Information from the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar
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☒ The President ☐ The Chancellor	Examination regulations for the Art and Design doctoral programme with the award of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)	Issued on 05/2025 Date 17 February 2025
	Issued by Dep./Unit Phone Faculty of Art and Design 3206	

Pursuant to § 3, paragraph 1 in conjunction with section § 38, paragraph 3 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act of 10 May 2018 (GVBl. P. 149), most recently modified by Article 31 of the Act dated 02 July 2024 (GVBl. S. 277) the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar issues the following Examination regulations for the Art and Design, Doctor of Philosophy (Philosophy (Ph.D.) study programme; the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Art and Design passed the Examination regulations on 11/12/2024. The President of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar approved the regulations on 17 February 2025.

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§ 1 Ph.D. Degree and Purpose of Ph.D. Degree Programme

(1) The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar through the Faculty of Art and Design awards the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) for the successfully completed doctoral programme in Art and Design.

(2) Successful completion in accordance with the Study Objectives outlined in § 2 of the Study Regulations is achieved through:
   a) successfully completing all intermediate doctoral tasks,
   b) a dissertation written as both a scientific and artistic or design work according to § 8 of the Study Regulations
   c) a defence of said dissertation as a lecture followed by a question period with the doctoral candidate.

§ 2 General Stipulations on the Ph.D. Process

(1) The Ph.D. process is conducted in the following order:

1. Doctoral candidate's admission to the doctoral degree programme after passing the aptitude test
2. Starting the doctoral process (§ 7)
3. Dissertation assessment (§ 8)
4. Dissertation acceptance (§ 9)
5. Defence (§ 11)
6. Doctoral performance assessment (§ 12)
7. Submitting mandatory copies (§ 13)
8. Award of the Ph.D. degree (§ 14)

(2) The following individuals are entitled to be involved in the doctoral process, in particular as mentors, assessors and members of the examination committee:

a) University instructor, in accordance with §§ 84 para. 1 and 2 and 89 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act (ThürHG), or the relevant Higher Education Acts in other federal states,
b) Academics who have completed their Habilitation
c) Post-doctoral heads of research groups whose funders require such involvement,
d) Scientific, artistic, or design university instructors from universities of applied sciences who have been appointed in accordance with § 84 para. 1 and 2 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act (ThürHG) or corresponding higher education laws of other federal states,
e) Academic, artistic or design lecturers from other countries who have adequate qualifications.

(3) In individual cases, scientists, artists, or designers with a doctorate may be authorised by the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee as additional mentors, assessors, and members of the examination commission.

(4) Joint support by Bauhaus-Universität Weimar lecturers and lecturers from other universities as stated in § 61 para. 5 Sentence 4 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act (ThürHG).

§ 3 Examinations

(1) Doctoral degree courses described in the § 6 and Appendix 1 of the Study Regulations are concluded with examinations. The type of examination is set by the instructor at the start of the semester.

(2) The examinations in the doctoral degree programme are graded as »passed« or »failed«.

(3) On justified request by the doctoral candidate, the university lecturer responsible for the examination can extend the submission date for the examination by a maximum of six months.

§ 4 Recognition of Study Periods, Study and Examination Results and Competencies Outside the University

(1) Study times, course and examination performances and practical semesters that were provided at another domestic, international or internationally recognised university or other degree programmes from the same university are to be credited if there is no significant difference in terms of the competencies gained (learning results). The Faculty of Art and Design Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee is responsible for determining recognition upon application.

(2) If study and examination performances are recognised in situations where grading systems are comparable, the grades are to be transferred and included in the calculation of the overall grade. The grade »passed« is used for grade systems that are not comparable. A grade of »passed« may be recognised in the attestation.

(3) If the requirements in Paragraph 1 are met, there is a legal right to recognition. The student must submit the documents required for recognition. Applications for recognition can only be made after enrolment. Applications are typically processed within four weeks. The department conducting the assessment is responsible for proving that an application does not meet the necessary requirements

(4) Knowledge and skills acquired outside of university settings can be recognised if they are equivalent in terms of content and level to the course and examination performances that they are to replace. They may replace a maximum of half of the degree's assigned credits. The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee is responsible for all recognition decisions. Recognition must be assigned to the modules and shown in the student's performance overview. Non- Recognition must be justified in writing. Applications for credit transfer be can only be made after enrolment. Applications are typically processed within four weeks. The decision on whether the performances provided by the student outside of the university are equivalent to the examination performances that are to be replaced is made on the individual basis using the documents presented by the student such as work samples, certificates, subject descriptions, teaching plans, etc. which typically must be less than 5 years old. The candidate is responsible for providing proof of equivalence.

§ 5 Compensation for Disadvantages

The regulations on compensating for disadvantage outlined in § 9 of the Study Regulations apply accordingly.

§ 6 Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee

(1) To properly implement the Ph.D. process, including the aptitude test and recognising study performances, the Faculty of Art and Design will form a Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee responsible for making decisions.

(2) The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee is elected for a three-year period and must be made up of a majority of university instructors from the Faculty of Art and Design. The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee must have a representative number of women. The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee consists of at least the following:

- Two professors from the scientific subject areas,
- Two professors from the artistic subject areas,
- One academic employee holding a doctorate
- one representative from the degree programme's Doctoral Council.

(3) The members of the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee They must belong to the Faculty of Art and Design.

(4) The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee can make decisions if at least two-thirds of the voting members are present and the majority of the professors is ensured. Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of the voting members present. If the number of votes is equal, the chair's vote is the deciding factor.

(5) The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Advising and resolutions on the following issues:
   a) Admission requirements in accordance with the respective Examination Regulations.
   b) Recognising and approving examinations and academic achievements
   c) Mentor appointment
   d) Starting the doctoral process
   e) Assessor appointment
   f) Accepting the dissertation based on the assessment and, if appropriate, evaluations and grading
   g) Examination committee appointment

2. The Ph.D. Graduate admissions committee is also responsible for determining whether doctoral process has been successfully completed (confirmation of the overall grade proposed by the examination committee and award of the doctorate).

3. The Ph.D. Admissions Committee is responsible for overseeing the proper Ph.D. procedure, ensuring it is carried out in accordance with high standards and that programme objectives are met. The Committee is responsible for drafting the regulations and associated handouts, as well as curricular programme developments and evaluations. The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee is the first point of contact should conflicts arise.

§ 7 Beginning the Ph.D. Process

(1) The doctoral procedure begins upon application. The prerequisite for beginning the Ph.D. includes fulfilling the admission requirements, submitting all required documents and certificates of achievement, and presenting the dissertation.

(2) The application to start the Ph.D. process is to be submitted to the chair of the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee, and must include the following documents:

1. Detailed, up-to-date curriculum vitae, including educational and professional experience,

2. List of academic achievements, in particular publications and, if applicable, a list of design and planning experience, exhibitions, conference contributions, etc.,
3. Proof of examinations and academic achievements in accordance with the Ph.D. Study Regulations, including a portfolio with key qualifications and proof of tutorials
4. Proof of successful completion of the requirements outlined in § 2 of the aptitude test regulations if applicable
5. Declarations on whether and, if appropriate, how successful the candidate has already been in requesting the doctoral process,
6. Four bound copies of the dissertation and one digital copy,
7. Abstract written in German and English containing the important conclusions drawn in the dissertation, no longer than 6 pages in length; the abstract must contain the following points:
    - o Problem and objective of the dissertation,
    - o Current research status,
    - o Overview of the methods used and main results achieved,
    - o Confirming mentor support for the application to start the doctoral process
8. Plagiarism declaration (Appendix 1),
9. Proof of doctoral fee payment.

(3) As a general rule, the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee must decide on the application to start the doctoral process within six weeks of receiving the doctoral letter and documents as stated in para. 2.

(4) The abstract (para. 2, Nr. 7) and the dissertation must be submitted to all members of the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee along with the invitation no later than 14 days before the meeting of the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee, which may also be the date for starting the process.

(5) If the process is not started, the applicant must be informed in writing of the decision and given the right to appeal. In this case, one example of the dissertation along with the statements and protocols remains on the files of the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee. In the event of not starting the process, a period of six months to revise the dissertation is granted. An extension of this period may be granted in justified cases and must be requested from the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee in writing.

(6) The dissertation may be withdrawn by the doctoral candidate within one month of starting the process and before the presentation of the first assessment. The application must be submitted in writing to the chair of the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee. The process must then be treated as if a request to start was never submitted.

(7) If the dissertation is not submitted by the end of the 12th study semester, the doctoral degree is conclusively considered failed. The doctoral candidate is to be informed of this decision in writing along with information on their right of appeal.

(8) In the event of a change of mentor or other significant reasons for which the doctoral candidate is not responsible, the submission deadline may be extended by a maximum of two semesters (i.e. the end of the 14th semester). The doctoral candidate is responsible for requesting the extension. The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee is responsible for all extension decisions.

(9) All Bauhaus-Universität Weimar lecturers have the right to participate in the doctoral process as advisers.

§ 8 Assessors and Dissertation Assessment

(1) The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee appoints assessors at the beginning of the procedure. At least one of the reviewers should be from the scientific field and one from the artistic field. Assessors with a doctorate and dual qualifications may assess both artistic and scientific content. In each case, the assessor must have the qualification for which the examination is held or an equivalent (§ 54 para. 3 ThürHG).

(2) As a general rule, the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee appoints at least two assessors. At least one assessor must be appointed by an academic institution other than the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. If both mentors are also assessors, an additional external assessment must be made. Dissertations that deal with assessing interdisciplinary themes may involve additional assessors.

(3) The doctoral candidate may suggest assessors. The suggestion must be submitted to the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee in writing with the forms to start the doctoral process (§ 7 para. 2).

(4) The assessments must be made independently of one another. As a general rule, assessments must be completed within three months of receiving the assessment request.

(5) The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee oversees the quality of the assessments. An assessment can be rejected if:
a) The assessment contains serious linguistic shortfalls,
b) The assessment does not address the doctorate in a dedicated manner,
c) The assessment does not assess the original academic, artistic or design results presented in the work,
d) The assessment takes into account violations against the principles of academic work that are not to be judged. The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee can, in such cases, ask the assessor to revise/review their assessment or appoint another assessor.

(6) The assessors propose rejecting or accepting the work to the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee. If the assessors recommend accepting the work, they can at the same time propose conditions for its publication.

(7) When grading, equal weighting of the dissertation's academic and artistic elements must be taken into account.

§ 9 Dissertation Acceptance

(1) Once the assessments have been presented, the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions committee will decide whether to accept the dissertation within six weeks. This period is paused during lecture-free periods.

(2) If the assessment grades vary by two grade levels from each other or at least two members of the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee object to the statements in an assessment, the Ph. D. Graduate Admissions Committee may appoint another assessor.

(3) If an agreement cannot be met on whether to accept the dissertation, an additional assessor must be consulted. A dissertation cannot be accepted if it is not recommended by the majority of assessors.

(4) The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee decides on acceptance of the dissertation based on the assessments. Doctoral candidates must be notified of rejection in writing with justification. In such cases, the candidate has the right to view the assessments within one month of receiving the notification.

(5) If the dissertation is rejected, one example of the dissertation with all of the assessments remains in the doctorate files. A revised or new dissertation can be submitted once at the earliest after six months and within a maximum period of two years. Further revisions are not possible after this.

(6) If the dissertation is accepted, the doctoral candidate has the right to read the content of the assessments at least two weeks before the defence date from the chair of the Graduate Admissions Committee; this does not include the grading element.

§ 10 Examination Committee

(1) Upon acceptance of the dissertation, the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee appoints an examination commission responsible for the ongoing implementation of the process, in particular the implementation of the defence and grading of the doctoral performances.

(2) The examination committee comprises at least four members. This includes all mentors, assessors, and at least one university instructor who acts as chair of the examination commission and leads/moderates the defence. The chair must be a member of the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee. The chair may not be a mentor or assessor. The examination committee must also include an additional Bauhaus-Universität Weimar lecturer. Alternatively, a scientific staff member with a doctorate or an external university lecturer in accordance with § 2 para. 2 may also be a member of the examination commission. The Graduate Admissions Committee has the right to appoint additional examination commission members as required.

(3) The members of the examination committee are invited at the latest 14 days before the meeting date.

(4) The assessments are made available to the invitees for viewing 14 days before the meeting.

§ 11 Defence

The objectives of the defence are an academic discussion on the dissertation between the examination committee and the doctoral candidate as well as the professional presentation of the artistic or design results.

(1) The defence should take place within six months of the dissertation's acceptance. The defence is made public in the university. The dissertation is available in the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar University Library 14 days before the date of the defence.

(2) The defence is open to the university public and as a general rule takes place in-person. External assessors may, in exceptional cases, participate via video conference.

(3) The university public may be excluded from the defence at the request of the doctoral candidate. A request to exclude members must be negotiated in a private meeting. The examination committee can, on request, decide on public access. Any form of recording (sound, film etc.) during the defence is prohibited.

(4) At the start of the defence, the chair of the examination committee introduces the committee members, the doctoral candidate and their artistic, design and academic career to date and state that the prerequisites for admission to the doctorate have been met and the dissertation has been approved.

(5) During the defence, the doctoral candidate explains the key results of the dissertation and refers to the arguments made in the assessments. The explanation should not exceed 45 minutes. It may last up to 60 minutes if presenting the relevant practical work results is more time consuming.

(6) Following the defence, the assessors present the content of their assessments and may ask the doctoral candidate questions. The members of the examination commission may then also ask questions, followed by questions from all others present. The discussion should not exceed 60 minutes. The chair may reject questions if they do not relate to the subject of the defence.

(7) The defence should not exceed two hours.

(8) Immediately after the defence, the examination committee meets in private to decide on:
- Passing or failing the defence.
- Grading the defence. Each examination committee member present grades the defence using the grading scale in § 12.
- Recommendation to the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee on awarding the academic title and the overall grade for the doctoral performance.

(9) The defence is passed if the majority of the examination committee members present the defence with a grade of at least »rite«. If the defence is failed, the examination committee recommends an overall grade as stated in §13 para. 2.

(10) The doctoral candidate must be informed of the result immediately after the decision has been made. The university audience is excluded from this event.

(11) A protocol on the defence is prepared with the following information:
- Location and time of the defence
- Name of the doctoral candidate and members of the examination commission
- Subject and procedure of the defence
- Individual grades awarded by the assessors for the dissertation in the assessments and for the defence as well as those of the other members of the examination committee
- Recommended course of action for publishing the work
- Recommendations to the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee on awarding the academic title and the overall grade of the doctoral performance; if issuing the overall grade »summa cum laude« (s.c.l.), the protocol must contain a separate justification.
- Signature of the chair of the examination commission.

(12) If the defence is failed, it may be repeated once within a year, but not within the first two months after the date of initial defence. If the second attempt is failed, the process is considered to have ended and the doctorate is conclusively considered failed.

§ 12 Doctoral Performance Assessment

(1) The grading scale is as follows:
- magna cum laude (very good i.e. 1.0)
- cum laude (good, i.e. 2.0)
- rite (passed, i.e. 3.0)
- non sufficit (failed, i.e. 4.0)

(2) Intermediate grades in increments of 0.3 upwards or downwards may be awarded. The intermediate grades 0.7 and 3.7 may not be awarded. If all the assessors grade the dissertation as »very good«, the overall grade of summa cum laude (with distinction) can be awarded.

(3) The overall grade is calculated from the average grades for the assessments which have a weighting of two and the average of the grades for the defence which are weighted as one. The average values are not rounded before being calculated. The second decimal place as well as all subsequent decimal places are deleted. The final grade is rounded to the full grade in favour of the doctoral candidate up to a deviation of 0.5.

§ 13 Mandatory Copies

(1) After passing the defence, the chair of the examination committee will inform the doctoral candidate whether and, if appropriate, any changes are required before publication. If changes are required, the revised dissertation is to be presented to an appointed member of the examination committee before duplication.

(2) The author of the dissertation must provide the following to the University Library free of charge:
- One electronic copy for the university's publication server in a data format agreed upon by the University Library (pdf recommended) and four bound copies, or
- Eight bound copies if the work is submitted in print form only, or
- Three copies if the dissertation is published in a journal or sold by bookshops. The copies must be marked as a dissertation from the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar or contain the standardised title page.

(3) If the dissertation is to be published in electronic form, the doctoral candidate transfers the right to produce and distribute further copies to the university as part of the statutory tasks of university libraries or to make it available on data networks. Once the electronic version of the dissertation has been submitted, the University Library is granted the right to publish the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar dissertation on its electronic platform and to report this publication to the German National Library.

(4) In the event of a cumulative dissertation, the submitted print copies must correspond to the version of the thesis submitted for assessment. This means that any previously published journal articles must be included in full (either a s copy of the publisher's version or as the author's manuscript). The author must confirm that a second publication is authorised in the required copies to be submitted. If necessary, the author must obtain authorisation from the publisher.

§ 14 Completing the Doctoral Degree

(1) The Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee determines the overall grade of the doctoral degree. After the doctoral candidate has provided proof that they have submitted the mandatory copies of the dissertation to the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee chair for the University Library, graduation is completed by provision of the certificate to the doctoral candidate. Only from this point on can the candidate use the Ph.D. title.

(2) The certificate is provided in triplicate and dated with the day of the defence. The certificate is signed by the President of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and the Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design and bears the seal of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. A copy remains in the doctorate files. A template of the certificate can be found in Appendix 2.

(3) The doctoral candidate receives a degree supplement in German and English.

§ 15 Viewing Files

In justified cases, the doctoral candidate or doctor can, upon written request to the chair of the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee, view the doctoral file.

§ 16 Appeal Process

(1) All adverse decisions under these Examination Regulations must be issued in writing, justified and issued with information on the right of appeal.

(2) In accordance with para. 1, the candidate in question has the right of appeal against decisions. The appeal must be submitted to the responsible Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee in writing or orally for the record within one month of receiving notification of the exam decision. If the objection is determined to be justified, it will be upheld. If the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee overrules the objection, the Dean will issue a notice of objection. This is to be accompanied by information on legal recourse.

(3) If the appeal is rejected in accordance with para. 2, the doctoral candidate may take legal action through the administrative courts.

§ 17 Failure or Withdrawal from Doctoral Programme

(1) The doctorate award must be refused or withdrawn if, between completing the doctoral process and issue of the certificate or after issue of the certificate, the following are found to have occurred:
a) The candidate is found to have committed fraud or deception during the doctoral process
b) Facts become known that would have excluded the award of the doctorate (e.g. incorrect statements on the requirements in § 7).

(2) Other statutory provisions apply to the derecognition or withdrawal of the doctorate award.

(3) This decision is made by the Dean of the Faculty following a consultation with the Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Committee. The individual in question can appeal to the Dean. If the appeal is not resolved, it must be presented to the President of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar for the issue of an appeal notification.

§ 18 Equal Opportunity Clause

Designations made under these regulations apply equally to all genders.

§ 19 Entry Into Effect

(1) The Examination Regulations for the doctoral programme come into force after approval by the President on the first day after their announcement by the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar.

(2) These regulations first apply for the doctoral candidates beginning their studies in the 2025/26 winter semester.

Resolution be the Faculty of Art and Design on 11.12.2024.

Prof. Andreas Mühlenberend
Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design:

The rules are subject to approval.

Dr. Steffi Heine
Legal Advisor

Approved
Weimar,

Prof. Peter Benz,
President

Appendix 1

Plagiarism declaration

I hereby certify that I have produced the enclosed dissertation without the impermissible help of third parties or the use of resources other than those stated. The data, methods and concepts taken directly or indirectly from other sources have been marked with these sources.

Any text passages that are quoted literally or analogously must be appropriately cited. This also applies to referencing key projects and tools as well as any support from third parties. The use of scientific, artistic, or creative methods or tools based on artificial intelligence (AI), including any related recordings or documentation must be labelled and referenced.

When selecting the creation and/or analysis of the following materials, the people listed below have assisted me as described below for a fee/at no charge:

1. ...
2. ...
3. ...

No other people were involved in the preparation of the content/materials of this dissertation. In particular, I have not used the chargeable assistance of agency or consultancy services (e.g. doctorate advisers or other people). No one has received from me directly or indirectly benefits in kind for work relating to the content of the presented dissertation.

The dissertation has not to date been presented in Germany or other countries in the same or similar form to another examination authority.

I certify that that I have to the best of my knowledge spoken the whole truth and have not withheld anything.

Date, Signature

Appendix 2

Certificate from the Faculty of Art and Design

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

.....
(Name)

The Bauhaus-Universität Weimar Faculty of Art and Design awards

.....,

born on ..... in ....., the academic degree

of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the Art and Design doctoral degree programme

The candidate has demonstrated in a proper graduation process through their Ph.D. dissertation

»....«

and its accompanying defence of the academic and artistic/design aptitude

and is thereby awarded the overall grade of »....« with a grade of
……..

The thesis was assessed by:
.....
.....
.....
Weimar, ...

..... Seal
of the Dean's Office

.....
President