

These degree program and examination regulations have been worded carefully to be up to date; however, errors cannot be completely excluded. The official German text available from L1 – Office of Legal Affairs and Academic Quality Management is the version that is legally binding.

**Degree Program and Examination Regulations for  
the Doctoral Degree Program in  
Advanced ImmunoMedicine at the Faculty of Medicine at  
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)  
– PO PhAMe –  
Dated 8 February 2022**

Based on Section 13 (1)(2) and Section 64 (2) in conjunction with Section 61 (2) of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (Bayerisches Hochschulgesetz, **BayHSchG**), FAU enacts the following degree program and examination regulations:

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## **Part I: General Provisions**

### **Section 1 Scope, Purpose of the Doctoral Examination**

(1) These degree program and examination regulations pertain to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Advanced ImmunoMedicine.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The Doctor of Philosophy is an internationally recognized doctoral degree. <sup>2</sup>The doctoral examination serves to determine whether students:

- are capable of independently working on a scientific research project that is significantly more advanced than the level required in a Master's examination or any other equivalent final examination and
- have the appropriate scientific qualifications.

### **Section 2 Aims of the Degree Program, Focus of the Degree Program, Target Group**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The interdisciplinary doctoral degree program in Advanced ImmunoMedicine is offered by the Faculty of Medicine at FAU in collaboration with other organizational units at FAU and the FAU Graduate Center/Life@FAU. <sup>2</sup>The aim of the doctoral degree program is to provide structured, research-intensive training for qualified medical students and Master's graduates from closely related subjects in order to allow them to deepen and expand their knowledge and qualifications in the area of modern immuno-medicine with a translational focus. <sup>3</sup>The focus is on training particularly qualified young researchers to be able to conduct advanced research independently and to gain an advanced professional qualification in preparation for assuming leadership roles in research or related areas.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The training focuses in particular on immunobiology, immunodiagnostics and immunotherapies, molecular medicine, imaging techniques and advanced technologies, as well as applied biophysics and biomechanics. <sup>2</sup>The training focuses on teaching subject knowledge including basic theory and the foundations of methods and experiments used in scientific thinking and working, with the aim of qualifying students to work in research or teaching. <sup>3</sup>A particular focus is laid on improving the scientific training of particularly well qualified and motivated medical experts on their way towards becoming clinical scientists. <sup>4</sup>The doctoral degree program is therefore aimed in particular at high-achieving and highly motivated medical experts involved in research (who have already published scientific articles) who hope to gain the additional internationally recognized title PhD from FAU.

### Section 3 Degree

<sup>1</sup>Passing the examination results in students being awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). <sup>2</sup>The degree may also be used with the addition '(FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)'.

### Section 4 Qualification for the Doctoral Degree Program, Admission Requirements

(1) <sup>1</sup>In order to qualify for the PhD in Advanced ImmunoMedicine, applicants must have completed a relevant degree program with an above-average grade. <sup>2</sup>The following shall be submitted as proof of qualification for the doctoral degree program:

1. A medical degree with an above-average grade completed at a university in Germany or an equivalent degree from a university in a country other than Germany; an above-average grade for this purpose shall be considered to be a grade of at least 2.5 ('gut', or good) in the final examination, or
2. A Master's degree in science with an above-average grade completed at a university in Germany with specialization in a major area of life sciences (such as biology, biomedicine, immunology or molecular medicine) or an equivalent degree from a university in a country other than Germany; an above-average grade for this purpose shall be considered to be if the applicant is among the top 20 % of graduates in the year they graduated, and
3. A pass in the qualification assessment process according to **Appendix 1**.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Applicants should already be conducting research into immunomedicine at FAU or Universitätsklinikum Erlangen (UKER) or have received an unconditional offer for a place. <sup>2</sup>Doctors ought to have already started their specialty training. <sup>3</sup>Proof of employment pursuant to sentence 1 or 2 shall be submitted on or before the date of enrollment.

### Section 5 Structure of the Doctoral Degree Program, Part-Time Study, Standard Duration of Study, Teaching and Examination Language, Starting Date

(1) <sup>1</sup>The doctoral degree is split into compulsory modules amounting to 25 ECTS credits and elective modules amounting to 5 ECTS credits that students complete within the first five semesters of the standard duration of study and in which students learn fundamental aspects of theory and methodology and experimental approaches needed for scientific working and thinking with the aim of qualifying students to work in research and teaching. <sup>2</sup>In addition, students work on the research project modules I to IV worth 20, 25 or 30 ECTS credits (a total of 150 ECTS credits) over the course of the standard duration of study. <sup>3</sup>Research projects form the core of the degree program and consist of practical research in a laboratory during which students work to answer the research question on which their project description pursuant to **Appendix 1 (2)(2)(2)** is based and which they conclude in the final module (Research project VI, 30 ECTS credits) with their PhD thesis and its defense. <sup>4</sup>To complete the doctoral degree program successfully, students shall achieve 180 ECTS credits pursuant to these general degree program and examination regulations in conjunction with the **Appendices**, including all module examinations and the PhD thesis.

(2) The degree program may also be completed in the form of a part-time degree program with twice the standard duration in accordance with **Appendix 3**.

(3) The standard duration of study in the doctoral degree program including all examinations shall be six semesters for full-time study (**Appendix 2**) or twelve semesters for part-time study (**Appendix 3**).

(4) <sup>1</sup>The teaching and examination language of the doctoral degree program is English. <sup>2</sup>Individual compulsory elective modules may be taught and assessed in German. <sup>3</sup>Further details are stipulated in the respective **Appendix** or module handbook. <sup>4</sup>In any case of uncertainty, the examination language shall be the same as the teaching language.

(5) It is possible to start the doctoral degree program in either the winter or summer semester.

### **Section 6 ECTS Credits**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The degree program and examinations are based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). <sup>2</sup>One semester accounts for 30 ECTS credits (full-time) or 15 ECTS credits (part-time). <sup>3</sup>One ECTS credit corresponds to 30 hours of work.

(2) <sup>1</sup>ECTS credits serve as a system to categorize, calculate and confirm the amount of work a student has invested. <sup>2</sup>They are a quantitative indicator of a student's workload.

### **Section 7 Modules and Credits, Voluntary Intermediate Examinations, Safety Briefing**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The degree program consists of modules for which students are awarded ECTS credits. <sup>2</sup>One module is a chronologically connected and self-contained teaching and learning unit, the content of which can be tested in an examination.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The modules shall be completed with a module examination. <sup>2</sup>This examination shall as a rule consist of one examination achievement or one course achievement. <sup>3</sup>In exceptional cases, this examination can also consist of several partial examinations or parts of examinations or a combination of examination and/or course achievements if the subject warrants it. <sup>4</sup>Ungraded course achievements consisting of several parts and/or course achievements which can be repeated an unlimited number of times shall not count as examinations consisting of several parts as defined in sentence 3. <sup>5</sup>ECTS credits shall only be awarded for successful participation in modules that can be verified in an individual, separately identifiable performance in a module examination. <sup>6</sup>Module examinations are conducted during the lecture period or following the last lecture/seminar of a module before the start of the next semester's lecture period.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Examinations (examination achievements and course achievements) measure the student's performance. <sup>2</sup>They may be in writing, oral, electronic or in a different form specific to the subject (e. g. tutorial achievements, practical achievements, seminar achievements, excursion achievements). <sup>3</sup>In the event of invigilated remote electronic examinations, the Bavarian regulation for testing remote examinations (**BayFEV**) and the FAU regulations on remote examinations on the basis of the Bavarian regulations for testing remote examinations (BayFEV) – **EFernPO** – shall be complied with. <sup>4</sup>Examination achievements are graded. <sup>5</sup>The assessment of course achievements may be limited to determining whether the student has passed ('bestanden') or failed ('nicht bestanden').

(4) <sup>1</sup>Tutorial achievements (TA) generally involve independently solving exercises each week (e. g. exercises in programming or calculations, or e-learning units, which

are assessed on the basis of an exercise log, compilation or electronic record). <sup>2</sup>Practical achievements (PA) generally involve completing practical tasks, documenting them in a series of reports and completing oral or written tests on the practical task at hand. <sup>3</sup>Students may also be required to complete seminar achievements (SEA) (generally a presentation and handout). <sup>4</sup>The specific form and scope of the examinations stated in sentences 1 to 3 depend on the specific manner in which the respective module or teaching unit is taught. Details are stipulated in the applicable **Appendix** or the module handbook.

(5) <sup>1</sup>Tests to verify that students have mastered the safety skills required for practical exercises or experiments in the laboratory do not count as examinations as defined in the paragraphs above, as they do not serve to determine whether or not students have mastered the skills which must be acquired in a module. <sup>2</sup>Checking these basic safety-related skills is not comparable to an examination as defined above and simply constitutes a basic entry requirement which must be met before students can take part in practical exercises or experiments in the laboratory in order to ensure the safety of everyone participating in the teaching unit and to protect the facilities. <sup>3</sup>Modules for which an entry requirement such as this must be met shall be labeled accordingly in the module description.

(6) Enrollment in the doctoral degree program in Advanced ImmunoMedicine at FAU is a requirement for participation in module examinations according to (2)(1); this shall not apply to resit examinations pursuant to Section 29.

### **Section 8 Compulsory Attendance**

(1) <sup>1</sup>For teaching units, which are marked accordingly in the respective module description, in which the qualification goal can only be achieved by regular attendance, compulsory attendance can be made a requirement for admission to the module examination or for obtaining the course achievement. <sup>2</sup>If attendance of the individual student is required for all participants to obtain the subject-specific skills, if the individual student obtaining such skills depends on the attendance of the other participants, or if subject-specific skills can only be obtained by being present at a particular place, or if participation is required for safety reasons, it is permissible to introduce an obligation to attend.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Regular attendance is defined as missing no more than 15 % of instruction time in any given teaching unit. <sup>2</sup>If between 15 % and 30 % of instruction time has been missed, the lecturer can offer the student the option to obtain a substitute achievement fulfilling the requirement of regular attendance. If no such substitute achievements are offered or the substitute achievements offered are not obtained by the student, attendance is not considered to have been regular. <sup>3</sup>If more than 30 % of all instruction time has been missed, the teaching unit must be taken again. <sup>4</sup>Any positions after the decimal point in the percentage of instruction time missed shall be rounded for the benefit of the student.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Paragraph 2 notwithstanding, in the context of practical courses, laboratory courses and block seminars, attendance is only considered to have been regular if the participant has attended all teaching units. <sup>2</sup>Appropriate substitute achievements fulfilling the requirement of regular attendance shall be offered in the case of credibly shown periods of absence due to reasons beyond the student's control of up to and including 15 % of instruction time. <sup>3</sup>If more than 15 % of instruction time has been

missed, the teaching unit must be taken again. <sup>4</sup>Any positions after the decimal point in the percentage of instruction time missed shall be rounded for the benefit of the student.

(4) Attendance is checked in the individual teaching units by means of an attendance list in which students must enter their name and signature, or in a comparable manner.

### **Section 9 Examination Deadlines, Failure to Observe Deadlines**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Examinations shall be sat in such a timely manner as to allow the student to obtain the ECTS credits specified in the relevant **Appendix** for the doctoral examination by the end of the standard duration of study. <sup>2</sup>The deadline for the doctoral examination shall be the last semester of the standard duration of study pursuant to Section 5 (3). <sup>3</sup>The deadline according to sentence 2 may be exceeded by two semesters for the doctoral examination (extended deadline). <sup>4</sup>An examination shall be considered to have been sat and failed at the final attempt if the required number of ECTS credits stipulated in the relevant **Appendix** was not obtained within the extended deadline according to sentence 3, unless the reasons for this are beyond the student's control.

(2) The deadline set forth in paragraph 1 shall be extended by claiming the legal periods of protection stipulated in the law protecting mothers at work, in education and whilst studying, the Maternity Protection Act (Mutterschutzgesetz – **MuSchG**) in the version published on May 23, 2017 (BGBl I S. 1228 [German Federal Law Gazette I p. 1228]), according to the periods set forth in the current version of the Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act (Bundeselterngeld- und Elternzeitgesetz – **BEEG**) of December 5, 2006 (BGBl I S. 2748 [German Federal Law Gazette I p. 2748]), and according to periods of time spent providing care in the sense of Section 7 (3) of the current version of the Caregiver Leave Act (Pflegezeitgesetz – **PflegeZG**) of May 28, 2008 (BGBl I S. 874, 896 [German Federal Law Gazette I p. 874, 896]) for a close family member who requires care in the sense of Sections 14, 15 of the current version of **SGB XI** (German Social Security Code XI) of May 26, 1994 (BGBl I S. 1014, 1015 [German Federal Law Gazette I p. 1014, 1015]).

(3) <sup>1</sup>The reasons according to (1)(4) and (2) shall be explained in writing and shown credibly to the Degree Program Committee pursuant to Section 10 without delay. <sup>2</sup>If the reasons are acknowledged, the examination shall be sat at the soonest possible time; previous examination and course achievements shall be accredited. <sup>3</sup>In case of an inability to sit the examination occurring before or during the examination, the examiner shall be notified immediately. <sup>4</sup>In cases where the student is unable to sit an examination due to illness, a certificate from an official medical examiner ('vertrauensärztliches Attest') may be required by the Degree Program Committee. <sup>5</sup>In case of withdrawal from an examination due to illness after the examination has started, the student must submit a certificate from an official medical examiner to the Degree Program Committee without delay.

### **Section 10 Degree Program Committee**

(1) <sup>1</sup>A Degree Program Committee shall organize and carry out the examinations. It shall also be responsible for quality assurance and ongoing improvements. <sup>2</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall consist of three university lecturers from the Faculty of Medicine as full members. <sup>3</sup>In addition, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine or a representative appointed by the Dean shall attend the committee in an advisory capacity.

<sup>4</sup>The full members shall be elected by the Faculty Council. <sup>5</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall elect one of the full members as the chairperson and shall appoint a deputy to act in the event of the chairperson's absence. <sup>6</sup>The term of office of the full members shall be three years. <sup>7</sup>Re-election shall be permitted without restriction.

(2) The chairperson may transfer tasks within their responsibility to another member of the Degree Program Committee.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall be tasked with carrying out the examination procedures, especially the planning and organization of examinations. <sup>2</sup>Its duties include ensuring that the provisions of these degree program and examination regulations are observed. <sup>3</sup>With the exception of the examinations themselves and their assessment, which the examiners are responsible for, all decisions shall be taken by the Degree Program Committee. <sup>4</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall check delegated decisions if requested to do so and shall verify that examinations have been legitimately assessed. <sup>5</sup>It shall regularly report to the Faculty Council on the development of examinations and study periods. <sup>6</sup>The members of the Degree Program Committee shall have the right to be present during examinations. <sup>7</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall have recourse to the Examinations Office or Office of Doctoral Affairs when carrying out its tasks.

(4) In addition, the Degree Program Committee is responsible for verifying compliance with the qualifications and admission requirements as set out in Section 4 in conjunction with **Appendix 1**.

(5) <sup>1</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall have a quorum when all members are summoned in writing or electronically, observing a notice period of at least one week, and the majority of members are present and eligible to vote. <sup>2</sup>Decisions shall be taken with the majority of votes cast in meetings. <sup>3</sup>Abstentions, ballot votes and delegation of votes shall not be permitted. <sup>4</sup>In case of a tie of votes, the vote of the chairperson shall be decisive.

(6) <sup>1</sup>The chairperson shall call the meetings of the Degree Program Committee. <sup>2</sup>The chairperson shall be entitled to take decisions that cannot be delayed on behalf of the Degree Program Committee. <sup>3</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall be informed of such cases without delay. <sup>4</sup>Furthermore, unless these degree program and examination regulations state otherwise, the Degree Program Committee shall have the right to transfer individual tasks to the chairperson as well as revoke these.

(7) <sup>1</sup>Official notifications in legal matters pertaining to examinations shall be made in writing; reasons shall be given and information on legal remedies available to the person shall be included. <sup>2</sup>Students shall be given the opportunity to make a statement before negative decisions are finalized. <sup>3</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall have the right to rule that grade notifications may be sent out in electronic form to the individual students. <sup>4</sup>The President shall issue any notification of objection in questions of examination legislation following consultation with the Degree Program Committee and after hearing the examiners.

## **Section 11 Examiners, Reviewers, Observers, Exclusion Due to Personal Involvement, Obligation to Confidentiality**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall appoint the examiners. <sup>2</sup>Subject to the provisions stipulated in (3) and Section 35, all persons eligible to administer examinations according to the current version of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (**BayHSchG**) and the Bavarian Higher Education Examiners Act (**BayHSchPrüferV**) shall be eligible for appointment, provided they are members of FAU. <sup>3</sup>If an eligible examiner leaves the University, they shall usually remain eligible to act as an examiner for up to one year. <sup>4</sup>Eligible examiners who only have a temporary contract shall only remain eligible to act as an examiner for the contractually agreed duration of employment. <sup>5</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall have the right to extend this period upon request.

(2) External examiners may be appointed if they are university lecturers or are eligible to administer the examination in question according to the **Bavarian Higher Education Examiners Act** and there is a valid reason for doing so; however, at least one examiner must be a full-time lecturer from the Faculty of Medicine at FAU.

(3) The members of the scientific supervisory committee pursuant to Section 12 shall be appointed the examiners of research projects I to V.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The following may be appointed as reviewers of the PhD thesis pursuant to Section 35:

1. University lecturers at FAU
2. Professors on leave or retired professors who were primary or secondary members of the Faculty of Medicine
3. University lecturers whose main employment is at another institute of higher education that is entitled to award doctoral degrees
4. Other university lecturers
5. In exceptional cases, other persons with a doctoral degree entitled to act as an examiner according to Section 4 **HSchPrüferV**.

<sup>2</sup>Further details are stipulated in Section 35.

(5) A change of examiners shortly before the start of an examination shall be permissible on urgent grounds.

(6) Persons who have completed the degree program in question or an equivalent degree program shall be eligible for appointment as observers.

(7) Exclusion from the deliberation and voting process of the Degree Program Committee as well as from the positions of examiner and observer due to personal involvement shall be governed by Section 41 (2) **BayHSchG**.

(8) The obligation to confidentiality of the members of the Degree Program Committee and other persons involved in matters pertaining to examinations shall be governed by Section 18 (2) sentences 2 and 3 **BayHSchG**.

## **Section 12 Scientific Supervisory Committee**

(1) <sup>1</sup>A scientific Supervisory Committee led by a main supervisor shall be allocated to each student at the beginning of their studies. <sup>2</sup>The scientific Supervisory Committee shall consist of three researchers who have completed a doctoral degree, at least two of whom shall be entitled to award a doctoral degree. <sup>3</sup>The Supervisory Committee



must be interdisciplinary in nature and at least one member must have a doctoral degree in medicine (Dr. med.), dentistry (Dr. med. dent.) or sciences (Dr. rer. nat. or PhD).<sup>4</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall appoint the members, taking into account a proposal submitted by the student when applying for a place pursuant to Section 4 in conjunction with **Appendix 1**.<sup>5</sup>The main supervisor shall be the person who grants consent for supervision, financing and equipment pursuant to (2)(2)(2) **Appendix 1**; Section 5 shall be complied with.<sup>6</sup>If one of the other members leaves the Supervisory Committee, the Degree Program Committee shall appoint a new member, taking the provisions stipulated in sentences 2 and 3 into account.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The scientific Supervisory Committee shall follow the student's progress during research projects I to VI and shall agree on the topic of the PhD thesis pursuant to Section 25. <sup>2</sup>The scientific Supervisory Committee shall agree a supervision agreement with the student, in which the essential rights and obligations of the student and the scientific Supervisory Committee shall be set down in writing; further details shall be stipulated in (3).

(3) <sup>1</sup>The scientific Supervisory Committee encourages students to become independent researchers, with a particular emphasis on complying with principles of good scientific practice. <sup>2</sup>The supervision agreement pursuant to (2)(2) shall stipulate the nature and frequency of progress reports, feedback meetings and other means of communication, outline how the student will be taught in the principles of good scientific practice, and detail opportunities for further training. <sup>3</sup>The scientific Supervisory Committee and in particular the main supervisor shall provide the student with subject-specific advice and mentoring and shall be available for regular meetings. <sup>4</sup>The main supervisor shall be responsible for supervising the research project and shall act as the primary point of contact for the student. <sup>5</sup>The student shall work on the research in accordance with the agreements made and shall give the main supervisor regular feedback on all circumstances affecting the progress of the project. <sup>6</sup>In addition to the regular mandatory meetings with the Supervisory Committee, extraordinary committee meetings may be arranged in consultation with the main supervisor. <sup>7</sup>If an essential conflict of interest arises during the course of research projects I to VI (e. g. if the topic of the PhD thesis moves in a direction too far removed from the main supervisor's area of expertise, if the student constantly and repeatedly delays the progress of the project, or if the student repeatedly refuses to get in touch), the main supervisor may resign from the position of supervisor. <sup>8</sup>In particular, the supervisor shall be justified in resigning from the position of supervisor if the student repeatedly fails to comply with the provisions agreed in the supervision agreement.

(4) <sup>1</sup>In cases covered by (3) sentences 7 and 8 and in other cases in which the original main supervision relationship ends prematurely (e. g. due to the death of the supervisor), the student shall be responsible for finding a new supervisor. <sup>2</sup>If one of the other members of the scientific Supervisory Committee assumes the position of main supervisor, the Degree Program Committee shall find a replacement member to take his or her position in the scientific Supervisory Committee, taking the provisions stipulated in (1) sentences 2 and 3 and (5) into account. <sup>3</sup>The new main supervisor shall take the position of the previous main supervisor. <sup>4</sup>Any student who fails to find a new main supervisor despite a genuine effort to that end shall receive support from the Degree Program Committee. <sup>5</sup>If a suitable supervisor is still not available, the degree program shall be continued and completed without a supervisor subject to sentence 6. <sup>6</sup>The other members of the Supervisory Committee shall retain their positions provided at

least one of the other members is entitled to award doctoral degrees; the number of members of the scientific Supervisory Committee shall be reduced to the two members that have already been appointed.

(5) <sup>1</sup>Anyone in one of the following groups may be appointed to the position of main supervisor:

1. University lecturers employed full-time at FAU,
  2. Professors on leave or retired professors,
- who were primary or secondary members of the Faculty of Medicine. <sup>2</sup>Part-time lecturers and individuals with doctoral degrees (who are able to continually supervise research projects I to VI due to their employment at FAU or an institution associated with FAU) can be appointed as supervisors on an individual basis. <sup>3</sup>Paragraph 1 sentence 4 shall apply.

(6) <sup>1</sup>If the membership at FAU of the main supervisor or another member of the Supervisory Committee is terminated, they shall reserve the right to continue exercising their role as supervisor for the student. <sup>2</sup>Section 11 (1) sentences 4 and 5 shall apply in the event of a fixed-term employment.

### **Section 13 Announcement of Examination Dates and Examiners, Registration, Withdrawal**

(1) The dates of the examinations and the names of the examiners shall be announced in good time beforehand and according to local practice.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Unless stipulated otherwise in these degree program and examination regulations, students shall register for examinations after the lecture period has started. <sup>2</sup>The registration dates and formalities shall be announced in good time before registration and according to local practice.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Notwithstanding the deadlines set forth in Sections 9 and 29, withdrawal from first attempts at examinations for which students have registered pursuant to (2) shall be permitted without stating reasons up until the end of the third working day before the examination date; withdrawals are to be submitted to the examiner. The days between and including Monday and Friday shall be considered as working days. <sup>2</sup>In cases where the student is unable to sit an examination due to illness, a certificate from an official medical examiner ('vertrauensärztliches Attest') may be required by the Degree Program Committee. <sup>3</sup>In case of withdrawal from an examination due to illness after the examination has started, the student must submit a certificate from an official medical examiner to the Degree Program Committee without delay. <sup>4</sup>Once a student has declared that they wish to withdraw they may not revoke this declaration; registration to the examination on this date shall be canceled once the declaration is submitted and the student shall no longer be entitled to take the examination. <sup>5</sup>Students shall only be able to register for and sit the examination in a later semester. <sup>6</sup>The consequences of a delayed or invalid withdrawal shall be governed by Section 15 (1).

### **Section 14 Accreditation of Skills**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Study periods, modules, course and examination achievements achieved in other degree programs at FAU or at other public or state-approved universities in the Federal Republic of Germany, through successful participation in a distance course as part of a degree program at a public or state-approved university in the Federal Republic of Germany, or in degree programs at foreign universities shall be accredited according

to these examination regulations unless there are significant differences in the skills acquired. <sup>2</sup>The same shall apply to study periods, course and examination achievements achieved at a public or state-approved university in Bavaria in the course of other study programs within the meaning of Section 56 (6)(1) and (2) **BayHSchG**, in special study programs within the meaning of Section 47 (3)(1) **BayHSchG**, or at the Virtual University of Bavaria.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Skills acquired in programs for professional development as defined by Section 56 (6)(3) **BayHSchG**, or outside of higher education may be accredited if they are equivalent to skills acquired through university studies. <sup>2</sup>Skills acquired outside the university sector shall replace no more than half of the required skills of which students must provide proof.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The grades achieved in approved modules, examinations and course achievements shall be transferred if they were awarded according to Section 23. <sup>2</sup>If the grading system applied in the examinations sat at the university or equivalent institution of higher education and accredited by FAU is not identical to the grading system set forth in Section 23, the grades achieved at other universities shall usually be converted according to the following formula:

$$x = 1 + 3 (N_{\max} - N_d)/(N_{\max} - N_{\min}) \text{ with}$$

x = converted grade

N<sub>max</sub> = best grade attainable

N<sub>min</sub> = lowest grade for passing

N<sub>d</sub> = grade attained.

<sup>3</sup>Only one decimal place is shown for the grades thus calculated. <sup>4</sup>If conversion is not possible, the Degree Program Committee shall usually determine a system by which to calculate the grades.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The documents needed for this accreditation shall be submitted to the chairperson of the Degree Program Committee. <sup>2</sup>Subject to the provisions in sentence 3, the student shall have a legal claim to accreditation if the conditions stipulated in (1) and (2) are met. <sup>3</sup>Accreditation is only possible if the student has not already lost the right to be examined in that subject at FAU by passing or failing to pass the relevant examination at the final attempt. <sup>4</sup>The decision shall rest with the chairperson of the Degree Program Committee after consultation with the department representative appointed by the department in question; the decision shall be issued in writing.

### **Section 15 Consequences of Delayed Withdrawal, Fraud, Breach of Regulations, Exclusion from Further Participation**

(1) <sup>1</sup>An examination shall be graded a 'fail' ('insufficenter') if the student fails to attend an examination on the examination date without good reasons or if the student withdraws from the examination after the withdrawal deadline (Section 13 (3)) without good reasons; Section 9 (3) shall remain unaffected. <sup>2</sup>The reasons for withdrawal or failure according to sentence 1 shall be explained in writing and shown credibly to the Examinations Office without delay; Section 13 (3) sentences 2 to 4 shall apply accordingly. <sup>3</sup>If the Degree Program Committee accepts the reasons, the examination must be sat on the next possible date.

(2) Subject to the provisions stipulated in Section 16, in the case of plagiarism or an attempt to commit fraud or to influence the result of an examination through the use of

unauthorized materials, the examination in question shall be graded 'fail', or 'insufficienter' (unsatisfactory, 5.0).

(3) Persons who disturb the orderly examination process may be excluded from continuing the examination in question by the authorized examiner or the supervising person; in this case the examination achievement in question shall be graded 'fail' or 'insufficienter'.

(4) In case of a repeated or severe breach of regulations as defined in (1) or (2), the Degree Program Committee may exclude students from further participation in the examination.

### **Section 16 Fraud/Plagiarism**

<sup>1</sup>If when writing the PhD thesis or in the oral defense the candidate had unauthorized assistance, was involved in fraud or committed a serious breach of other academic standards as set forth in the currently valid version of the FAU regulations for safeguarding good scientific practice (**GSP regulations**), in particular if plagiarism or the deliberate falsification of scientific data is proven, the PhD thesis or the oral defense shall be graded 'fail' or 'insufficienter'. <sup>2</sup>When taking a decision pursuant to sentence 2 in cases of plagiarism, the Degree Program Committee shall take any available evaluations pursuant to Section 35 into account. <sup>3</sup>If other investigations are required to clarify the claims of fraud or plagiarism, the examination procedure shall be suspended whilst further steps are taken to investigate the circumstances of the case. <sup>4</sup>When investigating the circumstances of each individual case, not only shall all available evaluations be considered, but the Degree Program Committee responsible shall also commission at least one additional (external) evaluation explicitly on the question of whether fraud / plagiarism has taken place before taking the final decision as to whether the candidate has failed. <sup>5</sup>In serious cases, the Degree Program Committee may also prevent students from continuing their studies. <sup>6</sup>If the Degree Program Committee decides not to give the doctoral degree the grade 'fail' or 'insufficienter', the procedure shall be continued from where it was suspended; Section 35 (8) sentence 1 shall apply accordingly.

### **Section 17 Revocation of Degrees**

The revocation of the Doctor of Philosophy degrees shall be governed by Section 69 **BayHSchG**.

### **Section 18 Faults in the Examination Process**

(1) Should it turn out that the examination process was faulty in a manner that influenced the result of the examination, it shall be ordered upon a student's request that a certain student or all students shall resit the examination or parts of the same.

(2) Faults in the examination process shall be reported to the chairperson of the Degree Program Committee or the examiner without delay.

(3) Six months after completion of the examination, resit examinations may no longer be ordered as stipulated in (1).

## Section 19 Written Examination, Multiple-Choice Examinations

(1) <sup>1</sup>In written assignments (in particular written examinations, with the exception of the PhD thesis) students are required to prove that they are capable of identifying a problem within a limited period and with limited materials, using the conventional methods employed in their field, and to find a solution to this problem. <sup>2</sup>Written examinations may also be held as open book examinations during which students have to complete one or several tasks in a certain time without supervision using either a wide range of aids or whichever aids they like, but without the assistance of third parties; further details are stipulated in the module description. <sup>3</sup>In the case of examinations as defined in sentence 2, tasks shall as far as possible be tailored to test higher-level skills such as understanding, analysis, transfer and application.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Changing the examination form from an (electronic) written examination to an oral examination may be possible in exceptional circumstances after the semester has started if the respective **Appendix** allows for both forms of examinations and the teaching concept of a module has been changed accordingly at short notice. <sup>2</sup>The decision shall be taken by the module coordinator. <sup>3</sup>They shall inform students at the latest two weeks after lectures begin if the examination is to be an oral examination instead of an (electronic) written examination. <sup>4</sup>The form of the resit examination in semesters in which the teaching unit is not held shall follow the form taken by the examination in the semester in which the teaching unit was last held. <sup>5</sup>Resit examinations in semesters in which the teaching unit is held shall follow the examination form chosen for the semester in question.

(3) The duration of the written examination shall be governed by the relevant **Appendix**.

(4) <sup>1</sup>Written examinations shall generally be graded by the author of the examination questions. <sup>2</sup>If a written examination achievement is graded as 'nicht bestanden' (fail) it shall be presented to a second examiner for evaluation. <sup>3</sup>The examiner's evaluation must be documented in writing and reasons for the final grade must be made clear.

(5) <sup>1</sup>Written examinations may take the form of multiple-choice examinations (with one or more possible correct answers), either in full or in part. <sup>2</sup>Detailed information on the modules with multiple-choice examinations is given in the module handbook. <sup>3</sup>The examinee shall state which of the answers to the questions they deem to be correct. <sup>4</sup>Examination questions must allow for reliable examination results. <sup>5</sup>When drawing up the examination questions, it shall be specified which of the answers shall be accepted as correct. <sup>6</sup>If the question does not allow multiple answers, multiple answers shall be inadmissible and disregarded. <sup>7</sup>Before the evaluation of the examination results, at least two of the authors of the examination shall assess whether the examination questions meet the requirement set out in sentence 4. <sup>8</sup>Should they determine that individual examination questions are faulty, these shall not be taken into account in the evaluation of the examination result; the number of examination questions shall be considered to have been reduced. <sup>9</sup>This reduction of the number of examination questions must not result in disadvantages for any of the examinees. <sup>10</sup>No minus points may be awarded outside of individual examination questions.

(6) <sup>1</sup>Unless stipulated otherwise in the relevant **Appendix**, examinations pursuant to (5) sentence 1 shall be deemed to have been passed if

1. the examinee answered at least 50 percent of the examination questions correctly/achieved at least 50 percent of the attainable points, or
2. the examinee answered at least 40 percent of the examination questions correctly/achieved at least 40 percent of the attainable points and the number of correct answers/points obtained is no more than 17 percent below the average number of correct answers/points obtained by all examinees sitting the examination for the first time.

<sup>2</sup>If sentence 1 no. 2 is applied, the Dean of Studies shall be notified.

(7) In case of written examinations that are not entirely composed of multiple-choice questions, (5) and (6) shall only apply to the respective part.

### **Section 20 Oral Examination**

(1) <sup>1</sup>In oral examinations students must demonstrate both general and specific knowledge of the subject being tested. <sup>2</sup>Oral examinations taken by just one authorized examiner shall be conducted in the presence of an observer appointed by the examiner.

(2) The duration of oral examinations is stipulated in the respective **Appendix**.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Changing the examination form from an oral examination to an (electronic) written examination may be possible in exceptional circumstances after the semester has started if the applicable **Appendix** allows for both forms of examinations and the teaching concept of a module has been changed accordingly at short notice. <sup>2</sup>The decision shall be taken by the module coordinator. <sup>3</sup>They shall inform students at the latest two weeks after lectures begin if the examination is to be an (electronic) written examination instead of an oral examination. <sup>4</sup>The form of the resit examination in semesters in which the teaching unit is not held shall follow the form taken by the examination in the semester in which the teaching unit was last held. <sup>5</sup>Resit examinations in semesters in which the teaching unit is held shall follow the examination form chosen for the semester in question.

(4) In oral examinations in the presence of several authorized examiners, each examiner shall determine the grade according to Section 23.

(5) <sup>1</sup>A record shall be kept of the oral examination; this shall include the following: place, date and duration of the examination; name of the module to which the examination belongs and number of ECTS credits allocated to the module; subject and result of the examination; the names of the examiners, the observer and the student; and any special occurrences. <sup>2</sup>The record shall be signed by the authorized examiners and the observer. <sup>3</sup>It shall not be necessary to record the questions asked in the examination or the answers given. <sup>4</sup>The record shall be stored for at least two years.

(6) <sup>1</sup>Students planning to undergo the same examination during a subsequent examination period shall be permitted to be present as listeners during oral examinations within the bounds of feasibility with regard to the examination's location; listeners shall be excluded at the examinee's request. <sup>2</sup>Students granted permission to attend the oral examination shall not be permitted to be present during the deliberation process and the announcement of the examination result.

### Section 21 Talks and Presentations

(1) <sup>1</sup>In presentations and talks, students should prove that they are capable of working independently on a scientific topic, presenting it clearly for a particular audience and defending their point of view in expert discussions. <sup>2</sup>Presentations and talks are assessed on the basis of content, verbal presentation, conduct during the discussion and, if applicable, performance during the preparation of the presentation. <sup>3</sup>The person who assigns the topic of the presentation should generally be appointed an examiner, subject to the provisions in Section 11. <sup>4</sup>If several authorized examiners pursuant to Section 11 (1) attend a presentation or talk, there shall be no need to include an observer.

(2) Section 20 (4) and (5) shall apply accordingly.

(3) Presentations may be declared as public in the **Appendices** or in the module handbook; in this case listeners shall be permitted without the restriction stipulated in Section 20 (6)(1).

### Section 22 Electronic Examinations

<sup>1</sup>Examinations may be administered in electronic form. <sup>2</sup>Detailed information on the modules in which examinations are in electronic form is given in the module handbook. <sup>3</sup>Electronic examinations (e-examinations) are examinations which are administered and evaluated via computer or using digital technology. <sup>4</sup>The authenticity and integrity of the examination results shall be verified. <sup>5</sup>Automatically calculated evaluations of examination achievements shall be verified by one examiner at the request of the examinee or two examiners in case of a failed examination.

### Section 23 Evaluation of Examinations, Grades, Final Grade

(1) <sup>1</sup>The evaluation of the PhD thesis pursuant to Sections 34 and 35 and the oral defense pursuant to Section 36 shall be expressed by the examiners with the following grades:

Grade (in words)	Grade	Explanation
summa cum laude	= (1)	'ausgezeichnet'; an outstanding achievement
magna cum laude	= (2)	'sehr gut'; a commendable achievement
cum laude	= (3)	'gut'; an above-average achievement
rite	= (4)	'befriedigend'; a satisfactory achievement
insufficenter	= (5)	'unzulänglich'; an unsatisfactory achievement with significant omissions.

<sup>2</sup>An examination pursuant to sentence 1 shall have been passed if it has received at least the grade 'rite' (satisfactory). <sup>3</sup>The other examinations in the degree program shall be ungraded; they shall be considered either a 'pass' or a 'fail'. <sup>4</sup>Except when otherwise stipulated in the relevant **Appendix**, a module examination shall have been passed when all parts of the examination or partial examinations (Section 7 (2)(3)) have been passed.

(2) The overall grade for the doctoral degree is calculated from the average of the grade for the PhD thesis and the oral defense. <sup>2</sup>The grade for the PhD thesis is weighted twice. <sup>3</sup>The overall grade for the degree is calculated on the basis of the average as follows:

up to 1.17 'summa cum laude'	= 'ausgezeichnet',
between 1.18 and 2.50 'magna cum laude'	= 'sehr gut',
over 2.51 to 3.50 'cum laude'	= 'gut',
between 3.51 and 4.00 'rite'	= 'befriedigend',

an average of above 4.00 ('insufficenter') = 'insufficient'.

### **Section 24 Invalidity of Examinations**

(1) If fraudulent methods were used during the examination and if this only becomes known after the certificate has been awarded, the Degree Program Committee may correct the grade retrospectively and declare the examination as having been failed in part or in full.

(2) If the requirements for admission to the examination were not fulfilled while no fraudulent acts were committed willfully, these circumstances shall be considered remedied by the passing of the examination, subject to the provisions stipulated in Section 16.

(3) Students shall be given the opportunity to make a statement before a decision is taken.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The incorrect certificate shall be withdrawn; a new certificate shall be issued if applicable. <sup>2</sup>A decision according to (1) shall be excluded after a period of five years starting with the certificate's date of issue.

### **Section 25 Inspection of Examination Records**

(1) After the completion of the individual examination procedures, students shall on request be entitled to inspect their written examination papers, the corresponding reviews by the examiners, and the examination records.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Students shall submit the request to the examination body responsible within one month of being notified of their grades. <sup>2</sup>Unless the Examinations Office is responsible, the examiner shall allow the inspection; further details shall be decided by the Degree Program Committee. <sup>3</sup>Students prevented from observing the deadline according to sentence 1 through no fault of their own shall be granted full restitution according to Section 32 of the Bavarian Administrative Procedures Act (**BayVwVfG**) in the respective current version.

### **Section 26 Final Academic Record, Transcript of Records, Diploma Supplement, Degree Certificate**

(1) <sup>1</sup>After fulfilling all obligations pursuant to Section 37, students who have successfully completed the doctoral degree program shall receive a final academic record, a transcript of records, a diploma supplement and a degree certificate (doctoral degree certificate). <sup>2</sup>The student may only assume the Doctor of Philosophy title after receiving the doctoral degree certificate. <sup>3</sup>The certificate shall be issued in German and English and signed by the President and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The final academic record shall include the modules, the grades for the PhD thesis and the oral defense and the overall grade for the doctoral examination, and shall also cite the topic of the PhD thesis and the date of the oral defense. <sup>2</sup>The transcript of records lists all modules attended; the final academic record and the transcript of records may be combined into one document. <sup>3</sup>The transcript of records and the diploma supplement shall be issued in English and German. <sup>4</sup>Information not yet available to the Examinations Office must be submitted together with the required proof by the time of the degree program's completion at the latest; otherwise this information may no longer be taken into consideration for the documents listed in paragraph 1.



(3) <sup>1</sup>The certificate may be issued provisionally with the agreement of the Degree Program Committee before meeting publication obligations pursuant to Section 37 (1) if Section 37 (4)(1) nos. 1 and 2 apply and it is proven that the PhD thesis will be published by a recognized academic publisher, the University Press or as part of a scientific collection or series. <sup>2</sup>The obligation to publish in accordance with the deadline according to Section 37 (5) shall remain unaffected.

### **Section 27 Notification of Examinations Failed at the Final Attempt**

<sup>1</sup>Students who fail the doctoral examination at the final attempt shall receive notification that the examination has been failed at the final attempt, including information on legal remedies available. <sup>2</sup>Students can also print off an overview of their grades achieved in the individual modules in the examination administration system.

### **Section 28 Adjustments to Examination Arrangements**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The examination procedure shall be adjusted to take into account the nature and extent of a student's disability. <sup>2</sup>Students with a doctor's certificate showing credibly that they are either partially or fully incapable of sitting the examination in the intended manner due to long-term or permanent disabilities which do not affect the performance which is being tested shall be entitled to be granted permission by the chairperson of the Degree Program Committee to have this disadvantage offset by working time being extended accordingly or the examination process being structured differently. However, care must be taken to ensure that the examination is still suitable to provide evidence of skills which are being assessed by the examination.

(2) Adjustments to examination arrangements may be made for pregnant students, if the student submits a medical certificate confirming that she will be at least 30 weeks pregnant by the examination date to the Degree Program Committee responsible at the latest four weeks before the examination date.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Decisions according to paragraphs 1 and 2 shall only be taken by the chairperson of the Degree Program Committee upon written request. <sup>2</sup>The student may be required to submit an official certificate from a medical examiner ('vertrauensärztliches Attest') proving the fulfillment of the conditions in paragraph 1. <sup>3</sup>Applications for adjustments to examination arrangements should be made to the Degree Program Committee no later than four weeks before the examination.

### **Section 29 Resit Examinations**

(1) <sup>1</sup>With the exception of the research project VI module, each module examination or partial module examination may be repeated twice; the module research project VI may only be repeated once. <sup>2</sup>The resit examination shall be limited to the failed examination or course achievement, subject to the provisions stipulated in sentence 3. <sup>3</sup>Sections 35 (9) and (10) shall apply to resitting the PhD thesis and Section 36 (7) to resitting the oral defense. <sup>4</sup>The student shall register for the resit examination of their own accord, complying with the deadline pursuant to Section 9. <sup>5</sup>Students shall be obliged to check the status of their registration in the examination administration system regularly and inform the Examinations Office immediately of any discrepancies. <sup>6</sup>The resit period shall not be interrupted by de-registration or leave of absence. <sup>7</sup>If a student misses the resit examination or the resit period is not observed, the examination shall be deemed to have been failed unless the Degree Program Committee grants the stu-

dent a respite due to special reasons beyond the student's control. The standard deadlines according to Section 9 (1) shall continue to apply. <sup>8</sup>The provisions regarding maternity protection, parental leave and caregiver leave (Section 9 (2)) shall apply.

(2) Voluntarily resitting a passed examination of the same module shall not be permitted.

### **Section 30 Additional Modules**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Additional modules are modules included in the degree program (e. g. elective modules, key qualifications) that are attended within the examination periods as stipulated in Section 9 in addition to successfully completed modules. <sup>2</sup>Any additional modules shall be listed in the transcript of records.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Modules from other degree programs offered as partial qualifications for this degree program are also classed as additional modules. <sup>2</sup>Examination procedures for such modules are governed by the regulations stipulated in the **degree program and examination regulations** for the degree program containing the additional module. <sup>3</sup>Additional modules pursuant to (2) are not included in the final grade, but are shown in a separate section of the transcript of records. <sup>4</sup>If the student files a request with the Examinations Office at the latest eight weeks before certificates are issued, individual additional modules may be omitted from the final certificate.

## **Part II: Doctoral Examination**

### **Section 31 Admission Requirements for Examinations**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Students enrolled in the doctoral degree program shall be deemed as admitted to the doctoral examination and the module examinations of which the doctoral examination consists subject to the provisions stipulated in Section 32, unless admission is to be refused. <sup>2</sup>Admission shall be refused if:

1. Requirements are not met or certificates are not submitted at all or not in due time as stipulated in Part II of these degree program and examination regulations and in the relevant **Appendix**,
2. The doctoral examination in the same subject or a related subject has been failed at the final attempt, or
3. It has been ordered that the student is to be de-registered, resulting in the revocation of the student's right to sit the examination.

(2) If admission to the examinations is to be refused, the decision shall be taken without delay, furnished with reasons and information on legal remedies available, and announced to the student.

### **Section 32 Admission to the Module Research Project VI**

<sup>1</sup>Students shall apply for admission to the module research project VI, which entails the writing, evaluation and defense of the PhD thesis. <sup>2</sup>The application shall be submitted to the Office of Doctoral Affairs, including the following documents:

1. Proof of having completed at least 140 ECTS credits including research projects I to V,
2. Approval of the scientific Supervisory Committee for admission to the PhD thesis and
3. Complete and current list of all the student's academic publications.

<sup>3</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall decide on the student's application within one month. <sup>4</sup>Students shall be denied admission to the module if the documentation pursuant to sentence 1 is incomplete.

### **Section 33 Doctoral Examination**

<sup>1</sup>The **Appendices** shall specify subjects, type and scope of the doctoral examination.

<sup>2</sup>The doctoral examination shall have been passed if all subject modules required according to the relevant **Appendix** have been passed, achieving 180 ECTS credits.

### **Section 34 Research Project VI**

(1) <sup>1</sup>Research project VI consists of the PhD thesis pursuant to the following provisions and the oral defense thereof (oral defense pursuant to Section 36). <sup>2</sup>For the module research project VI, the Degree Program Committee shall appoint an Examining Committee for each student consisting of the chairperson and two other members who are authorized examiners for doctoral degrees. <sup>3</sup>The chairperson shall be a professor who has not been involved in an earlier stage of the procedure. <sup>4</sup>Wherever possible, the other two members in the Examining Committee pursuant to sentence 2 shall be either a member of the scientific Supervisory Committee (with the exception of the main supervisor) or a reviewer of the PhD thesis, with at least one other member being a professor.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The PhD thesis generally comprises one independently written, academic monograph demonstrating the ability of the student to examine questions in scientific research in a methodologically sound manner, solve problems independently and present research in an appropriate form (PhD thesis). <sup>2</sup>The PhD thesis must meet the criteria of an independent, new piece of scientific work. <sup>3</sup>The written thesis is expected to provide a clear, focused explanation of research findings which can be used as the basis for a subsequent primary publication. <sup>4</sup>The structure of the PhD thesis shall follow the typical standards for the format and length of current publications in the field. The text itself shall be drafted in the style of an academic publication. <sup>5</sup>The written text shall be limited to the length of a typical publication, between 60,000 and 80,000 characters (approx. 30 pages text), together with a maximum of 10 figures/tables (incl. key) and a bibliography. <sup>6</sup>The PhD thesis shall present the results in a manner according to standards in the field, and shall discuss the results in detail, putting them into the wider scientific context. <sup>7</sup>In addition, students shall submit a succinct introduction to the research question, with reference to the current state of research, and a detailed methods part of 20,000 to 40,000 characters in length, in accordance with internationally recognized guidelines for reporting research results (<https://arriveguidelines.org> and <https://www.nih.gov/research-training/rigor-reproducibility/principles-guidelines-reporting-preclinical-research>).

(3) <sup>1</sup>The period between being admitted to the module and submitting the PhD thesis (standard thesis work period) shall be three months. <sup>2</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall have the right to extend the period according to sentence 1 for a maximum of two months upon receiving a justified request. <sup>3</sup>If a student submits a doctor's certificate proving that they are incapable of working on the thesis due to illness, the period for thesis work shall be suspended temporarily.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The topic of the PhD thesis may not be returned. <sup>2</sup>If the subject is returned where it is not admissible, the PhD thesis shall be graded 'insufficenter' (unsatisfactory; 5.0);

it shall be regarded as rejected. <sup>3</sup>Sentence 2 shall apply accordingly if the PhD thesis is not submitted by the deadline.

(5) <sup>1</sup>The PhD thesis must not be identical to an earlier final paper or any published essay but may expand upon existing research. <sup>2</sup>Parts of the PhD thesis may be pre-published, insofar as this is declared when the PhD thesis is submitted and noted in the thesis; further details shall be stipulated by the Degree Program Committee. <sup>3</sup>Section 6 (3)(2) **GSP regulations** shall apply accordingly. <sup>4</sup>In the event of a breach, the decision as to the consequences under examination law will lie with the Degree Program Committee. In particular, the PhD thesis can be returned for revision. <sup>5</sup>Repeated or serious breaches may be classed as equivalent to plagiarism pursuant to Section 16 and the PhD thesis rejected as a result, irrespective of the evaluations submitted. <sup>6</sup>Students shall be responsible for confirming that contractual agreements involving copyright do not prohibit publication during the doctoral procedure; the Degree Program Committee are entitled to request evidence that the student has performed this duty.

(6) <sup>1</sup>Instead of a PhD thesis, the student may submit two or more research articles that have already been published in a recognized scientific journal in the relevant subject, provided the student is the lead or final author thereof and a note is included indicating that they are to be used as part of a doctoral thesis (alternative written doctoral research). <sup>2</sup>The student must be the sole lead/final author for at least one of the published articles. <sup>3</sup>If co-authored contributions are included in a written thesis as defined in sentence 1, the student must clearly indicate which parts of the thesis constitute their own work. <sup>4</sup>The student shall provide written confirmation of their authorship as well as the authorship of co-authors. <sup>5</sup>In exceptional cases, instead of confirmation according to sentence 4, the main supervisor may submit confirmation of the candidate's contributions in relationship to those of other co-authors. <sup>6</sup>In exceptional cases, the student may file an application for a single, outstanding publication for which the student is the lead author to be considered sufficient; the decision shall be taken by the Degree Program Committee. <sup>7</sup>Scientific journals shall be considered recognized for the purpose of these degree program and examination regulations if they are listed in a recognized citation database of the relevant subject, in particular SCI or PubMed, or in lists of recognized scientific journals published by academic societies. <sup>8</sup>The publications that are submitted in place of the PhD thesis must be supplemented by 15 to 25 pages in English which make the relevance of the articles to the field clear and illustrate the contextual links between the published articles; paragraph 7 shall remain unaffected.

(7) <sup>1</sup>The PhD thesis shall be written in English. <sup>2</sup>The thesis must include a table of contents, an English and a German title and a brief summary in both English and German. <sup>3</sup>The thesis shall be bound and submitted in a form ready for publication with page numbers, as well as submitted in electronic form. <sup>4</sup>A complete bibliography and list of other resources must be submitted with the thesis.

(8) <sup>1</sup>The candidate must confirm on submission of the PhD thesis that the thesis and the academic achievements documented in it were produced independently and without unauthorized assistance and that the hard copy corresponds to the electronic version. <sup>2</sup>The following declarations shall also be submitted in writing:

1. The PhD thesis has not been presented to another examining body, neither in full nor partially.
2. The doctoral examination for the pursued doctoral degree has not been failed before at the final attempt.

3. All sources and materials as well as portions of text that were cited from other works verbatim or in paraphrased form are designated as such.
  4. The PhD thesis may be stored electronically and used in order to verify citations. Digital aids, in particular plagiarism-detection software, may be used to check for plagiarism.
  5. The student is aware that the title Doctor of Philosophy may only be used after the certificate is received and that the rights gained shall be revoked if the required copies are not submitted on time.
- (9) The form of the thesis title page is specified in **Appendix 4**.

### **Section 35 Evaluation of PhD thesis**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall appoint two of those entitled to act as an examiner pursuant to Section 11 (4) as reviewers. <sup>2</sup>At least one reviewer must be a professor; none of the reviewers of the PhD Thesis may be at the same time a member of the scientific Supervisory Committee pursuant to Section 12. <sup>3</sup>Furthermore, one reviewer shall be a member of the Faculty of Medicine at FAU. The other reviewer must not be a member of the Faculty of Medicine, but shall be appointed from the other groups of people entitled to act as reviewers pursuant to Section 11 (4).

(2) <sup>1</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall dismiss reviewers if the requirements for appointment are not met or subsequently fail to be met. <sup>2</sup>The Degree Program Committee can also dismiss reviewers for cause. <sup>3</sup>The decision to dismiss a reviewer from the doctoral degree program shall be stated in writing, giving reasons for the decision and including information on legal remedies available. <sup>4</sup>The affected reviewer shall be given the opportunity to make a statement before the decision is finalized. <sup>5</sup>In the event that the reviewer is dismissed after submitting the evaluation, the Degree Program Committee shall decide whether the reason justifying dismissal renders the evaluation unusable and means that a replacement evaluation must be submitted by a newly appointed reviewer.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The reviewers shall each draft an independent written evaluation, grade it in accordance with the grade scale stipulated in Section 23 (1) and recommend whether the thesis should, in their opinion, be accepted or rejected. If the evaluation is not worded clearly or does not come to a clear conclusion, the Degree Program Committee may ask the reviewer to re-write it. <sup>2</sup>The evaluations must be written independently. The Degree Program Committee may take action as stipulated in paragraph 2 sentences 2 and 3 against any reviewers who fail to observe this requirement. <sup>3</sup>The evaluations should be presented within two months.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The Degree Program Committee can appoint an additional reviewer from the persons named in Section 11 (4), if the grades awarded in the first and second evaluation differ by more than one grade level. <sup>2</sup>If both evaluations grade the thesis 'summa cum laude', an additional evaluation must be obtained for the procedure pursuant to (5) from a reviewer who is a member of another university.

(5) <sup>1</sup>For the grade 'summa cum laude' to be awarded, all three evaluations according to (4)(2) must suggest awarding this grade. <sup>2</sup>Furthermore, in this case the student's work or parts of the student's work must have been published or accepted for publication in a reputable journal as defined in Section 34 (6)(7) in the relevant subject, whereby the student must be the sole lead author of this publication.

(6) <sup>1</sup>If all reviewers suggest that the PhD thesis should be accepted, the thesis shall be displayed publicly within the faculty together with all evaluations and documents according to Section 32. <sup>2</sup>All full-time university lecturers who are members of the Faculty of Medicine, all professors on leave and all retired professors who have been members of the Faculty of Medicine (eligible parties) are entitled to view the displayed PhD thesis. <sup>3</sup>The eligible parties must be notified that the thesis has been displayed and for how long it will be available, the minimum display period being two weeks. <sup>4</sup>The PhD thesis may also be displayed electronically. In this instance, suitable measures shall be taken to protect the thesis and the other documents pursuant to sentence 1 from unauthorized access and transfer. <sup>5</sup>Within the display period, the eligible parties are entitled to submit a statement evaluating the PhD thesis to the Degree Program Committee. The reasons for this statement must be given in writing within two weeks. <sup>6</sup>If an evaluation recommends rejection of the PhD thesis according to sentence 5, the Degree Program Committee shall decide if the thesis is to be accepted, rejected, or handed back to the author for revision. <sup>7</sup>The Degree Program Committee can request an additional evaluation before making this decision. <sup>8</sup>If a statement of rejection is not received within the period specified in sentence 3, the PhD thesis shall be considered as accepted and the procedure shall continue. <sup>9</sup>The Degree Program Committee may accept the PhD thesis subject to conditions; if the conditions are not met within the set deadline, the PhD thesis shall be considered rejected.

(7) If all reviewers recommend that the PhD thesis should be rejected, the Degree Program Committee shall decide whether the thesis is to be rejected or handed back to the author for revision.

(8) <sup>1</sup>In any circumstances other than those described in paragraph 6 (1) or paragraph 7 (1) and stipulated in Section 16, the Degree Program Committee shall decide based on the reviews whether the thesis is handed back to the author for revision, rejected, or whether the procedure of displaying the thesis according to paragraph 6 (2) et seq. should continue; paragraph 6 (9) shall not apply in this case. <sup>2</sup>The Degree Program Committee can request an additional evaluation before making this decision.

(9) <sup>1</sup>If the Degree Program Committee decides to reject the PhD thesis, the examination shall be considered failed. <sup>2</sup>If the PhD thesis is returned to the author for revision, the student can submit a revised version of their thesis within a period of one semester. The revised thesis is generally evaluated by the same reviewers. <sup>3</sup>The deadline pursuant to sentence 2 may be extended to two semesters on the student's request and with the main supervisor's approval. <sup>4</sup>Further revisions of the thesis shall not be permitted. <sup>5</sup>If the thesis is not resubmitted by the deadline, the examination shall be considered as having been failed at the final attempt.

(10) The student may repeat the examination once within one year of the PhD thesis being announced as rejected by submitting a PhD thesis dealing with another topic; Section 34 and paragraphs 1 to 8 shall apply accordingly.

### **Section 36 Oral Defense**

(1) <sup>1</sup>If the PhD thesis is accepted, the student shall be admitted and invited to the oral examination (oral defense). <sup>2</sup>The student must be invited to attend the oral examination at least one week before the date of the examination. <sup>3</sup>At the same time, the Degree

Program Committee shall appoint the members of the Examining Committee pursuant to Section 34 (1) sentences 2 to 4 and shall inform the student accordingly.

(2) The oral defense shall take the form of a colloquium, covering the topic of the PhD thesis and the contextual relationships between the topic of the thesis and research questions in other disciplines, particularly in related disciplines, in theory and practice.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The oral defense is held in English as a 'Disputation' open to members of the faculty; other members of the faculty may not attend discussions concerning the results of the examination and when the results are announced to the candidate. <sup>2</sup>The oral defense consists of a 30-minute presentation of the PhD thesis results by the student. <sup>3</sup>An academic discussion lasting between 20 and 30 minutes led by the chairperson of the Examining Committee shall be conducted after the presentation. <sup>4</sup>The Disputation shall be held at the latest four months after the PhD thesis has been accepted by the Degree Program Committee.

(4) <sup>1</sup>Each member of the Examining Committee shall assess the performance of the student in the oral defense with a grade specified in Section 23 (1). <sup>2</sup>The grade for the oral defense is calculated from the arithmetic average of the individual grades from the examiners; the result is calculated to two decimal places. <sup>3</sup>If the oral defense is graded as 'insufficienter' by at least two members of the Examining Committee, the oral defense shall be considered as failed.

(5) <sup>1</sup>After the oral defense, the chairperson of the Examining Committee shall inform the student of the grade achieved in the oral defense. <sup>2</sup>If the student fails the examination or the examination is considered as failed, the Degree Program Committee shall inform the candidate in writing to this effect and provide details of the further procedure and deadline for resitting the examination if this is permitted.

(6) <sup>1</sup>Even in cases that do not fall under (3)(1), a restricted number of students admitted to the research project VI module and other members of the Faculty of Medicine may be admitted to the oral examination as listeners by the chairperson of the Examining Committee, if the candidate does not object to their presence. <sup>2</sup>Paragraph 3 (1) clause 2 shall apply accordingly.

(7) <sup>1</sup>If the oral defense is failed or considered failed, the student can apply to resit the examination once only, at the earliest one month after the examination. <sup>2</sup>The resit examination must be completed within three months. <sup>3</sup>The student can apply for the Degree Program Committee to extend the resit period if there are extenuating circumstances.

### **Section 37 Publication of PhD Thesis and Submission of Mandatory Copies**

(1) After passing the oral defense the student shall be obligated to have the version of the PhD thesis approved by the main supervisor printed or photocopied and distributed at their own expense and under observation of all conditions.

(2) The PhD thesis must be marked as originating from FAU. The original title of the PhD thesis shall be included at a suitable position if the thesis is published under a different title.

(3) <sup>1</sup>Before publication, the candidate must submit the final version of the thesis in an electronic form and the manuscript to the main supervisor. <sup>2</sup>In all cases other than those covered in Section 12 (3) sentences 7 or 8, the main supervisor shall release the final version of the thesis for publication once all conditions in Section 35 (6)(9) are fulfilled. <sup>3</sup>In the event of a case governed by Section 12 (3) sentence 7 or 8, the Degree Program Committee shall release the final version of the thesis for publication (after consulting with reviewers) once all conditions stipulated in Section 35 (6)(9) are met.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The final, approved version of the PhD thesis shall be submitted to the University Library in one of the following publication forms:

1. Six copies if the entire PhD thesis is published by a commercial publisher in the form of a book with an ISBN number and the publisher confirms a minimum circulation of 150 copies if demand is sufficient, or
2. Six copies if the complete PhD thesis is published by FAU University Press, in print or electronically, or
3. One copy of the PhD thesis in an electronic format specified by the University Library; if the thesis is submitted electronically, the student shall grant the University the right to copy, electronically transmit and convert the thesis into other formats within the scope of its official business.

<sup>2</sup>In the case of a cumulative PhD thesis pursuant to Section 34 (6), the obligation to publish pursuant to sentence 1 does not apply to individual articles which have been accepted for publication and are currently in print and those which have already been published in electronic journals.

(5) <sup>1</sup>The version of the PhD thesis accepted by the Degree Program Committee shall be published under observation of all conditions pursuant to paragraph 1 within one year of the oral examination being passed. <sup>2</sup>The deadline of one year may be extended once only to a maximum of one additional year in extenuating circumstances if the student submits a written request to the Degree Program Committee before the deadline is reached. <sup>3</sup>If the student fails to meet the deadline, all rights and privileges granted by passing the examination shall be withdrawn.

(6) <sup>1</sup>In the case of paragraph 4 no. 3, the requirements pursuant to paragraph 1 may be deemed to have been met if there is a delay in the PhD thesis being made available to the public due to a pending patent application or to publication in a scientific journal by the student. <sup>2</sup>The prerequisite is that the submission requirements stated in paragraph 4 are met entirely, the latest date of publication is clearly stated in the non-disclosure notice pursuant to paragraph 7 and the thesis can be published independently by the University Library.

(7) <sup>1</sup>Using a form issued by the University Library, the student and supervisor can apply to the Degree Program Committee for a non-disclosure period of up to one year and have it extended for a further year at a time in the same way. <sup>2</sup>The notice of approval shall be submitted to the University Library together with the contract of publication.



## **Part III: Final Provisions**

### **Section 38 Legal Validity**

<sup>1</sup>These degree program and examination regulations shall come into effect on the day after their publication. <sup>2</sup>They shall apply to all students starting a degree program from the summer semester 2022 onwards.

## Part IV: Appendices

### Appendix 1: Qualification Assessment Process for the Doctoral Degree in Advanced ImmunoMedicine pursuant to Section 4 (1)(1)

(1) <sup>1</sup>The qualification assessment process serves to prove that the candidate has the necessary qualifications, knowledge and ability to conduct targeted scientific research independently, in accordance with the objectives of the doctoral degree program stipulated in Section 2. <sup>2</sup>It is carried out as necessary, but at least once per semester before the beginning of the winter and summer semester respectively.

(2) <sup>1</sup>Applications for admission to the qualification assessment process shall be submitted by a deadline to be announced at FAU in accordance with local practice (in particular on the degree program's website). <sup>2</sup>The application shall include:

1. Proof of the academic qualification pursuant to Section 4 (1) no. 1 or 2 (certificate, transcript of records, diploma supplement or similar documents indicating the final grade or in the case of Section 4 (1) no. 2 indicating that the applicant was among the top 20 % of graduates in the year of graduation),
2. The application for admission following the template available on the degree program website including project description and a note of acceptance from the main supervisor; in addition, an unconditional offer for financing and an equipment budget within the context of a doctoral/training position for the entire duration of the degree program as well as a proposal nominating the further two members of the scientific Supervisory Committee pursuant to Section 12,
3. A curriculum vitae listing prior scientific achievements, and
4. Proof of English language proficiency of at least level B2 according to the CEFR; proof of proficiency in English is not required for applicants who completed their degree pursuant to no. 1 in English.

(3) <sup>1</sup>In accordance with Section 10 (4), the qualification assessment shall be the responsibility of the Degree Program Committee for the doctoral degree program. <sup>2</sup>The Degree Program Committee may transfer the task of coordinating and carrying out the process to individual members unless otherwise specified.

(4) <sup>1</sup>Admission to the qualification assessment process shall be subject to the timely and complete submission of the documents listed in (2). <sup>2</sup>Applications not submitted in due form or in good time shall lead to exclusion from the qualification assessment process or the degree program. <sup>3</sup>The qualification assessment process shall be carried out with those applicants who fulfill the requirements according to the provisions in paragraphs 5 and 6. <sup>4</sup>Applicants who are rejected shall receive a rejection notification including reasons and information on legal remedies available.

(5) <sup>1</sup>The qualification assessment process shall consist of a preselection and a selection interview with the admitted applicants. <sup>2</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall carry out an initial selection based on the submitted documents to assess whether an applicant meets the requirements for successfully completing the degree program. <sup>3</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall assess the submitted application documents; if the members of the Degree Program Committee do not have the required subject-specific knowledge to assess the application documents, the Degree Program Committee may appoint a further reviewer according to the applicant's subject specialization. <sup>4</sup>The applicant's subject-related skills shall be assessed on the basis of a grade

scale from 0 to 5 points, taking the applicant's previous academic achievements, their personal letter of motivation and details of the planned research project equally into account; further information is given in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Evaluation of Previous Achievements**

very good (5 points)
good (4 points)
average (3 points)
some errors (2 points)
several errors (1 point)
insufficient (0 points)

<sup>5</sup>The final total score shall be calculated as the average of the three individual criteria; applicants require a minimum score of 4 to be invited to the selection interview pursuant to (6).

(6) <sup>1</sup>The Degree Program Committee shall conduct individual interviews with the selected applicants in order to determine the applicant's individual level of commitment and ability. <sup>2</sup>The selection interview is intended to indicate whether the applicant can be expected to attain the objectives of this research-intensive doctoral degree program and meet the requirements for working independently on a specific scientific project. <sup>3</sup>The selection interview shall consist of a presentation (approx. 10 minutes) in which the applicant presents their planned research project and their academic career to date, followed by an expert discussion (approx. 10 minutes). <sup>4</sup>The applicants' subject-related skills shall be assessed on the basis of a grade scale from 0 to 5 points and shall incorporate the selection criteria listed in sentence 6; paragraph 5 sentence 4 **Table 1** shall apply accordingly. <sup>5</sup>The final total score shall be calculated as the average of the three individual criteria; applicants require a minimum score of 4 in order to pass the selection interview. <sup>6</sup>The following criteria, weighted as indicated, shall be assessed in the selection interview:

1. A very good knowledge of immunology and biomedicine, of relevance to the doctoral degree program (10 %)
2. A convincing presentation of research activities conducted to date and the planned doctoral research followed by a discussion (35 %)
3. Excellent previous academic achievements as proof of particular commitment and the ability to conduct independent scientific work; this includes in particular specialist publications as a lead author, or a completed Master's thesis published as a primary publication with the applicant as the lead author and focusing on immunobiology or a related topic. The topic of the previous academic achievements should indicate the applicant's interest in immunological research (35 %)
4. Personal interest and drive (assessed according to CV and academic career to date) (10 %)
5. Positive overall impression based on the discussion of subject-specific questions relevant to the doctoral degree, the quality of the applicant's argumentation, and a convincing presentation of fundamental scientific principles (10 %).

<sup>7</sup>With the applicant's consent, the selection interview may also be carried out via video call. <sup>8</sup>Applicants shall be notified of the date of the interview at least one week in advance. <sup>9</sup>If an applicant should be unable to attend due to reasons beyond their control, a second date may be set upon justified request up until two weeks before the start of the lecture period.

(7) <sup>1</sup>The selection interview and the qualification assessment process shall be graded as 'bestanden' (pass) or 'nicht bestanden' (fail). <sup>2</sup>Records shall be kept of the selection interview; Section 20 (5) shall apply accordingly.

(8) <sup>1</sup>Applicants not admitted to the doctoral degree program after the qualification assessment process shall receive a rejection notification including reasons and information on the legal remedies available. <sup>2</sup>It will not be possible to repeat the qualification assessment process on the basis of the documentation submitted with the first application.

(9) Applicants shall bear their own costs incurred as a result of taking part in the qualification assessment process.

(10) Confirmation of passing the qualification assessment process shall remain valid indefinitely, provided the doctoral degree program has not been changed significantly.

## Appendix 2: Structure of the PhD Program Full-time Program in Advanced ImmunoMedicine (PhAMe)

Module name	Teaching unit	SWS (semester hours)				Total ECTS Points	Distribution of workload per semester in ECTS credits						Type and scope of the examination	Weighting final grade	
		L	T	P	S		1	2	3	4	5	6			
<b>(A) Compulsory modules (25 ECTS)</b>															
Applied high technologies in ImmunoMedicine	Lab Course - Single Cell Profiling & Next Gen Sequencing	0.5	0.5			10	1.5						oral or written <sup>1</sup>	0	
	LabCourse - Flow cytometry & Cell sorting	0.5	0.5				1.5								
	Lab Course - Bio-informatics	0.5	0.5				1.5								
	Lab Course - Bio-imaging	0.5	0.5				1.5								
	Lab Course - Image Data Analysis	0.5	0.5				1.5								
	Lab Course - Biophysics	0.5	0.5				1.5								
	Lab Course - Applied 3D/VR Approaches			1			1								
State-of-the-Art ImmunoMedicine	DZI seminar series & clinical rounds			1	2	10		2	0.5				oral or written <sup>1</sup>	0	
	Lecture series incl. external speakers (MICE seminar etc.)	2							1	1					
	Seminar and journal clubs (departmental)				1					1	1				
	Work-in-progress seminar (WIP @ PhAMe)				1			0.5	1	1	1				
Science communication	Conferences					5				2			Oral presentation pursuant to requirements of teaching unit (generally 15 min) or poster presentation	0	
	PhAMe retreat								1.5		1.5				
<b>Interim total of ECTS credits (A)</b>						<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2.5</b>				

(B) Elective modules (5 ECTS)														
Soft skills	Courses provided by IZKF and Life@FAU (presentation skills, grant writing) <u>or</u> other online courses <sup>2</sup>					2.5		(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		oral or written <sup>3</sup>	0
Teaching & Supervision	Student supervision (Dr.med. or Master projects) <sup>4</sup> <u>or</u> teaching activity in recurring seminars <sup>4</sup> <u>or</u> supervision of recurring methods courses <sup>4</sup>					2.5		(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		Written essay on project or seminar presentation <sup>1</sup>	0
Animal course	FELASA B course					2.5		(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		Written examination pursuant to FELASA B criteria <sup>5</sup>	0
Clinical study design	Good Clinical Practice course (GCP)					2.5		(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		Written examination according to requirements of course (generally 45 min)	0
Outreach	Lead organization of conference <u>or</u> retreat <sup>5</sup>					2.5		(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		Successful organization of event	0
<b>Interim total of ECTS credits (B)</b>						<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2.5)</b>	<b>(2.5)</b>	<b>(2.5)</b>	<b>(2.5)</b>	<b>0</b>		

(C) Research project and PhD thesis														
Research project I						20	20						Oral presentation (30 min)	0
Research project II						25		25					Oral presentation (30 min)	0
Research project III						25			25				Oral presentation (30 min)	0
Research project IV						25				25			Oral presentation (30 min)	0
Research project V						25					25		Oral presentation (30 min)	0
Research project VI	PhD thesis					30						20	PhD thesis <sup>6</sup> and oral defense <sup>7</sup>	1
	Oral defense											10		

<b>ECTS Zwischensumme (C)</b>						<b>150</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>Total sum of ECTS credits (A + B + C)</b>						<b>180</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	

- 1 The type and scope of the examination depend on the specific manner in which the teaching unit is taught in the respective semester; further details are stipulated in the module handbook. An oral examination shall take the form of seminar presentations (30 minutes) and a written examination shall be a one page summary including discussion of the individual scientific presentations. These are gathered together over the course of the semester and submitted together at the end of the seminar.
- 2 Approved providers to choose from: coursera.org; edx.org; vhb.org; labroots.com; other providers must first be approved by the Degree Program Committee; 1 ECTS credit for 30 hours workload.
- 3 The type and scope of the examination depend on the specific manner in which the respective teaching unit is taught; see module handbook for details. Oral examinations generally take the form of a seminar presentation (30 minutes) and written examinations consist of writing an essay (10 pages) or a practice funding application at the level of an individual DFG application.
- 4 A written declaration and approval must be submitted or applied for previously from the Degree Program Committee; 1 ECTS credit for 30 hours workload.
- 5 Written record of success pursuant to the regulations of the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) for category B (regulation 2010/63/EU; <https://felasa.eu/education-training>).
- 6 See Section 34 (2) sentences 3 and 4 for the scope of the thesis; the criteria for applying for a publication-based thesis are stipulated in Section 34 (6).
- 7 30 minutes presentation and 20 to 30 minutes defense.

### Appendix 3: Structure of the PhD Program Part-time Program in Advanced ImmunoMedicine (PhAMe)

Module name	Teaching unit	SWS (semester hours)				Total ECTS Points	Distribution of workload per semester in ECTS credits												Type and scope of the examination	Grade factor Final grade
		L	T	P	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
<b>(A) Compulsory modules (25 ECTS)</b>																				
Applied high technologies in ImmunoMedicine	Lab Course - Single cell profiling & Next gen sequencing	0.5	0.5			10	1.5											Oral presentation (60 min) *	0	
	Lab Course - Flow cytometry & cell sorting	0.5	0.5				1.5													
	Lab Course - Bio-informatics	0.5	0.5				1.5													
	Lab Course - Bio-imaging	0.5	0.5					1.5												
	Lab Course - Image data analysis	0.5	0.5					1.5												
	Lab Course - Biophysics	0.5	0.5					1.5												
	Lab Course - Applied 3D/VR approaches			1			0.5	0.5												
State-of-the-Art ImmunoMedicine	DZI seminar series & clinical rounds			1	2	10				1	0.5	0.5		0.5				oral or written <sup>1</sup>	0	
	Lecture series incl. external speakers (MICE seminar etc.)	2									1	1								
	Seminar and journal clubs (departmental)				1							1		1						
	Work-in-progress seminar (WIP @ PhAMe)				1						1		0.5	1		1				
Science communication	Conferences					5							2					Oral presentation according to requirements of teaching unit (generally 15 min) or poster presentation	0	
	PhAMe retreat									1.5						1.5				
<b>Interim total of ECTS credits (A)</b>						<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		



<b>(B) Elective modules (5 ECTS)</b>																				
Soft skills	Courses provided by IZKF and Life@FAU (presentation skills, grant writing) or other online courses <sup>2</sup>						2.5			(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		oral or written <sup>3</sup>	0	
Teaching & Supervision	Student supervision (Dr.med. or Master projects) <sup>4</sup> or teaching activity in recurring seminars <sup>4</sup> or supervision of recurring methods courses <sup>4</sup>						2.5			(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		Written essay on project or seminar presentation <sup>1</sup>	0	
Animal course	FELASA B course						2.5			(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		Written examination pursuant to FELASA B criteria <sup>5</sup>	0	
Clinical study design	Good Clinical Practice course (GCP)						2.5			(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		Written examination according to requirements of course (generally 45 min)	0	
Outreach	Lead organization of conference or retreat <sup>5</sup>						2.5			(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(2.5)		Successful organization of the event	0	
<b>ECTS credits Interim total (B)</b>							<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>2.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>(C) Research project and PhD thesis</b>																				
Research project I							20	10	10									Oral presentation (30 min)	0	
Research project II							25			12.5	12.5							Oral presentation (30 min)	0	
Research project III							25					12.5	12.5					Oral presentation (30 min)	0	
Research project IV							25							12.5	12.5			Oral presentation (30 min)	0	
Research project V							25									12.5	12.5	Oral presentation (30 min)	0	
Research project VI	PhD thesis						30										15	5	PhD thesis <sup>6</sup> and oral defense <sup>7</sup>	1
	Oral defense																			
<b>ECTS credits Subtotal (C)</b>							<b>150</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>		
<b>Total sum of ECTS credits (A + B + C)</b>							<b>180</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>		

- <sup>1</sup> The type and scope of the examination depend on the specific manner in which the teaching unit is taught in the respective semester; further details are stipulated in the module handbook. An oral examination shall take the form of seminar presentations (30 minutes) and a written examination shall be a one page summary including discussion of the individual scientific presentations. These are gathered together over the course of the semester and submitted together at the end of the seminar.
- <sup>2</sup> Approved providers to choose from: coursera.org; edx.org; vhb.org; labroots.com; other providers must first be approved by the Degree Program Committee; 1 ECTS credit for 30 hours workload.
- <sup>3</sup> The type and scope of the examination depend on the specific manner in which the respective teaching unit is taught; see module handbook for details. Oral examinations generally take the form of a seminar presentation (30 minutes) and written examinations consist of writing an essay (10 pages) or a practice funding application at the level of an individual DFG application.
- <sup>4</sup> A written declaration and approval must be submitted or applied for previously from the Degree Program Committee; 1 ECTS credit for 30 hours workload.
- <sup>5</sup> Written record of success pursuant to the regulations of the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) for category B (regulation 2010/63/EU; <https://felasa.eu/education-training>).
- <sup>6</sup> See Section 34 (2) sentences 3 and 4 for the scope of the thesis; the criteria for applying for a publication-based thesis are stipulated in Section 34 (6).
- <sup>7</sup> 30 minutes presentation and 20 to 30 minutes defense.

\* **Please note:** The type of examination of the full-time study program (oral or written<sup>1</sup>) shall apply; it will be adjusted within the next amendment.

## Appendix

### Template for PhD Thesis Title page

1st page

Thesis topic  
Faculty of Medicine

at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Erlangen-Nürnberg  
for  
the Dr. of Philosophy  
submitted by  
(candidate's full name)

born in (place of birth)\*

2nd page

PhD Thesis accepted  
by the Faculty of Medicine  
at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
Oral defence date:

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. \*\*  
Prof. Dr. \*\*

\*Not for the published version

\*\*Only for the published version

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Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Hornegger  
President

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