

**Regulations**  
**for Attaining the Academic Degree**  
**of “Doktor rerum naturalium” (Dr. rer. nat.)**  
**of the Departments**

**08 – Physics, Mathematics, and Computer Science**

**09 – Chemistry, Pharmaceutics, and Geoscience**

**10 – Biology and**  
**University Medicine**

**26 May 2009**

Based on § 7 section 2 no. 2 and § 86 section 2 no. 3 of the German University and College Act of 21 July 2003 (GVBl. P. 167), most recently changed by law of 10 September 2008 (GVBl. P. 205), BS 223-41, these regulations were agreed upon by the scientific directorate of University Medicine (in accelerated proceedings as per § 88 section 2 of the University and College Act of 14 January 2009), the faculty council 08 on 11 February 2009, the faculty council 09 on 14 January 2009, and the faculty council 10 on 28 January 2009. These regulations were approved by the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth, and Culture of Rhineland-Palatinate in writing dated 20 May 2009, Az.: 9525 Tgb. No. 48/09. They are hereby made public.

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§ 1

Aims and Scope of the Doctoral Program

(1) The departments of

- 08 – Physics, Mathematics, and Computer Science
- 09 – Chemistry, Pharmaceuticals, and Geoscience
- 10 – Biology and
- University Medicine

of the Johannes Gutenberg University at Mainz are conducting a structured and supervised doctoral program for especially qualified graduates of, in particular, a natural scientific or closely related field of study at the Max Planck Graduate Center with the Johannes Gutenberg University at Mainz [in the following: MPGC-JOGU], which is supported jointly by the Max Planck Society and the Johannes Gutenberg University at Mainz. [The Steering Committee of the MPGC-JOGU will from here on be called SC-MPGC-JOGU.]

(2) The doctoral program consists of

1. research work and the writing of the scientific thesis (dissertation) as per § 10 section 1,
2. the participation in required interdisciplinary courses of the MPGC-JOGU as per the services agreement as per § 6 section 1,
3. regular reports on individual scientific research,
4. the doctoral examination

(3) Admission into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU is preceded by admission into the MPGC-JOGU and scientific collaboration without the status of being a doctoral candidate for a period of up to 12 months.

(4) Supervision of the dissertation is done by the two advisors and two additional mentors, who together form the *individual supervision group*. The individual supervision group is, at the latest, installed at the time of admission into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU. This body has to be distinguished from the board of examiners as per § 9.

(5) Graduates of the structured doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU are awarded the academic degree of “Doktor rerum naturalium” (Dr. rer. nat) after successful completion of the procedure as outlined in these regulations.

## **First Section: Entry Requirements**

### § 2

#### Joint Committee for Conferral of a Doctorate at the MPGC-JOGU

(1) The departments listed in §1 section 1 form a joint committee for conferral of a doctorate at the MPGC-JOGU [from here on: JC-MPGC-JOGU] as per § 89 section 1 no. 2 of the German University and College Act. Its responsibilities are

- a) admission of applicants for conferral of a doctorate at the MPGC-JOGU,
- b) appointment of the examination board for completion of the conferral of the doctorate at the MPGC-JOGU,
- c) issuing, changing, and abolishing the regulations for attaining the doctoral degree for the structured doctoral program at the MPGC-JOGU.

(2) As per § 72 section 2 of the German University and College Act, the joint committee is composed of these members:

- a) The deans of the departments 08, 09, 10, and the scientific directorate of University Medicine by office,
- b) 4 professors of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry and Polymer Research,
- c) 1 representative of the academic research staff
- d) 1 student representative
- e) 1 representative of the non-academic staff

The members of the joint committee have to be part of the departments listed in § 1 section 1 sentence 1, or of University Medicine. The member listed under letter d above should, if possible, already have attained a qualified academic degree.

(3) The members of the joint committee as per section 2 letters b-e are chosen by their respective faculty councils. Their term of office is three years, except for the student representative, whose term of office is one year.

(4) The nomination of the members as per section 2 letter b is effected by the representatives of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry and Polymer Research from among the group of full professors and junior professors of the departments 08, 09, 10, and University Medicine, respectively.

(5) The nomination of the members as per section 2 letters c-e is effected by the representatives of their respective groups in the faculty councils of the departments 08, 09, and 10, and University Medicine. To do so, they interdisciplinarily agree on the nomination of one member and one deputy each. The actual election is effected by the faculty councils of the respective departments to which the nominated persons belong, or by the faculty council of University Medicine should the nominated person be part of University Medicine.

(6) As per section 2 letter a, the joint committee elects a full professor or junior professor from among its members to the position of chairman or chairwoman, as well as a deputy for the position of chairman or chairwoman; chairman or chairwoman and deputy need to be from different departments. The chairman or chairwoman manages all operations of the joint committee.

### § 3

#### Application for and Admission into the Doctoral Program

(1) Admission into the MPGC-JOGU with the aim of attaining a doctoral degree is decided upon by the SC-MPGC-JOGU in accordance with the JC-MPGC-JOGU. General deadlines and time periods in relation to admission into the MPGC-JOGU are determined by the SC-MPGC-JOGU and made public in a timely fashion. Admission into the MPGC-JOGU does not create any obligation for admission into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU.

(2) Should, after admission into the MPGC-JOGU, an applicant also aim for admission into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU, he or she needs to document the basic qualification for admission into a doctoral program either as per

- a) section 3 letter b no. 1 in accordance to section 6

or as per

b) section 4 in accordance to section 5

within the first 3 months after admittance into the MPGC-JOGU. The decisive factor is the date of the notice of admission into the MPGC-JOGU as per section 1.

(3) As a general rule, admission into the MPGC-JOGU is effected in accordance to the selection criteria as described in § 4, within a year after admission into the MPGC-JOGU. Admission into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU is only possible as long as:

a) the required capacities for the supervision of the proposed doctoral thesis project are available at the MPGC-JOGU,

b) applicants possess the required prerequisites and are of suitable character for exceptional research work within the MPGC-JOGU. Requirements for admission include:

1. a completed degree program in the natural or the engineering sciences with an overall grade of “good” (< 2.5) or the B level (as per the ECTS graduating system) of at least 8 terms of regular study at a German or a comparable foreign university or college of applicable level that allows admission into a doctoral program, or a completed master degree program in the natural or engineering sciences with an overall grade of “good” (< 2.5) or the B level (as per the ECTS graduating system) in the natural or engineering science at a German university or university of applied sciences.
2. Interest in and prior knowledge of the research topics of the MPGC-JOGU as documented by an outline of the proposed research project and how it fits into the overall research concept of the MPGC-JOGU.
3. special motivation and above-average suitability for a doctoral degree which, if necessary, have to be documented during a selection interview as per § 4 section 2 no. 3,
4. documentation of adequate competence in English as per section 8.

(4) In justifiable individual cases, admission into the doctoral program is also possible if

a)

1. the applicant is able to document a bachelor’s degree in the natural or engineering sciences at a German university with an overall grade of “very good”, or belongs to the best 10 percent of his or her graduation year, or fulfills some criterion of equal value, or

2. the applicant documents a completed degree program in the natural or engineering sciences with an overall grade of “very good” (1.0) of at least 6 terms of regular study at a German university of applied sciences.

b) the applicant is able to document a completed degree program with an overall grade of at least “very good” (< 1.5) or the A level (as per the ECTS graduating system) of at least 8 terms of regular study at a German or a comparable foreign university or college of applicable level that allows admission into a doctoral program, and if, furthermore, there is reasonable evidence that a successful doctoral examination procedure is to be expected due to the applicant’s extraordinary technical, scientific, and methodological qualifications, as well as a conclusive concept for a research project. Section 3 letter b nos. 2-4 remain inviolate of this.

(5) Admission is decided on by the JC-MPGC-JOGU at the suggestion of the SC-MPGC-JOGU. Should it become necessary, admission into the doctoral program may, as per section 4, be made dependant on the doctoral candidate taking additional classes from the basic range of courses offered by the university of Mainz. These additional efforts will then have to be performed completely and successfully within a year. The deadlines and time periods mentioned in these regulations are extended accordingly.

(6) A degree program completed abroad will be recognized as being of equal value if it can be considered of equal value as per the equivalency agreement approved by the Standing Conference of German Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and the Standing Conference of University Presidents. In cases where equivalency agreements do not exist, the JC-MPGC-JOGU makes the decision in accordance with the appropriate university department responsible for recognition of foreign degree programs. In case of doubts as to equivalency, the Central Office for Foreign Education Systems will need to be consulted.

(7) Applications for admission into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU have to be addressed in writing to the chairman or chairwoman of the SC-MPGC-JOGU. They can be handed in in either German or English and need to contain the following information:

- a) a description of research interests and level of knowledge as per section 3 letter b no. 2 (the description should not exceed 10 pages (12 pt, line space 1.5) in length),
- b) a CV including a photograph,
- c) documents and certificates pertaining to all degree programs completed so far in legally attested form (if necessary, including legally attested translations into German),
- d) a certificate of competence documenting knowledge of English as per section 8,
- e) letters of reference by two full professors or junior professors suitable as supervisors as per § 7 section 1. These letters of recommendation shall give detailed information about the scientific suitability of the applicant and his or her qualification for the proposed research project; if necessary, willingness to act as technical supervisor for the research project shall be indicated,
- f) a declaration that the “Articles of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz to Secure Good Scientific Practice” have been read and understood in their current form and that the applicant shall abide by them during his or her scientific work.

(8) In general, the required competence in English shall be documented by successful participation in standardized tests. Exempt from this are applicants whose native tongue is English, and those with German final secondary school diplomas. The frame of reference for educational standards in English has been set to a TOEFL iBT test with a least 60 points.

#### § 4

#### Process of Selection

(1) The selection process only takes into account applications that are complete and were received in due time. The SC-MPGC-JOGU is responsible for conducting the selection process. The SC-MPGC-JOGU may install a selection group to work out selection recommendations.

(2) The selection process is performed in these partial steps:

1. Inspection of the formal requirements for admission into the doctoral program as per § 3 sections 3 and 4, compliance with the deadlines as per § 3 section 2, consent of the supervisors, and completeness of application documents as per § 3 sections 7 and 8 by the SC-MPGC-JOGU or the selection group installed by it.
2. Scientific reports on the applicant and the proposed research project by the SC-MPGC-JOGU or the selection group installed by it, especially on the basis of the application documents, as per § 3 section 7 letters a and e.
3. Comparative assessment: Based on the reports, the SC-MPGC-JOGU or the selection group installed by it divides all applicants into three groups, to wit: applicants whose admission into the program is
  - a) recommended without any reservation,
  - b) recommended with some reservation,
  - c) not recommended, and who are hence rejected.

The chairman or chairwoman of the SC-MPGC-JOGU or of the selection group invites all applicants classified as per the letter b to a selection interview during which the applicants need to present their experience and their research interests orally, facing a critical discussion with the SC-MPGC-JOGU or the selection group. Following the selection interview, the SC-MPGC-JOGU or the selection group decides on approval or rejection of each application individually, by bare majority.

(3) At the suggestion of the SC-MPGC-JOGU or the selection group installed by it, the JC-MPGC-JOGU decides on the admission of an applicant into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU.

(4) All applicants have to be informed of the results of the selection process in writing and in a timely fashion by the chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU.

## § 5

### Admission into the Doctoral Program, Revocation of Admission

(1) Applications that, during one partial step of the selection process as per § 4 section 2 nos. 1-3, have been found to not comply with the requirements are rejected. The admission of the applicant into the MPGC-JOGU is revoked at the end of the respective term. The notice of rejection has to be accompanied by an instruction on the right to appeal. In case of rejection, it is possible to re-apply one additional time.

(2) Admission is granted as soon as the JC-MPGC-JOGU has made a positive selection decision as per § 4 section 3 and one of the full professors or junior professors involved with the MPGC-JOGU has, in writing, agreed on supervising the research project. Applicants need to be informed of their admittance in written form. The notice shall contain the supervisors as appointed at the time of admittance as well as the deadlines and time periods by the end of which the research thesis will need to be presented at the latest.

(3) Admission into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU may be revoked if the doctoral candidate does not, repeatedly and without adequate exculpation, comply with his or her responsibilities as per the supervision agreement in § 6 section 1. Admission shall also be

revoked if it becomes demonstrably obvious that the doctoral candidate will not be able to achieve the goals as mentioned in the research project description within the time span allotted, or with the necessary scientific quality. In any such case, the supervisors inform the chairmen or chairwomen of the SC-MPGC-JOGU as well as the JC-MPGC-JOGU about the circumstances of the case and cite reasons for their assessment. If admission into the doctoral program is revoked, admission into the MPGC-JOGU is revoked at the end of the respective term.

(4) Revocation of admission is decided upon by the JC-MPGC-JOGU in consultation with the SC-MPGC-JOGU. The doctoral candidate will be given prior occasion to explain the situation in person. Revocation of admission is to be signed by the chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU and has to be accompanied by an instruction on the right to appeal. The person is barred from re-admission into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU .

## **Second Section: Organization and Implementation of the Structured Doctoral Program**

### § 6

#### Organization of the Doctoral Program

(1) At the time of admission into the doctoral program of the MPGC-JOGU, each doctoral candidate closes a supervision agreement with the MPGC-JOGU regulating program achievements to be performed and advances in the research projects to be documented during the course of the doctoral program.

(2) Such additional efforts as per § 3 section 5 are part of the supervision agreement. All additional decisions as to form and content of the supervision agreement are made by the SC-MP-JOGU in consultation with the JC-MPGC-JOGU.

(3) The supervisors are responsible for supervising compliance with the supervision agreement and the advances of the doctoral project. Each doctoral candidate shall be evaluated at the end of the first and the second study year, respectively, by his or her respective supervisors as to the compliance with these two criteria.

### § 7

#### Supervision of the Doctoral Program, Time Periods

(1) At the suggestion of the SC-MPGC-JOGU, the JC-MPGC-JOGU appoints two specialist supervisors for each admitted doctoral candidate. Supervisors have to fulfill these requirements:

- a) Both need to hold a full or junior professorship, or fulfill the requirements for attaining such,



- b) at least one of the two supervisors needs to be a Principal Investigator at the MPGC-JOGU,
- c) at least one of the two supervisors needs to have a doctorate in one of the natural sciences, needs to be a member of the participating departments 08, 09, or 10 or University Medicine, and needs to be authorized as a supervisor or a reviewer in the doctoral process of the departments 08, 09, and 10.

The appointment of a scientist working at a university abroad to the position of supervisor of the conferral of a doctorate at the MPGC-JOGU is permissible, as long as he or she conforms to the requirements as per letter a and the necessary supervision can be guaranteed both in scientific and in organizational regards. Agreement to take on a supervising relation has to be declared in writing to the chairmen or chairwomen of both the SC-MPGC-JOGU and the JC-MPGC-JOGU.

(2) In general, the doctoral program, including the oral examination, shall be finished within 3 years after admittance. Extension of this period may be granted by the SC-MPGC-JOGU in consultation with the JC-MPGC-JOGU upon petition by the doctoral candidate. The application needs to contain not only a written justification, but also a detailed timeline for finishing the doctoral project, as well as the approval of the supervisors.

(3) Should the dissertation project not be finished in time as per section 2, and should a petition for extension be rejected by the SC-MPGC-JOGU, admittance into the MPGC-JOGU is revoked at the end of the respective term and participation in the doctoral program ends. The conferral of the academic degree “Doktor rerum naturalium” (Dr. rer. nat.) at the MPGC-JOPGU is then no longer possible.

## § 8

### Implementation of the Doctoral Program at a University Abroad

The doctoral program may, in part, be conducted at a university abroad; however, conferral of the doctoral degree is effected by the Johannes Gutenberg University at Mainz. As long as no appropriate cooperation agreement exists between the Johannes Gutenberg University and the foreign university, it is incumbent on the doctoral candidate to obtain the permission of the chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners in due time prior to the beginning of the project.

## **Third Section: Doctoral Examination**

## § 9

### Board of Examiners

(1) Once a doctoral thesis (dissertation) has been handed in, the chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU convenes a board of examiners. Generally, it consists of:

- a) the supervisors as per § 7 section 1,
- b) three additional full professors or junior professors. At least one of these should have their main field of work outside the topic of the dissertation. The doctoral candidate has the right to make recommendations as to these three persons.

If the doctoral candidate has applied for the additional conferral of a joint degree with another university, either domestic or abroad, the position(s) one or more than one member(s) of the board of examiners as per sentence 2 letters a and b may, if considered scientifically necessary, instead be filled by scientists from external universities where the doctoral candidate has done scientific work during the course of his or her doctoral program.

(2) The members of the board of examiners need to be in possession of a scientific qualification equal to that of a full professor or junior professor of the Johannes Gutenberg University. On the decision of the JC-MPGC-JOGU, non-salaried adjunct professors and non-salaried professors may be appointed as members of the board of examiners as per section 1 letter b.

(3) The chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU appoints one of the members of the board of examiners as its chairman or chairwoman as per section 1 sentence 2 letter b. He or she manages all operations of the board of examiners. The board of examiners may transfer additional duties to the chairman or chairwoman.

(4) The doctoral candidate needs to be informed in writing about decisions of negative import upon the candidate made by the board of examiners or its chairman or chairwoman. Such writing has to be accompanied by an instruction on the right to appeal. All appeals are decided on by the JC-MPGC-JOGU.

(5) The chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners informs the doctoral candidate about the names of the members of the board of examiners and the reviewers as per § 12 section 1. He or she informs all participants in the examination procedure as to all deadlines and time periods in a timely fashion.

## § 10

### Extent of the Doctoral Examination, Prerequisites for Admission

(1) The doctoral examination consists of these partial examinations:

1. the written scientific thesis (dissertation)
2. the oral examination

(2) Doctoral candidates have to apply in writing to the chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU for admission to the doctoral examination. The application shall contain:

1. documentation of the successful completion of all study and examination efforts agreed upon as per § 6 section 2,
2. the scientific thesis work (including the declaration as per § 11 section 4) in triplicate,
3. a written declaration that the scientific thesis handed in has not yet been published at any other German university, or any university abroad, or any comparable institution, with the aim of attaining a scientific degree,

4. a declaration that he or she has not yet finished any other doctoral, PhD or any similar graduation program in any of the subjects represented by the MPGC-JOGU without success.

(3) The chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU decides on admission to the doctoral examination. Admission is to be denied if the documents are faulty or incomplete and have not been presented in a faultless or complete form after a period of grace. The chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners informs the candidate in writing about the outcome of the application. If the application is rejected, the chairman or chairwoman has to list the pertinent reasons; the notice of rejection has to be accompanied by an instruction on the right to appeal.

(4) An application for admission to the doctoral examination may be withdrawn up to the time of the submission of the first report as per § 12 section 2 without the need for citing any reasons by declaring such to the chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners. A withdrawn application may be handed in again only one additional time.

## § 11

### Scientific Thesis (Dissertation)

(1) The dissertation is a candidate's independent scientific thesis work on the research subject. The dissertation needs to be a significant contribution to furthering the scientific knowledge in the special subject the research project is part of. The supervisors shall work towards the dissertation being, in full or in substantial parts, published in renowned international scientific publications with peer review. Works or manuscripts already published have to be handed in along with the dissertation. In exceptional cases, a cumulative dissertation is possible.

(2) Should a research project be jointly worked on by several doctoral candidates, each of them must hand in his or her individual account of the research work and its importance for science as a dissertation. Each candidate's individual contribution to the treatment of the research subject needs to be distinctly delimitable and clearly highlighted.

(3) In general, the dissertation shall be written in English; abstracts in English and in German shall also be provided. Exceptions are decided on by the JC-MPGC-JOGU.

(4) The dissertation needs to contain this declaration: *“I hereby declare that I wrote the dissertation submitted without any unauthorized external assistance and used only sources acknowledged in the work. All textual passages which are appropriated verbatim or paraphrased from published and unpublished texts as well as all information obtained from oral sources are duly indicated and listed in accordance with bibliographical rules. In carrying out this research, I complied with the rules of standard scientific practice as formulated in the statutes of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz to insure standard scientific practice.”*

## § 12

### Evaluation of the Dissertation

(1) To evaluate the dissertation, the chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners appoints the supervisors as reviewers. Should the doctoral candidate also aim at an international academic degree, such foreign scientists as required as per the respective regulations are also appointed as reviewers. At least one of the reviewers needs to be a scientist involved at the MPGC-JOGU.

(2) The reviews have to be prepared in writing and independently of one another within six weeks after the dissertation has been handed in. The evaluation of the dissertation shall use the grades as listed in § 14 section 1. Should the dissertation be graded 1.0, it may be recommended for a distinction. Should there be only two reviews, and should these two reviews differ in their respective evaluations by more than one full grade scale, or should one of the two reviewers reject acceptance of the thesis, the chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners, in consultation with the chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU, shall obtain a third review by a scientist who is regarded as an authority on the subject in question. Should this third review also come to the conclusion that the thesis is to be rejected for not complying with the requirements of scientific work due to substantial deficiencies, the doctoral examination is considered failed and the supervision agreement is finished.

(3) Should the dissertation be graded 1.0 by both reviewers and be recommended for a distinction, the grade of the dissertation may be given the additional qualification “passed with distinction,” as long as this result is corroborated by a third, external, review.

(4) Should the majority of the reviewers recommend acceptance of the dissertation, the thesis shall be displayed for inspection, along with the reviews, in the administrative office of the MPGC-JOGU for 2 weeks. The scientists involved with the MPGC-JOGU, as well as all academic staff of the university holding a doctorate, may compose written comments on the dissertation and the reviews. These need to be handed in to the chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU no longer than one week after the period of inspection has ended.

(5) On the basis of all reviews presented and all comments, the board of examiners determines the final grade of the dissertation. The dissertation is considered a pass if it has been graded as at least “sufficient.”

(6) The chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners informs the doctoral candidate in writing about the result of the evaluation of the dissertation. If the thesis was rejected, the chairman or chairwoman has to list the pertinent reasons; the notice of rejection has to be accompanied by an instruction on the right to appeal.

### § 13

#### Oral Examination

(1) If the dissertation is considered a pass, the board of examiners decides on a date for the oral examination without any delay. This examination must have taken place within two months after the period of inspection as per § 12 section 4 sentence 1 has ended. Only with the explicit consent of the doctoral candidate may the oral examination take place in the first week after the period of inspection as per § 12 section 4 sentence 1 has ended. The chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners informs the doctoral candidate about the exact date of the oral examination directly after its determination.

(2) The oral examination is performed in front of the board of examiners. It may be held either in German or in English. The choice of either language is the responsibility of the doctoral candidate. The oral examination shall last at least 60 minutes, but no more than 90 minutes. It is comprised of these examination efforts:

1. a presentation, open to all students and employees of the university, of no more than 30 minutes in length on the dissertation and the corresponding research project;
2. a disputation of the project and its scientific environment in front of the board of examiners.

(3) The oral examination efforts as per section 2 shall be graded by the board of examiners using the grades listed in § 14 section 1. The oral examination is considered a pass if it has been graded as at least “sufficient.”

(4) In case of exceptional performance, the grade of the oral examination may be given the additional qualification “passed with distinction,” as long as all members of the board of examiners agree to this. The grade “very good” may only be awarded if no more than one member of the board of examiners objects to this. Members may not abstain from the determination of grades.

(5) Minutes shall be taken of the oral examination. These have to be signed by all members of the board of examiners. The minutes need to clearly identify the major subjects and the result of the oral examination.

(6) At the request of any female doctoral candidate, the women’s representative of the university may be present during the oral examination as per § 26 section 4 sentence 1 of the German University and College Act.

## § 14

### Grading of Individual Examination Efforts and Overall Grade

(1) The evaluation of both the dissertation and the oral examination uses this grade scale:

1.0; 1.3	=	“very good”	-	“sehr gut”
1.7; 2.0; 2.3	=	“good”	-	“gut”
2.7; 3.0; 3.3	=	“sufficient”	-	“genügend”
>3.3	=	“insufficient”	-	“ungenügend”

Should the dissertation be graded 1.0, it may be recommended for a distinction.

(2) Once both the dissertation and the oral examination in all its parts are considered pass results, the board of examiners determines the overall grade of the doctoral examination. In determining the overall grade, the grade of the dissertation is counted as two thirds, while the grade of the oral examination is counted as one third of the overall grade. In calculating the overall grade, only the first decimal place after the comma is taken into account; all other places are dropped without any rounding.

(3) The overall estimation of the doctoral examination shall be thus:

an overall grade of 1.0 up to and including 1.5: “very good” “magna cum laude”

an overall grade of 1.6 up to and including 2.5: “good” “cum laude”

an overall grade of 2.6 up to and including 3.3: “sufficient” “rite”

an overall grade of 3.4 or worse: “insufficient” “insufficient”

(4) The overall grade may be given the additional qualification “with distinction (summa cum laude)” or the additional qualification “excellent (summa cum laude),” provided this has been verified by three reviews and the oral examination as per § 13 section 4 sentence 1 has also been evaluated with an additional “distinction.”

(5) In addition, upon request by the doctoral candidate, the ECTS level and the accompanying ECTS definition as per the European Credit Transfer System evaluation scheme current at the time of finishing the doctoral program may be entered into the certificate

#### § 15

##### Passing and Failing, Repetition of Failed Examination Efforts

(1) Examination efforts are considered a pass if they have been evaluated with a grade of at least “sufficient” (3.3). The overall examination counts as a pass if the overall grade as per § 14 section 3 has been evaluated with a grade of at least “sufficient” (3.3).

(2) A failed oral examination may be repeated once within a period of at least three months, but not more than six months after the failure, as determined by the board of examiners. Should the examination or examination effort not be repeated within the period as determined above, it counts as an irrevocable fail. A second repetition is not possible.

(3) The chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners informs the doctoral candidate in writing about the failure of the examination.

#### § 16

##### Examination Fees

The amount, due dates, waiving, or reduction of the examination fee are determined by the regulations in force for Rhineland-Palatinate. Payment is effected via the MPGC-JOGU.

#### § 17

##### Publishing the Dissertation

(1) After passing the examination, it is the doctoral candidate’s responsibility to publish the dissertation as accepted by the board of examiners and in its final form as indicated by a respective notice made by the chairman or chairwoman of the board. The doctoral candidate

may only make changes with regard to contents for publication in this version of the dissertation if he or she has the explicit permission of the chairman or chairwoman of the board of examiners.

(2) Copies as per section 3 need to bear this title on their cover page:

“Dissertation for Attaining the Academic Degree of “Doktor rerum naturalium” (Dr. rer. nat.) of the Departments

- 08 – Physics, Mathematics, and Computer Science,
- 09 – Chemistry, Pharmaceutics, and Geoscience,
- 10 – Biology,
- University Medicine

of the Johannes Gutenberg University”

In addition, the Max Planck Graduate Center, the names of the reviewers, and the date of the examination as per the examination certificate need to be given.

(3) The doctoral candidate has to arrange for publication and the delivery of complimentary depositary copies to the University Library in one of these manners:

- a) 44 printed copies, or copies reproduced and bound in an equivalent way, or
- b) 4 copies if a professional publishing company has agreed to take over distribution via the book trade and a minimum print run of 150 copies can be documented, or
- c) 4 copies if publication is effected via a scientific journal, or
- d) 4 copies and an electronic version, the exact data format and data medium are determined by the University Library.

In cases b and c, the thesis work needs to be identified specifically as a Mainz dissertation by adding the label “D77” either at the back of the title page or in a footnote. The University Library rules on any and all other requirements as to the delivery of the depositary copies.

(4) In case of delivery as per section 3 sentence b, the dissertation has to be uploaded in electronic form (text-identical in all regards) onto the University Library’s publication server as per the instructions of the library. In addition, abstracts in English and German with a length of 200 words each shall also be uploaded at this time. The doctoral candidate grants the Johannes Gutenberg University the right to make and distribute, or make available on public data networks permanently, indefinitely, and without access restrictions, further copies in compliance with the tasks of the University Library.

(5) In addition to the depositary copies as per section 3, the reviewers and the respective scientific institution shall each be provided with a complimentary copy, either printed or reproduced and bound in an equivalent way.

(6) Should the doctoral candidate fail to deliver the depositary copies within the time period allotted, all rights acquired by the successful examination are revoked. The examination fee is then forfeit. Only in special, well-justified cases may the chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU prolong the delivery period. The appropriate petition, including the special justification, has to be handed in no later than one month before the end of the two-year delivery period.

**Fourth Section**  
**Conferral of and Carrying the Doctoral Degree**

§ 18

Conferral of Academic Degree, Provisional Document, and Certificate

(1) After passing the examination, the doctoral candidate is given a provisional document of having successfully finished the doctoral examination by the chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU. This document shall make it clear that the examination procedure will not be finished until the dissertation has been published and the certificate of conferral of academic degree has been delivered.

(2) After publication of the dissertation as per § 17, the departments confer upon the doctoral candidate the academic degree of “Doktor rerum naturalium (Dr. rer. nat)” as per § 1 section 1.

(3) The conferral of academic degree is documented by means of a certificate in both English and German. The certificate of conferral of degree shall be signed by the chairman or chairwoman of the SC-MPGC-JOGU and the President of the Johannes Gutenberg University, and shall bear the seal of the federal state. The academic degree may not be carried until the certificate has been delivered. This concludes the examination procedure.

(4) The JC-MPGC-JOGU decides on the actual design of the certificates. The certificates shall contain

- a) the logo of the MPGC-JOGU, the logo of the Johannes Gutenberg University, and the logo of the Max Planck Society,
- b) the name of the MPGC-JOGU spelled out in full, as well as all departments involved in the doctoral program,
- c) the name, date of birth, and place of birth of the doctoral candidate, the title of the dissertation, the conferred doctoral degree “Doktor rerum naturalium (Dr. rer. nat),” and the overall grade,
- d) time and place of the issuing of the certificate, as well as the signatures and the seal as per section 3.

§ 19

Refusal and Withdrawal of Academic Degree

(1) Should the doctoral candidate, either before or after delivery of the certificate, be found to have cheated as regards entry requirements or examination efforts, or should it be found that essential entry requirements had erroneously been regarded as fulfilled, admission to the doctoral examination may be revoked and all examinations efforts passed so far may be declared void. This also applies should the research results on which the dissertation is based have not been properly and completely documented, or have not been archived for at least



five years after completion of the dissertation; exempt from this are problems due to the fault of a third party.

(2) The academic degree conferred may be withdrawn if any of the reasons for withdrawal as per section 1 become known after the fact.

(3) Responsibility for refusal or withdrawal of academic degree lies with the JC-MPGC-JOGU. The person concerned has to be heard before a decision can be made.

## **Fifth Section Final Provisions**

### § 20 Inspection of Records

(1) The doctoral candidate shall, on petition, be granted access to his or her examination records, including the reviews and, if applicable, any present objections, upon the end of the examination procedure.

(2) A petition for inspection of records has to be made to the chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU no longer than one year after the written information about the examination result. The chairman or chairwoman of the JC-MPGC-JOGU determines time and place of the inspection.

### § 21 Decision-Making Authority of the JC-MPGA-JOGU

(1) The JC-MPGC-JOGU decides on all matters concerning and relating to these regulations for attaining a doctoral degree, unless these regulations do not stipulate otherwise.

(2) The JC-MPGC-JOGU also decides on all objections to decisions made according to these regulations for attaining a doctoral degree.

### § 22 Legal Validity

These regulations enter into force the day after their publication in the government gazette for the federal state of Rhineland-Palatine.

Mainz, 26 May 2009

(Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Reinhard Urban, Scientific Director of University Medicine)

(Univ.-Prof. Dr. Lutz Köpke, Dean of the Department 08)

(Univ. Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Hofmeister, Dean of the Department 09)

(Univ.-Prof. Dr. Erwin Robert Schmidt, Dean of the Department 10)