

Information concerning Doctoral Agreements

Basics

Doctoral candidates are matriculated at the University. Some of the doctoral candidates are also employed at the University of Bern. Within the framework of this employment – be it as a doctoral candidate or as a scientific assistant with doctoral thesis – they may use working time to work on their respective doctoral thesis. The following points are to be observed in relation to this dual nature:

The basis for the employment relationship is the employment contract wherein the contractual rights and duties concerning employment are stipulated. Agreed objectives shall, on principle, be defined in the staff appraisal interview. The specific objectives-setting for the doctorate in academic terms is set out in the Doctoral Agreement which may be adjusted according to need. For doctoral candidates employed at the University, the Doctoral Agreement is integrated in the staff appraisal form. For all other doctoral candidates, the Doctoral Agreement is available as a separate form.

Framework and Purpose of the Doctoral Agreement

With a view to offering the best possible support to doctoral candidates, the Doctoral Agreement defines the framework conditions (form and duration of the doctorate, educational, research and supervision goals) as well as the aspired academic accomplishments (written contributions and conference contributions). The Doctoral Agreement shall contain all the information required from any Doctoral Agreement.

Agreement on Objectives and Supervision

The Doctoral Agreement shall be concluded between the doctoral candidate and the academic supervisor/s in the first semester as of the start of the doctoral thesis. The educational and research objectives of the doctoral candidate shall be specified one year at a time, reviewed annually and readjusted. Furthermore, the doctoral candidate is entitled to regular meetings with the academic supervisor/s in the course of which the progress of the doctoral thesis and any problems shall be discussed.

Educational Objectives

In addition to the individual academic supervision, formal educational objectives – such as those offered within the structured doctoral programmes - support the professional competence and the research and publishing work of the doctoral candidates. Within the framework of the doctoral study regulation, the academic supervisors are free to award ECTS credit points for such educational achievements.

Research Objectives of Doctoral Candidates

With the assistance of the academic supervisor/s, the doctoral candidates are expected to regularly document the findings of their doctoral thesis project at national and international expert conferences and to prepare the findings for publishing in learned journals or monographs. In the case of collaborations, account must be taken of the doctoral thesis as an independent academic accomplishment of the doctoral candidate.