

Close cooperation between Universities of Technology and business enterprise has always been one of Germany's key strengths as a research location. The interconnection consists not only in joint research projects, but also in a large number of individual contacts that have often arisen as a result of career paths between industry and universities.

Doctorates in cooperation with industry thus have a long history and are in universities' interest: They qualify young scientists for tasks in science and industry at an early stage in their careers, fostering close connections between universities and business.

The growing number of such doctorates seen over the past few years calls for clear rules as a basis for successful collaboration.

The doctoral regulations of the university concerned take precedence.

Selection of candidates and topics, confirmation of supervision, and employment

- I. Selection of candidates is based on the principle of selecting the best and most suitable.
- II. Industry partners may propose candidates and topics.
- III. Topics are chosen and agreed on in consultation with supervisors and doctoral students.
- IV. Final confirmation of supervision is given by the supervising university professor in conjunction with the respective faculty/department.
- V. Contractual arrangements between doctoral candidates and business enterprises regarding a doctoral project can only be entered into after the supervision agreement has been signed.

Supervision agreement and doctoral thesis

- I. The thesis is written under the supervision of a university teacher.
- II. Supervision is provided without separate remuneration.
- III. The rules of the relationship between the supervisor and the student are set out in a separate supervision agreement.
- IV. The industry mentor should be closely involved in the completion of the doctoral thesis.
- V. The role of the industry mentor is defined in the supervision agreement.
- VI. Integration into the academic environment is guaranteed by regular attendance times that are agreed in advance.
- VII. Training measures must be set down in writing (and may be included in the supervision agreement).

Publication obligations and confidentiality clauses

- I. Publication of thesis findings is mandatory in accordance with doctoral regulations, as the scientific research conducted is a requirement for the doctoral qualification.
- II. Publication and review of (intermediate) findings in peer-reviewed publications constitute an essential part of scientific work and must be ensured even before completion of a doctoral thesis.
- III. Results may only be kept secret for reasons of commercial use for a short, previously agreed period of time.
- IV. Results of research activities that are subject to confidentiality cannot otherwise be included in the thesis.
- V. All data and facts referred to in the thesis must also be verifiable.
- VI. The participating university must be listed in all publications.

Copyright and rights of use

- I. The author of the thesis holds the copyright and rights of use to their research results.
- II. Any transfer of rights must be governed contractually in advance.