

# Revision of the Special Regulations of the PhD Programme Environmental and Resource Management (PhDOERM)

of September 27, 2017

Pursuant to § 5 (1) clause 2 in connection with §§ 31 (3) clause 5, 72 (2) clause 1 No. 1 of the Brandenburg Higher Education Act (Brandenburgisches Hochschulgesetz) (BbgHG) of April 28, 2014 (GVBl. I/14 Nr. 18), last amended on July 01, 2015 (GVBl. I/15 No. 18) and according to the General Regulations for Structured PhD Programmes (RahmenO PhD) of BTU Cottbus of February 08, 2011 (Abl. 15/2011), the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg (BTU) sets itself the statutes as follows:

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## § 1 Scope of validity, programme

<sup>1</sup>These regulations govern the special features of the PhD Programme Environmental and Resource Management (ERM). <sup>2</sup>They are only valid in connection with the General Regulations for Structured PhD Programmes (RahmenO PhD) of February 08, 2011 (Abl. 15/2011) and/or its revised version.

## § 2 Goals of the programme

The PhD Programme ERM is designed to achieve the following goals:

- connecting the topic of the doctoral thesis to an overarching scientific framework,
- examining also topics related to the PhD student's field of research,

- training of the PhD student regarding the technically founded illustration, discussion and defence of scientific theories and findings,
- raising the PhD student's awareness for general topics of environmental science by a transdisciplinary and international approach.

## §3 Duration and structure of the PhD Programme ERM

(1) The PhD Programme ERM consists of the doctorate's studies and possibly additional preparatory studies.

(2) Applicants who may be qualified for the PhD Programme ERM, but do not fulfil the conditions for a direct admission to the doctorate's studies, may be admitted subject to participation in the preparatory studies according to § 6.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The regular period of the doctorate's studies is six semesters. <sup>2</sup>The PhD student is to be given the opportunity to complete a scientific thesis within this period. <sup>3</sup>Apart from the actual research activities, the PhD student is obliged to participate in the modules of the PhD Programme ERM. <sup>4</sup>Scope and content of the doctorate's studies are regulated in § 7.

## § 4 Completion and graduation

Having successfully completed the PhD Programme ERM, the PhD Student is awarded the academic degree "Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Environmental Sciences".

## § 5 PhD Committee

The Faculty Board may transfer the authority for the acceptance of PhD students, the nomination of supervisors, the admission to the doctoral examination process, the appointment of examiners as well as of the examination board to the PhD Committee.

## § 6 Preparatory studies

(1) <sup>1</sup>As a rule, the supervisor proposes and the PhD Committee determines ten modules to be graded with an overall amount of 60 credits (LP) from the Master Programmes of the Faculty of Environment and Natural Sciences for the PhD student considering the gaps in his or her knowledge as well as the topic of the thesis <sup>2</sup>The modules have to be completed within two semesters. <sup>3</sup>The PhD Committee decides upon exceptions.

(2) The General Regulations for Examinations for Master Studies as well as the specific ERM Master Regulations in the valid versions are

applicable for holding, repeating, evaluating and grading the examinations.

(3) <sup>1</sup>When forming the overall grade of the preparatory studies, the arithmetic mean of all grades weighted with the amounts of credits is formed. <sup>2</sup>Only the first decimal point is considered; all other decimals are ignored without rounding. <sup>3</sup>The grades for the final grade are the following:

up to 1.3	very good an excellent performance
1.7 to 2.3	good a performance well above average
2.7 to 3.3	satisfactory a performance meeting average requirements
3.7 to 4.0	sufficient a performance meeting the requirements despite shortcomings
5.0	insufficient/failed a performance not meeting the requirements due to severe shortcomings

(4) <sup>1</sup>The admission to the doctorate's studies is only possible if the preparatory studies are completed with an overall grade of at least 2.3. <sup>2</sup>The PhD Committee decides upon exceptions.

### § 7 Modules accompanying the studies

(1) The aims of participating in the modules are:

- guarantying supervision of the PhD student,
- exchanging knowledge with other scientific experts as well as
- training to integrate the research in a trans-disciplinary context.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The following modules are mandatory (see Annex):

1. Academic Research and Methods,
2. Status Seminar ERM: Progress Reports PhD Thesis,
3. Essentials of Grant Proposal Writing,
4. PhD Thesis Writing Skills,
5. Research Colloquium.

<sup>2</sup>Regular attendance in the modules is required. <sup>3</sup>The PhD student has to bindingly register for attending the modules at the Admissions and Registrar's Office within the first three weeks of a lecture period. <sup>4</sup>Performance is normally checked by

presentations in the seminars and/or by scientific papers. <sup>5</sup>Evaluation and grading is based on § 12 of the General Regulations for Examination and Studies in the Master Programmes at BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg from September 12, 2016 (AMbl. 14/2016) accordingly. <sup>6</sup>All modules have to be completed with a result "sufficient" or better.

(3) The module grades are reported to the Admissions and Registrar's Office.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The PhD Committee forms the overall grade of the modules in a closed hearing. <sup>2</sup>It is formed by 1/5 from the grade of the module "Academic Research and Methods", 1/5 from the grade of the module "Status Seminar ERM: Progress Reports PhD Thesis", 1/5 from the grade of the module "Essentials of Grant Proposal Writing", 1/5 from the grade of the module "PhD Thesis Writing Skills" and 1/5 from the grade of the module "Research Colloquium". <sup>3</sup>Only the first decimal point is considered; all other decimals are ignored without rounding.

(5) PhD students may apply for being released from participating in single sessions for the period of a stay abroad or for significant reasons.

### § 8 Appointment of examiners

In addition to § 13 General Regulations for PhD Programmes, at least one of the examiners has to be member of the Faculty of Environment and Natural Sciences.

### §9 Special regulations "Cotutelle"

<sup>1</sup>For joint doctorate's procedures with other institutions, different regulations may apply which deviate from these PhD regulations and which take the regulations of the partner university into consideration without opposing these PhD regulations. <sup>2</sup>The regulations apply to the specific case and have to be confirmed by the Faculty Board.

### §10 Entry into force, abrogation, transitional regulations

(1) <sup>1</sup>These regulations enter into force at the date of publication, however at the latest upon commencement of the winter semester 2017/18. <sup>2</sup>PhD students who enrolled prior to the winter semester 2017/18 and whose doctoral examination process commenced according to § 12 RahmenO PhD (General Regulations for PhD Programmes) of February 08, 2011 (Abl. 15/2011) conclude their doctorate's studies according to the PhD

regulations of January 16, 2009 (Abl. 03/2009).

<sup>3</sup>PhD students who enrolled prior to the winter semester 2017/18, and whose doctoral examination process has not yet commenced, remain subject to the PhD regulation of January 16, 2009 (Abl. 03/2009) with a transition period of four years as at these regulations entering into force. <sup>4</sup>The resulting claim to a respective module and examination offer expires at the deadline of four years as at these regulations entering into force.

(2) PhD students can be transferred to these regulations upon application to the PhD Committee.

Issued based on the resolution of the Faculty Board of Faculty 2 Environment and Natural Sciences of July 12, 2017, the statement of the Senate of September 07, 2017 as well as the approval by the President of the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg of September 27, 2017.

Cottbus, September 27, 2017

As Representative of the President

Prof. Dr. Christiane Hipp  
Full time Vice President for Research

**Annex: Curriculum of modules and regular study plan**

**Curriculum of modules**

Module no.	Modules	Status	Evaluation	Total CP
12243	Academic Research and Methods	P	Prü	6
12242	Status Seminar ERM: Progress Reports PhD Thesis	P	Prü	6
12238	Essentials of Grant Proposal Writing	P	Prü	6
12241	PhD Thesis Writing Skills	P	Prü	6
12244	Research Colloquium	P	Prü	6
without	Doctoral Thesis – Dissertation	P	Prü	120
without	Oral Examination (Disputation)	P	Prü	30

P = Mandatory, Prü = Test performance

**Regular study plan**

Module	Credit points in Semester						Total Credit Points
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Academic Research and Methods	3	3					6
Status Seminar ERM: Progress Reports PhD Thesis	2		2		2		6
Essentials of Grant Proposal Writing			3	3			6
PhD Thesis Writing Skills			3	3			6
Research Colloquium	3	3					6
Doctoral Thesis – Dissertation	120						120
Oral Examination (Disputation)						30	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>180</b>