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— Guidelines for cumulative dissertations at the School of Education for the doctoral degree Dr. phil.

## **Guidelines for cumulative dissertations at the School of Education for the doctoral degree Dr. phil.**

Based on Art. 9 para. 3 sentence 1 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) in the version of February 26, 2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), last amended by Art. 14 of the Act of December 13, 2024 (Nds. GVBl. 2024 No. 118), and Art. 8 para. 3 Doctoral Degree Regulations of the School of Education of June 14, 2023 (Leuphana Gazette No. 69/23 dated July 20, 2023), the School Council of the School of Education of Leuphana University of Lüneburg adopted the guidelines for cumulative dissertations on February 12, 2025. The Presidential Board of Leuphana University of Lüneburg approved the guideline in accordance with Art. 44 para. 1 sentence 3 NHG on May 28, 2025.

### **SECTION I**

This guideline specifies the requirements for a cumulative dissertation to obtain the Dr. phil. at the School of Education. The guideline is a supplement to the doctoral degree regulations.

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#### **Art. 1 Qualitative content requirements**

The aim is to enable and promote high-quality dissertations that have the contemporary scientific publication form of publishing specialist articles, possibly co-authored, in national and international journals or edited volumes with a peer-review process.

- (1) <sup>1</sup>At least one article must have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal recognized by the relevant scientific community. <sup>2</sup>An independent peer review process means that the supervisor in the function of an editor does not simultaneously decide on the acceptance of an article and that a rejection of an article on the basis of the peer review is possible.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>If fewer than three articles meet the criterion in No. 1, the other submitted articles must each have been accepted for review by a journal or anthology recognized by the relevant scientific community with an independent peer review process.  
with an independent peer review process for the review procedure.  
<sup>2</sup>If the articles have not already been published or accepted for publication, it is up to the reviewers to assess and explicitly justify in their review explicitly justify in their review whether the articles have already demonstrated this potential.

#### **Art. 2 Quantitative requirements for sole and co-authorships**

The quantitative requirements of a doctorate are met if the sum of the weights according to No. 1 and No. 2 is at least 3.

- (1) Sole or first authorship

<sup>1</sup>The doctoral candidate must be the sole or first author of at least two articles. <sup>2</sup>Articles with sole or first authorship generally have a weighting of 1 point.

(2) Co-authorship

<sup>1</sup>In the case of co-authorship, where the doctoral candidate is not the first author, the doctoral candidate must state in a declaration of authorship for each article what their own individual scientific achievement and the individual scientific achievement of the other co-authors consisted of. <sup>2</sup>This documentation of scientific achievements is carried out in accordance with the CRediT guidelines (<https://credit.niso.org/>) and must be confirmed by the respective co-authors.

Co-authored articles in which the doctoral candidate is not the first author generally have a weighting of 0.5 points.

<sup>4</sup>No more than one of the articles submitted as relevant may be the subject of another person's (ongoing or completed) doctoral procedure.

### **Art. 3 Framework paper**

The framework paper must describe the internal context of the articles, the aspects examined in the individual articles, the methodological approach followed and the results obtained.

- (1) This framework paper must have been written independently by the doctoral candidate as a coherent text. It should be at least 20 pages. The framework paper is part of the dissertation and therefore also the subject of the assessment of the dissertation.
- (2) As an appendix to the framework paper, the author status of the doctoral candidate on the article (sole or co-authorship) must be stated individually for each article in tabular form, in the case of co-authorship supplemented by the declaration of authorship according to Art. 2, which publication status the article has (Art. 1), i.e. whether the article has already been published, accepted for publication, accepted for publication with reservations, accepted for (major or minor) revision, submitted or 'under review'.
- (3) The annex must be accompanied by a declaration signed by the doctoral candidate as follows "I certify that all the information provided in this appendix is true, both individually and as a whole".

### **Art. 4 Transitional regulation**

Doctoral procedures that have already been opened by the time the doctoral regulations of the School of Education of June 14, 2023 (Leuphana Gazette No. 69/23 of July 20, 2023) come into force on October 1, 2023 can be terminated upon application in accordance with the provisions of the previously valid doctoral regulations, including the guidelines issued by the School of Education.

## **SECTION II**

This guideline enters into force on the day after its publication in the Official Gazette of Leuphana University of Lüneburg (Leuphana Gazette).

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