

**Please note: The German text of the Study Regulations is the exclusively legally binding version.
The following English translation is merely provided for reference.**

**Study Regulations for the Doctoral Programme in Economics and Management at the Faculty of
Business Administration and Economics of Bielefeld University
of 30 June 2023**

Based on § 2 (4) and § 67 (3) of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz - HG) of 16 September 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547), last amended by Article 1 of the Act of 30 June 2022 (GV. NRW. p. 780b), the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics of Bielefeld University has issued the following study regulations:

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Preamble

The study regulations of the doctoral programme Economics and Management of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics regulate the details for the doctoral programme within the framework of the Bielefeld Graduate School of Economics and Management (BiGSEM). Students complete a doctoral programme, which must be supplemented by individual courses from the Master courses in Quantitative Economics, Economics, Mathematical Economics, Data Science, or Statistical Science if the student has no prior knowledge in these. The doctoral procedure is regulated in the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics.

§ 1

Scope of application

The study regulations stipulate the goals, content, structure, and course of the study programme in the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at Bielefeld University based on the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at Bielefeld University of 1 August 2011 (Bielefeld University Gazette - Official Announcements - year 40 no. 14 p. 218) in the currently valid version.

§ 2

Goal of the doctoral programme

(1) The doctoral programme prepares students for acquiring a doctorate in economics (Dr. rer. pol.) or a doctorate in engineering (Dr.-Ing.). It is to confer knowledge and skills to work independently on academic problems in the field of economics or data science, using validated methods, and to complete the doctoral exam results based on this. Doctoral candidates can choose between the "Economics", "Finance", "Management", and "Data Science" profiles. Solid methodological and theoretical training in all four areas is ensured for all doctoral candidates in the degree programme.

(2) The degree programme is targeted at preparing doctoral candidates for activities in the international academic world and in a globalised business world by way of an English-language course programme, supporting of stays abroad, and integration of international lecturers.

§ 3

Course start, duration of studies

(1) The doctoral programme is designed to place the course start in the winter semester.

(2) The duration of studies is usually three to four years (six to eight semesters), depending on the preceding study programme.

§ 4

Access requirements

(1) The prerequisite for access to the doctoral programme is acceptance as a doctoral candidate in accordance with the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics in the currently valid version. In addition, applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of this language in an appropriate manner. Suitable proof may be, for example, completion of an English-language degree programme at a state or state-recognised university or at a comparable foreign university or above-average performance in a standardised test procedure (at least C1 in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) or a comparable certificate).

(2) Applicants are also required to already have above-average knowledge, i.e., at least the grade “good”, in the areas listed below. Deviation from this grade is possible in justified cases.

- a) In the “Economics” profile, above-average knowledge in the subjects of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Econometrics is required; this mainly corresponds in content and scope to the courses of the first academic year of the Master course in Quantitative Economics at Bielefeld University.
- b) In the “Finance” profile, above-average knowledge in the subjects of Finance 1, Finance 2, and Microeconomics or Macroeconomics is required; this mainly corresponds in content and scope to the courses of the first academic year of the Master course in Mathematical Economics in the profile Financial Mathematics at Bielefeld University.
- c) In the “Management” profile, above-average knowledge in sub-disciplines of business management is expected; this corresponds in content and scope to one of the modules of the Master course in Economics.
- d) In the “Data Science” profile, above-average knowledge in Data Science, Statistics, or Econometrics is required; this mainly corresponds in content and scope to the courses of the first academic year of the Master courses in Data Science or Statistical Science at Bielefeld University. In particular, knowledge in the areas of probability theory, statistical inference, regression models, and maximum likelihood theory is required, which must be demonstrated by successful examination results in courses with corresponding content.

(3) If the applicant’s academic achievements do not meet the requirements of paragraph 2, the BiGSEM Board may decide on deviation from the grade requirement in accordance with sentence 2 of paragraph 2; it may impose conditions for the purpose of alignment with a uniform level of achievement. These requirements usually comprise successfully completing the corresponding courses of the Master courses in Quantitative Economics, Economics, Mathematical Economics, Data Science, or Statistical Science at Bielefeld University.

(4) Furthermore, access is granted based on the degree of special aptitude and motivation for academic work. The BiGSEM Board makes this decision based on the documents referred to in paragraph 5 and a selection interview. This procedure can be dispensed with in the case of doctoral programmes performed within the scope of BiGSEM and financed by third-party funds that provide for their own selection processes.

(5) The following documents must be enclosed with the application for access in the English language:

- a fully completed BiGSEM application form
- a detailed curriculum vitae
- the latest/current transcripts/certificates
- suitable proof of skills in the English language
- an abstract of the Master’s thesis
- older transcripts/certificates, if applicable
- evidence of other activities, if applicable.

The above documents must be submitted as pdf files.

(6) If the applicant has been declared suitable by the BiGSEM Board in accordance with the above paragraphs and has been accepted as a doctoral candidate at the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics in accordance with the doctoral degree regulations, the doctoral candidate enrolls in the doctoral programme Economics and Management.

§ 5

Student Counselling Service

(1) The general Student Counselling Service is provided by the Central Student Counselling Service of Bielefeld University (ZSB).

(2) BiGSEM and the professors involved in the doctoral programme offer comprehensive advice on questions of study organisation and preparation.

§ 6 Responsibilities

- (1) The Faculty of Business Administration and Economics is responsible for the doctoral programme and the relevant academic programme offered through BiGSEM.
- (2) BiGSEM is governed by the BiGSEM Board. The BiGSEM Board is responsible for all tasks of BiGSEM in accordance with the BiGSEM Administrative and User Regulations. These tasks include, in particular, development, design, and organisation of the doctoral programme with a corresponding concept of qualification, coordination of the courses, and quality control as well as the selection of suitable applicants for enrolment in the doctoral programme.
- (3) The chairperson is responsible for operational implementation of this doctoral programme. They are at the same time the chairperson of the BiGSEM Board.
- (4) The doctoral committee of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics is responsible for organisation and implementation of the doctoral procedure.

§ 7 Study requirements and examination results

- (1) Study requirements in accordance with § 8 are academic achievements that must be completed but do not need to be passed. It must be possible to assign them to the individual student. The scope depends on the effort intended for the study requirements; it is specified by the lecturer of the corresponding course and announced in an appropriate manner before the start date of the course. Achievement of a study requirement and its verification may require factual attendance.
- (2) Examination results in accordance with § 8 serve to verify the competences acquired in a course. They may take the form of written exams, reports, essays, seminar papers, presentations, oral presentations, or oral exams, and are specified by the organiser before the start date of the course and announced in an appropriate manner. The regulations on study requirements, evaluation, and withdrawal from module examinations and partial module examinations, on the renewal of submission deadlines, on disadvantage compensation, and on the crediting of periods of study and academic achievements in accordance with the examination and study regulations for the Master course (MPO fw.) as well as the examination regulations of Bielefeld University in the currently valid version apply accordingly to study requirements and examination results to be achieved within the scope of BiGSEM.

§ 8 Curriculum

- (1) The study programme requires 180 ECTS (European Credit Point System; 1 credit = 30 working hours). An academic year comprises 60 ECTS. ECTS are awarded for successful participation in Field Courses, Mini Courses (block courses with the workload of half a Field Course), the BiGSEM Colloquium, Research Seminar, and Work on Thesis. Furthermore, ECTS are earned for electives such as language courses, conference presentations, placements, participation in reading groups, but also in additional lectures. The academic achievements can also be obtained at partner universities in particular in the context of national and international doctoral programmes with the participation of BiGSEM. Only such courses or academic achievements must be selected in the doctoral programme that have not already been completed based on the corresponding examination rules or subject-specific regulations, based on a crediting decision in the Master course in Quantitative Economics, Economics, Mathematical Economics, Data Science, or Statistical Sciences at Bielefeld University, or in a comparable degree programme or within the scope of a requirement in accordance with § 4 (3).
- (2) The courses in the first academic year introduce doctoral candidates to the current state of research in selected areas of the respective profiles. In the second and third years, doctoral candidates focus primarily on writing their doctoral theses. Doctoral candidates participate in the BiGSEM Colloquium as well as the Research Seminar in every year. The programme is complemented by participation in workshops with international participation.
- (3) The 180 ECTS referred to in paragraph 1 and the corresponding academic achievements must be obtained in one of the following four profiles:

Profile "Economics" (first year)

Course	Academic achievement	ECTS
Field Course (4 ECTS each)	one graded examination result per course	16
BiGSEM Colloquium (3 ECTS each)	one ungraded study requirement	6
Research Seminar (2 ECTS each)	regular participation	4
Work on Thesis	study requirement	24
Electives	one ungraded study requirement per course	10
Total		60

Profile "Finance" (first year)

Course	Academic achievement	ECTS
Field Course (4 ECTS each)	one graded examination result per course	16
BiGSEM Colloquium (3 ECTS each)	one ungraded study requirement	6
Research Seminar (2 ECTS each)	regular participation	4
Work on Thesis	study requirement	24
Electives	one ungraded study requirement per course	10
Total		60

Profile "Management" (first year)

Course	Academic achievement	ECTS
BiGSEM Colloquium (3 ECTS each)	one ungraded study requirement	6
Research Seminar (2 ECTS each)	regular participation	4
Work on Thesis	study requirement	30
Electives	one ungraded study requirement per course	20
Total		60

Profile "Data Science" (first year)

Course	Academic achievement	ECTS
BiGSEM Colloquium (3 ECTS each)	one ungraded study requirement	6
Research Seminar (2 ECTS each)	regular participation	4
Work on Thesis	study requirement	30
Electives	one ungraded study requirement per course	20
Total		60

The following courses are intended for the second year in all profiles:

Course	Academic achievement	ECTS
BiGSEM Colloquium (3 ECTS each)	one ungraded study requirement	6
Research Seminar (2 ECTS each)	regular participation	4
Work on Thesis	study requirement	30
Electives	one ungraded study requirement per course	20
Total		60

The following courses are intended for the third year in all profiles:

Course	Academic achievement	ECTS
BiGSEM Colloquium (3 ECTS each)	one ungraded study requirement	6
Research Seminar (2 ECTS each)	regular participation	4
Work on Thesis	study requirement	40
Electives	one ungraded study requirement per course	10
Total		60

(4) Completed academic achievements are booked by the organiser via the electronic course catalogue (eKVV).

§ 9

Completion of study programme and certificate

(1) Proof of 180 ECTS with the study requirements and examination results listed in § 8 is a prerequisite for opening of the doctoral procedure.

(2) The doctoral thesis is submitted to the doctoral committee of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics in accordance with the rules of the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics.

(3) Following a positive review of the doctoral thesis, the oral exam will then be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the doctoral degree regulations of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics. If this is also passed, the doctoral programme is successfully completed.

(4) The graduate receives a certificate of successful completion of the doctoral programme as well as a transcript confirming all academic achievements upon completion of the doctoral programme in accordance with sentence 2 of paragraph 3.

§ 10

Entering into effect

These study regulations enter into effect on the day after they are published in the Bielefeld University Gazette – Official Announcements. At the same time, the study regulations for the doctoral programme Economics and Management of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics of Bielefeld University of 27 July 2018 (Bielefeld University Gazette - Official Announcements - year 47 no. 18 p. 197), amended by Order for Amendment of 15 February 2019 (Bielefeld University Gazette - Official Announcements - year 48 no. 1 p. 31), loses its effect.

No complaints

Claims from violation of any procedural or formal rules of the HG NRW or the university's regulatory or other autonomous law by these rules can only be asserted within one year of their publication, except if

- a) the rules have not been duly published,
- b) the rectorate has previously objected to the decision of the body adopting the rules,
- c) the university has been notified of the formal or procedural defect in advance and the violated legal provision and the fact giving rise to the defect have been designated in the course of this, or
- d) the legal consequence of the exclusion of complaint was not referred to in the public announcement of the rules.

The supervisory authorisations under § 76 HG will not be affected by this.

Issued based on the resolution of the Faculty Conference of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics of Bielefeld University of 31 May 2023.

Bielefeld, 30 June 2023

The rector
of Bielefeld University
by proxy
University Professor Dr. Angelika Epple