

## Criteria and procedure for the preparation of expert reports in doctoral procedures at the Department of Biochemistry, Chemistry and Pharmacy (Goethe University, Frankfurt)

The following points should be stated in the expert opinion so that they can be used as criteria for the overall evaluation:

- Problem definition, hypothesis formation, solution approaches, methods
- Innovation or evolutionary development
- Language and style
- Explicit statement on the actual start of work on the doctoral project
- Results in the context of the duration of work.

### Note on the duration of the doctorate

The processing time for assessments with "excellent" or "very good" should not exceed 5 years.

In general, however, a processing time of 4 years is aimed for doctorates at the department.

In the case of a doctoral period of more than 6 years, the delay must be justified in writing by the doctoral candidate to the chairperson of the doctoral committee (dean) and confirmed in terms of content by the supervisor/second supervisor.

### Grade "Excellent"

- 1) For this, outstanding, scientific results must have been achieved in the dissertation (clear progress in scientific knowledge or methodological approaches by international standards), which are also described in a form that raises the level of this work significantly above the average of all other dissertations in the department.
- 2) The main results must have been published in highly reputable peer-reviewed journals. At least one first author publication is expected (accepted or already published) that is substantially based on the data described in the dissertation. The status of submitted first author papers will be examined by the examination committee during the disputation.
- 3) The expert opinion must explicitly state why this dissertation deserves the rating "excellent". External reviewers use the comparison to their own doctoral candidates for this purpose. Internal supervisors should explain why they consider the thesis to be one of the 10% best doctoral theses in the department. The performance achieved in relation to the time taken to complete the thesis should also be mentioned.

### Grade "Very Good"

- 1) For this, very good scientific results must have been achieved for the dissertation and presented at a high level.
- 2) The most important results must have been published in very good/good peer-reviewed journals. At least one first author publication is expected (accepted or already published) that is substantially based on the data described in the dissertation. The status of submitted first author papers will be examined during the disputation.
- 3) The expert opinion must explicitly state why this dissertation deserves a rating of "very good". The performance achieved in relation to the processing time must also be addressed.

### Grade "good"

- 1) The thesis is of good quality on a solid methodological basis and represents an advance in scientific knowledge in the subject area.
- 2) The expert opinion must explicitly state why this dissertation is rated "good". The performance achieved in relation to the time taken to complete the thesis should also be mentioned.

### Grade "sufficient"

- 1) It is a proper thesis on a solid methodological basis that represents an advance in scientific knowledge in the subject area.
- 2) The expert opinion must explicitly state why this dissertation is rated "sufficient". In doing so, the performance achieved in relation to the time taken to complete the work must also be addressed.

Grade "not sufficient"

This mark should be awarded if no progress has been made within the subject area with regard to hypothesis formation, results and/or new methodological developments.