



## Guideline from PhD defense to the doctoral degree<sup>1</sup>

1. The defense is open to the public and will be held in English. You need to submit a justified application to the BeCog coordination office to deviate from this regulation.
2. At least four of the six members of the examination board must be present during the defense, including both referees. If this is not possible, the defense will be postponed.
3. The defense consists of a thirty minutes presentation of the main outcomes of your PhD, followed by at least thirty and a maximum of 60 minutes of questions from the examination board and the general audience.
4. At the end of the defense, you will be informed about the decision of the examination board, but you may use the title only after the publication of your thesis.
5. Between the defense and the awarding of the degree certificate, the thesis evaluation reports and the minutes of the defense can be inspected. Please contact the coordination office to arrange a date.
6. After the submission of your thesis, you had been invited to the convocation ceremony, which is a purely ceremonial event. If you cannot participate, please inform the coordination office (BeCog@uni-goettingen.de) at least one week before the ceremony.
7. Revise your dissertation (if requested by the referees).
8. Have your supervisor sign the revision certificate (Revisionschein, see attachment), confirming that the supervisor agrees with the publication of the thesis.
9. Publish your dissertation. **The dissertation must be published at the latest one year after the defense.** In exceptional cases, the deadline may be extended twice by six months each. A written application must be submitted prior to the one-year deadline.
10. Submit your published thesis to the BeCog coordination office (see §21, 5 of the RerNatO for details). Submission is done in the following ways:
  - a) The thesis has to be published at the ediss server of the SUB (Lower Saxony State and University Library), submit one copy of the fully approved version and the publication certificate issued by the SUB to the BeCog Coordination Office. The SUB guidelines for electronic submission can be found [online](#).
11. If necessary, you can also **publish only the abstract** of your thesis with the SUB for the first 6 months after the defense. This period can be extended for up to 12 months. For this, please submit **an informal application including the reason to restrain the dissertation together with your supervisor to the examination board before the defense.** (please see RerNatO §21, Abs.9)
12. The BeCog coordination office will evaluate your documents; after three-four weeks, you will be provided with your degree certificate.
13. You are officially entitled to use the title “Dr. rer. nat.” or “Ph.D.”

When submitting your thesis to the BeCog coordination office, **provide also the signed revision certificate and the publication certificates** (original documents only).

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<sup>1</sup> This guideline is based on the GAUSS doctoral degree regulations, which are available [online](#). Reliance in law can only be placed upon the official degree regulations