

## Official Announcement

No. 67/2018



Published on: 01/08/2018

### Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Natural Sciences

dated 2 November 1994 as

amended on  
11/07/2018

Pursuant to § 54 clause 2 of the Universities Act of Saxony-Anhalt (HSG LSA) dated 14 December 2010 (Law & Ordinance Gazette LSA p. 600), most recently amended by the law of 25 February 2016 (Law & Ordinance Gazette LSA pp. 89, 94), and § 23 of the General Regulations of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg dated 27 March 2012 (Ministerial Gazette LSA p. 305), the wording of the Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Natural Sciences dated 2 November 1994, most recently revised by the Second Statute amending its Doctoral Degree Regulations dated 11.07.2018, is hereby republished below:

#### Index

- § 1 Basic Principles
- § 2 Doctoral Degree Requirements
- § 3 Admission Requirements
- § 4 Supervision of Doctoral Candidates
- § 5 Application for Examination
- § 6 Initiation of the Doctoral Examination Procedure
- § 7 Assessment of the Thesis
- § 8 Public Defence
- § 9 Assessment of Doctoral Degree Requirements
- § 10 Thesis Publication
- § 11 Confirmation of Doctoral Degree
- § 12 Termination of the Doctoral Graduation Procedure
- § 13 Doctoral Degree Documents
- § 14 Honorary Doctorates
- § 15 Withdrawal and Revocation of the Doctoral Degree
- § 16 Joint Doctoral Examination Procedure with Foreign Universities
- § 17 Transitional Arrangements

Appendix 1:	Layout of the Thesis Cover Page upon Submission
Appendix 2:	Wording of the Declaration of Criminal Convictions (German)
Appendix 2a:	Declaration of criminal convictions
Appendix 3:	Wording of the Declaration of Honour (German)
Appendix 3a:	Declaration of Honour
Appendix 4:	Layout of the Thesis Cover Page upon Publication
Appendix 5a:	Certificate Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences (German)
Appendix 5b:	Certificate Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences (English)
Appendix 6:	Certificate Awarding an Honorary Doctorate of Natural Sciences
Appendix 7:	Doctoral Certificate under the Cotutelle Process

## § 1

### Basic Principles

(1) A doctoral degree serves to demonstrate the ability of the person seeking it, to achieve, through independent scientific work, results that contribute to the development of the branch of science, its theories and methods.

(2) The Faculty of Natural Sciences at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg (hereafter: Faculty) awards the academic degree of

"doctor rerum naturalium" (Dr. rer. nat.).

(3) The degree mentioned in § 1 paragraph 2 can only be awarded to the person applying for it once.

(4) It must be possible to attribute the thesis to a field of research that is established in the Faculty. A field of research is an area of knowledge that is defined in terms of content, for which a course has been established or which is represented in terms of teaching and research by at least one professor, one co-opted professor, one junior professor or one private lecturer.

## § 2

### Doctoral Degree Requirements

(1) The doctoral degree requirements consist of the thesis and its public defence.

(2) The thesis (dissertation) is a scientific discourse produced by the candidate in one of the areas of research covered by the Faculty (in accordance with § 1 para. 4) that constitutes an advancement in scientific knowledge.

(3) The thesis must be written in either German or English. A summary of the thesis must be provided in both German and English. A written paper that has already been assessed cannot be presented as a thesis.

(4) The thesis may already have been published in part or, in exceptional cases with particular justification, in full.

(5) It may be possible to submit a cumulative thesis upon application. Any such application shall be adjudicated upon by the Faculty Council. The submission of this form of thesis must be supported in writing by the supervisor. A cumulative thesis contains at least three papers on associated subjects that have been written by the candidate either alone or as main author, and which must have been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed international journals. In the case of co-authorship, the contribution of the candidate must be confirmed by all of the co-authors or the candidate's supervisor and it must be possible to substantively and clearly define and assess the candidate's share as an individual scientific achievement. For at least three of the publications, the date of acceptance upon submission of the thesis may not date back more than 6 years. Exceptions to this rule shall be adjudicated upon by the Faculty Council. All papers must fit together within a single conceptual framework. This framework includes an informative introduction to the scientific questions upon which the publications are based and a final reflection which places the candidate's own findings in the prevailing specialist context, together with a list of references. The cumulative thesis must be submitted bound.

(6) The public defence is used to demonstrate that the candidate is able to critically discuss the working methods used, the specific research issue and the results of their thesis, and that they are fully conversant with the relevance and scope of the thesis for the subject as a whole as well as with its interdisciplinary context.

### **§ 3**

#### **Admission Requirements**

(1) Anyone who has completed a university degree (diploma, Master's or equivalent degree) in a university-level programme at a German or recognised equivalent foreign university may be admitted to the doctoral examination process. In principle, admission requires the production of an independent written academic paper that corresponds in type and scope to a Master's thesis.

(2) The Faculty Council will adjudicate on questions regarding the equivalency of foreign qualifications. In the process, the guidelines issued by the Central Office for Foreign Education should be observed. The candidate must apply to the Department of Academic Affairs at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg for an equivalency assessment, which must then be submitted to the Faculty.

(3) Particularly capable graduates of a university of applied sciences may also be admitted to the doctoral examination process. The requirement for admission is the completion of a technically relevant programme at a university of applied sciences with a degree (diploma, Master's or equivalent degree) with a significantly above average result. In principle, admission requires the production of an independent written academic paper that corresponds in type and scope to a Master's thesis.

(4) Before the start of the doctoral examination process, the Faculty Council will stipulate which additional

examinations may need to be completed if the candidate has not obtained their university qualifications on a course in the specific subject area of the proposed doctoral degree or they were obtained at an unrecognised foreign university. The additional examinations must be completed in compliance with the deadlines set by the Faculty Council, and by no later than the date on which the decision is made regarding the commencement of the doctoral dissertation.

(5) Anyone who meets the aforementioned admission requirements, may apply for approval as a doctoral candidate, providing that they indicate the prospective subject and supervisor to the Dean. The Faculty Council will adjudicate on the application. If the candidate is admitted, this is indicative of the fact that the Faculty is prepared to assess their dissertation as an academic thesis.

(6) Admission may be revoked or withdrawn if it is subsequently discovered that there are grounds to reject the application or there is no prospect of the thesis being successfully completed within 6 years. Decisions regarding revocation or withdrawal are made by the Faculty Council.

#### **§ 4**

##### **Supervision of Doctoral Candidates**

(1) Doctoral candidates may be supervised by professors, junior professors and private lecturers in the Faculty and by representatives of natural science disciplines (in the research fields of the Faculty) from the Faculty of Medicine at Otto von Guericke University. In justified cases, the supervision may be provided by a retired professor, who must be a member of the Faculties mentioned in clause 1.

(2) Junior post-doctoral scientists from the Faculty, who are funded on the basis of an external evaluation procedure by a research funding body or equivalent organisation, or who were appointed to their role through an internal appointment procedure involving external experts, may, with the approval of the Faculty Council, also supervise doctoral degrees.

#### **§ 5**

##### **Application for Examination**

(1) The application to commence the doctoral examination procedure must be addressed by the candidate in writing to the Dean. The application must state the subject of the doctoral degree.

(2) The following must also be included in the application:

- a) a declaration that the applicant is conversant with the prevailing doctoral degree regulations;
- b) evidence that they meet the admission requirements (§ 3);

- c) a curriculum vitae in tabular form;
- d) three copies of their thesis (cover page as per Appendix 1);
- e) a list of scientific publications to date and other scientific achievements;
- f) a declaration regarding any earlier graduation attempts at doctoral level, that states that the candidate has produced their thesis independently, that it has not already been used as a thesis, and that the aids and sources used have been fully acknowledged;
- g) a declaration of honour (template as per Appendix 3);
- h) a written declaration by the candidate that he/she has not been convicted of a criminal offence entailing academic / scientific misconduct (template as per Appendix 2).  
In particular, a criminal offence entails relevant academic/scientific misconduct if
  - there is an immediate relationship to the specialist scientific qualification associated with the doctoral degree,
  - it is likely to compromise the viability and credibility of the scientific enterprise,
  - it constitutes academic misconduct, because standards and principles of academic work have been violated in a deliberate or grossly negligent manner.

(3) A reasoned recommendation for three independent examiners for the dissertation who are not members of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg may be included in the application.

(4) The application for examination and associated documentation (paragraphs 2 a to h) shall become the property of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg.

(5) The application for commencement of the doctoral examination procedure may be withdrawn, provided that the procedure has not already commenced. In this case the application for examination shall be deemed not to have been made.

## § 6

### Initiation of the Doctoral Examination Procedure

(1) The Dean will check the application for examination, determine whether the requirements have been met in accordance with §§ 3 and 5, and submit it to the Faculty Council for a decision regarding approval.

(2) The application must be rejected, notwithstanding the other reasons arising from § 3 para. 4 clause 2 and § 5, if

- the candidate declares, in accordance with § 5 para. 2 that they have been convicted of a criminal offence involving academic/scientific misconduct;
- it is known that the declaration submitted in accordance with § 5 para. 2 is false.

(3) The rejection of an application for admission, its revocation or withdrawal in accordance with §3 para. 6 must be justified in writing by the Dean, instructions on how to appeal the

decision must be included, and the applicant notified by official letter.

(4) The members of the Faculty Council have the right to inspect the submitted documents. All other professors, junior professors, private lecturers and academic staff in the Faculty who hold a doctoral or post-doctoral qualification may inspect the documents (§ 5 para. 2 d to h).

(5) If the Faculty Council approves the application for admission to the doctoral examination procedure, then it will appoint a doctoral examination committee. This consists of a chairperson, plus at least two expert examiners and at least two professors, junior professors or private lecturers. The majority of members of the doctoral examination committee should belong to the category of persons mentioned in § 4 para. 1.

(6) The chair of the doctoral examination committee shall be a salaried professor in the Faculty. At least two expert examiners shall be appointed and one of these examiners shall be a salaried professor. The additional expert examiner shall be a professor, junior professor or private lecturer. Expert examiners may also be retired professors. In exceptional cases, which must be justified, this expert examiner may also be selected from the group of other academic staff holding a doctoral or post-doctoral qualification. The expert examiners shall represent the field of research in which the doctoral examination procedure is taking place. At least one expert examiner should not be a member of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg.

(7) The Dean shall notify the candidate of the initiation of the doctoral examination procedure and make them aware of the composition of the examination committee.

## § 7

### Assessment of the Thesis

(1) The examiners shall verify, individually and separately, whether the submitted dissertation may be accepted as a doctoral thesis; they will then produce a written opinion, grading the thesis as either

- a) magna cum laude (excellent),
- b) cum laude (good),
- c) rite (satisfactory) or
- d) non sufficit (inadequate).

(2) The written opinions should be submitted no later than three months following commencement of the doctoral examination procedure to the chair of the examination committee.

(3) The examination procedure will be continued if the thesis is graded as at least "rite" by all of the examiners.

(4) If more than one examiner grades the thesis as “non sufficit”, then it will be rejected and the examination procedure terminated.

(5) If the thesis is graded by one of two examiners as “non sufficit”, then the Faculty Council must appoint another external examiner. The examination committee and the candidate may both make suggestions in this regard. If this examiner grades the thesis as “non sufficit”, then the examination process will be terminated.

## **§ 8**

### **Public Defence**

(1) If the examination process is continued, the chair of the examination committee shall agree upon a date for the defence of the dissertation with the other members of the committee and the candidate. The defence is held in public. The chair of the examination committee shall invite, at least 14 days before the appointed date

- a) the members of the examination committee and the candidate,
- b) the members of the Faculty Council, the other professors, junior professors and private lecturers in the Faculty and,
- c) with the approval of the Faculty Council and – at the justified suggestion of an examiner, the candidate or a member of the Faculty Council – additional qualified academics.

(2) The thesis shall be lodged with the person appointed by the Dean to manage the file for a duration of 14 days before the defence so that it can be inspected (§ 13 para. 1). In addition, for the persons named in para. 1 letters a) and b), the written opinions of the examiners shall also be available to inspect. The Faculty Council may also permit the additional persons mentioned in para. 1 letter c) to view the written opinions.

(3) The defence shall be held in German or English provided that no justified written objection is lodged within the time limit stipulated in para. 2 by one of the persons mentioned there. Members of the examination committee are obliged to participate in the defence if they are members of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg; exceptions may be granted for important reasons. If the chair of the examination committee or none of the examiners are able to attend, then the chair of the examination committee must agree a new date for the defence with examination committee and the candidate.

(4) The defence consists of a presentation by the candidate lasting approximately 30 minutes, a scientific discussion followed by questions from the members of the examination committee and the persons mentioned in paragraph 1 letters b) and c)

plus other qualified academics. The total duration of the defence should be at least 60 minutes. The candidate should set out the most important findings from their thesis in the presentation. In the discussion they should defend these and also demonstrate that they are fully conversant with the relevance and scope of the thesis for the subject as a whole and with its interdisciplinary context.

## § 9

### Assessment of the Doctoral Degree Requirements

(1) Immediately after the defence, the examination committee shall meet in closed session to decide whether the candidate has passed their defence

magna cum laude,  
cum laude  
or rite

or whether their graduation cannot be completed following the defence.

(2) Based on the evaluation of the thesis and defence, the examination committee shall make a recommendation as to whether the doctoral examination overall has been passed

summa cum laude,  
magna cum laude,  
cum laude  
or rite.

(3) The overall grade “summa cum laude” can be recommended on the basis of a unanimous vote by the examination committee, if all examiners have unreservedly graded the thesis “magna cum laude”, and the defence has been unanimously graded “magna cum laude” by the examination committee.

(4) The chair of the examination committee must document the progression and content of the defence. In addition to naming the members of the examination committee present, it must state the grade awarded to the defence and thesis and the recommended overall grade. The record must be signed by the members of the examination committee.

(5) The chair of the examination committee shall immediately communicate the overall result, subject to the decision of the Faculty Council, to the candidate and the Dean. The candidate may be issued in writing with stylistic and material changes to be made to the thesis prior to publication by the examination committee in accordance with § 10.

(6) Taking into account the recommendation of the examination committee, the Faculty Council shall decide upon the conferral of the academic degree and the overall grade.



(7) If the doctorate cannot be awarded following the outcome of the defence, then the candidate may repeat their defence no earlier than three months and no later than two years from the date of this defence, provided that they have applied to repeat the defence within a month of being notified of the outcome.

(8) If the candidate does not apply to repeat their defence after the initial failure, or if the repeat defence is failed, then the doctoral examination procedure will be terminated.

## **§ 10**

### **Thesis Publication**

(1) Before the candidate can be awarded a doctorate following a successful defence, their thesis must be made accessible in a suitable manner to the academic community by reproduction and dissemination. The following forms of publication are permissible:

- a) publication in printed form;
- b) electronic publication;
- c) publication as an independent document published by an academic publisher.

(2) Following the decision regarding the award of the academic degree (§ 9 para. 6), 20 permanently bound printed copies on non-ageing, lignin and acid-free paper must be presented to Magdeburg University Library. Ring and spiral binding is not permitted. The layout of the title page must comply with Appendix 4. In the event that the thesis is to be published as an independent document by a scientific publisher or in the case of presentation of an electronic version of the thesis text to Magdeburg University Library in data format (PDF) 6 copies of the printed dissertation must also be submitted.

(3) There is a time limit of six months after the defence for submission of the deposit copies, which may be extended upon request.

## **§ 11**

### **Confirmation of the Doctoral Degree**

(1) As soon as the candidate has fulfilled all of the doctoral degree requirements and met the conditions set out in § 10, the Dean shall arrange for the degree certificate to be issued and confirm the award of the degree by handing over the certificate.

(2) The certificate shall be drawn up in accordance with the template contained in Appendix 5a or 5b.

(3) Upon receipt of the doctoral degree certificate, the candidate shall acquire the right to use the academic title “doctor rerum naturalium” (Dr. rer. nat.). This concludes the doctoral degree process.

**§ 12****Termination of the Doctoral Graduation Process**

(1) If the candidate fails or refuses, in a timely manner, to comply with a requirement enacted by the Dean as part of the doctoral examination process, without providing a reason accepted by the Faculty Council, or if they do not submit the final version of their thesis (§ 10) without providing a reason accepted by the chair of the examination committee as being valid within six months of their defence, the graduation process will be terminated. The process will also be terminated if the candidate notifies the committee, after a written expert opinion has been submitted, that they no longer wish to continue the doctoral examination process.

(2) If, before the doctoral degree certificate is awarded, it is ascertained that the candidate has knowingly provided misleading information, then the Faculty Council shall decide whether to terminate or continue the graduation process. In case of doubt, the process will be suspended until clarification is obtained. The candidate must be given the opportunity to comment on the accusations made against them.

(3) Official decisions with which the termination of the graduation process is announced, must be substantiated in writing by the Dean, provided with instructions on how to appeal and issued to the candidate.

**§ 13****Doctoral Degree Documents**

(1) The doctoral degree documents are managed by the person appointed on behalf of the Dean to confer doctoral degrees.

(2) Each doctoral degree document must have a date control document appended to it.

(3) The personal details recorded for the purposes of the doctoral examination procedure will be processed in compliance with the provisions of the law on the protection of the personal data of citizens as amended by the announcement dated 13 January 2016 (Official Gazette LSA 2016, p. 24, 25) and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) dated 27 April 2016.

**§ 14****Honorary Doctorates**

(1) With the approval of the Senate, the Faculty may make the academic award of an Honorary Doctorate of Natural Sciences (Dr. rer. nat. h.c.) as a rare recognition of outstanding scientific achievement. The honouree may not be a member of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg. An honorary doctorate cannot be awarded posthumously.

(2) The application must be made to the Dean by at least three professors from the Faculty.

(3) The assessment of the application must be made by an honorary degree conferral committee to be appointed by the Faculty Council, which consists of at least five professors, junior professors or private lecturers. The chair of the honorary degree conferral committee must be a professor from the Faculty. The committee will draw up a written report on the character and scientific achievements of the person to be honoured. In the process at least two external expert scientific opinions must be obtained. The decision regarding the further processing of the application of the Faculty Council must be made by a two-thirds majority of the committee.

(4) The Dean shall notify the members of the Faculty Council in due time that a consultation is to be held on an application for an honorary doctorate and at the same time notify them that the application and report by the honorary degree conferral committee is available in the office of the Dean to view in confidence by the members of the Faculty Council.

(5) Based on the report from the honorary degree conferral committee, the Faculty Council shall hold a secret ballot to decide whether to forward the application to the Senate. In order to accept the application to award an honorary degree, the approval of a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Faculty Council and a two-thirds majority of the professors is required.

(6) If accepted, the Dean will submit the application to award an honorary degree with all documentation to the President so that the Senate can pass a resolution.

(7) The certificate that is to be conferred must be signed by the President and the Dean and presented to the honouree.

(8) The German research universities and the responsible ministry in the state of Saxony-Anhalt must be notified of the awarding of the honorary doctorate.

(9) If a request is rejected, the applicants must be notified in writing by the Dean.

## **§ 15**

### **Withdrawal and Revocation of the Doctoral Degree**

(1) The academic title of “doctor rerum naturalium” may, irrespective of the regulations regarding the revocation of a legal administrative act laid down under administrative procedural law, be withdrawn if

- it subsequently becomes apparent that the person concerned was unworthy of the awarding of a doctorate,
- the person concerned shows themselves by their subsequent behaviour to be unworthy of the awarding of a doctorate,
- it subsequently becomes apparent that the doctorate has been acquired by deception, or if significant requirements for the awarding of the degree were erroneously assumed to have been met,

- the person concerned has been convicted of a criminal offence involving academic/scientific misconduct,
- the person concerned has been convicted of a criminal offence, in the preparation or perpetration of which they misused the doctorate.

(2) The Faculty Council shall adjudicate upon the withdrawal of the doctorate by a resolution. The resolution requires a majority of three quarters of the votes cast. Before the resolution is made, the person concerned must have the opportunity to state their case.

(3) The resolution regarding the withdrawal or revocation of the doctorate must be justified in writing by the Dean, and the person concerned must be notified by official letter and provided with instructions on how to appeal. The doctoral degree certificate must be withdrawn. The fact of this withdrawal must be stated in the official letter.

(4) The provisions contained in paragraphs 1 to 3 apply analogously to the honorary academic title of doctor of natural sciences.

## **§ 16**

### **Joint Doctoral Graduation Procedure with Foreign Universities**

(Cotutelle Procedure)

(1) The doctoral examination process can be undertaken jointly with foreign universities, if the foreign universities have the right to award doctorates in accordance with their national regulations and the academic award being made by them would be recognised within the jurisdiction of German constitutional law. For the joint doctoral examination process, the regulations of these doctoral degree regulations apply, provided that no special regulations are set out below.

(2) Individual details regarding the execution of a joint doctoral examination process are regulated by the faculties involved or relevant institutions through a joint agreement. This agreement requires the approval of the Faculty Council.

(3) In the case of joint doctoral examination procedures with foreign universities, the doctoral candidates will be supervised by one member from each of the faculties or responsible institutions involved. They must meet the qualification criteria set out in § 4.

(4) The doctoral examination committee must in principle be made up, in accordance with the regulations applicable to each university, of equal numbers of academics belonging to the two universities.

The chair of the examination committee must be appointed from the cohort of authorised examiners belonging to the universities. Further details shall be set out in the joint agreement.

(5) If the oral defence of the thesis takes place in the foreign faculty with the involvement of the

supervisor from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, this shall be deemed to replace the requirement for an oral defence in the Faculty of Natural Sciences. The joint agreement shall govern this in greater detail, and in particular the language in which the oral examination is to be held.

(6) The doctoral degree certificate shall contain a note to the effect that the doctorate was obtained by means of a joint doctoral examination procedure; it will be produced in accordance with the template in Appendix 7. Both degree certificates shall contain a note to the effect that they are each only valid in conjunction with the degree certificate from the other university, and that the holder of the doctorate has the right to use the title either in the German form in accordance with § 1 para 2 or the foreign form. The certificates, both of which carry the official seal and logo of the issuing university, must expressly state the binational character of the jointly supervised doctorate and the joint awarding of the doctoral degree.

## **§ 17**

### **Transitional Arrangements**

In the case of doctoral graduation procedures initiated prior to the coming into force of the Second Statute amending the doctoral examination procedures of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the doctoral examination procedure of the Faculty of Natural Sciences dated 2 November 1994 as amended on 19 January 2006 shall apply, unless the doctoral candidate accedes to the doctoral examination procedure of the Faculty of Natural Sciences set out in the Second Statute Amendment.

Issued pursuant to the resolution by the extended Faculty Council of the Faculty of Natural Sciences dated 30.05.2018, and by the Senate dated 11.07.2018.

Magdeburg, ..... [insert date]

Professor Dr.-Ing. Jens Strackeljan  
President of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

**Appendix 1: Layout of the Thesis Cover Page upon Submission**

(T i t l e)

Thesis submitted to the Faculty of Natural Sciences  
of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg for the degree of

**doctor rerum naturalium (Dr. rer. nat.)**

on \_\_\_\_\_(submission date),

submitted by\_

(academic title, first name, last name)

**Appendix 2: Wording of the Declaration of Criminal Convictions**

**(German) Erklärung zur strafrechtlichen Verurteilung**

Ich erkläre hiermit, nicht wegen einer Straftat verurteilt worden zu sein, die Wissenschafts-  
bezug hat.

(O r t, D a t u m)

(Unterschrift)

**Appendix 2a:**

***Declaration of Criminal Convictions***

I hereby declare that I have not been found guilty of a criminal offence involving scientific/academic misconduct.

(Place, date)

(Signature)



### Appendix 3: Wording of the Declaration of Honour

#### (German) Ehrenerklärung

Ich versichere hiermit, dass ich die vorliegende Arbeit ohne unzulässige Hilfe Dritter und ohne Benutzung anderer als der angegebenen Hilfsmittel angefertigt habe; verwendete fremde und eigene Quellen sind als solche kenntlich gemacht.

Ich habe insbesondere nicht wissentlich:

- Ergebnisse erfunden oder widersprüchlich Ergebnisse verschwiegen,
- statistische Verfahren absichtlich missbraucht, um Daten in ungerechtfertigter Weise zu interpretieren,
- fremde Ergebnisse oder Veröffentlichungen plagiiert,
- fremde Forschungsergebnisse verzerrt wiedergegeben.

Mir ist bekannt, dass Verstöße gegen das Urheberrecht Unterlassungs- und Schadensersatzansprüche des Urhebers sowie eine strafrechtliche Ahndung durch die Strafverfolgungsbehörden begründen kann.

Ich erkläre mich damit einverstanden, dass die Arbeit ggf. mit Mitteln der elektronischen Datenverarbeitung auf Plagiate überprüft werden kann.

Die Arbeit wurde bisher weder im Inland noch im Ausland in gleicher oder ähnlicher Form als Dissertation eingereicht und ist als Ganzes auch noch nicht veröffentlicht.

(O r t, D a t u m)

(Unterschrift)

**Appendix 3a:**

## Declaration of Honour

"I hereby declare that I prepared this thesis without the impermissible help of third parties and that none other than the aids indicated have been used; all sources of information are clearly marked, including my own publications.

In particular I have not consciously:

- fabricated data or rejected undesirable results,
- misused statistical methods with the aim of drawing other conclusions than those warranted by the available data,
- plagiarized external data or publications,
- presented the results of other researchers in a distorted way.

I am aware that violations of copyright may lead to injunction and damage claims by the author and also to prosecution by the law enforcement authorities.

I hereby agree that the thesis may be electronically reviewed with the aim of identifying plagiarism.

This work has not yet been submitted as a doctoral thesis in the same or a similar form in Germany, nor in any other country. It has not yet been published as a whole."

(Place, date)

(Signature)

**Appendix 4: Layout of the Thesis Cover Page upon Publication**

(T i t l e)

**Thesis**

for the degree of

**doctor rerum naturalium (Dr. rer. nat.)**

approved by the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

by \_\_\_\_\_(academic title, first name,  
last name/last name at birth)

born on \_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_  
(academic title, first name, last name)  
\_\_\_\_\_

(academic title, first name, last name)

submitted on: \_\_\_\_\_defended on:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 5a: Certificate Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences (German)**

**Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg**

Unter dem Rektorat des Professors \_\_\_\_\_

verleiht

die Fakultät für Naturwissenschaften

Frau/Herrn (akad. Grad, Vorname, Name/Geburtsname)

geb. am \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

den akademischen Grad

**doctor rerum naturalium (Dr. rer. nat.)**

nach dem sie/er ihre/seine wissenschaftliche Befähigung mit der Dissertation \*)

\_\_\_\_\_

nachgewiesen hat.

Für die Gesamtleistung wird das Prädikat

\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)

erteilt.

Magdeburg, den \_\_\_\_\_

(Beschlussdatum)

Der Rektor

Siegel

Der Dekan

\*) Nennung des Themas der Dissertation

**Appendix 5b: Certificate Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences (English)**

*Translation of legally binding German  
certificate*

**Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg**

Under the auspices of the President of the

University, Professor .....

the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

hereby grants

.....(first name, last

name)..... born ..... in

the degree of Doctor of Natural Sciences

doctor rerum naturalium

(Dr. rer. nat.)

after having completed a dissertation in accordance with the regulations of the faculty.

Title of Doctoral Thesis:

.....

Final grade: ..... (English translation)

Magdeburg, .....

*(Date of*

*resolution)*

*(Official seal)*

President of the University

Dean of the Faculty

**Appendix 6: Certificate Awarding an Honorary Doctorate of Natural Sciences**

**Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg**

The Faculty of Natural Sciences

hereby awards

(academic title, first name, last name/last name at birth)

born \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

the

**HONORARY DOCTORATE OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

**(Dr. rer. nat. h.c.)**

(Reason for the award as per resolution by the Senate)

---

---

---

---

Magdeburg, [insert date] \_\_\_\_\_ (date of award)

The President

Official Seal

Dean of the Faculty

Appendix 7: Doctoral Certificate under the Cotutelle Process

Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

Doctoral Degree Certificate Template  
for degrees awarded under a joint supervision (cotutelle) agreement

Under the Presidency of Professor (*Name*), the Faculty (*Name of Faculty*)  
of the University (*name of German university*)

and

the Faculty (*Name of Faculty*)  
of the University (*name of foreign university*)

hereby jointly

award Mr/Ms (*last name*,

*first name*)

born on (*date*) in (*place*)

the degree of

Doctor of (*name of discipline*)

He/she did demonstrate in a properly conducted doctoral examination process supervised  
jointly by both faculties by means of a dissertation, which was awarded the grade of  
(*mark/grade*) on the subject of

(*title of dissertation*)

and an oral defence conducted on (*date*)

(*in the subject(s) – name of examination subjects*)

his/her scientific competence, and in the process received the

following overall assessment

(*mark/grading*)

*Place, Date*

President of the German University

Dean of the German Faculty (*official seal*)

Mr/Ms (*last name*) is entitled to bear the title of doctor in either the German or foreign form. The names of both universities that supervised the doctoral examination procedure may be added in brackets. This doctoral degree requires no further state approval for use in the Federal Republic of Germany. This certificate is only valid in conjunction with the doctoral degree certificate issued by this partner institution.