

General Doctoral Regulations (PO/AT)

As amended for the 9th time in the version dated 15 November 2023

In accordance with Section 7(4) no. 5 of the *Gesetz zur organisatorischen Fortentwicklung der Technischen Universität Darmstadt – Act on the ongoing organisational development and advancement of Technical University of Darmstadt (TU Darmstadt Act)*, dated 5 December 2004 (GVBl. I, p. 382), last amended by Article 6 of the Act, dated 01 April 2022 (GVBl. pp. 184, 204), the new version of the *Allgemeinen Bestimmungen der Promotionsordnung* (PO/AT – General Doctoral Regulations) of Technical University of Darmstadt was adopted by the Senate of Technical University of Darmstadt with the 9th amendment on 15 November 2023 and approved by a resolution of the Executive Board on 15 February 2024.

The new version of the PO/AT will be published in the *Satzungsbeilage* (appendix to the statutes) of Technical University of Darmstadt.

Darmstadt, 15 February 2024

The President of
Technical University of Darmstadt

signed by
Prof. Dr. Tanja Brühl

Disclaimer

Die englische Übersetzung dient nur zu Informationszwecken. Rechtlich verbindlich ist der deutsche Text.
The English translation is for information purposes only. The legally binding document is the German version.

Section 1 The doctorate

Right of the departments to award doctorates

- (1) According to the General Doctoral Regulations (PO/AT) and the Specific Doctoral Regulations of the departments supplementing the PO/AT, the departments of Technical University of Darmstadt are entitled to award the following academic degrees:
 - Doktor-Ingenieur (Dr.-Ing. – Doctor of Engineering) or Doktor-Ingenieurin ((Dr.-Ing. – Doctor of Engineering);
 - Doctor rerum naturalium (Dr. rer. nat.);
 - Doctor rerum politicarum (Dr. rer. pol.);
 - Doctor philosophiae (Dr. phil.);
 - Doctor iuris (Dr. iur.).
- (2) A doctorate is an academic qualification recognising its holder's notable academic contribution to and competencies in a highly specialised field. As a general rule, a university degree that qualifies students for a profession is required as a prerequisite.
- (3) To encourage cross-disciplinary research, interdisciplinary doctorates in more than one department are possible. In such cases, the department to which the applicant submits the formal application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate (Section 7) is considered to be the lead department. The doctoral board of the lead department can be expanded if the specialist expertise of members from another doctoral board in a department is required to assess the dissertation (doctoral thesis) during the subsequent doctoral examination procedure. The lead department will award the doctorate. The membership of the examination board must reflect the interdisciplinary character of the dissertation by selecting the examiners (*Referierende*) accordingly.
- (4) A simultaneous doctorate at TU Darmstadt and another German or foreign university (double or multiple doctorate – *Doppel- or Mehrfachpromotion*) is possible. Further details for such doctorates are governed in a cooperation agreement between the participating universities, which must include, in particular, regulations for the examiners (*Referierende*), location and completion of the oral examination, the design of the degree certificate and details about publication.
- (5) A joint doctoral examination procedure with a university for applied sciences or an equivalent institution of higher education (cooperative doctorate) is possible. The Specific Doctoral Regulations of the departments can include field-specific regulations in this area. The bodies (*Gremien*) responsible in this case are the committees, boards etc. of the department to whom the formal application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate is submitted. If the *Hessisches Hochschulgesetz* (HessHG – Hessian Higher Education Act), these General Doctoral Regulations or the Specific Doctoral Regulations do not include any regulations to this end, the specific details of joint supervision and participation of the partner institution of higher education and the department responsible must be regulated in a cooperation agreement between the institutions of higher education involved.

Section 2 Responsibility

- (1) The doctoral board and the examination board of the department in question are responsible for making decisions on the doctoral examination procedure unless stated otherwise in these General Doctoral Regulations.
- (2) The Specific Doctoral Regulations of each department provide field-specific supplementary regulations to the General Doctoral Regulations (PO/AT) that they must not contradict.
- (3) With the consent of the Executive Board of Technical University of Darmstadt, one or more departments are permitted to establish graduate schools as interdisciplinary academic institutions of TU Darmstadt. This also applies to research-promoting structures at TU Darmstadt such as fields of research (*Forschungsfelder*). In these cases, graduate schools are linked to the respective structure

(i.e., the field of research). Persons who will obtain their doctorate at a graduate school can be registered as doctoral students in the associated department. In the event that a graduate school comprises several departments, the respective department is determined according to the primary professorship of the professor who has been assigned the role of doctoral student supervisor.

- (4) Within the framework of these General Doctoral Regulations (PO/AT) and the Specific Doctoral Regulations of the departments, graduate schools can issue their own specific regulations for the course of the doctorate and the nature of the relationship between supervisor and doctoral candidate. The organisational structure of the graduate schools can be formally defined and regulated in consultation with the departments involved.

Section 3 Doctoral board

- (1) Members of the doctoral board are:
 - a) The departmental chairpersons or their alternates as chairperson of the board;
 - b) At least three full-time professors;
 - c) At least one research associate with a doctorate (alternatively, a research associate without a doctorate with an advisory vote);
 - d) A student member with an advisory vote;
 - e) A person with an advisory vote that is accepted as doctoral candidate at the department.
- (2) The members of the doctoral board in accordance with Paragraph 1(b), (c) and (e) are appointed by the departmental council for a period of three years. The member in accordance with Paragraph 1(d) is appointed for a period of one year. The terms of office must overlap to ensure continuity.
- (3) The doctoral board is responsible for all procedural matters. In particular, the doctoral board is responsible for: accepting doctoral candidates; approving the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure; establishing the examination board; and for appointing its chairperson, the supervisors and the examiners (*Referierende*).
- (4) The doctoral board can delegate the power of approval to the chairperson of the doctoral board if subsequent changes to the composition of the examination board in general or in particular become necessary.
- (5) The doctoral board decides on the recognition of certificates (*Zeugnisse*) if the subject area of the dissertation is not identical to the subject area(s) of the completed course of studies (*Studium*). It also decides on foreign certificates, if necessary, with the assistance of the directorate responsible within the University Administration. An officially certified translation of the foreign certificate must be submitted. The assessment statements issued by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the *Länder* in the Federal Republic of Germany provide authoritative guidance when deciding on the recognition of foreign certificates (*Zeugnisse*).

Section 4 Examination board

- (1) The examination board consists of at least four persons as indicated below:
 - a) The chairperson who is a member of the group of full-time professors and must be assigned to the department leading the doctoral examination. Chairpersons must not be examiners (*Referierende*) or supervisors (*Betreuungsperson*) at the same time. If the chairperson is unavailable, a member of the examination board who is also a member of the group of full-time professors will assume this function;
 - b) The examiners (*Referierende*), such as first examiner and co-examiners of the dissertation in accordance with Section 11; and
 - c) At least one more person who is a full-time professor at the department or who could be appointed as examiner (*Referierende:r*) in accordance with Section 11.

The doctoral board must ensure that the majority of members on the examination board are from the group of full-time professors at Technical University of Darmstadt. The Specific Doctoral

Regulations of the department can make this majority compulsory. At least one member of the examination board must hold the doctorate being awarded or represent an equivalent academic field.

- (2) The examination board has a quorum provided that at least three of its members are present on site or electronically connected. The Specific Doctoral Regulations can specify a minimum number of people in the examination board that is higher than stated in Paragraph 1 sentence 1.
- (3) The examination board decides on the acceptance, revision or rejection of dissertations, conducts the dissertation defence (*Disputation*) and assesses the doctoral performance. The examination board decides if the dissertation defence (*Disputation*) needs to be repeated, and specifies the conditions for publishing the dissertation. These conditions must be recorded in writing (*Protokoll*).

Section 5 Objections to decisions made during the doctoral examination procedure

- (1) Every rejection or other decision by the doctoral board and/or the examination board that affects the legal position of the requesting party must be justified and accompanied by instructions regarding the remedies available to the requesting party.
- (2) If an objection against a decision made by the doctoral board and/or examination board is submitted and the body (*Gremium*) concerned does not wish to redress the decision based on the objection, the departmental chairperson will present the objection together with the vote of the body (*Gremium*) to the President for a decision in accordance with Paragraph 4.
- (3) The departmental chairperson reports at least once a year to the departmental council in a closed meeting session about ongoing and concluded objection proceedings.
- (4) The President issues the ruling on the objection.

Section 6 Joint doctoral board for multiple departments

- (1) The Specific Doctoral Regulations of related departments can permit the formation of joint doctoral boards if the Specific Doctoral Regulations are the same in both departments.
- (2) In case of a joint doctoral board, the regulations in Section 3 apply accordingly with the proviso that:
 - a) The chairperson of the joint doctoral board rotates between the chairpersons of the participating departments or their alternates during their terms of office. Other regulations can also be stipulated.
 - b) The permanent members of the doctoral board are appointed by the department councils of the departments involved. The number of members and the procedure for appointing them must be collectively determined in the Specific Doctoral Regulations.
- (3) All other decisions within the responsibility of the department councils in accordance with these General Doctoral Regulations will be made by the departmental council of the department to which the applicant intends to send the formal application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate.

Section 7 Acceptance of the applicant as a doctoral candidate

- (1) The doctoral relationship begins with the acceptance of the applicant as a doctoral candidate. The topic for the dissertation must be taken from fields of study (*Fachgebiete*) that are sufficiently represented in research and teaching at TU Darmstadt. When applying for acceptance as a doctoral candidate, the applicant must propose a supervisor. A written statement from the proposed supervisor must be included. The proposed supervisor has the right to decline to supervise the applicant. Immediately after receiving confirmation of supervision from the supervisor, the formal application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate must be submitted to the chairperson of the department responsible.

- (2) In addition, the formal application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate must contain the following information:
 - a) Proof of a university degree that entitles the applicant to complete the doctorate in accordance with these General Doctoral Regulations;
 - b) The proposal of a supervisor in accordance with Section 10(1). If a supervisor is proposed in accordance with Section 11(2) letter e), an additional positive vote by a member of the group of professors in the department must be presented;
 - c) Other information as published on the department's website that will be necessary for the doctoral board to make a decision;
 - d) Information required for university statistical purposes;
 - e) Regardless of their responsibilities in accordance with the *Einschreibeordnung* (ESO – Enrolment Regulations) of TU Darmstadt, all doctoral candidates must provide a personal email address with which they can be contacted up until they completed their doctorate.
- (3) The Specific Doctoral Regulations of the department determine the specialist focus of the academic degrees that qualify the applicants to embark on their doctorate. The Specific Doctoral Regulations can specify a minimum grade for the academic degree to be submitted and can also demand additional proof that must be met to fulfil the requirements for the doctorate.
- (4) The information required for university statistical purposes, how it is collected and the form in which it is transmitted are defined by the Executive Board of TU Darmstadt.
- (5) The prerequisites for acceptance as a doctoral candidate are either:
 - a) A Master's degree from TU Darmstadt that qualifies the applicant to complete a dissertation in the intended subject area or an equivalent degree in a Master's degree programme at a university or other institution of higher education that comprises a total of 300 credit points (CPs) in accordance with the ECTS system. According to the Specific Doctoral Regulations of the department, university studies completed with a state examination are deemed equivalent. The degree is considered to be equivalent if there is no significant difference to the degree awarded at Technical University of Darmstadt. The doctoral board decides whether this is the case during the acceptance process;
 - b) A Master's degree in Teacher Education for Vocational Schools (Master of Education), which comprises at least 120 credit points (CPs) in accordance with the ECTS system, if the Specific Doctoral Regulations of the department provide for an acceptance;
 - c) A degree included in the Specific Doctoral Regulations of the department if—by way of its special nature and following a positively concluded aptitude assessment procedure—it can be guaranteed that the applicant has an equivalent qualification to a Master's degree for initiating the doctoral examination procedure;
 - d) A degree from a foreign university for an equivalent degree programme in accordance with letter a) or b) that qualifies the applicant for a doctorate in the country where the academic degree was awarded and which is recognised by the doctoral board of the relevant department;
 - e) Applicants can be accepted as doctoral candidates if they meet the requirements in accordance with Paragraph 5. This also applies if they have completed a degree in accordance with Paragraph 5(a) in a different subject area than the subjects named in the Specific Doctoral Regulations of the lead department for the doctorate in accordance with Paragraph 3. In this case, the applicants can be accepted as doctoral candidates if this is in the interests of interdisciplinary research and provided that they also possess the required specialist knowledge in the intended area for the dissertation.
- (6) The doctoral board is responsible for deciding on whether to accept an applicant as a doctoral candidate. If an admissions assessment procedure in accordance with Section 7a is required, the doctoral board decides on the required documentation for guaranteeing equivalence in accordance with Paragraph 5(a), especially regarding proof of successful participation in courses. Reasons must be given if the application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate has been rejected. Incomplete applications and those that do not meet the formal requirements will be rejected. The application must also be rejected if it cannot be guaranteed that a qualified person in accordance with Section 10(1) is available to provide sufficiently competent supervision of the dissertation, or if the required resources are not available. Applicants are not entitled to an aptitude assessment procedure or to acceptance as a doctoral candidate. By accepting the doctoral candidate, the doctoral board guarantees the subsequent assessment of the work.

Section 7a Aptitude assessment procedure

- (1) If the requirements according to Section 7(5) have not been determined or there is some doubt with regards to the specialist focus of a degree, an aptitude assessment procedure is carried out in accordance with the Specific Doctoral Regulations defined by the relevant department.
- (2) The aptitude assessment procedure is used to determine whether an applicant possesses the required abilities to do independent academic research while pursuing a doctorate. The aptitude assessment procedure can involve examinations to be taken and certain courses to be attended as a condition of acceptance. Acceptance subject to conditions entitles the person in question to enrol as a doctoral candidate. As a rule, the length of the aptitude assessment procedure must not exceed two semesters. The aptitude assessment procedure ends with an assessment of “suitable” or “not suitable”. If the conditions have not been fulfilled, acceptance as a doctoral candidate is withdrawn by way of a written notification from the chairperson of the doctoral board.
- (3) The departments can regulate the design, the procedure as such and other details of the aptitude assessment procedure in their Specific Doctoral Regulations. If no regulations to the contrary have been defined, the latest version of the APB (*Allgemeine Prüfungsbestimmungen* – General Examination Regulations) of Technical University of Darmstadt from 19 April 2004 (State Gazette no. 25 from 21 June 2004, p. 1998) are valid.

Section 8 Initiating the doctoral examination procedure and approval

- (1) The doctoral examination procedure is initiated by a written application submitted by the doctoral candidate to the chairperson of the department responsible. The following must be enclosed with the application to initiate the doctoral examination procedure:
 - a) A curriculum vitae (CV, résumé) and overview of the applicant's education;
 - b) An electronic copy of the dissertation in text form;
 - c) At the request of the examiners (*Referierende*), an additional printed copy each must be submitted to their attention. The Specific Doctoral Regulations can call for another identical copy in printed form for use in the doctoral examination procedure;
 - d) A statement in which the applicant indicates if there has been a previous attempt to obtain a doctorate. If this is the case, additional information must be provided on the date, university, dissertation topic and result of the attempt.

The documents to be presented in accordance with Paragraph 1 will be added to the examination file (*Prüfungsakte*) of the department.

- (2) The doctoral board decides on whether to approve the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure.
- (3) Approval to initiate the doctoral examination procedure will be denied if the required documentary proof in accordance with Paragraph 1 has either not been provided or not been fully provided. It can also be denied if the applicant already attempted to gain a doctorate and the reasons for failing would have led to a withdrawal of the doctorate.
- (4) Applicants who are not members of Technical University of Darmstadt but meet the conditions in Section 7 (except for the confirmation of supervision) can directly apply to initiate the doctoral examination procedure as an unsupervised doctoral candidate. This application must be rejected if the topic of the dissertation is not sufficiently represented by research and teaching in the department, or if it can neither be verified if research studies have been properly designed or implemented nor be verified if the research project has been carried out correctly.
- (5) The applicant must present a receipt that documents payment of the doctoral fee of Euro 100. The fee will be reimbursed if the dissertation is honoured with an academic prize. Upon request, the chairperson of the doctoral board can defer payment of the fee for needy applicants whose abilities promise an exceptional doctoral performance until after the assessment of their work, at which point the fee can also be reduced or waived. A refund of an already paid fee is only permitted in exceptional cases if the application for the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure has been properly withdrawn.
- (6) The applicants are permitted to withdraw their application to initiate the doctoral examination procedure after they have provided specific reasons that have been accepted by the doctoral board.

However, a withdrawal is no longer permitted if the doctoral examination procedure has already been stopped because the dissertation was rejected, or if the oral examination has already begun. In all cases, a copy of the submitted dissertation is retained in the doctoral files.

Section 9 The dissertation

- (1) The contents of the dissertation must focus on one of the fields of study (*Fachgebiete*) covered by the department. In addition, the dissertation must contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge as a piece of independent research that satisfies accepted scientific standards. The dissertation to be submitted must be written in German or English. Other languages are possible if approved by the doctoral board in advance. If a language other than German or English is intended, it is best to submit such a request, if possible, when applying to be accepted as a doctoral candidate, i.e., when the doctoral board decides whether to accept the applicant as a doctoral candidate. The right to submit this request at a later date remains unaffected. The dissertation must be accompanied by a list of all sources and aids used, and by a declaration stating that the work was written independently—apart from the aids expressly mentioned in the dissertation, and that the “*Grundsätze zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis an der Technischen Universität Darmstadt – Principles for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice at Technical University of Darmstadt*” and the “*Leitlinien zum Umgang mit digitalen Forschungsdaten an der TU Darmstadt – Guidelines on Digital Research Data at TU Darmstadt*” in their current versions were observed when writing the dissertation.
- (2) Work that has already been used for examination purposes will not be accepted as a dissertation. However, the results of such examination work can be used for the dissertation, whereby the work in question must be referenced in the list of sources.
- (3) If a research project has been completed jointly by several doctoral candidates, a separate doctoral examination procedure must be carried out for each candidate.
- (4) It is possible to submit a cumulative dissertation comprising multiple different publications if this is permitted in the Specific Doctoral Regulations of the department. However, the doctoral candidate has no legal right to submit this form of dissertation. The cumulative dissertation must be preceded by a detailed synopsis that presents the scientific framework and classifies the individual publications within the overall context. The Specific Doctoral Regulations will govern the specific design of the cumulative dissertation and cover, in particular:
 - The design of the synopsis for the respective parts of the dissertation;
 - The minimum number of publications that need to be included and the requirements for the publication status (usually, a letter of acceptance from the publisher);
 - As well as the possibility of co-authorship.

The respective parts of the cumulative dissertation must be published in peer-reviewed academic publications. The Specific Doctoral Regulations can stipulate that articles or preprints that are being submitted, reviewed or edited can also be accepted as publications as part of a cumulative dissertation.

- (5) If the publications submitted in the cumulative dissertation were not solely authored by the doctoral candidate, a declaration signed by the doctoral candidate, all co-authors and by the academic supervisor (usually the examiner (*Referierende:r*)) must be included that allows the independent work of the doctoral candidate to be assessed based on comprehensible criteria, enabling a clear distinction between each author’s contribution to the publications. The contribution made by the doctoral candidate to each publication must be explicitly stated. The regulations for initiating the doctoral examination procedure and the dissertation must be fulfilled by all individual parts of the cumulative dissertation.

Section 10 Supervision of the dissertation

- (1) A member of the group of professors usually supervises the preparation and writing of dissertations. In special cases, dissertations can be supervised by one of the persons listed in Section 11(2) letters b) to e). The Specific Doctoral Regulations of the departments can also define other regulations regarding supervision.

- (2) The relationship between supervisor and doctoral candidate requires prior acceptance in accordance with Section 7. The nature of this relationship as well as the rights and obligations of the supervisor and the doctoral candidate can be set out in a written supervision agreement by mutual consent between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate. The supervision agreement must comply with the principles of good scientific practice and must create binding framework conditions for the supervision. The Specific Doctoral Regulations can include regulations on the nature of the relationship between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate.
- (3) Depending on who initiates the change in supervisor, interruption or termination of the supervisor-doctoral candidate relationship, either the doctoral candidate, the supervisor or both must inform the doctoral board in writing about the reasons for such a change, interruption or termination before the doctoral examination procedure is initiated. The relationship between supervisor and doctoral candidate can be terminated by the supervisor or the doctoral candidate with six-week notice. However, reasons for terminating the relationship must be provided. The supervisor-doctoral candidate relationship can be terminated by mutual agreement at any time. If the relationship between supervisor and doctoral candidate has been terminated or needs to be terminated for reasons outside of the doctoral candidate's control, the doctoral board must use all of the resources available to it to find another qualified person in accordance with Paragraph 1 to continue the supervision. In the event of conflicts in this matter, all parties must be given the opportunity to make a statement in advance.
- (4) If another member of the group of professors assumes supervision, a new application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate in accordance with Section 7 of these Doctoral Regulations is not required.
- (5) In general, there must not be more than five years between acceptance as a doctoral candidate and the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure. After five years, the doctoral examination procedure must be initiated by submitting the dissertation. Alternatively, a report on the status of the dissertation must be presented to the doctoral board along with an application for an extension if this deadline cannot be met. This application for an extension must indicate how the dissertation will be successfully concluded within an appropriate deadline, which generally must not exceed a period of two years. The doctoral relationship will end if no application for an extension in the sense of sentence 1 has been submitted after the 5-year deadline has expired and the doctoral examination procedure has not yet been initiated.
 - (5a) In case of Paragraph 5 sentence 4, the doctoral board will withdraw the acceptance as a doctoral candidate.
 - (5b) After examining the report and the status of the doctoral dissertation, the deadline will be extended in accordance with sentence 1 if it can be expected that the doctoral examination procedure will be initiated within the extended deadline stated in the application. If this cannot be expected, the doctoral board will withdraw the acceptance as a doctoral candidate. A withdrawal of acceptance as a doctoral candidate will be excluded if the doctoral candidate can prove not to have been responsible for the delay. In this case, the deadline is to be extended appropriately in accordance with sentence 1. Reasons for extending the deadline include, in particular, parental leave in accordance with Section 15 BEEG (*Bundeseltern-geld- und Elternzeitgesetz* – Parental Allowances and Parental Leave Act), periods of voluntary service of up to two years in accordance with the BFDG (*Bundesfreiwilligendienstgesetz* – Act on the Federal Voluntary Service), and illnesses of considerable duration documented by a medical certificate.
 - (5c) The doctoral candidate must be informed and allowed the opportunity to comment by email before an acceptance as doctoral candidate is withdrawn. The doctoral board will issue the withdrawal of acceptance as a doctoral candidate in writing or electronically. If it is not possible to deliver the notification to the doctoral candidate, the withdrawal of acceptance will be made public by posting it on the notice board in the departmental office. By notifying the doctoral candidate of the doctoral board's withdrawal of acceptance, the University asserts its legal right to deregister (*Exmatrikulation*) the doctoral candidate in case of prior registration (*Immatrikulation*). If a withdrawal of acceptance has been issued in accordance with this Paragraph, the doctorate is not considered to have been failed in accordance with Section 23(1). Section 23(3) applies accordingly.

- (6) The completion of a dissertation without supervision is not excluded according to the regulations mentioned above. Section 7 and Section 8 apply accordingly. The confirmation of supervision is replaced by a confirmation of assessment.
- (7) The supervisor can apply to the department or the supervisor's contact on the doctoral board for the immediate termination of the relationship between supervisor and doctoral candidate if one or more of the following applies:
- The mutual trust between the supervisor and the doctoral candidate has been permanently damaged;
 - A serious violation of the *Grundordnung* – Constitution of Technical University of Darmstadt, the *Grundsätze zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis* – Principles for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice at Technical University of Darmstadt, the *Leitlinien zum Umgang mit digitalen Forschungsdaten* – Guidelines on Digital Research Data at TU Darmstadt or of the safety regulations; or
 - A behaviour that would justify termination without notice in case of a regular employment contract has occurred.
- Before terminating the relationship between supervisor and doctoral candidate, the doctoral candidate will be given the opportunity to make a statement to the doctoral board. A decision on terminating the relationship between supervisor and doctoral candidate will be made by the doctoral board after examining the statement submitted by the doctoral candidate.
- (8) By terminating the relationship between supervisor and doctoral candidate, the acceptance as a doctoral candidate will also be withdrawn unless Section 10(3) sentence 4 applies.

Section 11 Appointment of examiners (*Referierende*)

- (1) After approving the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure, the doctoral board assigns the first examiner (*Referierende:r*) and at least one co-examiner (*Co-Referierende:r*) for the dissertation.
- (2) Examiners (*Referierende*) can be:
- a) Full-time professors of TU Darmstadt;
 - b) Full-time professors of other universities;
 - c) Joint professors, adjunct professors, privatdocents (outside lecturers), retired professors made emeritus/emmerita professor, part-time professors, honorary professors and visiting professors of TU Darmstadt;
 - d) Professors of TU Darmstadt in accordance with Section 70(1) HessHG (*Hessisches Hochschulgesetz* – Hessian Higher Education Act) and Section 70(5) HessHG;
 - e) Early-career researchers of TU Darmstadt registered in the Emmy Noether (DFG) programme and the Athene Young Investigator (TU Darmstadt) programme as well as other programmes aiming for a professorial qualification and in which the participants of the programme have been selected in a quality assured, competitive procedure with independent external assessors;
 - f) Persons in accordance with a) and c) to e) up to three years after leaving service at TU Darmstadt.
- (3) In addition, the following persons can be appointed as examiners (*Referierende*):
- a) Retired professors made emeritus/emmerita professor, part-time professors, honorary professors, adjunct professors, visiting professors and privatdocents (outside lecturers) of other universities;
 - b) Early-career researchers in accordance with Paragraph 2(e) of other universities;
 - c) Members of the group of professors at a university for applied sciences or an equivalent institution of higher education;
 - d) Leading scientists/researchers of a recognised research institution.
- (4) The Specific Doctoral Regulations of the departments can specify a minimum number of examiners (*Referierende*) from the group of full-time professors of the department. The Specific Doctoral Regulations can also specify that reasons must be given for appointing examiners (*Referierende*) in accordance with Paragraph 3.
- (5) The applicant (doctoral candidate/student) can propose examiners (*Referierende*).
- (6) In case of a double or multiple doctorate (*Doppel- or Mehrfachpromotion*) in accordance with Section 1(4), partner universities can specify additional first or co-examiners (*Referierende*) as specified in the cooperation agreement.

Section 12 Examiner report

- (1) Each examiner (*Referierende:r*) produces a reasoned report on the dissertation that is submitted to the departmental chairperson. The examiner reports contain a recommendation for the acceptance or rejection of the work or, in exceptional cases, the return of the dissertation for revisions or additions possibly subject to conditions. In addition to a recommendation for the acceptance of the dissertation, the examiners (*Referierende*) assess the dissertation using one of the following grades: “*ausgezeichnet* (Excellent)”, “*sehr gut* (Very Good)”, “*gut* (Good)” or “*genügend* (Satisfactory)”.
- (2) If the examiner report has not been submitted within eight weeks of the appointment of the examiner (*Referierende:r*), the chairperson of the doctoral board must seek further clarification. If the examiner report has still not been submitted after another eight weeks, the doctoral board must appoint a new examiner (*Referierende:r*) and, where necessary, set the date for the dissertation defence (*Disputation*). Sentence 2 is not applied if a dissertation defence (*Disputation*) date has been set at the beginning of the doctoral examination procedure to take place no later than the next semester, and the examiner reports have been received up to eight weeks before this date.
- (3) The departmental chairperson forwards the reports of the examiners (*Referierende*) to the members of the doctoral board and the examination board and makes the dissertation and the examiner reports available for viewing. All professors in the lead department for the doctorate, all members of the departmental council and, in justified cases, professors from other departments have a right to view these documents. They are made available for viewing for a period of two weeks (*Auslagefrist*). This deadline can be extended by a maximum of two additional weeks if requested by a member of the doctoral board. The documents can be forwarded, displayed and viewed using secured electronic means.
- (4) Professors in the lead department for the doctorate have the right to announce that they will submit a special examiner report in writing within the viewing deadline (*Auslagefrist*). This examiner report must be presented within two weeks.

Section 13 Decision on the acceptance of the dissertation

- (1) After the viewing deadline (*Auslagefrist*), the examination board decides on whether to accept or reject the dissertation based on the recommendations from the examiners (*Referierende*) and with due consideration of any special examiner reports submitted. In order to make a final decision, additional examiners can be appointed or other examiner reports can be requested in case of conflicting recommendations from the examiners (*Referierende*) and other cases of doubt. The doctoral candidate can also submit a statement in these cases. However, the final decision is made by the doctoral board based on a recommendation from the examination board.
- (2) The departmental chairperson must set the date of the oral examination at the latest when accepting the dissertation.
- (3) Only in exceptional cases, the examination board will decide to return the dissertation to the applicant for revisions or additions within a specified deadline. The applicant will be notified in writing about the revisions and/or additions, as well as the specified deadline. This deadline must not exceed one year. The deadline can be extended for special reasons. If the applicant submits the dissertation again within the deadline, it will be assessed again and a decision will be made in accordance with the regulations described above. If the applicant does not meet the deadline, the dissertation will be deemed rejected.

Section 14 Dissertation defence (*Disputation*)

- (1) An oral examination is held by the examination board for every applicant individually in the form of a dissertation defence (*Disputation*).
- (2) The main points, the result and the course of the examination are recorded in writing (*Protokoll*).

Section 15 Invitation to the dissertation defence (*Disputation*)

- (1) The departmental chairperson invites the University public to the dissertation defence (*Disputation*). The President and the chairpersons of the departments of Technical University of Darmstadt as well as all members of the doctoral board, the members of the departmental council and all professors of the department are entitled to attend the dissertation defence (*Disputation*). However, the number of attendees on site can be limited depending on the available space.
- (2) In case of a double or multiple doctorate (*Doppel- or Mehrfachpromotion*) in the sense of Section 1(4) or a cooperative doctorate in the sense of Section 1(5), the cooperation agreements can specify the persons from the cooperation partner who are to be invited.

Section 16 Course of the dissertation defence (*Disputation*)

- (1) On the date of the examination, the applicant holds a public presentation on their dissertation or a topic selected by the applicant from the subject matter covered by the dissertation. The length of the presentation must not exceed 30 minutes.
- (2) The dissertation defence (*Disputation*) involves publicly defending the dissertation in front of the examination board. The dissertation defence (*Disputation*) is based on the content of the dissertation and takes into account the examiner reports. In addition, it focuses on selected problems in the field of research and related topics in other fields, as well as on the current state of research. The members of the examination board are expected to actively engage in the discussion with the applicant. In addition, all professors from the department have the right to ask questions. The dissertation defence (*Disputation*) generally takes one hour.
- (3) The public presentation and the dissertation defence (*Disputation*) can be held in German or English as determined by the examination board. If a dissertation has been submitted in a different language, the dissertation defence (*Disputation*) can also be held in this language, provided that there is unanimous consent of the doctoral board. In all cases, the dissertation defence (*Disputation*) must be recorded in writing (*Protokoll*) in German as well (Section 14(2)).
- (4) In case of a double or multiple doctorate (*Doppel- or Mehrfachpromotion*) in the sense of Section 1(4), the cooperation agreement can specify that the presentation must be supplemented by a foreign language section. In this case, the length of the entire presentation must not exceed 45 minutes.
- (5) If members of the examination board are unable to attend in person, it is permissible for them to participate in the dissertation defence (*Disputation*) by electronic video and audio transmission (video conferencing), provided that all members of the examination board and the doctoral candidate agree to it. This also applies to determining the overall assessment in accordance with Section 17. The identity of the persons participating electronically must be verified and documented in writing (*Protokoll*). If an electronic participation is not possible from the start or becomes impossible during the course of the dissertation defence (*Disputation*), only the votes of those members of the examination board who are physically present will be counted. If, because of this, the examination board lacks a quorum in accordance with Section 4(2), the dissertation defence (*Disputation*) must be retaken. Section 4 of the statutes for the implementation of electronic examinations (*E-Prüfungssatzung*) of TU Darmstadt, dated 14 December 2022 (*Satzungsbeilage* (appendix to the statutes) 2023-I p. 8 ff), applies accordingly.

Section 17 Overall assessment

- (1) Directly following the oral examination, the examination board holds a private (closed) meeting to decide on the result of the oral examination. If the result is positive, the examination board determines the overall assessment for the doctorate on the basis of the examiner reports and the performance in the oral examination. The departments must ensure that all professors in the department can participate in this meeting.
- (2) The following grading scheme is to be used: “*mit Auszeichnung bestanden* (Excellent)”, “*sehr gut bestanden* (Very Good)”, “*gut bestanden* (Good)”, “*bestanden* (Passed)”, “*nicht bestanden* (Failed)”.

- (3) Based on the reports of the examiners (*Referierende*), the examination board determines in writing if and what kind of conditions there will be for publishing the dissertation. The conditions for publication must be recorded in writing (*Protokoll*) for the oral examination.
- (4) Following the conclusion of the meeting, the chairperson notifies the applicant about the overall assessment and, where necessary, any conditions. The chairperson also points out that the applicant has the right to use the doctoral title only after the doctorate has been awarded. The doctoral examination procedure is thus concluded. Doctoral students will be deregistered at the end of the semester in which they have been notified about their overall assessment.

Section 18 Examination files (*Prüfungsakten*) and doctoral statistics

- (1) The examination files are confidential and are kept in the department. During the doctoral examination procedure, only the members of the examination board and the members of the doctoral board are allowed access to these files.
- (2) Following the completion of the doctoral examination procedure, but no longer than one year after the doctorate has been awarded, the doctoral candidate is permitted to view the examination file, the examiner reports and the record (*Protokoll*) of the oral examination upon request.
- (3) To analyse the doctoral process at TU Darmstadt statistically, data collected during the doctoral examination procedure are made anonymous or pseudo-anonymous and processed (cp. Section 7(4)):
 - a) Date at which applicant was accepted as doctoral candidate;
 - b) Department responsible for the doctoral candidate;
 - c) The structured doctoral programme, a doctoral candidate is assigned to;
 - d) Date at which the doctoral examination procedure ended;
 - e) Age of the doctoral candidate based on 5-year age-group clusters when completing the doctorate;
 - f) Type of doctorate (cumulative doctorate, cooperative doctorate, double or multiple doctorate (*Doppel- or Mehrfachpromotion*)).

The Executive Board can specify that other data collected during the doctoral examination procedure are made anonymous or pseudo-anonymous and analysed for statistical purposes, and that data about the doctoral examination procedure are processed in a current research information system.

Section 19 Publication of the dissertation

- (1) After passing the examination, the doctoral candidate must upload the dissertation to the university publication server of the ULB, taking into account any conditions stipulated by the examination board (Section 17(3)). If the doctoral candidate does not refer to using a publishing house in accordance with Paragraph 5 or 6, or to applying for an extension of the deposit deadline or for an embargo (blocking period) in accordance with Section 20(2) or (3), the dissertation is published immediately when uploading it to the university publication server of the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB). The dissertation must be published within one year after passing the examination. Conditions stipulated by the examination board (Section 17(3)) must be taken into account. The dissertation must be published in full. The first examiner (*Referierende:r*) must check the version to be published for compliance with any possible conditions and must approve its publication. Appendices that are not in text form can only be published in electronic form using file formats as agreed with the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB). The first examiner (*Referierende:r*) decides which appendices will be published. The first examiner (*Referierende:r*) and the doctoral candidate decide together which research data connected to the dissertation are to be archived and which ones are to be published. In case of disagreement, the doctoral board will decide.
- (2) The publication of the electronic version must be identified as a dissertation from Technical University of Darmstadt with a corresponding title sheet. When submitting the dissertation, a declaration must be included to be added to the doctoral file of the department. This declaration grants the University the following rights to the version of the dissertation approved for publication once the doctoral examination procedure has come to a conclusion:

- a) The perpetual and irrevocable right to distribute and save the dissertation electronically on the University's servers, as well as the right to make the dissertation accessible on international data networks;
- b) The right to pass on the dissertation to the German National Library and library services operated by partners, who also have the right to permanently save it;
- c) The right to produce individual full copies of the dissertation using a print-on-demand service for users in accordance with Section 53 UrhG (*Urheberrechtsgesetz* – Act on Copyright and Related Rights);
- d) The right to migrate the dissertation into other formats if this is necessary for using or archiving it;
- e) The right to freely pass on metadata about the dissertation to databases or directories.

If the dissertation is published by a publishing house, this right is subject to the resolutive condition that proof of publication is provided within the prescribed deadline in accordance with Section 20.

- (3) For the purpose of using it in libraries, an abstract in German and English must be enclosed with the dissertation. Both abstracts and the dissertation must be approved by the first examiner (*Referierende:r*) for publication. Regarding file format and details about the publication licence, the doctoral candidate must consult the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB). The ULB will check the delivered version for readability and compliance with the specified condition. It is the responsibility of the doctoral candidate to ensure that all files submitted comply with the specified conditions. Any files that do not comply with these conditions, or that are found to be partially or fully unreadable in any other way, will not be accepted for publishing. The information on the publication licence used (such as Creative Commons licence) must be embedded in the electronic document.
- (4) In principle, all parts of the dissertation must be published by the doctoral candidate. In case of a cumulative dissertation, it is not necessary to publish parts of the dissertation that have already been published or been accepted for publication. The publication of a cumulative dissertation can also be done by uploading only those parts of the cumulative dissertation to the university publication server of the ULB that have not yet been published or been accepted for publication to complement them. The publication on the university publication server must contain bibliographic information for those parts of the dissertation that have already been published or been accepted for publication. Section 20(1) to (3) and Section 21 apply accordingly.
- (5) If the dissertation is published in printed form by a publishing house, the doctoral candidate must prove to Technical University of Darmstadt that the publication will be distributed by bookshops (bookstores), will have a guaranteed minimum print run of 150 copies and will be listed in the directory of deliverable books (VLB). A minimum print run is also considered to be guaranteed if the publishing house commits itself to printing the dissertation after receiving a specific level of demand (print on demand). For the copies of the dissertation distributed in bookshops, it is sufficient to declare the work as a dissertation in the publication, in addition to stating the place where it was completed and naming Technical University of Darmstadt as the awarding university. The doctoral candidate will strive to ensure that the publishing agreement grants Technical University of Darmstadt the right, either immediately or after a certain deadline has expired, to publish an electronic version of the dissertation on the university publication server. If the dissertation is published by a publishing house, possible changes to the dissertation are permissible in consultation with the first examiner (*Referierende:r*).
- (6) If the publishing house publishes the dissertation in electronic form, the doctoral candidate must prove to Technical University of Darmstadt that the publishing agreement grants Technical University of Darmstadt the free, irrevocable and perpetual right to use the dissertation in accordance with Section 19(2). The publishing house must guarantee permanent, barrier-free access to the dissertation for members and associates of Technical University of Darmstadt and users of the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB). If the dissertation is published by a publishing house, possible changes to the dissertation are permissible in consultation with the first examiner (*Referierende:r*).

Section 20 Deposit deadline, type and number of obligatory copies (including legal deposits)

- (1) A timely publication on the university publication server fulfils the doctoral candidate's obligation to publish. The deadline for delivering obligatory copies (including legal deposits) is one year after the oral examination.
- (2) The deposit deadline can be extended in justified cases by one year upon timely application to the doctoral board. The application must be submitted within the original deposit deadline.
- (3) The deposit deadline can be extended by the doctoral board for up to five years, thus, exceeding the deadline stated in Paragraph 2. However, this requires proof that a publishing agreement exists, the dissertation has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, or that an embargo is required to obtain intellectual, industrial or other property rights. If the application is approved, the dissertation will be uploaded by the doctoral candidate to a server of the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB) that is not accessible to third parties. It will not be published.
- (4) After the possibly extended deposit deadline or the embargo expired, the dissertation will be published immediately on the university publication server by the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB). The same applies if an application in accordance with Section 2 or 3 has been rejected.
- (5) If the dissertation is published in print by a publishing house, the doctoral candidate is required to deliver four obligatory copies (including legal deposits) of the print run of the dissertation free for use to the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB) within one year after the oral examination or in case of an embargo in accordance with Paragraph 3 after the embargo expired. In case of electronic publication, no obligatory copies (including legal deposits) in printed form need to be submitted to the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB). The obligation to make external digital content accessible in accordance with Section 19(6) remains unaffected. In case of a cumulative dissertation, the obligatory copies (including legal deposits) consist of the synopsis in accordance with Section 9(4) sentence 3, including the bibliographic information for those parts of the dissertation that have already been published or have been accepted for publication.
- (6) In case of a double or multiple doctorate (*Doppel-* or *Mehrfachpromotion*) in the sense of Section 1(4) or a cooperative doctorate in the sense of Section 1(5), the obligatory copies (including legal deposits) specified in the regulations of the partner institution must be additionally submitted to the partner institution. The type and number of obligatory copies (including legal deposits) is governed by the regulations of the partner institution. The partner institution can also be granted the right to produce and distribute additional copies of the dissertation. The right granted in accordance with Section 19(6) must also be granted to the partner institution.
- (7) If the doctoral candidate fails to deliver the obligatory copies (including legal deposits) in accordance with the above provisions, or fails to do so within the given deadline, the doctoral examination will be deemed failed. The same applies if the doctoral candidate does not comply with the conditions according to Section 17(3) or cannot provide proof of publication or provide this proof within the given deadline.

Section 21 Award of the doctorate

- (1) Once the dissertation has been published on the university publication server in accordance with Section 19(1) or Section 19(4) to (6), the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB) informs the department concerned to that effect. The doctorate will then be awarded by issuing the doctoral certificate to the doctoral candidate. From this point in time, the doctoral graduate has the right to hold the respective doctoral title.
- (2) Following the submission of a special application by the doctoral candidate, the doctorate can be awarded in exceptional cases before publication with the approval of the doctoral board and the President, if the electronic version has been submitted to the University and State Library Darmstadt (ULB) and a publication date within the deadline according to Section 20(1) to (3) has been guaranteed. If the dissertation is to be published by a publishing house, the publishing agreement must be submitted at the time of application. It is also necessary to ensure that the dissertation will be published within the deadline stated in Section 20(1) to (3) and that the obligatory copies

(including legal deposits) will be submitted during this period as well. An acceptance letter is considered the same as a publishing agreement. If the publication deadline has been extended in accordance with Section 20(3), the dissertation will not be published on the university publication server until after the deadline has expired.

- (3) It must be ensured that all parts of the dissertation have been published by the time the cumulative doctorate is awarded. If parts of the dissertation have not been published by then, Section 2 will be applied accordingly.
- (4) In case of a double doctorate in the sense of Section 1(4) or a cooperative doctorate in the sense of Section 1(5), the cooperation agreement can also include additional requirements for awarding the doctorate in addition to those provisions in Paragraph 1.

Section 22 Doctoral degree certificate

- (1) The doctoral degree certificate includes the date of the oral examination and will be issued in triplicate in German and English stating the date of issue. The certificate carries the signatures of the chairperson of the department and the President of Technical University of Darmstadt and also the seal of the University. Academic degrees of the doctoral candidate will not be listed. The Executive Board specifies the layout and design of the certificate.

In general, the following text is found on the doctoral degree certificate:

Während der Amtszeit der Präsidentin/des Präsidenten <Titel> <Vorname> <Name>
und der Dekanin/des Dekans <Titel> <Vorname> <Name>
verleiht der Fachbereich <Name> durch diese Urkunde

During the term of office of President <Titel> <Vorname> <Name>
and of Departmental Chairperson <Titel> <Vorname> <Name>
the Department of <Name> confers with this certificate upon

<Vorname> <Name>

geboren am <tt. Monat (ausgeschrieben) jjjj>
in <Geburtsort (Geburtsland)> den akademischen Grad

born on <dd (ohne Punkt) Month (ausgeschrieben) yyyy>
in <Place of Birth (Country of Birth)> the academic degree

<Doktor-Titel und Kurztitel (nicht übersetzt)>

nachdem sie/er in ordnungsgemäßem Promotionsverfahren
unter Mitwirkung der Referierenden <Titel> <Vorname> <Name>,
<Titel> <Vorname> <Name> und <Titel> <Vorname> <Name>

after she/he has proven her/his scientific competence in accordance with the
doctoral programme regulations with the participation of the examiners
<Titel> <Vorname> <Name>, <Titel> <Vorname> <Name> and <Titel> <Vorname> <Name>

durch ihre/seine Dissertation und durch die am <Prüfungsdatum tt. Monat (ausgeschrieben) jjjj>
erfolgte Disputation ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung erwiesen hat.

through her/his dissertation and through an oral examination
which took place on <examination date dd (ohne Punkt) Month (ausgeschrieben) yyyy>.

Das Gesamturteil lautet: „<Bewertung>“

The overall grade is: “<Grade>”

Darmstadt, <Erstelldatum tt. Monat (ausgeschrieben) jjjj>

Bewertungsschema: „mit Auszeichnung bestanden“, „sehr gut bestanden“, „gut bestanden“, „bestanden“.
Grading scheme: “Excellent”, “Very Good”, “Good”, “Passed”.

- (2) In case of a double or multiple doctorate (*Doppel- or Mehrfachpromotion*) in the sense of Section 1(4) or a cooperative doctorate in the sense of Section 1(5), the cooperation agreement can include provisions that deviate from those in Paragraph 1.

Section 23 Repeating the doctoral examination procedure

- (1) If the first attempt at the doctoral examination procedure has been unsuccessful because the dissertation had been rejected, it is permitted to apply for and make one more attempt at the doctoral examination procedure by submitting a new dissertation. This new attempt is permitted at the earliest one year after the date the first dissertation was rejected. This also applies if the first application was rejected at another university.
- (2) If the oral examination has been failed, only this examination needs to be retaken. The examination can only be retaken once, at the earliest six months and at the latest one year after the failed oral examination. In special cases, the deadline can be extended upon request from the applicant.
- (3) If the overall doctoral performance has been invalidated because the doctoral candidate failed to deliver the obligatory copies (including legal deposits) in time or failed to comply with these General Doctoral Regulations in other respects, the doctoral board will decide whether and on which conditions it will be possible to repeat the doctoral examination procedure. It is not permitted to repeat the doctoral examination procedure if the doctorate has not been awarded in accordance with Section 24 or if the doctorate awarded has been revoked.

Section 24 Refusal to award and revocation of the doctorate

- (1) The completion of the doctorate will be refused if it is established before the doctoral certificate is issued that essential requirements for initiating the doctoral examination procedure have been incorrectly assumed to have been fulfilled. This also applies if the doctoral candidate is found guilty of (attempted) deception in their own performance during the doctoral examination procedure, or has failed to comply with the *Grundsätze zur Sicherung guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis* – Principles for safeguarding good scientific practice at Technical University of Darmstadt or the *Leitlinien zum Umgang mit digitalen Forschungsdaten* – Guidelines on Digital Research Data at TU Darmstadt during this period of time. This decision will be taken by the doctoral board.
- (2) If the doctoral degree certificate has already been issued to the doctoral graduate, the applicable provisions of state law for revoking a doctorate apply. The return of the doctoral degree certificate is governed by the provisions in the HVwVfG (*Hessisches Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz* – Hessian administrative procedure act), dated 1 December 1976 (GVBl. I., p. 454), in its currently valid version.
- (3) Before any decision is made to revoke or to refuse to award the doctorate, the person concerned must be given the opportunity to respond to the allegations within a reasonable period of time.

Section 25 Honorary doctorates

- (1) Following a joint decision by one or more departments and the Senate, the following honorary doctorates can be awarded on rare occasions to persons who have earned special recognition for their scientific or artistic achievements: *Doktor-Ingenieur Ehren halber* (Dr.-Ing. E.h. – Honorary Doctor of Engineering), *Doktor-Ingenieurin Ehren halber* (Dr.-Ing. E.h. – Honorary Doctor of Engineering), Doctor rerum naturalium honoris causa (Dr. rer. nat. h.c.), Doctor rerum politicarum honoris causa (Dr. rer. pol. h.c.), Doctor philosophiae honoris causa (Dr. phil. h.c.), Doctor iuris honoris causa (Dr. iur. h.c.).
- (2) An honorary doctorate is awarded in the form of a certificate specifically issued for this occasion, in which the achievements of the person to be honoured are highlighted.

Section 26 Transitional and concluding provisions

- (1) The General Doctoral Regulations of Technical University of Darmstadt, dated 12 January 1990 (ABl. 1990, p. 658), including the changes in the 9th amendment, come into force on the day after

their publication in the *Satzungsbeilage* (appendix to the statutes) of Technical University of Darmstadt. At the same time, the General Doctoral Regulations in the version of the 8th amendment, dated 21 December 2017 (*Satzungsbeilage* (appendix to the statutes) of Technical University of Darmstadt 2018 II, p. 3), cease to be in force. The Executive Board of Technical University of Darmstadt is authorised to publish an editorially revised version of the new General Doctoral Regulations (PO/AT) in the version of the 9th amendment in the *Satzungsbeilage* (appendix to the statutes) of Technical University of Darmstadt.

- (2) The Specific Doctoral Regulations of the departments remain in force unless they contradict the provisions in these General Doctoral Regulations.
- (3) Doctoral examination procedures started in accordance with the General Doctoral Regulations (PO/AT) in the version of the 8th amendment can be continued based on this version upon request of the doctoral candidate. However, the doctoral candidate must submit this request within one year of the General Doctoral Regulations (PO/AT) in the version of the 9th amendment coming into force.

Darmstadt, 15 February 2024

The President of
Technical University of Darmstadt

signed by
Prof. Dr. Tanja Brühl