramm „ „

durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“  
bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Als Auszeichnung für hervorragende Leistungen wird das Gesamtprädikat  
„summa cum laude“ vergeben.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Die Sprecherin/Der Sprecher von GAUSS

**Appendix 2h: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Ph.D.; grade: „summa cum laude“; English version)**

The Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

awards

Ms./Mrs./Mr.

from

the degree Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

under the President  
Professor

through the Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
under the Dean  
Professor

She/He proved her/his scientific qualifications  
according to the regulations of the  
doctoral programme " "

by completing her/his doctoral thesis (Dissertation)  
entitled  
" "

with grade "summa cum laude"

and thesis defence (Disputation) with grade "summa cum laude", dated

In recognition of the excellent achievements of  
her/his doctoral studies she/he is awarded the overall grade  
"summa cum laude".

Göttingen,

(Seal of the University)

Dean of GAUSS

**Appendix 2i: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Ph.D. for IMPRS candidates; German version)**

Die Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht  
durch das Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Promotionskolleg  
Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
unter der Sprecherin/dem Sprecher  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad „Doctor of Philosophy“ (Ph.D.)  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im GAUSS-Promotionsprogramm „ „

durch die mit dem Prädikat „ „ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „ „ bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Sie/Er hat die Promotion im Rahmen der  
International Max Planck Research School  
„IMPRS for „ durchgeführt.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Sprecherin/Sprecher von GAUSS

(Minerva Logo)

Sprecherin/Sprecher der IMPRS

**Appendix 2j: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Ph.D. for IMPRS candidates; English version)**

The Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

awards

Ms./Mrs./Mr.

from

the degree Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

under the President  
Professor

through the Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
under the Dean  
Professor

She/He proved her/his scientific qualifications  
according to the regulations of the  
doctoral programme " "

by completing her/his doctoral thesis (Dissertation)  
entitled  
" "  
with grade " "

and thesis defence (Disputation) with grade " ", dated

She/He graduated from the International Max Planck Research School  
"IMPRS for "  
Göttingen,

(Seal of the University)

(Minerva Logo)

Dean of GAUSS

Dean of the IMPRS

**Appendix 2k: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Ph.D. for IMPRS candidates; grade: „summa cum laude“; German version)**

Die Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht  
durch das Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Promotionskolleg  
Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
unter der Sprecherin/dem Sprecher  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad „Doctor of Philosophy“ (Ph.D.)  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences,

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im GAUSS-Promotionsprogramm „ “

durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“  
bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Als Auszeichnung für hervorragende Leistungen wird das Gesamtprädikat  
„summa cum laude“ vergeben.

Sie/Er hat die Promotion im Rahmen der  
International Max Planck Research School  
„IMPRS for “ durchgeführt.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Sprecherin/Sprecher von GAUSS

(Minerva Logo)

Sprecherin/Sprecher der IMPRS

**Appendix 2I: Sample Doctoral Diploma (Ph.D. for IMPRS candidates; grade: „summa cum laude“; English version)**

The Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

awards

Ms./Mrs./Mr.

from

the degree Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)  
Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

under the President  
Professor

through the Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)  
under the Dean  
Professor

She/He proved her/his scientific qualifications  
according to the regulations of the  
doctoral programme " "

by completing her/his doctoral thesis (Dissertation)  
entitled  
" "

with grade "summa cum laude"

and thesis defence (Disputation) with grade "summa cum laude", dated

In recognition of the excellent achievements of  
her/his doctoral studies she/he is awarded the overall grade  
"summa cum laude".

She/He graduated from the International Max Planck Research School  
"IMPRS for "

Göttingen,

(Seal of the University)

(Minerva Logo)

Dean of GAUSS

Dean of the IMPRS

**Appendix 3a: Sample Doctoral Diploma (M.D.-Ph.D.; German version)**

Die Medizinische Fakultät  
der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

und der Dekanin/dem Dekan  
der Medizinischen Fakultät  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad  
„Medical Doctor – Doctor of Philosophy“ (M.D. - Ph.D.)

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im Promotionsprogramm „ „

durch die mit dem Prädikat „ „ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „ „ bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Die Dekanin/Der Dekan der Medizinischen Fakultät

**Appendix 3b: Sample Doctoral Diploma (M.D.-Ph.D.; English version)**

The *Medizinische Fakultät*  
of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

under the President of the University  
Professor

and the Dean  
of the *Medizinische Fakultät*  
Professor

awards

Ms./Mrs./Mr.

from

the degree  
Medical Doctor - Doctor of Philosophy (M.D. - Ph.D.)

She/He proved her/his scientific qualifications  
according to the regulations of the  
doctoral programme  
" "

by completing her/his doctoral thesis (Dissertation)  
entitled  
" "

with grade " "

and thesis defence (Disputation) with grade " ", dated

Göttingen,

(Seal of the University)

Dean of the *Medizinische Fakultät*

**Appendix 3c: Sample Doctoral Diploma (M.D.-Ph.D.; grade: „summa cum laude“;  
German version)**

Die Medizinische Fakultät  
der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

und der Dekanin/dem Dekan  
der Medizinischen Fakultät  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad  
„Medical Doctor – Doctor of Philosophy“ (M.D. - Ph.D.)

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im Promotionsprogramm „ “

durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“  
bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Als Auszeichnung für hervorragende Leistungen wird das Gesamtprädikat  
„summa cum laude“ vergeben.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Die Dekanin/Der Dekan der Medizinischen Fakultät

**Appendix 3d: Sample Doctoral Diploma (M.D.-Ph.D.; grade: „summa cum laude“;  
English version)**

The *Medizinische Fakultät*  
of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

under the President of the University  
Professor

and the Dean  
of the *Medizinische Fakultät*  
Professor

awards

Ms./Mrs./Mr.

from

the degree  
Medical Doctor - Doctor of Philosophy (M.D. - Ph.D.)

She/He proved her/his scientific qualifications  
according to the regulations of the  
doctoral programme " "

by completing her/his doctoral thesis (Dissertation)  
entitled  
" "

with grade "summa cum laude"

and thesis defence (Disputation) with grade "summa cum laude", dated

In recognition of the excellent achievements of  
her/his doctoral studies she/he is awarded the overall grade  
"summa cum laude".

Göttingen,

(Seal of the University)

Dean of the *Medizinische Fakultät*

**Appendix 3e: Sample Doctoral Diploma (M.D.-Ph.D. for IMPRS candidates; German version)**

Die Medizinische Fakultät  
der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

und der Dekanin/dem Dekan  
der Medizinischen Fakultät  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad  
„Medical Doctor – Doctor of Philosophy“ (M.D. - Ph.D.)

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im Promotionsprogramm „ “

durch die mit dem Prädikat „ “ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „ “ bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Sie/Er hat die Promotion im Rahmen der International Max Planck Research School  
„IMPRS for “ durchgeführt.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Die Dekanin/Der Dekan der Medizinischen Fakultät

(Minerva Logo)

Sprecherin/Sprecher der IMPRS

**Appendix 3f: Sample Doctoral Diploma (M.D.-Ph.D. for IMPRS candidates; English version)**

The *Medizinische Fakultät*  
of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

under the President of the University  
Professor

and the Dean  
of the *Medizinische Fakultät*  
Professor

awards

Ms./Mrs./Mr.

from

the degree  
Medical Doctor - Doctor of Philosophy (M.D. - Ph.D.)

She/He proved her/his scientific qualifications  
according to the regulations of the  
doctoral programme  
" "

by completing her/his doctoral thesis (Dissertation)  
entitled  
" "

with grade " "

and thesis defence (Disputation) with grade " ", dated

She/He graduated from the International Max Planck Research School  
"IMPRS for "

Göttingen,

(Seal of the University)

Dean of the *Medizinische Fakultät*

(Minerva Logo)

Dean of the IMPRS

**Appendix 3g: Sample Doctoral Diploma (M.D.-Ph.D. for IMPRS candidates; grade:  
„summa cum laude“; German version)**

Die Medizinische Fakultät  
der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

unter der Präsidentin/dem Präsidenten  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

und der Dekanin/dem Dekan  
der Medizinischen Fakultät  
Professorin/Professor Dr.

verleiht

Frau/Herrn

aus

den Grad

„Medical Doctor – Doctor of Philosophy“ (M.D. - Ph.D.)

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Verfahren  
im Promotionsprogramm „ “

durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“ beurteilte Dissertation

(„Thema“)

sowie durch die mit dem Prädikat „summa cum laude“ bestandene Disputation vom  
ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

Als Auszeichnung für hervorragende Leistungen wird das Gesamtprädikat  
„summa cum laude“ vergeben.

Sie/Er hat die Promotion im Rahmen der International Max Planck Research School  
„IMPRS for “ durchgeführt.

Göttingen, den

(Siegel der Universität)

Die Dekanin/Der Dekan der Medizinischen Fakultät

(Minerva Logo)

Sprecherin/Sprecher der IMPRS

**Appendix 3h: Sample Doctoral Diploma (M.D.-Ph.D. for IMPRS candidates; grade: „summa cum laude“; English version)**

The *Medizinische Fakultät*  
of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

under the President of the University  
Professor

and the Dean  
of the *Medizinische Fakultät*  
Professor

awards

Ms./Mrs./Mr.

from

the degree  
Medical Doctor - Doctor of Philosophy (M.D. - Ph.D.)

She/He proved her/his scientific qualifications  
according to the regulations of the  
doctoral programme  
" "

by completing her/his doctoral thesis (Dissertation)  
entitled  
" "

with grade "summa cum laude"

and thesis defence (Disputation) with grade "summa cum laude", dated

In recognition of the excellent achievements of  
her/his doctoral studies she/he is awarded the overall grade  
"summa cum laude".

She/He graduated from the International Max Planck Research School  
"IMPRS for "

Göttingen,

(Seal of the University)

Dean of the *Medizinische Fakultät*

(Minerva Logo)

Dean of the IMPRS

## Appendix 4

### Revision Certificate

The dissertation manuscript of

.....

from.....

entitled: .....

has been submitted to me. I have no objection to the printing of this dissertation and certify this in accordance with Regulation 13, para. 4 of the doctoral degree regulations for the doctoral programs of the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences and Molecular Biosciences (GGNB) by my signature below.

Göttingen, date

## Appendix 5

### **A. Proof of Completion of Credit Requirements**

During the doctoral phase, the candidate must earn a total of 20 credits (C). The individual doctoral programs at the GGNB can stipulate the completion of additional credit requirements, thereby raising the minimum requirements to 30 C, but not beyond this. One credit is the equivalent of a workload of approx. 30 hours including the time needed for preparation and follow-up. Deviations are possible if a longer research stay in a laboratory abroad or an extended field trip abroad is planned. Credits can be earned through:

#### **(I) Participation in Special Lectures and Colloquia and Active Participation in Seminars (a minimum of 5 C to be completed in this category).**

Doctoral students are expected to regularly participate in special lectures, colloquia and/or seminars (e.g. departmental or institute seminars). For the attendance of seminars and colloquia amounting to one contact hour per week (*Semesterwochenstunde, SWS*), students are allocated 0.5 C per semester; proof of regular participation is to be submitted in the form of a course certificate signed by a supervisor. For active participation in a seminar, 2 C are allocated per semester; in addition to regular attendance, this entails the successful completion of a presentation and is to be certified by the course supervisor or the supervisor of the dissertation project. Each doctoral student must hold at least one presentation reporting on his/her research results in every two-semester period.

#### **(II) Participation in Method Courses (a minimum of 2 C to be completed in this category)**

Over the duration of their research project, doctoral students must participate in method courses offered by GGNB. One C is awarded for each method course lasting between 2 – 3 days.

#### **(III) Active Participation in Teaching (a minimum of 4 C to be completed in this category).**

In order to gain competence in teaching and mentoring, doctoral students are expected to complete teaching or mentoring activities under supervision, amounting to a minimum of 4 C. One C is awarded per weekly contact hour (*Semesterwochenstunde, SWS*) for the supervision of students in seminars or lab practicals. Two C are awarded for the supervision of lab rotations with a minimum duration of 6 weeks or for the supervision of a Bachelor thesis. Three C can be awarded for the supervision of a diploma or Master's thesis.

Certificates confirming teaching/mentoring activities are to be issued by one of the supervisors.

**(IV) Active Participation in Scientific Meetings (a minimum of 2 C to be completed in this category)**

Between 2 - 3 C (depending on the duration of the symposium) will be allocated per scientific meeting attended for successful participation in the form of a poster presentation or talk. Certificates confirming successful participation are to be issued by one of the supervisors.

**(V) Key Qualifications (a minimum of 1 C to be completed in this category).**

An appropriate number of credits, depending on the duration of the course, are to be awarded for successful participation in courses in the area of key skills offered by the university or the graduate school. If the student attends modules from the area of key skills, the credits cited for the module are binding. In all other cases, the responsible Program Committee will decide on the number of credits to be allocated.

**(VI) Progress Reports on the Research Project**

At the beginning of the project (at the latest 6 months after the commencement of work) and subsequently in intervals of no more than 12 months, the doctoral student is to provide the Thesis Committee with a written progress report and shortly afterwards organize a meeting to discuss the current stage of the project. This is to be certified by the supervisors. In addition, the doctoral student is to inform the Thesis Committee at such meetings of the courses which he/she has completed. The Thesis Committee advises the student with regard to the choice of courses and active participation in seminars and symposia. The meetings with the Thesis Committee are to be organized by the doctoral student.

**B. Recognition of Courses Completed Outside the University**

Certificates of courses completed at summer schools or other intensive programs outside of the University of Göttingen can be recognized upon request to the Program Committee of the responsible doctoral program.

**C Exemption Policy**

If a doctoral student is not able to earn the credits required under A for reasons beyond their control, or if the earning of these credits would entail disproportionate inconvenience or hardship for the student, the responsible Program Committee may, upon request, decide to waive the requirement for individual courses for admission to the doctoral examination.

## **D Continuous Enrolment**

Students must be enrolled for the full duration of their participation in the doctoral program.

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## **Appendix 6**

### **Doctoral Programs of the Göttingen Graduate School for Neuroscience and Molecular Biology (GGNB):**

- International MSc/PhD Program “Molecular Biology”
- International MSc/PhD Program “Neurosciences”
- Biomolecules: Structure – Function – Dynamics
- Molecular Biology of Microbial, Animal and Plant Cells
- Molecular Biology of Development and Interaction between Organisms
- Physics of Biological and Complex Systems
- Molecular Physiology of the Brain
- Systems Neuroscience
- Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience
- Sensory and Motor Neuroscience