

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING A DOCTORATE AT THE FACULTY OF SPATIAL PLANNING, TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DORTMUND

Welcome. At our faculty you can study for a doctorate either in engineering (Dr.-Ing.) or politics (Dr. rer.pol.). You find the rules and conditions in the *Regulations for the Doctorate*. Here the first steps of an application are explained:

1. In *Paragraph 4 of the Regulations for the Doctorate*, you will find the pre-conditions to commence your doctorate. It is not necessary to have a degree in urban or regional planning, degrees in similar subjects such as geography or architecture would also be acceptable. However, your previous studies should have had a clear focus on spatial issues.
2. You can write your thesis and take the examination either in English or German.
3. When applying you should be able to present a clear draft concept of your theme setting out your focus, the principal research questions and the principal methodology. You should also present a first concept of your work schedule.
4. You have two options to start your doctoral studies:
 - a. You can discuss it with your prospective supervisor at our faculty;
 - b. You can hand in your concept document (approx. 10 pages), together with your CV, to the secretariat of the PhD Admission Board to enable us to find a suitable supervisor for you. The supervisor must be a member of the Faculty of Spatial Planning.
5. In the event of your applying for funding it is sufficient to have a written confirmation by your supervisor; full approval of the faculty is not yet required.
6. Your doctoral commission will require a second supervisor as well as an examiner, both of whom can be selected at a later stage. If the theme of your doctoral thesis is situated outside of Germany, please ensure that at least one member of the PhD Admission Board is aware of the spatial planning and research frame work in that country.
7. The members of the commission should on the one hand represent the multidisciplinary of the faculty and on the other hand the different professorships regarding the research topic. At least one of the supervisors / examiner should be practicing.
8. You will find a list of the documents required for the formal application in *Paragraph 5 of the Regulations for the Doctorate*. Please note that the Faculty's PhD Admission Board only meets twice per semester. This is normally at the beginning and at the end of the semester. Please submit your application at least two weeks before a meeting.

9. Should the Faculty's PhD Admission Board not find your qualifications sufficient, they could ask you to participate in up to four (4) oral examinations which will take the form of discussions. The objective (see *Paragraph 4 of the Regulations for the Doctorate*) is to ascertain whether you have sufficient knowledge of spatial planning and if you are theoretically and methodologically competent in spatial planning. The examination theme is related to the theme of your doctoral thesis and each discussion will take about 30 minutes and will be minuted. Even if you pass an examination, it could still be considered necessary for you to attend further lectures to augment your knowledge of the subject. If you do not pass an examination you can repeat it, but you would have to have passed all examinations by the time you complete your actual doctorate.
10. The PhD Admission Board may ask you to write an essay of thirty pages, in order to establish your research capabilities. The theme of the essay can be related to the theme of your doctorate, for example, you may be asked to present research that has already been carried out in the field of your research topic. This work will have to be accepted by your supervisor and at least one additional lecturer from our faculty (*Paragraph 10 (3) of the Regulations for the Doctorate*). Instead of the aforementioned essay you can submit your master thesis in English or German.
11. Once your application has been considered by the Faculty's PhD Admission Board you will receive a written notification as to whether you have been accepted, conditionally accepted, or declined.

Should you have any further questions please contact Ms Sabine Benedix,
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gez. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Sabine Baumgart
(Head of the Committee for the Doctorate)