

Guidelines for Writing a Cumulative Dissertation at the Institute of Political Science

of June 22, 2020

Please note that this is an unofficial translation.

Based on the «Reglement über das Doktoratsstudium an der Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftlichen Fakultät» (in particular Art. 4), the executive board of the institute has adopted the following self-binding guidelines for writing a cumulative dissertation. These guidelines aim to stabilize the expectations of both doctoral students and supervisors.

1. The dissertation has to consist of at least three journal articles and a general introduction outlining the research approach and contribution of the thesis.
2. At the time of submission, at least two of the articles mentioned in (1) have to be published or accepted for publication in SSCI journals. The remaining articles must be considered publishable in peer-reviewed publication venues.
3. The institute's executive board decides on the status of peer-reviewed journal articles that have not been published or accepted for publication in the organs of the SSCI.
4. At least one of the three articles has to be written by the doctoral student as a single author paper and be published or accepted for publication in a SSCI journal.
5. The published or accepted articles have to sum up to at least 4 points based on the journal ranking of the Department of Social Sciences (see appendix).
6. With reference to the articles, a general introduction discusses the research questions of the thesis, presents the main results, situates the arguments and findings in the literature, and highlights the contributions of the thesis as well as the implications of the findings (15-20 pages). The introduction is an essential part of the cumulative dissertation and is a significant factor in the overall assessment.

The new guidelines from June 22, 2020 apply for new doctoral students. Students that have already started with their dissertation can choose between the existing and the new guidelines.

Appendix

Excerpt from „Kriterien des Departements Sozialwissenschaften für einen Antrag auf Beförderung von ausserordentlichen Professorinnen und Professoren zu ordentlichen Professorinnen und Professoren“ of December 5, 2012

Required publication output

The assessment of the publication output [...] is based on the number of journal articles published in the categories “A+”, “A” and “B”. The affiliation of a journal to these categories is determined on the basis of the current 5-year impact factor according to Thomson Reuters¹ Web Knowledge at the time of acceptance. The following operational rules apply:

Impact-Factor ≥ 2.0 : A+

Impact factor < 2.0 and ≥ 1.0 : A

Impact factor < 1.0 and ≥ 0.4 : B

The following number of points are assigned to the respective categories "A+", "A" and "B" [...]:

A+: 4 points

A: 2 points

B: 1 point

¹ Since 2016: Clarivate Analytics