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**Regulations on the Entry Requirements
for the Doctoral Programme for Obtaining the Degree of 'PhD'
at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Göttingen**

§ 1 Scope and commencement of studies

(1) In accordance with the following provisions, the University shall implement an internal procedure to determine the entry requirements for all available places on the Doctoral Programme for Obtaining the Degree of 'PhD' at the Faculty of Theology (hereinafter: PhD programme).

(2) The PhD programme commences at the start of both the winter and summer semesters.

§ 2 Selection Committee

(1) To prepare for the selection decision, the Faculty of Theology at the University shall establish a Selection Committee for this degree programme.

(2) ¹The Selection Committee shall consist of the Dean of Studies, three members of the group of university lecturers and one research assistant holding a doctorate, as well as, in an advisory capacity, one student from the PhD programme; until 30 September 2027, a student from the *Promotionsstudiengang 'Theologie'* may also serve as an advisory member. ²The members from the groups of the university lecturers, research assistants and students, as well as their representatives, are nominated by the respective group representatives on the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Theology. ³The term of office for members is two years; that of the student member is one year. ⁴Reappointment is possible. ⁵The Selection Committee has a quorum if at least three members with voting rights are present.

(3) The tasks of the Selection Committee are:

- a) to check incoming admission applications for formal correctness,
- b) to examine and, where necessary, assess the entry requirements,
- c) to decide on the acceptance or rejection of applicants.

§ 3 Entry requirements

(1) ¹Applicants must provide evidence of having successfully completed at least a Master's, Diploma or Magister degree programme, or an equivalent degree programme leading to a state examination, or a programme equivalent to these at a higher education institution belonging to one of the Bologna signatory states, in

- a. Theology or
- b. Religious Education (with a further subject for teacher training) or
- c. a sub-discipline of theology or
- d. a subject which, in accordance with subparagraph 2, is academically compatible with a subject taught at the Faculty of Theology.

²The standard duration of the previously completed degree programme must be at least eight semesters; in the case of a consecutive Master's programme or an equivalent degree programme, it must be at least one year, with a total duration of at least eight semesters and evidence of a total of at least 240 credit points. ³Deviating from sentences 1 and 2, the entry requirement is also met by those who can provide evidence of having successfully passed the *Erste theologische Prüfung* in one of the member churches of the *Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland* (EKD). ⁴Final examinations passed in a country outside the Bologna signatory states require a determination of equivalence with the qualifications referred to in sentence 1, taking into account the recommendations of the *Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen* (ZAB) at the *Sekretariat der Ständigen Konferenz der Kultusminister der Länder in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (KMK) for the recognition and assessment of foreign educational qualifications, which are set out at the URL <http://www.anabin.de>. ⁵The marks on foreign educational qualifications must be converted to the German grading system. ⁶The Selection Committee shall determine equivalence to the qualifications referred to in sentence 1.

(2) ¹The Selection Committee shall determine whether a subject, within the meaning of subparagraph 1, sentence 1, point d, and fourth sentence, is academically compatible with a subject taught at the Faculty of Theology. ²In particular, subjects from the fields of Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Classical Philology, History (including art history, social history and regional history), Sociology, Philosophy and Ethics are compatible.

(3) ¹Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English. ²Sufficient proficiency in English must be demonstrated by achieving the minimum required score in an internationally recognised test or by equivalent results:

- a) Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English with a minimum grade of 'B';

- b) Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English with a minimum grade of 'C';
- c) IELTS Academic ('International English Language Testing System'): at least band 6;
- d) internet-based test of the 'Test of English as a Foreign Language' (TOEFL iBT): at least 80 points;
- e) paper-based test of the 'Test of English as a Foreign Language' (TOEFL PBT): at least 550 points;
- f) CEF ('Common European Framework'): at least C1 level;
- g) UNiCert: at least Level III.

³As a general rule, a test referred to in sentence 2, points a) to g), must have been successfully completed no more than three years prior to the receipt of the application for admission. ⁴A period of at least two years spent studying or working in a country where English is an official language, or the successful completion of an English-language degree programme, shall also be regarded as proof of sufficient knowledge of the English language.

(4) ¹Deviating from subparagraph 3, anyone with sufficient knowledge of the German language is also eligible for admission. ²Applicants who neither hold a German university entrance qualification nor have obtained a Bachelor's or Master's degree, or an equivalent qualification, in a German-language degree programme at a German higher education institution must provide evidence of this in accordance with the examination regulations for the German Language Examination for University Admission (*Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang* [DSH]) by sitting an examination with an overall result of DSH-2. ³Applicants who, in accordance with the examination regulations for the German Language Examination for University Admission (DSH) at the University of Göttingen, are exempt from the German Language Examination for University Admission are freed from the obligation to sit a test; this applies in particular to applicants who have demonstrated the required knowledge of the German language by successfully passing the 'Test of German as a Foreign Language' ('*Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache*' [TestDaF]) at TestDaF Level 4 (TDN 4) at least four times, or by passing the '*Prüfungsteil Deutsch*' of the assessment examination at a *Studienkolleg*.

(5) ¹A further entry requirement is that the degree referred to in subparagraph 1 must have been obtained with a final grade of at least 'good' (2.5). ²Deviating from sentence 1, the entry requirement is also met by anyone who can demonstrate that he/she holds a degree as referred to in subparagraph 1 and possesses the specific aptitude for the PhD programme. ³In this case, special aptitude is demonstrated by an exposé to be submitted by the applicant. ⁴The decision is taken by the Selection Committee on the basis of a written assessment by a reviewer, who must not be the applicant's supervisor. ⁵The assessment and the decision are based on the following aptitude criteria:

- a) identification and elaboration of a research gap against the background of the current state of research,
- b) consideration of relevant literature and a summary of existing findings in the field of research,
- c) feasibility of achieving the intended increase in knowledge within the scope of the research project,
- d) appropriateness of the methodological approach for addressing the research problem,
- e) completeness of the work steps and a realistic timetable.

(6) ¹A further requirement is a written declaration from a person authorised to conduct examinations* in the intended doctoral subject area, stating that

- a) this person will accept and supervise the applicant should the applicant be admitted as a doctoral candidate, and can ensure that the supervision is carried out in accordance with the regulations (confirmation of supervision), and
- b) the applicant possesses the subject-specific competences required for the doctoral project.

²Furthermore, admission is only granted if

- a) no intermediaries have been engaged for a fee for the purpose of identifying doctoral opportunities,
 - b) in connection with the doctoral procedure and its preparation, no fees have been paid, no benefits equivalent to payment have been provided, and no services have been used free of charge that are contrary to the spirit and purpose of an examination procedure,
 - c) there are no grounds that could justify the revocation of the doctoral degree,
- and this is confirmed by the applicant in accordance with the Annex.

(7) In all other respects, the provisions of the University of Göttingen generally applicable to enrolment remain unaffected.

§ 4 Application for admission

(1) ¹The application for admission must be submitted in writing, together with the application documents required under subparagraph 2, to the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Göttingen and should be received there by 15 March for the summer semester or by 15 September for the winter semester. ²It applies only to the allocation of study places for the respective summer or winter semester. ³The University is not obliged to verify the applicants' information ex officio.

* Please note: § 12, sentence 1 of the Examination and Study Regulations states that only the members of the group of university lecturers of the Faculty of Theology are authorised to conduct examinations, i.e., **the full professors in active service** (cf. <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/55423.html>).

(2) The following documents must be enclosed with the application:

- a) proof of fulfilment of the entry requirements mentioned in § 3, subparagraph 1; for any certificate not issued in German or English, a translation must be enclosed, either in German or English;
- b) a statement indicating whether the applicant has so far successfully completed, failed to complete or not yet completed a doctoral programme or doctoral procedure, or is expected to complete it in the future;
- c) a tabular curriculum vitae written in English or German, providing details of the applicant's date and place of birth, nationality and academic background;
- d) proof of sufficient proficiency in English or German in accordance with § 3, subparagraph 3 or subparagraph 4;
- e) for applicants under § 3, subparagraph 5, sentence 1, an outline of the research project; for applicants under § 3, subparagraph 5, sentence 2, an exposé in accordance with § 3, subparagraph 5, sentence 3;
- f) a confirmation of supervision in accordance with § 3, subparagraph 6, sentence 1; and
- g) a statement drawn up in English or German in accordance with § 3, subparagraph 6, sentence 2, in accordance with the Annex.

(3) ¹Applications that are incomplete or do not comply with the formal requirements shall be excluded from the remainder of the selection process. ²The documents submitted shall remain with the University.

(4) If an applicant can demonstrate that the procedure places him*her at a disadvantage compared with other applicants on account of a disability, the Selection Committee shall, upon request, grant appropriate compensation for that disadvantage.

§ 5 Notice of admission, notice of rejection

(1) Applicants who meet the entry requirements shall receive a written notice of admission.

(2) ¹Applicants who have not provided evidence of meeting the entry requirements shall receive a written notice of rejection. ²This must be communicated in writing, accompanied by a statement of reasons and information on legal remedies.

(3) ¹Notices under subparagraphs 1 and 2 shall be issued by the Dean of Studies or a person authorised by the Dean of Studies. ²The notice of admission also serves as proof of eligibility for enrolment.

§ 6 Entry into force

¹These regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Notices I of the University of Göttingen. ²They shall apply for the first time to the allocation procedure for the 2026/27 winter semester.

Annex (relating to § 3, subparagraph 6, sentence 2)

a) English

Doctoral candidate declaration of the University of Göttingen

Name

(surname, first name)

Address

(street, postcode, town)

I intend to write a dissertation on the topic of

at the University of Göttingen.

I will be supervised by Prof.

I hereby declare the following:

1. The opportunity to undertake this doctoral project was not arranged for me commercially. In particular, I did not engage any organisation that seeks supervisors for the preparation of dissertations in return for payment or that performs all or part of my obligations with regard to examination performance on my behalf.

2. Assistance from third parties has been and will continue to be used only to the extent that is scientifically justifiable and permissible under examination law. In particular, all parts of the dissertation have been written by me; I have not accepted any outside assistance, either free of charge or for a fee, and will continue to do so in the future.

Furthermore, I am aware that any untruths regarding the above declaration will result in exclusion from admission to doctoral studies or, at a later date, justify the termination of proceedings or the revocation of the degree obtained.

....., on

(place)

(date)

.....

(signature)

b) German

Doktorand*innen-Erklärung der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Name

(Name, Vorname)

Anschrift

(Straße, PLZ, Wohnort)

Ich beabsichtige, eine Dissertation zum Thema

an der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen anzufertigen.

Dabei werde ich von Prof. betreut.

Ich gebe folgende Erklärung ab:

1. Die Gelegenheit zum vorliegenden Promotionsvorhaben ist mir nicht kommerziell vermittelt worden. Insbesondere habe ich keine Organisation eingeschaltet, die gegen Entgelt Betreuer*innen für die Anfertigung von Dissertationen sucht oder die mir obliegenden Pflichten hinsichtlich der Prüfungsleistungen für mich ganz oder teilweise erledigt.

2. Hilfe Dritter wurde bis jetzt und wird auch künftig nur in wissenschaftlich vertretbarem und prüfungsrechtlich zulässigem Ausmaß in Anspruch genommen. Insbesondere sind alle Teile der Dissertation selbst angefertigt; fremde Hilfe habe ich dazu weder unentgeltlich noch entgeltlich entgegengenommen und werde dies auch zukünftig so halten.

Des Weiteren ist mir bekannt, dass Unwahrhaftigkeiten hinsichtlich der vorstehenden Erklärung die Zulassung zur Promotion ausschließen bzw. später zum Verfahrensabbruch oder zur Rücknahme des erlangten Grades berechtigen.

....., den

(Ort)

(Datum)

.....

(Unterschrift)