

Guidelines for the examination accreditation in GAUSS

In principle, all permanent staff of the university professorial group (“Mitglieder der Hochschullehrergruppe”), who are a member of one of the mathematics and natural science faculties in Göttingen, are automatically holding the general examination accreditation (APB) in the respective faculty program(s) for up to three years after their active employment at the university comes to an end. The examination accreditation can be prolonged after these initial three years by the respective program (see §12 RerNat-O). Employees with a non-permanent contract fulfilling the criteria for an APB or an individual examination accreditation (EPB) can receive the examination accreditation for the duration of their employment. New doctoral projects that are going to be supervised by employees with a non-permanent contract ending within two years after the start of the project require a written confirmation by a substitute staff member in case the supervision cannot be continued after leaving the university.

General examination accreditation (APB)

Scientists of the Göttingen Campus

To be eligible to hold the general examination accreditation for a GAUSS program, a prerequisite is to have undergone for the current post a like-wise procedure considered equivalent to a professorial appointment or scientifically independent achievements in the area of mathematics or natural science. Scientific independence can be demonstrated by three elements:

- At least one successful funding application(s) as the principal investigator,
- An independent publication record (as corresponding author and without the group leader as co-author),
- Supervision of at least three dissertations in an area of mathematics or natural science.

Employees with a non-permanent contract at the Göttingen Campus should receive the APB for the duration of their employment.

Individual examination accreditation (EPB)

The individual examination accreditation (EPB) was designed to support the additional scientific development and qualification of early career researchers, to receive the general examination accreditation (APB) for scientists at the Göttingen Campus outside the faculties of mathematics and natural sciences, or to include external experts in the doctoral examination (see §12 (3) RerNat-O). EPBs for individual doctoral examinations are usually issued over a period of five years after the first EPB was granted. Exceptions are made for example for leading experts of service facilities and external scientists with a founded expertise in the area of the doctoral thesis.

Generally, there are four different groups eligible to apply for an individual examination accreditation:

A. Referees

(1) University professors from non-Göttingen mathematics and natural science faculties

Usually, a short application is sufficient.

(2) Early career scientists¹ at the Göttingen Campus

The prerequisite for the accreditation is proof of scientific independence in an area of mathematics or natural sciences, which can be documented by either

- at least one successful funding application as principal investigator² **or**
- an independent publication record (as corresponding author and without the group leader as co-author).

(3) Academics at the Göttingen Campus

The prerequisite for the accreditation is proof of scientific independence in an area of mathematics or natural sciences, which can be documented by

- at least one successful funding application as principal investigator² **and**
- an independent publication record (as corresponding author and without the group leader as co-author).

B. Members of the examination committee

(4) Early career researchers and academics at the Göttingen Campus and external scientists

Prerequisite for the examination accreditation as a member of the examination committee is the independent scientific work in the area of mathematics or natural science. Scientific independence can be demonstrated by

- at least one successful funding application as principal investigator² **or**
- pertinent expertise on the topic of the dissertation for which the individual examination accreditation is applied for.

Examination committees should include maximum three examiners from the same working group in order to ensure the independence of the judgement. Deviations should be explained on the application form for individual examination accreditation.

In all cases, the GAUSS managing board is considering and approving the applications submitted by the different programs. However, the board can delegate the decision to the programs. Representatives of the areas informatics, psychology and geography should be consulted in case of applications from these areas.

The respective application forms for the examination accreditation can be accessed on the websites of the graduate school at <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/567682.html>.

¹ Definition Early career researchers according to the criteria of the ERC regarding ERC Starting Grants: Between 2 and 7 years since completion of the PhD, see <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/starting-grants>