

Based on its accreditation as a private university pursuant to § 5 sect. 1 and 5 of the Austrian University Accreditation Law (UniAkkG), Federal Law Gazette I No. 168/1999, as amended (official notification of the Austrian Accreditation Council dated 5 October 2011, GZ II-1/8/90-2011) the Senate of the University of Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology responsible for Examination and Study Affairs enacted the following Doctoral Regulations as from 12 January 2016, as amended on 11 September 2018

## **Doctoral Regulations for obtaining the academic degree Doctor of Philosophy (Dr. phil.)**

at the  
University of  
Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology  
(UNIT)

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## **§ 1 Type, purpose and execution of the doctoral studies**

- (1) The University of Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology (UMIT) awards the academic degree Doctor of Philosophy for the respective subject areas (Nursing Science; Sports Medicine, Health Tourism & Leisure Sciences; Management and Economics in Health Care; Psychology; Public Health; Health Technology Assessment; Health Information Systems) for doctoral achievements.
- (2) The doctoral degree verifies the candidate's ability to conduct profound scientific work independently. Aim and outline of the doctoral studies shall be described in the Module Manual. The Module Manual as well as possible Implementation Rules for the Doctoral Regulations are an integral part of these Doctoral Regulations.
- (3) The doctoral studies have to be conducted at UMIT.
- (4) Unless rules of procedure are not regulated by these Doctoral Regulations, the provisions set out in the General Administrative Procedure Act 1991 – AVG, Federal Law Gazette Nr. 51, as amended, shall apply.

## **§ 2 Doctoral achievements**

- (1) The doctoral achievements (exam performances) consist of:
  1. a doctoral thesis evaluated at least with „Sufficient – Rite“ in one of the subject areas stated in § 1 sect. 1 and a final oral defense evaluated at least with „Sufficient – Rite“ (130 ECTS credits in total) as well as
  2. successful participation in the course program – including research concept examination – equating to 50 ECTS credits (sect. 2, 3 and 5).
- (2) Of the 50 ECTS credits (sect. 1 I. 2) to be obtained – basically at UMIT – a maximum of 20 may be acquired as „free elective ECTS credits“ e.g. by means of active teaching activity at UMIT, supervising final theses, active participation in scientific events, participation in academic training activities, assistance in academic committees, participation in university projects different from one's own doctoral studies, private tutorials etc. Details shall be regulated by the Doctoral Affairs Committee in the Module Manual. The Doctoral Affairs Committee will decide on the recognition of ECTS credits case by case.

(3) Courses will be held in German or in English language. The course program consists of three modules with a different number of courses. ECTS credits can only be awarded once for each course. Detailed information on work load, types and description of the modules and courses etc. shall be regulated by the Doctoral Affairs Committee in the Module Manual:

1. Module 1: research process

a) Module 1 is subdivided into consecutive and accompanying courses.

b) Consecutive courses are interdependent and subject-specific.

2. Module 2: Support and supervision

Module 2 consists of private tutorials as well as result presentation seminars.

3. Module 3: Interdisciplinary perspectives

Module 3 offers subject- and topic-specific courses with varying contents and issues.

(4) Evaluation of course examinations:

Each single examination is evaluated by the examiners in accordance with the following grade scale:

Grade scale	meaning
Successfully completed	Positive result, exact differentiation is not feasible.
Unsuccessfully completed	Negative result, exact differentiation is not feasible.

(5) Within the first three semesters the doctoral candidate has to pass an oral examination on the research concept that forms part of the doctoral achievements according to § 2 sect. 1 I. 2:

1. The Doctoral Affairs Committee appoints a committee which consists of the thesis supervisor and at least two other professors, university or private lecturers or persons with authorization to teach (*Venia docendi*), and determines an examination date. It is not mandatory that the members of the committee are lecturers at UMIT.

2. The examination lasts for approx. one hour and consists of an oral presentation (incl. discussion) and a written report on the research concept. The written report has to be submitted to the Doctoral Affairs Committee at least one week before the date of the presentation. The examination may be held in German or in English language. Details shall be regulated by the Doctoral Affairs Committee in the Implementation Rules for the Doctoral Regulations.

3. Without a successful completion of the research concept examination, doctoral candidates are not entitled to finish and submit their doctoral thesis (§ 8).
  4. If the doctoral candidate has not passed the examination he/she is entitled to repeat the examination once within a period of three to six months – at the latest until the fourth semester. The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall decide on a new examination date in agreement with the supervisor, although there might be a newly assembled committee in this case.
  5. If the repetition of the examination is failed it is no longer possible for the doctoral candidate to initiate the doctoral procedure with this doctoral thesis topic. However, the repetition pursuant to § 12 remains.
  6. For the successful completion of the examination the candidate will be awarded 5 ECTS credits.
  7. Immediately after the successful completion of the examination, the examination records shall be submitted to the Committee for Scientific and Ethical Questions – RCSEQ for a statement. The details shall be governed by the guidelines of the RCSEQ.
- (6) Additionally, prior to the initiation of the doctoral procedure, results or partial results of a monograph shall have been published in a scientific subject-specific publication organ or shall at least have been accepted for publication. Details on the subject-specific relevance shall be regulated by the Doctoral Affairs Committee in the Implementation Rules for the Doctoral Regulations.

### **§ 3 Regular period of study and leave of absence**

- (1) The regular period of study for the doctoral study program is six semesters with a total work load of 180 ECTS credits. The academic year is divided into summer and winter semester.
- (2) Upon request, doctoral students are permitted to take a leave of absence for a maximum period of two semesters in the course of their studies for good reasons. During the period of leave of absence students are not entitled to attend courses and/or examinations or to claim assistance for their theses.

## § 4 Admission requirements and annulment of admission

(1) Candidates fulfilling one of the following requirements are admitted to the doctoral program:

1. A Bachelor and Master or Magister degree or a diploma from a renowned university in one of the study programs described below, including all additional requirements set out therein.
2. A Bachelor and Master or Magister degree or a diploma from a renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad in one of the study programs described below with a regular period of study of 10 semesters, including all additional requirements set out therein.
3. A Bachelor and Master or Magister degree or a diploma from a renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad in one of the study programs described below with a regular period of study of less than 10 semesters, including all additional requirements set out therein as well as the following additional qualifications:

Subject-specific modules or postgraduate studies which result in a subject-specific qualification comparable to a 10-semester study program. Vocational qualifications or other achievements not obtained at a renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad are not valid.

(2) Candidates are assigned to one of the following study programs and must fulfil special requirements where required:

1. *Nursing Science*: A successfully completed study program (diploma, approved Master or Magister degree, so-called second cycle/graduate training) at a renowned university in Austria or abroad or at a renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad in the subjects of Nursing Science (focus on: Nursing Education, Nursing Management, Nursing Expertise, Gerontology) as well as studies of Gerontology, Philosophy, Natural Sciences, Health Sciences and Sports Sciences provided that these studies provably contain substantial relations to nursing in their general or individual focus areas.
2. *Sports Medicine, Health Tourism and Leisure Sciences*: A successfully completed study program (diploma, approved Master or Magister degree, so-called second cycle/graduate training) at a renowned university in Austria or abroad or at a

renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad in the subjects of Medicine, Sports Sciences, Psychology and Business Administration, Nutritional Sciences, Public Health or Tourisms.

3. *Management and Economics in Health Care:* A successfully completed study program (diploma, approved Master or Magister degree, so-called second cycle/graduate training) at a renowned university in Austria or abroad or at a renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad in the subjects of Health Sciences, Public Health, Health Care Management, Health Economics, Management, Business Administration or Economics.
4. *Psychology:* A successfully completed study program (diploma, approved Master or Magister degree, so-called second cycle/graduate training) at a renowned university in Austria or abroad or at a renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad in the subject of Psychology.
5. *Public Health:* A successfully completed study program (diploma, approved Master or Magister degree, so-called second cycle/graduate training) at a renowned university in Austria or abroad or at a renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad in the subjects of Public Health, Health Sciences, Medicine, Dental Medicine, Epidemiology, Statistics, Pharmacy, Biology, Nursing Science, Psychology, Informatics, Health Technology Assessment, Health Management, Political Sciences, Law, Economics, Communication Sciences as well as socio-scientific, philosophical and natural-scientific studies provided that these studies provably contain substantial relations to health care in their general or individual focus areas.
6. *Health Technology Assessment:* A successfully completed study program (diploma, approved Master or Magister degree, so-called second cycle/graduate training) at a renowned university in Austria or abroad or at a renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad in the subjects of Health Technology Assessment, Public Health, Health Sciences, Medicine, Dental Medicine, Epidemiology, Statistics, Pharmacy, Biology, Nursing Science, Psychology, Informatics, Health Management, Political Sciences, Communication Sciences as well as economic, socio-scientific, juristic, philosophical and natural-scientific studies provided that these studies provably contain substantial relations to health care in their general or individual focus areas.

7. *Health Information Systems*: A successfully completed study program (diploma, approved Master or Magister degree, so-called second cycle/graduate training) at a renowned university in Austria or abroad or at a renowned post-secondary training institution in Austria or abroad in the subjects of Informatics, Information Management, Medical Informatics, Medicine or Nursing Science.
- (3) If the degree will be obtained in a similar, comparable subject or is the intended doctoral study program not congruent with the Diploma, Magister or Master degree program due to an interdisciplinary research question, the Doctoral Affairs Committee as the responsible collegiate body of UMIT may grant permission after approval by the responsible representative of the subject area.
- (4) Admission to a doctoral program terminates
1. if the doctoral procedure is completed following positive evaluation of the doctoral thesis and the defense of the doctoral thesis;
  2. if the oral „research concept examination“ required for the doctoral studies resp. for the doctorate will be evaluated negative in the last permissible repetition or the doctoral thesis is finally rejected or the defense of the doctoral thesis is failed despite repetition;
  3. if the doctoral candidate does not have a valid doctoral thesis agreement for a period of more than 12 months,
  4. if the doctoral candidate exmatriculates;
  5. in case of non-payment of the tuition fee;
  6. in case of severe deceit or violation of the rules on the part of the doctoral student.

## **§ 5 Doctoral Affairs Committee**

- (1) The Doctoral Affairs Committee is appointed by UMIT's Senate according to UMIT's Constitution as responsible collegiate body. It is responsible for the tasks arising from the present Doctoral Regulations. It shall ensure compliance with the provisions of the Doctoral Regulations and the Module Manual and shall adopt appropriate implementation rules if necessary.



(2) The Doctoral Affairs Committee consists of:

1. at least two representatives of the university professors,
2. at least one representative of the university lecturers or scientific employees as well as
3. at least one student representative, whereby students make up at least 25 % of the members.

For each member of the Doctoral Affairs Committee, a substitute member may be designated. The substitute member may be present at all meetings. The substitute member shall only have the right to vote if a full member is not present at the meeting.

The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall elect the chairperson and the deputy chairperson from the group of university professors. The chairperson and the deputy chairperson are elected by a simple majority.

- (3) The Doctoral Affairs Committee is elected for no longer than the Senate's term of office (three years). The individual members can be re-elected. The term of office starts with the election.
- (4) The chairperson shall invite all members to the meetings of the Doctoral Affairs Committee in due course. The Doctoral Affairs Committee has a quorum only if at least half of the members, including the chairperson or his/her deputy, and at least half of the representatives of the professors' group, are present. In the Doctoral Affairs Committee decisions are taken on the majority of the valid votes cast. Abstentions in a vote shall not count as votes cast. In the event of a tie, the chairperson's vote is decisive.
- (5) The day-to-day business of the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall be conducted by the chairperson.

## **§ 6 Acceptance as a doctoral candidate**

- (1) If a student wants to become a doctoral candidate, a request for acceptance as a doctoral candidate has to be submitted to the Doctoral Affairs Committee prior to preparing the doctoral thesis. The following documents shall be attached to the request:
  1. proof that the admission criteria are fulfilled pursuant to (§ 4);
  2. indication of the preliminary working title of the doctoral thesis;
  3. nomination of a supervisor who has been approved by the Doctoral Affairs Committee for the designated research area;
  4. doctoral thesis agreement signed by the doctoral candidate and the supervisor;
  5. declaration by the doctoral candidate stating that he/she has not submitted a request for acceptance as a doctoral candidate or for admission to the doctoral procedure at any other institution.
- (2) If the doctoral thesis agreement (sect. 1 I. 4) is terminated in writing by mutual agreement or unilaterally (by the supervisor or the doctoral candidate), the doctoral candidate has to submit a new request for acceptance as a doctoral candidate pursuant to sect. 1 within a period of time no longer than 12 months after the termination of the agreement.
- (3) The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall decide on the acceptance or rejection as a doctoral candidate and shall inform the candidate about the decision in written form. In case of rejection, the reasons shall be stated in written form.
- (4) Upon acceptance of a doctoral candidate, the Doctoral Affairs Committee confirms its responsibility for conducting the subsequent doctoral procedure and commits itself to initiate the steps required for the expert evaluation of the doctoral thesis. Usually, this approval is valid for a period of four years and may be extended by the Doctoral Affairs Committee in justified cases. The acceptance as a doctoral candidate also ensures the admission to the doctoral study program and at this point the doctoral candidate is entitled to full support.
- (5) The doctoral thesis shall be conducted at UMIT. The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall decide on any exceptions.
- (6) In exceptional cases, the Doctoral Affairs Committee may agree to a change of the supervisor (sect. 1 I. 3).

## § 7 Doctoral thesis

- (1) The doctoral thesis must meet the scientific standards, must be an independent work of the doctoral candidate and must contribute to progress in research.
- (2) In agreement with the supervisor, the results of the doctoral thesis may be partly or completely published prior to the doctoral procedure. Such publications have to be identified adequately by reference to the original source in the doctoral thesis.
- (3) Final papers which have been used as study achievements in other studies, may not be submitted as doctoral thesis. However, parts of these papers may be used in the doctoral thesis, whereby the respective parts have to be identified adequately by reference to the original source in the doctoral thesis.
- (4) The doctoral thesis shall be written in German or English language. In exceptional cases, the Doctoral Affairs Committee may allow the doctoral candidate to submit the doctoral thesis in another language. In any case, the doctoral thesis shall include a summary in German and in English.
- (5) The doctoral thesis can be written and submitted either as a monograph or as a cumulative doctoral thesis.
- (6) The prerequisites for a cumulative doctoral thesis are either a minimum of two subject-specific publications, in both of which the doctoral candidate is the lead author, or a minimum of three subject-specific publications and the doctoral candidate is the lead author in at least one of them. The publications must be scientific publications approved by a subject-specific renowned publication organ through a peer-review process, they must be related to each other and to the subject area of the doctoral thesis. The correlation shall be specified. In publications in which the doctoral candidate was not the lead author his/ her contribution must be at least 40%. Proof of his/her contribution as co- author shall be provided accordingly. A cumulative doctoral thesis is a written work according to sect. 8 in which the publications are integrated.
- (7) At the latest by the time of its submission, the cumulative doctoral thesis shall also be presented to the Senate Commission for Research Evaluation which will examine and decide on the subject-specific relevance, quality and coherence of the publications. If no decision is taken by the Senate Commission for Research Evaluation within six weeks from the date of submission of the thesis, the Doctoral Affairs Committee may decide to complete the procedure without the work group's decision.

- (8) Details on how to write a monograph or a cumulative doctoral thesis shall be regulated by the Doctoral Affairs Committee in the Implementation Rules.

## **§ 8 Initiation of the doctoral procedure**

- (1) After having completed the doctoral thesis, the doctoral candidate shall submit a request to the Doctoral Affairs Committee for the initiation of the doctoral procedure. The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall decide on the initiation of the procedure. Before submission of the doctoral thesis, the doctoral candidate shall take a test in order to detect potential plagiarism, e.g. by means of UMIT's Anti-plagiarism software, and shall attach the result of this test in digital form to the request for initiation of the doctoral procedure.
- (2) In addition to the application documents, doctoral candidates also need to attach the documents as per "Guideline - Submission of a thesis" (decision of UMIT's Senate on 10 January 2012 as amended) to their request for the initiation of the doctoral procedure.
- (3) Furthermore, the candidate needs to prove successful acquisition of the 50 ECTS credits (§ 2 sect. 1 I. 2).
- (4) The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall request a statement from the supervisor of the doctoral thesis. The supervisor proposes the acceptance, rejection or revision of the doctoral thesis.
- (5) The initiation
  1. shall be rejected if one of the admission criteria set out in § 4 has not been fulfilled;
  2. shall be rejected if the documents set out in the Senate decision from 10 January 2012 as amended are incomplete or incorrect and if the deficiencies have not been remedied within a reasonable period of time;
  3. may be rejected if the supervisor proposes rejection or revision of the thesis.

## **§ 9 Assessment of the doctoral thesis**

- (1) After the initiation of the doctoral procedure, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall immediately appoint two professors or university lecturers or private lecturers or persons with Venia docendi for the respective subject area or are authorized by their university to

supervise doctoral theses in the respective subject area as reviewers. One of the two reviewers must be external to UMIT. In justified exceptional cases also both external reviewers may be members of UMIT. The reviewers must not be mentioned as co-authors in any of the publications submitted (cumulative doctoral thesis § 7 sect. 6). The doctoral candidate or the supervisor may propose reviewers to the Doctoral Affairs Committee. The expert opinions must be written independently from each another.

- (2) Initially, the expert opinions on the doctoral thesis shall describe aim, importance and contents of the work in brief and shall then analyze the system, quality of the contents, quality of the research methods and formal quality of the thesis as well as the scientific personal contribution. The doctoral thesis shall be assessed in the framework of an overall grade.
- (3) The reviewers shall propose acceptance, rejection or revision of the doctoral thesis. In case of acceptance/ rejection the reviewers shall assess the thesis according to § 11 sect. 4.
- (4) The assessment period is eight weeks. The assessment period starts when the reviewer receives the doctoral thesis.
- (5) After the decision has been taken by the Doctoral Affairs Committee, the doctoral thesis and the expert opinions shall be made accessible for inspection at Study Management for a period of ten workdays to the university professors and university or private lecturers of UMIT, as well as the members of the Senate of UMIT and the responsible Doctoral Affairs Committee. In this period of time, it is possible to raise objections as to the contents and format of the doctoral thesis; objections shall be submitted to the Doctoral Affairs Committee in written form. The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall pursue any objections - if necessary by requesting further expert opinions - in detail and to consider them when deciding on the further progress of the doctoral procedure.
- (6) If only one of the reviewers proposes to reject the doctoral thesis, the doctoral candidate is entitled to read the negative expert opinion and then propose a third reviewer. In this case, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall additionally appoint this person and another reviewer for a new assessment of the thesis. Sect. 1 to 5 shall apply correspondingly in this case.
- (7) If both original reviewers unanimously propose the rejection of the thesis or one of the newly appointed reviewers as in the case of sect. 6 proposes to reject the doctoral

thesis, the doctoral thesis is rejected and the doctoral procedure shall be considered terminated. Thereof, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall inform in writing.

- (8) If at least one of the reviewers proposes the revision of individual parts of the doctoral thesis, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall confer on the doctoral thesis, taking all existing expert opinions into account. In this case, the Doctoral Affairs Committee may once request the doctoral candidate to revise the doctoral thesis within a period of four to six months and to resubmit it. The recommendations of the reviewer and the Doctoral Affairs Committee with regard to the revision shall be recorded and communicated to the doctoral candidate. If the period is exceeded, the doctoral thesis is rejected and the doctoral procedure shall be considered terminated. The candidate has the opportunity to revise and resubmit the doctoral thesis only once.
- (9) After the revision and resubmission of the doctoral thesis in due time, the doctoral thesis is newly assessed according to sect. 1 to 7. Hereby, the Doctoral Affairs Committee may also appoint new reviewers. The expert opinions on the revised version of the thesis shall particularly refer to the question if the recommendations as per sect. 8 have been fulfilled adequately. A rejection of the revised version of the doctoral thesis is only possible if the recommendations have not been fulfilled in a satisfactory manner or if scientific objections were raised against reworded or newly inserted sections which have been added during the revision process and which require the rejection of the doctoral thesis.

## **§ 10 Examination Committee, defense of the doctoral thesis**

- (1) If the doctoral thesis is not rejected according to § 9 sect. 7, the Doctoral Affairs Committee shall appoint an Examination Committee which consists of at least three professors, university lecturers or private lecturers or persons with Venia docendi for the respective subject area. The members of the Examination Committee need not be members of UMIT's teaching staff. The supervisor may be a member of the Examination Committee. The chairperson of the Examination Committee shall be a member of the Doctoral Affairs Committee.
- (2) Study Management shall coordinate the date of the defense of the doctoral thesis in agreement with the members of the Examination Committee and the doctoral candidate.

The defense of the doctoral thesis may take place at the earliest five working days after the expiry of the inspection period (§ 9 Sect. 5).

- (3) In the defense, the doctoral candidate presents his/her finished doctoral thesis and answers critical questions posed by the Examination Committee.
- (4) The oral defense of the doctoral thesis shall last approximately one hour. There shall be a written record of the defense of the doctoral thesis, which shall be signed by the members of the Examination Committee.
- (5) The defense of the doctoral thesis is open to all students and employees of the university. The discussion and the notification of the result of the examination, however, are not open to the public. Upon request by the doctoral candidate or for any other important reason, the Doctoral Affairs Committee may restrict or exclude the public from parts of the examination.

## **§ 11 Decision on the doctoral thesis**

- (1) The Examination Affairs Committee shall decide after the defense of the doctoral thesis if the candidate has passed the defense.
- (2) If the candidate has passed the defense of the doctoral thesis, the Examination Committee shall decide on the overall grade based on the evaluation of the doctoral thesis by the Doctoral Affairs Committee and the candidate's performance during the defense of the doctoral thesis. Thus, the overall grade is based on the results of the written expert opinions and the defense of the doctoral thesis, whereby there is an emphasis on the result of the written part. However, „summa cum laude“ as overall grade may only be awarded if all three evaluations unanimously were assessed „summa cum laude“ and if one of the two expert opinions was written by an external reviewer.
- (3) The determination of the overall grade and its notification by the Examination Committee are not open to the students and employees of the university.
- (4) The following scale shall be used for evaluating a doctoral thesis and its defense:
  - for an excellent performance – summa cum laude
  - for a very good performance – magna cum laude
  - for a good performance – cum laude
  - for a sufficient performance – rite
  - for a non-sufficient performance – non sufficit
- (5) If the doctoral candidate has failed the defense of the doctoral thesis, he/she may repeat it once. In this case, the Examination Committee shall determine a date – at the earliest four weeks after the first examination – however, there might be a newly-composed Examination Committee according to § 10 Sect. 1, if necessary. If the doctoral candidate does not pass the repetition of the defense of the doctoral thesis, the doctorate shall be rejected and the doctoral procedure shall be considered terminated.



## **§ 12 Repetition**

If the initiation of the doctoral procedure pursuant to § 2 sect. 5 I. 5 or the doctoral thesis according to § 9 sect. 7 have been rejected or if the defense of the doctoral thesis has not been passed according § 11 sect. 5, the doctoral candidate upon presenting a new topic for the doctoral thesis may once submit a request for acceptance as doctoral candidate according to § 6.

## **§ 13 Publication of the doctoral thesis**

The doctoral thesis shall be published at UMIT and at the Austrian National Library.

## **§ 14 Award and use of the academic degree, award certificate**

- (1) After the accomplishment of all doctoral achievements (§ 2), the Rector shall award the academic degree to the doctoral graduate by means of a certificate (award certificate) within a period of eight weeks. In addition, the doctoral graduate shall be issued a copy of his/her transcript of records and a diploma supplement.
- (2) Persons who have been awarded the academic degree are entitled to use this degree in the form which is determined by the award certificate, also in short form, whereby a gender-specific suffix may be added.

## **§ 15 Revocation and withdrawal of the admission, invalidity of the doctoral achievements**

- (1) If prior to the handing over of the certificate it turns out that the doctoral candidate has cheated with regard to the admission criteria or that essential admission criteria have been considered fulfilled by mistake, the Examination Committee shall revoke the admission as a doctoral candidate or the admission to the doctoral procedure.

- (2) If prior to the handing over of the certificate it turns out that the doctoral candidate has cheated with regard to one of the doctoral achievements, the Examination Committee shall declare this doctoral achievement or any doctoral achievement fulfilled so far as invalid or, in severe cases, revoke the admission to the doctoral procedure.
- (3) Before a decision is taken, the candidate shall be heard. The reasons for the decision shall be stated in writing.

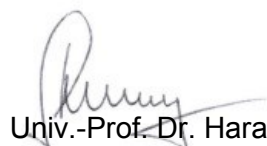
## **§ 16 Revocation of the doctoral degree**

- (1) The award of the doctoral degree shall be revoked and the doctoral certificate shall be reclaimed if it turns out at a later date that the doctoral degree was obtained surreptitiously - in particular by deceit.
- (2) The Doctoral Affairs Committee shall be responsible for the revocation of the doctoral degree and the reclaim of the doctoral certificate. The Committee shall decide if and to what extent this procedure may be assigned to the Rector.
- (3) Before a decision is taken, the candidate shall be heard. The reasons for the decision shall be stated in writing.

## **§ 17 Entry into force**

- (1) These Doctoral Regulations shall enter into force upon approval by UNIT's Senate on 01 April 2016. The amendment to the second sentence of § 5 sect. 4 shall enter into force on 11 September 2018.
- (2) The Doctoral Regulations as from 12 July 2011, 10 January 2012, 31 January 2012, 08 October 2013 and 09 December 2014 shall cease to have effect on 30 September 2019.

Hall in Tirol, 11 September 2018



Univ.-Prof. Dr. Harald Stummer  
Chairperson of UNIT's Senate