

# **Regulations of the Doctoral Program Ecology and Environmental Research**

## **§ 1**

### **Organization**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The responsible organization for the doctoral program is the Bayreuth Center for Ecology and Environmental Research (BayCEER). <sup>2</sup>Members of the doctoral program are Phd scientists working at the University of Bayreuth in the field of Ecology and Environmental Research. <sup>3</sup>Scientists in this field, who have a doctor's degree and work independently may be affiliated upon request.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The steering committee of the doctoral program consists of five authorized examiners of the teaching staff and their representatives, who are elected according to § 3 Par. 2 of the Promotion Regulations of the Bayreuth Graduate School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences (BayNAT). <sup>2</sup>The steering committee may assign duties to the chairperson.
- (3) The students of the doctoral program elect a speaker, who presents their interests to the steering committee.

## **§ 2**

### **Aim of the Regulations**

These regulations direct the studies within the doctoral program "Ecology and Environmental Research" with the final degree of a doctor of Natural Sciences (Dr. rer. nat.) on the basis of the promotion regulations of BayNAT at the University of Bayreuth in the respectively valid version.

## **§ 3**

### **Goal of the Doctoral Program**

<sup>1</sup>The goal of the doctoral program "Ecology and Environmental Research" is to prepare professionally highly qualified junior scientists for challenging tasks in research, teaching, and professional life. <sup>2</sup>For this purpose the doctoral program offers a broad multidisciplinary education through research and promotion of interdisciplinary expertise. <sup>3</sup>The program

conveys an interdisciplinary perception as well as practical insight into the organization of science.

## **§ 4**

### **Admission to the Doctoral Program**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>Admission to the doctoral program „Ecology and Environmental Research“ is regulated in § 4 of the promotion regulations of BayNAT. <sup>2</sup>In individual cases of a non-sufficient topic relationship with this doctoral program, additional achievements may be required according to § 4 Par. 2 Sent. 2 No. 3 of the promotion regulations of BayNAT, the extent and time frame of which are determined at the beginning of the doctoral studies by the steering committee of the doctoral program and which have to be rendered within the framework of the 30 credit points,.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>An admission as per the Fast-Track-Mode according to § 4 Par. 2 Sent. 2 No. 4 of the promotion regulations of BayNAT is possible, if the applicant has a university degree in a subject that is technically related to the doctoral program „Ecology and Environmental Research“ and if at the moment of application he or she has at least passed one semester in his or her master studies with reference to the doctoral program “Ecology and Environmental Research” and has achieved at least 27 credit points within these master studies.
- (3) In this case the candidate has to pass through a qualification procedure which is determined in attachment 1.

## **§ 5**

### **Procedure of Doctoral Program**

- (1) The doctoral studies can be started at any time and, as a rule, are conceptualized for being completed within six semesters.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>During the doctoral studies each candidate is accompanied by a mentorship according to § 5 of the promotion regulations of BayNAT. <sup>2</sup>This mentorship consists of the supervising member of the doctoral program, who has to be an authorized examiner, and two other members. <sup>3</sup>At least two members of the mentorship should be members of the doctoral program “Ecology and Environmental Research”. <sup>4</sup>As well at least one member should be a professor and two members should be authorized examiners according to the promotion regulations.

- (3) <sup>1</sup>At the beginning of the doctoral studies (within the first six months) the candidate formulates a research plan of about five to ten pages to present the dissertation project (state-of-the-art, original question, hypotheses, strategies, preparatory work, preliminary time plan, relevant literature). <sup>2</sup>The research plan is evaluated by the mentorship and discussed in a meeting with the candidate.
- (4) <sup>1</sup>During the course of the doctoral studies within the doctoral program the candidate compiles an annual progress report concerning his or her research project, which is discussed with the mentorship. <sup>2</sup>Instead of a written report it is possible to give a summarizing talk in a research seminar.
- (5) The scientific work within the research project is the principal item of the doctoral education.
- (6) <sup>1</sup>Accompanying to the research work each candidate completes an individual training program which is optimally adapted to the individual skills and needs of the candidate as well as to the demands of the doctoral project. <sup>2</sup>This program is meant to support the young scientists' ability to do independent research work, to improve their skills in scientific communication, and to enable them to take over responsible positions in education, science, industry, and society. <sup>3</sup>The combination of suitable activities which is most adequate for the candidate is chosen in accordance with the mentorship. <sup>4</sup>By attending the accompanying program as well as by formulating the research plans and reports according to Pars. 3 and 4, the candidate gains at least 30 credit points. <sup>5</sup>The required events are listed in attachment 2 of these regulations. <sup>6</sup>Achievements obtained outside of this doctoral program may be taken into account if they are equivalent. <sup>7</sup>For dissertations that are completed within less than 3 years the required number of credit points is reduced by 5 points per semester. <sup>8</sup>The date of submission of the dissertation has to be arranged with the mentorship.
- (7) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral program offers activities that are linked with fields of excellency and support internationality as well as interdisciplinary, character building, and occupational events. <sup>2</sup>For this purpose the candidates are integrated in form and content into the activities listed in attachment 2.
- (8) <sup>1</sup>The contents of the doctoral program comprise the acquisition of professional competences as well as the improvement of so-called „key skills“. <sup>2</sup>The mentorship cares for a balanced composition of teaching courses according to the list in the attachment. <sup>3</sup>The efforts are evaluated and confirmed by the steering committee of the doctoral program to the proposal of the mentorship.

- (9) <sup>1</sup>Achievements performed at a different university or other research institutions are approved if they are equivalent. <sup>2</sup>The equivalence is determined by the steering committee to the proposal of the mentorate.

## **§ 6**

### **Form of the Dissertation**

<sup>1</sup>The dissertation is an independent scientific achievement of the doctoral candidate according to § 6 of the promotion regulations of BayNAT. <sup>2</sup>It is also possible to combine several single studies of a candidate for a dissertation (cumulative dissertation).

## **§ 7**

### **Regulation of Transition**

- (1) Applicants who already started their doctoral studies at the University of Bayreuth before the coming-into-force of these regulations may apply for being admitted to this doctoral program (see § 20 Par. 3 of the promotion regulations of BayNAT).
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The decision about admission will be made on application in written form with reasons to the steering committee. <sup>2</sup>The application should include a description of the dissertation project and a short report about the status quo.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>With admission of the applicant the steering committee initiates - in accordance with the supervisor of the dissertation - the formation of a mentorate (according to § 5 Par. 1 of the promotion regulations of BayNAT). <sup>2</sup>Together with the candidate they draft a study plan for the remaining time of the doctoral studies; the required number of credit points is reduced according to § 5 Par. 6.

## **§ 8**

### **Coming-into-Force**

These regulations come into force the day after their publication.

**Attachment 1: Qualification Procedure for  
Fast-Track-Admission to the Doctoral Studies**

1. An applicant can be admitted to the doctoral program „Ecology and Environmental Research“ after two semesters of master studies. He or she may submit the application
  - if according to § 4 Par. 1 of the promotion regulations of BayNAT an authorized examiner and member of the doctoral program has agreed in writing to supervise the dissertation.
  - if he or she has successfully passed at least one semester in a master's study program related to the doctoral program „Ecology and Environmental Research“ at the time of application and has gained at least 27 credit points during these master studies.
2. The applicant has to pass a qualification procedure.
3. The application for admission to the qualification procedure is submitted to the steering committee of the doctoral program by the candidate and an authorized examiner according to § 2 Par. 1 of the promotion regulations of BayNAT (as a rule, this is the designated supervisor of the planned dissertation).

Required attachments to the application are:

- A letter that presents the motivation for the application for admission to the Fast-Track-Option of the doctoral program “Ecology and Environmental Research”.
  - The certificate of a university degree in a field with reference to the doctoral program “Ecology and Environmental Research”.
  - The verification of at least 27 credit points gained so far during master studies related to the doctoral program “Ecology and Environmental Research”.
  - As far as available certificates of special qualifications (i.e. professional education, awards, practical training, grants, stays abroad), if these bear reference to the contents of the doctoral program “Ecology and Environmental Research”.
4. All applicants have to pass an interview to prove their qualification. It is carried through by a council of two members of the steering committee and the designated member of the doctoral program „Ecology and Environmental Research“ who is supposed to

supervise the candidate's dissertation. The interview will last 30 to 60 minutes. The applicant has to prove that he or she is professionally qualified for Fast-Track-Admission to the doctoral studies within the doctoral program "Ecology and Environmental Research". Criteria are excellent knowledge in the field of Geosciences and in the basic subjects of natural sciences as well as the ability to understand and demonstrate complex scientific contexts.

5. The course of the interview has to be documented in a protocol containing date, duration and place, and the applicant's and the examiners' names. The protocol must specify the subjects of the interview and the reasons for evaluation. Subjects and reasons may be listed as bullet points. The protocol has to be signed by the members of the council.
6. The decision of the steering committee is based on the documents presented by the applicant and the result of the qualification interview. The decision will be „qualified“ or „not qualified“.
7. For the final admission to the doctoral program „Ecology and Environmental Research“ achievements of a total of 60 credit points gained during the master studies that bear reference to the doctoral program "Ecology and Environmental Research" have to be proved.
8. The decision of the steering committee is forwarded to the applicant in written form. Negative decisions have to be justified and provided with an instruction on right to appeal.

**Attachment 2: Recommended contents of the doctoral program „Ecology and Environmental Research”**

<sup>1</sup>The catalogue of achievements serves as a guideline for the selection of suitable activities of the doctoral candidate in accordance with the mentorate. <sup>2</sup>The evaluation of the activities with credit points has to be done individually for every event and every candidate according to the specifications of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, considering the necessary time and effort. <sup>3</sup>In accordance with the steering committee other achievements may also be given credit for.

Achievement	Comments	Minimum of Credit Points to be gained	Maximum of Credit Points to be gained
Research plan	4 CP	4	4
Written report or talk in research seminar	2 CP	4	6
Attendance of research seminar	2 CP per semester	6	12
Courses, lectures, crash courses and practical courses for specific methods	1 CP per contact hour per week per semester	4	12
Participation in summer schools and courses for specific methods	1 CP per course	0	4
Lectures at conferences	2 CP	0	6
Posters at conferences	1 CP	0	6
Authoring of submitted manuscripts (as first author)	4 CP per manuscript	0	8
Teaching courses about „soft skills“	1 CP per contact hour per week per semester	2	6
Stay abroad	5 CP per month	0	10
Participation in preparation and organization of field experiments	1 CP per week		3
Participation in teaching	1 CP per contact hour per week per semester	0	4