

**First Amendment of the Rules and Regulations for the Dr. phil/Ph.D.  
of the Department of Political and Social Sciences  
of the Freie Universität Berlin**

**Preamble**

By virtue of Section 14, Paragraph 1, No. 2 of the partial basic regulation (TGO trial model) of Freie Universität Berlin from October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1998 (FU Notification 24/1998) in connection with Section 70, Paragraph 5 of the Higher Education Act of the State of Berlin (Berlin Higher Education Act (Berliner Hochschulgesetz – BerlHG)) in the version of the bulletin on the revised version of July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (GVBl., p. 81) most recently amended by Section 1 of the law of July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (GVBl. p. 450), the Extended Faculty Council of the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the Freie Universität Berlin has issued the following first amendment of the doctorate rules and regulations for the Dr. phil./Ph.D. of the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the Freie Universität Berlin (FU Notification 18/2018 of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018) on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023:

**Article I**

1. A new Paragraph 6 shall be added to § 2:

„(6) Meetings of the Committee for Doctoral Examinations may be held via audiovisual transmission provided the regulations of the data protection act are being observed. Voting by secret ballot is only viable if the technical provisions allow for it. The decision whether a meeting is held via audiovisual transmission is within the discretion of the Chair of the Committee.“

2. § 4 Paragraph 1 Clause 3 shall be amended to:

"Irrespective of the submission of applications in accordance with Clause 1 the doctoral procedure starts with the date of the letter of admission."

3. § 7 Paragraph 6 shall be amended to:

“(6) The doctoral thesis must be submitted in digital form and at least one printed copy. The doctoral candidate shall submit one further printed copy for every member of the doctoral commission upon their request. One printed copy shall remain in the department and be archived. Prior publications of parts of the thesis have to be submitted as reprints or copies in the same form and numbers. The doctoral thesis may be subject to screening for plagiarism and inadmissible automated text generation, in which case data protection must be guaranteed.“

4. § 8 Paragraph 5 Clause 1 shall be amended to:

„After the review process is completed the doctoral thesis and the reviewers’ grade proposal must be made accessible to the academic public for two weeks.“

5. § 9 Paragraph 5 shall be amended to:

„The doctoral commission meets in camera. Meetings of the Committee for Doctoral Examinations may be held via audiovisual transmission provided the regulations of the data protection act are being observed. Voting by secret ballot is only viable if the technical provisions allow for it. The decision whether a meeting is held via audiovisual transmission is within the discretion of the Chair of the commission.“

6. § 11 Paragraph 1 shall be amended to:

„The purpose of the viva is to prove the doctoral candidate’s ability to explain and discuss scientific problems verbally. Depending on the doctoral candidate’s preference, the viva shall be conducted in German, English, or upon request, in another scientific language. The viva is open to the university public unless the doctoral candidate objects. All members of the doctoral commission are obliged to attend the viva.“

With the consent of the doctoral candidate and all members of the doctoral commission the viva may be held via audiovisual transmission provided the regulations of the data protection act are being observed. The Chair of the commission will ascertain whether all concerned parties have declared their consent. Neither the doctoral candidate nor a member of the doctoral commission can lay claim to having the defense held via audiovisual transmission.“

7. § 20 Paragraph 2 shall be amended to:

„(2) Doctoral candidates who have already been admitted to the doctoral procedure in accordance with the rules and regulations for the Dr. phil./Ph.D. of February 14th, 2018 (FU-Mitteilungen Nr. 16/2018) may complete their doctoral procedure according to the former rules and regulations provided they submit a corresponding application in writing to the Committee for Doctoral Examinations within a year after the current rules and regulations entered into force. For the remainder the rules and regulations for the Dr. phil./Ph.D. of February 14th, 2018 (FU-Mitteilungen Nr. 16/2018) shall be applied in their amended form as soon as this First Amendment has entered into force. Decisions on the assignment to a specific version of the rules and regulations that have been taken upon application can not be revised.“

## **Article II**

These rules and regulations will enter into force on the day following their publication in the Announcements (Official Register of the Freie Universität Berlin).