

Regulations for the structured doctoral programme Doctor of Philosophy of the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University

of 29 July 2015, amended on 13 February 2017, last amended on 17 March 2017

Based on § 38 of the Act on Higher Education of the Land of Baden Württemberg (*Landeshochschulgesetz* - LHG) of 1 January 2005, last amended by Article 1 of the Fourth Act Amending Provisions of Higher Education (*Viertes Hochschulrechtsänderungsgesetz* - 4. HRÄG) of 17 December 2020 (GBl. p. 1204, 1230), the senate of Heidelberg University adopted the following second by-laws on 16 March 2021 to amend the regulations for the structured doctoral programme for the Doctor of Philosophy of the Faculty of Theology of 29 July 2015 (Rector's Gazette of 16 November 2015, p. 1443), last amended on 13 February 2017 (Rector's Gazette of 20 December 2017, p. 889).

The Rector approved them on 17 March 2021.

Preamble

The profile of the degree programme is primarily aimed at students who belong to a church of the World Council of Churches or the Lutheran World Federation or the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. The admission requirements are set out in the following regulations.

All official, status, function and job titles that appear in the masculine form in these regulations apply equally to all genders. This also applies to the use of university degrees, academic designations, and titles.

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§ 1 Purpose of these regulations, subject of the doctoral programme

- (1) These regulations govern the admission requirements and the study programme of the structured doctoral programme Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.) of the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University. The doctoral programme enables researchers whose university studies did not or only partially correspond to a full degree course in Protestant theology or who are aiming for an interdisciplinary doctorate to obtain a doctorate at the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University. This form of the Ph. D. represents a doctorate sui generis in distinction from the Dr. theol. of the faculty.
- (2) The doctoral programme provides additional research-oriented training in knowledge and skills that enable students to work independently and successfully on scientific problems and questions from the individual subjects of Protestant Theology.
- (3) The doctoral programme is offered in the specialisations “Biblical Studies”, “History of Religions and Historical Theology”, “Contemporary Theology and Religions”, and “Diaconal Studies”.

§ 2 Academic degree

Upon completion of the doctoral degree procedure as part of this structured doctoral programme, the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University awards the academic degree “Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.)”.

§ 3 Doctoral committee, admission committee

- (1) The doctoral committee of the Faculty of Theology, formed in accordance with § 3 (1) of the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Theology, decides on all questions relating to the doctoral degree procedure, unless otherwise stipulated in these regulations. The doctoral committee decides by a majority of the members present; in the event of a tie, the chair has the casting vote.
- (2) The following persons shall join the doctoral committee with voting rights for the respective procedure when deciding on the acceptance and assessment of a doctoral thesis and the overall grade:
 - 2.1 the evaluators in accordance with § 10 (3).
 - 2.2 all other full-time university lecturers, university and associate professors working at the Faculty of Theology who are involved in a circulation procedure.
- (3) The admissions committee decides on questions regarding the admission of applicants to the doctoral programme by a majority of the members present; in the event of a tie, the chair has the casting vote. The admissions committee comprises the dean and one professor from each of the four specialisations. The members of the admissions committee are elected by the faculty council for a term of two academic years. They are eligible for re-election. One or two possible doctoral thesis supervisors from the Faculty of Theology can be consulted as an advisory member for individual cases.

§ 4 Admission requirements

- (1) Prerequisites for admission to the doctoral programme are:
 - 1.1 A course of studies duly completed at a German university or equivalent institution of higher education in a scientific programme equivalent to the Diplom (German university degree), state examination, or Master’s degree in a subject relevant to the doctoral thesis, generally with a good to very good grade.
 - 1.2 Knowledge of the source languages required for the doctoral thesis. The admissions

committee decides on the recognition of source languages. Missing proof of the above language proficiency can be submitted subsequently by the end of the fourth semester.

- 1.3 Declaration of willingness by a professor or an associate professor to supervise the doctoral candidate scientifically as part of the doctoral programme, which should be documented by a doctoral agreement in accordance with § 6 (4).
- (2) A course of studies abroad and a degree from a foreign university will be recognised on application if they are equivalent to a German university degree in accordance with paragraph 1.1. Equivalence is determined by the admissions committee. The equivalence agreements approved by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder, and the German Rectors' Conference must be taken into account. If the admissions committee is unable to determine equivalence based on these documents, an evaluator's official report will be obtained from the Central Office for Foreign Education of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs. The admission of applicants who have completed a university degree outside the Federal Republic of Germany and whose native language is not German also requires proof of sufficient German language proficiency.
- (3) Graduates of four-year Bachelor's degree programmes at a university may be admitted to the doctorate if the degree was obtained with the grade "very good" and, in addition, proof has been provided in a colloquium convened by the doctoral committee that the ability to perform scientific work exists in the same way as in the case of university graduates of a Diplom (German university degree), state examination or Master's degree or an equivalent degree programme who are eligible for doctoral studies. The subject of the colloquium is theological specialist knowledge in accordance with the examination rules and regulations of the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University for the intended specialisation.
- (4) Particularly qualified graduates of three-year Bachelor's degree programmes at a university can be admitted to a doctorate if the degree was obtained with the grade "very good" and if they can prove in an aptitude assessment procedure that they are equally qualified for scientific work in the doctoral subject as university graduates of a Diplom (German university degree), state examination, or Master's degree or an equivalent degree programme who are eligible for doctoral studies. The coursework and examination components to be completed in the aptitude assessment procedure that lasts at least two semesters, are determined by the doctoral committee. At the applicant's request, the doctoral committee will hold a colloquium to determine whether the aptitude assessment procedure has been successfully completed. The subject of the colloquium is theological specialist knowledge in accordance with the examination rules and regulations of the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University for the intended specialisation. If the aptitude assessment procedure is not successfully completed, admission to the doctorate is cancelled.
- (5) The regulations for 3-year Bachelor's graduates from paragraph 4 apply analogously to graduates of universities of applied sciences. In these cases, the aptitude assessment procedure usually takes 4 semesters.
- (6) The doctoral committee may decide by a two-thirds majority of all members present at a duly convened meeting to make exceptions to the provisions of these regulations in individual cases - in particular to enable a binational or an interdisciplinary doctoral degree procedure - provided that this does not conflict with Act on Higher Education of the Land of Baden Württemberg.

§ 5 Admission procedure

- (1) The application for admission to the doctoral programme must be received by the Faculty of Theology by 15 December or 15 June for the following semester.
- (2) The application must include:
 - 2.1 a curriculum vitae with a description of your scientific career

- 2.2 proof of the admission requirements stipulated in § 4 (1)
 - 2.3 two evaluations from professors confirming the applicant's scientific aptitude
 - 2.4 an informative synopsis of the intended doctoral thesis project of a maximum of 5 pages (without annexes). The exposé should demonstrate the quality and feasibility of the doctoral thesis project within the specified time frame as well as the ability to perform independent scientific work.
- (3) The admissions committee decides on admission to the doctoral programme based on the following criteria:
- 3.1 accreditation and grade of previous university degrees
 - 3.2 positive assessment of the submitted exposé by a representative of the theology department, accompanied by a declaration of willingness to supervise the doctoral thesis project
 - 3.3 proof of the necessary German language skills
 - 3.4 proof of the specialised knowledge and source languages required for the doctoral thesis project
 - 3.5 proof of the basic theological knowledge required for the doctoral thesis project.
 - 3.6 If the knowledge listed in 3.3 to 3.5 is not evident from the periods of studies, this can be demonstrated in an oral colloquium with the admissions committee. Applicants must be informed in writing of the result of the admissions committee. Approval subject to conditions is possible.
- (4) A maximum of 20 doctoral candidates can be accepted onto the doctoral programme per semester. If there are more applicants than places, the admissions committee decides in a ranking procedure. The following criteria determine ranking:
- 4.1 University results, examination prerequisites (max. 10 points): The overall grade 1 corresponds to 10 points, 2 corresponds to 7 points, 3 corresponds to 4 points, 4 corresponds to 1 point; other and foreign grades are to be converted accordingly in accordance with the specifications of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder.
 - 4.2 Quality of the exposé submitted (max. 10 points): The assessment is performed by the admissions committee. The assessment submitted by the departmental representative shall be decisive.
 - 4.3 Prior knowledge of language and theology relevant to the doctoral thesis (max. 10 points): The assessment shall be performed by the admissions committee and includes the documented periods of studies and, if applicable, the oral colloquium in accordance with paragraph 3 section 6.
 - 4.4 Assessment of the application evaluations (max. 10 points): The assessment shall be performed during the application process by the evaluators in accordance with paragraph 2 section 3.
- (5) All points achieved are added together to determine the ranking. If there is a tie, the grade of the highest degree achieved is decisive.
- (6) The doctoral candidate must create an online doctoral file by registering in the online portal heiDOCS together with the application for admission to the doctoral programme. The data must be kept up to date by the doctoral candidate for the entire duration of the doctorate.

§ 6 Scientific supervision

- (1) The professors of the Faculty of Theology are generally obligated to be available for scientific supervision for doctoral theses within the scope of their other duties in research, teaching,

and self-administration.

- (2) The admissions committee assigns a professor or an associate professor to the doctoral candidate as scientific supervisor based on the declaration of willingness submitted during the admission procedure. The Admissions Committee will endeavour to find a second supervisor upon the applicant's request. The supervisor, the second supervisor if applicable, and the doctoral candidate jointly review the progress of the doctoral thesis on an annual basis.
- (3) An orientation meeting between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor is held at the start of the 1st year of study. A target agreement is concluded in which the topic of the doctorate and a work plan, usually covering three years, are defined. The orientation meeting must be recorded. The doctoral candidate shall submit an interim report to their supervisor at the start of each subsequent academic year, based on which further orientation meetings take place.
- (4) A written doctoral agreement is concluded between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor with the minimum content in accordance with § 38 (5) sentence 3 LHG (see sample doctoral agreement, Annex 1 of the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Theology) The faculty may supplement this agreement with additional content.
- (5) In the event of disputes, the University's ombudsperson for doctoral candidates may be called upon to mediate.

§ 7 Scope and structure of the doctoral programme

- (1) The doctoral programme is designed to last six semesters, including the preparation of the doctoral thesis and completion of the examination components.
- (2) The doctoral programme is generally divided into three phases
 - 2.1 Preparation phase (1st year)
 - 2.2 Research phase (2nd year)
 - 2.3 Research and writing phase (3rd year)
- (3) In the course of the structured doctoral programme, modules must be completed in accordance with the annex. A distinction is made between compulsory modules, which must be completed by all doctoral candidates in a specialisation, and compulsory elective modules, in which doctoral candidates can choose from a limited range. The modules are defined in accordance with specialisation. The types of courses provided in the modules correspond to the advanced character of the structured doctoral programme and generally include colloquia, advanced seminars, societies, supervised independent studies and thematically specialised practice classes.
- (4) Credit points are awarded for successfully completed modules with their partial results. One credit point corresponds to a workload of 30 hours. A total of 20 credit points is achieved in the structured doctoral programme.
- (5) Proof of successful completion of the modules in accordance with the annex must generally be provided during the preparation phase, at the latest by the end of the research phase, with the exception of research training groups (for doctoral students) in accordance with paragraph 6.
- (6) Participation in research training groups is compulsory during the doctoral programme. Exceptions to this can be authorised in the event of absence due to necessary research work. The decision on this is made by the doctoral committee. The credit points of the corresponding module are reduced accordingly.

§ 8 Examination prerequisite; repetition

- (1) Successful participation in the modules listed in the annex to these regulations is generally certified by the respective heads of the associated courses and colloquia. If special results

are required for the credit points to be awarded, the type and scope of these results must be announced by the lecturer at the latest at the beginning of the course. Proof of results for the supervised independent study is usually provided in the form of a review or written reading report followed by an oral colloquium.

- (2) Doctoral candidates must document the development of their research work during the preparation phase and during the writing phase by giving an oral presentation in the research training group (for doctoral students). This can also take place within the scope of a workshop or a scientific conference. The presentations shall be prepared in writing and submitted to the supervisor.
- (3) The examination prerequisites are assessed as “passed” or “failed”. Assessment is performed by the course leader; in the case of presentations, by the supervisor.
- (4) Failed examinations can be repeated once at the next possible date.
- (5) If a performance is also assessed “failed” when it is repeated or if the doctoral candidate fails to meet the obligations regarding the submission of reports or the agreed objectives in the case of a repeat performance, admission to the doctoral programme may be withdrawn. The decision on this is made by the doctoral committee.

§ 9 Doctoral degree procedure; admission to the doctoral degree procedure

- (1) The doctoral degree procedure for the Doctor of Philosophy of the Faculty of Theology comprises the submission and review of the doctoral thesis as well as an oral examination or public defence. The doctoral thesis is also one of the subjects of the oral examination.
- (2) The applicant must submit a written application to the chair of the doctoral committee for admission to the doctoral degree procedure. The application must include:
 - 2.1 Proof of proper admission to the structured doctoral programme Doctor of Philosophy of the Faculty of Theology;
 - 2.2 Proof of any outstanding language examinations or conditions in accordance with § 4 at the time of admission;
 - 2.3 Proof of completed courses and examination prerequisites in accordance with the annex;
 - 2.4 the doctoral thesis in at least five copies and saved in a file format agreed with the Faculty of Theology;
 - 2.5 an affidavit in accordance with annex 2 of the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Theology;
 - 2.6 a copy of the instruction provided by the university on the significance and criminal consequences of the affidavit, signed by the applicant;
 - 2.7 a declaration that they have not submitted an application for a Doctor of Philosophy degree to any other university or faculty.
 - 2.8 a declaration of consent that the doctoral thesis may be checked for compliance with generally applicable scientific standards using electronic data processing programmes within the framework of data protection regulations. The doctoral committee shall decide on any exceptions upon written application
- (3) The doctoral committee shall decide on admission based on the application. A rejection must be communicated in writing, stating the reasons, and providing information on legal remedies.
- (4) The application for admission must only be rejected if
 - 4.1 the documents in accordance with § 9 (2) nos. 2.1 - 2.7 are incomplete and have not been completed in spite of prompting, or
 - 4.2 the applicant has definitively failed the doctoral degree procedure for the Doctor of

Philosophy of the Faculty of Theology or has lost admission to the structured doctoral programme Doctor of Philosophy.

- (5) After admission to the examination in accordance with, the doctoral candidate may withdraw the doctoral thesis until receipt of the first evaluation. The statement must be addressed to the doctoral committee. In this case, the doctoral degree procedure will end.

§ 10 Doctoral thesis; peer review

- (1) The doctoral thesis must be an independent scientific work in one of the four specialisations. It must be suitable for publication.
- (2) The doctoral thesis generally must be submitted in German or English. The doctoral committee may permit the submission of a doctoral thesis written in another language, provided that the Faculty of Theology is able to review it.
- (3) Two university lecturers, university or associate professors from the Faculty of Theology are appointed as advisors for review of the doctoral thesis. The first supervisor is appointed in consultation with the doctoral candidate. One of the advisors must be a full-time representative of their subject. In justified cases, the second advisor may come from external faculties of theology or other faculties of the university, as well as from external faculties other than faculties of theology. In the case of external second advisor, their position should be comparable to that of a German university lecturer or a university or associate professor; the same applies to independent heads of junior research groups. An additional evaluator from external faculties of theology or other, also external faculties may be appointed in justified cases. The doctoral committee will decide on the existence of a "justified case" and on the appointment of the respective external advisor with a two-thirds majority of the votes present.
- (4) The advisors provide their evaluation in writing. They recommend acceptance of the doctoral thesis and propose an assessment or recommend that the doctoral thesis be returned for revision or that it be rejected as a doctoral thesis. An evaluation generally should be prepared within a maximum of six months.
- (5) The doctoral candidate must be given access to the evaluations and the opportunity to comment before a decision on the rejection of the doctoral thesis is made. If the doctoral thesis is rejected, a new doctoral thesis can be submitted after one year at the earliest.
- (6) Prior to the decision on the assessment of an accepted doctoral thesis, all full-time university lecturers, university and associate professors of the faculty working at Heidelberg University shall be given the opportunity to inspect the doctoral thesis and the evaluation and to submit written official reports for a period of at least three and at most twelve weeks.
- (7) The decision to accept or reject the doctoral thesis is made before the start of the oral examination or defence. The doctoral thesis shall be assessed at the latest at the time of the oral examination or defence. The doctoral committee may stipulate conditions for revision of the doctoral thesis prior to publication if the doctoral thesis is rejected.
- (8) The evaluations of the doctoral thesis are to be made available to the doctoral candidate once all examination components have been completed.

§ 11 Oral examination

- (1) A date for the oral examination will be set if the doctoral thesis has been accepted.
- (2) The examination shall be approximately one hour and covers topics related to the specialisation in theology.
- (3) The oral examination is usually held in German. In exceptional cases, a different language can be agreed between the applicant and the examiners. The applicant may propose the

examiners; the doctoral committee is not bound by the proposal.

- (4) The oral examinations are each conducted by two examiners. As a rule, the examiners must be professors and representatives of subjects related to the specialisation. One of the examiners may be a university or an associate professor. External university lecturers, university or associate professors must only be examiners if the doctoral committee authorises this by a two-thirds majority.
- (5) If the applicant does not pass the oral examination, it can be repeated once. The applicant may request that they be permitted to retake the examination at the earliest three months and at the latest six months after the examination.

§ 12 Defence

- (1) Applicants may take the oral examination as a defence in German or another language approved by the doctoral committee upon request.
- (2) The subject of the defence shall be
 - 2.1 theses formulated by the applicant and attached to their application in the field of the specialisation chosen in the doctoral programme and
 - 2.2 theses formulated by the doctoral committee in the area of the chosen specialisation in the doctoral programme, which are presented to the applicant during the defence.
- (3) The time for each of the two parts of the defence should not exceed one hour.
- (4) All university lecturers, university and associate professors of the faculty may participate in the defence and in the consultation on their assessment.
- (5) If the defence is assessed as failed, the examination can only be repeated as an oral examination in accordance with § 11. Upon application, the applicant may be admitted to take the oral examination at the earliest three months and at the latest six months after the defence. In this case, the oral examination cannot be repeated.

§ 13 Public access to the oral examination

- (1) Doctoral candidates who are enrolled in the structured Doctor of Philosophy doctoral programme may participate in oral examinations as listeners, subject to availability. Participation does not extend to the advisory service or the announcement of the examination result.
- (2) The public must be excluded for important reasons or at the request of the candidate.

§ 14 Assessment

- (1) The following grades are awarded for the doctoral thesis and for the oral examination or defence:
 - for excellent results: summa cum laude
 - for very good results: magna cum laude
 - for good results: cum laude
 - If no distinction is awarded, the examination is passed with rite.

The following assessments apply:

- summa cum laude is assessed with 1,
- magna cum laude with 2,
- cum laude with 3, and

– rite with 4.

- (2) The grade of the doctoral thesis shall be counted double and that of the oral examination or defence single for the overall grade of the doctorate. The doctorate is deemed passed with the overall grade summa cum laude with an average grade of 1-1.49; the doctorate is deemed passed with the overall grade magna cum laude with an average grade of 1.5-2.49. The other average values are rounded up or down accordingly.

§ 15 Publication of the doctoral thesis

- (1) After passing the oral examination, permission to print must be obtained from the Faculty of Theology before the doctoral thesis is published. It must be issued by the dean if the doctoral thesis is to be published in the reviewed version; in the case of conditions decided by the doctoral committee, the dean decides in agreement with the respective advisor.
- (2) The doctorate is awarded after the candidate has provided proof of publication of the accepted doctoral thesis and has submitted a copy of the published work to the faculty.
- (3) Publication is possible by way of
 1. publication by a commercial publisher, provided a minimum print run of 100 copies can be proven; three copies must be submitted to the University Library. A lower minimum print run is acceptable if the publisher fulfils further orders via the print-on-demand process. The doctoral candidate shall be responsible for providing proof of this, or
 2. submission of a publishing contract, provided that the doctoral candidate also guarantees that the work will be printed within three years of the date of the contract and that three copies will be submitted free of charge to the university library and one copy to the faculty after printing, or
 3. by duplication using the reproduction process - in this case, 10 deposit copies must be submitted to the University Library - or
 4. by electronic publication in Open Access on the university repository /Heidelberg document server HeiDOK <http://archiv.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/volltextserver/> operated by the University Library In addition, a printed, text-identical deposit copy must be submitted to the University Library. Other forms of electronic publication must be agreed with the University Library.

§ 16 Conferral of the doctoral degree; degree certificate

- (1) The doctorate is finalised by the presentation of the doctoral certificate signed by the dean. Only upon receipt of the doctoral certificate is the right to use the title “Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.)” was acquired.
- (2) The specialisation “Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.)” must be stated on the doctoral certificate.
- (3) The doctoral certificate is accompanied by a course list and transcript of grades, which contains additional information about the content of the programme and the periods of studies. The course list and transcript of grades is issued irrespective of the outcome of the doctoral degree procedure, provided that the admission requirements for completing the doctoral degree procedure in accordance with § 9 were met. It contains a clear indication that this is not the doctoral certificate.
- (4) After completion of the doctoral degree procedure, the doctoral candidate will be granted access to the examination documents within a reasonable deadline upon written request. The application must be submitted within one year of completing the doctoral degree procedure. The chair of the doctoral committee determines the time and place of the inspection.
- (5) (If the doctorate is conferred after submission of a publishing contract, the conferral may be revoked if the deposit copies are not submitted within the period specified in § 15 (3) no. 2.

The doctoral candidate may apply for an extension of the submission deadline by a maximum of a further two years.

§ 17 Withdrawal of admission; invalidity of results in the doctoral degree procedure

- (1) If it becomes known before the doctoral certificate is issued that the doctoral candidate has misled the doctoral committee about an admission requirement or that essential admission requirements have been incorrectly assumed to have been met, the doctoral committee may withdraw admission to the doctorate. The same shall apply if any facts become known that would justify revocation of the doctorate under state law.
- (2) If it becomes known that the applicant has cheated in achieving one of the results of the doctoral degree procedure before the doctoral certificate is issued, the doctoral committee may declare this doctoral performance or all previous results in the doctoral degree procedure invalid or, in serious cases, withdraw admission to the doctorate.
- (3) The person concerned must be heard before the resolution is passed. The decision must be substantiated and sent to the person concerned with information on legal remedies.

§ 18 Withdrawal of the doctorate

- (1) Withdrawal of the doctorate shall be subject to the provisions of state law. If there is no regulation on responsibility, the university lecturers, university and associate professors who are members of the faculty council are responsible. In particular, the doctoral degree shall be withdrawn if it is proven that the graduate did not prepare the doctoral thesis independently, that the sources and aids used are not fully specified and documented in detail, or that the doctoral thesis was submitted to another faculty or used in its present form for another examination. The resolution requires a majority of the members named.
- (2) The person concerned must be heard before the resolution is passed. The decision must be substantiated and sent to the person concerned with information on legal remedies.

§ 19 Final provisions; effective date

The above amendment shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the Rector's Bulletin.

Heidelberg, 17 March 2021

Professor Dr. rer. nat. Bernhard Eitel

Rector

Annex: Modules and courses of the structured doctoral programme Doctor of Philosophy

1 General compulsory module (2 CP)

	Module name	CP	Module completion
PhD-WA	Scientific work	2	successful participation

2 Specialisation in Biblical Studies (BibSt, 18 CP)

Compulsory modules (14 CP)

	Module name	CP	Module completion
PhD-BibSt 1	Research training group (for doctoral students)	10	2 presentations, prepared in writing
PhD-BibSt 2	Independent studies	4	Review or written reading report

Compulsory elective modules (4 CP)

Doctoral candidates choose detailed modules totalling 4 CP.

	Module name	CP	Module completion
PhD-BibSt 3	Source language	2–4	successful participation
PhD-BibSt 4	Reading of source texts	2	successful participation
PhD-BibSt 5	Recent research approaches in biblical studies	2–4	successful participation

3 Specialisation in History of Religions and Historical Theology (HistTh, 18 CP)

Compulsory modules (14 CP)

	Module name	CP	Module completion
PhD-HistTh 1	Research training group (for doctoral students)	10	2 presentations, prepared in writing
PhD-HistTh 2	Independent studies	4	Review or written reading report

Compulsory elective modules (4 CP)

Doctoral candidates choose detailed modules totalling 4 CP.

	Module name	CP	Module completion
PhD-HistTh 3	Source language	2–4	successful participation
PhD-HistTh 4	Reading on the history of theology and the history of religion	2	successful participation
PhD-HistTh 5	Recent research approaches in historical religious studies	2	successful participation

4 Specialisation in Contemporary Theology and Religions (ContTh, 18 CP)

Compulsory modules (14 CP)

	Module name	CP	Module completion
PhD-ContTh 1	Research training group (for doctoral students)	10	2 presentations, prepared in writing
PhD-ContTh 2	Independent studies	4	Review or written reading report

Compulsory elective modules (4 CP)

Doctoral candidates choose detailed modules totalling 4 CP.

	Module name	CP	Module completion
PhD-ContTh 3	Source language	2–4	successful participation
PhD-ContTh 4	Methods of empirical research (in social science, political science, or psychology)	2	successful participation
PhD-ContTh 5	Contemporary theological concepts (reading course)	2–4	successful participation
PhD-ContTh 6	Recent research approaches in contemporary religious studies	2	successful participation

5. Specialisation in Diaconal Studies (DiacSt, 18 CP)

Compulsory modules (14 CP)

Module name	CP	Module completion
Research training group (for doctoral students) (PhD-Diakwiss 1)	10	2 presentations, prepared in writing
Independent studies (PhD-Diakwiss 2)	4	Review or written reading report

Compulsory elective modules (4 CP)

Doctoral candidates choose detailed modules totalling 4 CP.

Module name	CP	Module completion
Scientific theories and methods, project development and -presentation in the areas of organised assistance and social services (Diakwiss 3)	2	successful participation
Theology, diaconal theory, and history: biblical and theological contexts, ecclesiological and socio-ethical issues. Diaconia between church and social economy (Diakwiss 4)	2-4	successful participation
Main epochs and structures of free welfare/non-profit organisations in the third sector (Diakwiss 5)	2	successful participation

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