

Advice on PhD studies for external students

in case of international doctoral examinations, the regulations of the doctoral guidelines of the university must be applied according to § 1 IV PromO.

Admission requirements:

- a **foreign degree** (earned at a state, or state-accredited, institution of higher education) that is **equal** to the German First State Examination in Law (erste juristische Prüfung)
- the departmental **doctoral committee** decides under § 3 III PromO if the foreign degree is **accepted**
- additionally, the foreign degree must be assessed with a grade that matches the German “vollbefriedigend” i.S.d. JAPrO
- if the foreign degree does not match the German State Examination in Law, there is a possibility of a preliminary examination (§ 4 PromO i.V.m. Art. 3 II fachspez. Regel. PromO)

(Admission requirements for doctorate students with a foreign degree are not explicitly regulated; the requirements above result – partly solely as inversion of the argument – from § 3 I, III PromO i.V.m. Art. 1 I u. Art. 3 II fachspez. Regel. PromO)

Application for acceptance as doctoral student and for opening the doctoral process:

- generally, a **proof of sufficient knowledge of the German language** has to be added to the **application for acceptance as doctoral student** – latest to the application for opening the doctoral examination process – under § 5 II Nr. 1 PromO i.V.m. Art. 4 Hs. 1 fachspez. Regel. PromO (and § 6 II Nr. 13 PromO i.V.m. Art. 5 I Hs. 1 fachspez. Regel. PromO)
- **Exception** (no proof needed) under Art. 4 Hs. 2 and Art. 5 I Hs. 2 fachspez. Regel. PromO, if the doctoral examination representative (according to § 2 I 1 PromO the current department’s head) decides so

Dissertation:

- in German under § 8 I 2 PromO i.d.R.
- possibility of **writing in English** under § 8 I 3 PromO i.V.m. Art. 6 fachspez. Regel. PromO
- must be applied for with the **application of acceptance as doctoral student** under Art. 6 fachspez. Regel. PromO
- the decision is made by the departmental doctoral committee under Art. 6 fachspez. Regel. PromO

Oral examination:

- generally, in German under § 9 V 1 Hs. 1 PromO
- possibility of oral examination **in English** under § 9 V 2 PromO
- **motion** must be put forward to the **chairperson of the examining board** under § 9 V 2 PromO; all **members of the examining board** must agree