



GUIDELINES CUMULATED DISSERTATION

A cumulative dissertation is possible in exceptional cases and requires the approval of the doctoral committee. For this purpose, the doctoral candidate should contact the doctoral committee as early as possible, but at the latest when applying for admission to the examination procedure. The application must be accompanied by a recommendation from the first supervisor. **A cumulative dissertation is not possible in the subject Matter to Life.**

Please note that only the German version of this document is legally binding.

In particular, the following rules apply:

1. **at least three publications** in German or English are required. The following publications are eligible: articles in leading journals and series in the field. Only main articles can be part of a cumulative dissertation, not research notes or reviews. The articles must have already been published or demonstrably accepted for publication.
2. the publications must be accompanied in the dissertation by an **abstract** (see §7 of the doctoral regulations) and a **detailed, comprehensive introduction** (at least 30-40 pages). This includes a conceptual framework and a description of the research program from a methodological perspective. Transitions and links between the individual publications should be established where necessary. **The dissertation must conclude with a discussion and summary. The overarching introduction and the coherent overall discussion are of particular importance for the cumulative dissertation.** They must conclusively demonstrate the contribution made by the manuscripts in their entirety to the expansion of scientific knowledge in the subject area of the doctorate.
3. The **scientific achievements for the publications summarized in the dissertation are publications summarized in the dissertation must be provided primarily by the doctoral candidate. As a rule, the doctoral candidate must be the sole author or main author of at least 3 of the submitted publications** (usually the first author or identified as the main author in a way other than by the first position on the list of authors. **Publications with shared first authorship cannot be submitted as a publication under "single author". Publications with shared first authorship are regarded as additionally submitted publications without first authorship.** In cases of doubt, all authors must declare that the doctoral candidate is the main author). For all publications that are to be part of the cumulative dissertation, declarations of author contributions must also be submitted. This should indicate which parts of the publication were written by the

doctoral candidate. The doctoral committee will decide on the submitted publications, including the doctoral candidate's application and the supervisor's statement.

4. The same rules apply to the **assessment** as for conventional dissertations (cf. §9 of the doctoral degree regulations). The reviewers assess the work as a whole; they are in no way bound in their assessment by the publication that has already taken place or by a promise of publication for an article. In particular, they must also assess whether the main authorship is credible.
5. the publications for which the doctoral candidate is the main author may not be included in any main author may not be used (or have been used) in any other **cumulative** dissertation.
6. a cumulative dissertation must be submitted in bound form and analog electronic form in DIN A4 page format, consisting of the following parts:
 - Cover page
 - Abstract (in German and English, max. 200 words each)
 - Table of contents
 - Introduction (at least 30-40 pages)
 - Manuscripts
 - Discussion (5-10 pages)
 - Summary (2-4 pages)
 - Bibliography for the citations in the introduction and discussion
 - As an appendix, possibly additional original data or methods not documented in the manuscripts or methods not documented in the manuscript.