



## Exceptional regulation concerning PhD Defences within COVID-19-pandemic – effective from October, 1st

### Virtual PhD Defence due to §11 of the Doctoral Degree Regulations (17. Juni 2011)

The Faculty of Agriculture enables the conduction of PhD Defences as video conference via ZOOM. To ensure a PhD Defence meets the Doctoral Degree Regulations, it is necessary that the PhD-student is alone in one room of the University of Bonn<sup>1</sup> during the public lecture and the scientific debate when video conferencing software is used (ZOOM).

Three ZOOM-meetings have to be terminated and the respective ZOOM Links, Meeting IDs and Passwords have to be sent to the doctorates office at least 3 weeks before the examination date.

Please notice the leaflet “Tips for ZOOM-PhD Defences”.

The chair of the examination committee leads through the defence and fills in the necessary form. He/she is responsible for the signing of the protocol by all authorized examiners (e.g. circulation procedure). As an alternative the minutes and the confirmation of the grade can be done with a new form, allocated by the doctorate office.

#### Part I: Public lecture with discussion (doctoral colloquium)

##### ZOOM-Link 1 (ca. 60 minutes)

Virtual attendees: all authorized examiners

aditionally allowed: interested audience, due to the capacity of the video conferencing software

Duration of the public lecture: should not exceed 30 minutes

The audience stays mute during the complete public part of the defense. Comprehension questions during the lecture cannot be asked.

Immediately afterwards, all of the audience members can ask the doctoral candidate questions about the doctoral thesis for 15 minutes via the chair of the examination committee.

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<sup>1</sup> If this isn't possible because of restricted travelling (e.g. origin in COVID-19 risk region), please contact the Promotionsbüro (promotionsbuero@lwf.uni-bonn.de/ promotionsbuero\_gug@lwf.uni-bonn.de .



The audience members can raise the „blue hand“ virtually and stays unmute for the time asking questions. Chair and PhD student stay unmute during the whole discussion. Finally the video conference will be closed and the next ZOOM-Link has to be opened.

## Part II: Non public scientific debate

### ZOOM-Link 2 (ca. 60 minutes)

Virtual attendees: all authorized examiners and the PhD student  
additionally allowed: due to a written application of the PhD student, scientific coworkers as well as other PhD students are allowed to join the non public scientific debate.

After a short break (max. 10 minutes) the examination committee and the PhD student enter the virtual examination room. Meeting ID and password for the scientific debate will be sent to the members of the examination committee together with the examination materials.

In the disputation, the ability of the PhD student to present the subjects of his/her doctoral thesis and their categorisation within the doctoral discipline is verified by peers in a specialist discussion by the doctoral candidate with all members of the examination committee; following this, all people eligible to conduct examinations in accordance with § 3 (1) also ask the doctoral candidate questions via the chair of the examination committee. The disputation should last a min. of 30 minutes and a max. of 90 minutes. (§ 11 (4))

Assessment of the oral examination (§ 12):

### ZOOM-Link 3

After the disputation a third ZOOM-meeting will be opened and the examination committee will assess the oral examination **(without PhD student)**.

Immediately following the oral examination, the examination committee decides privately on the assessment of the oral performance. It can award the following individual grades:

0 = Outstanding	1 = Very good	4 = Not passed.
2 = Good	3 = Passed	

Overall assessment of the doctoral achievements (§ 13):

For the doctoral examination procedure to be concluded successfully, it is necessary that at least the grade “passed” (3) has been achieved for both the doctoral thesis and the oral examination.



The arithmetic average of the individual grades by the first reviewer, the second reviewer, and the oral examination is calculated to determine the overall grade. For any further expert reports, the arithmetic average is calculated in each case in advance with the second expert report; special expert reports in accordance with § 10 (3) & (9) are not taken into account. **When determining the average, only the first decimal place is taken into account; all further places are omitted without rounding.**

The examination committee can increase or decrease the overall grade determined in accordance with § 13 (2) by the value of 0.3 due to its overall impression of the result of the doctoral examination procedure. However, the grade “outstanding (0)” cannot be increased; the grade “passed (3)” cannot be decreased. The following overall grades and Latin honors can be awarded for the overall assessment of the doctoral achievements:

0.0	=	Outstanding (summa cum laude)
from 0.1 to 1.5	=	Very good (magna cum laude)
from 1.6 to 2.5	=	Good (cum laude)
from 2.6 to 3.0	=	Passed (rite)

The chair of the examination committee informs the PhD student of the result of the doctoral examination procedure by phone or personally in compliance with the actual hygienic regulations.