



Cumulative doctorate at TU Darmstadt

Important: This form of dissertation is only possible if the specific departmental provisions (on the doctoral regulations of TU Darmstadt) allow it.

Legal requirements

The publication of cumulative dissertations is regulated in § 9 (4) and (5) of the General Doctoral Regulations (PO/AT) as amended for the 9th time in the version dated 15 November 2023:

https://www.intern.tu-darmstadt.de/media/dezernat_ii/ordnungen/Promotionsordnung-en.pdf

Definition

The cumulative doctorate, also known as the publication doctorate, is a form of doctorate in which, instead of a traditional monograph, several thematically related scientific articles are published. These articles must be published in refereed journals or conference proceedings, depending on departmental regulations.

Requirements and procedure

- **Publications:** The number of publications required varies from department to department, but is usually 3–5 articles.
- **Peer review:** The work must often be published in recognised, peer-reviewed journals.
- **Summary chapter:** In addition to the publications, an introduction, or summary, is typically required to place the research in a broader academic context.
- **Supervision:** As with a traditional dissertation, there is a supervisor (doctoral advisor) who guides the doctoral candidate throughout the process.

Advantages of the Cumulative Doctorate

- **Faster publication:** The research is published during the doctoral programme.
- **Scientific visibility:** The doctoral thesis is immediately visible internationally through professional articles.
- **Career advantages:** This form is often preferred, especially in the natural sciences and economics, as publications are essential for a scientific career.

Disadvantages and challenges of the Cumulative Doctorate

- **High demands:** The quality of the publications must meet the standards of the relevant journals.
- **Dependence on peer review:** Articles may take a long time to be accepted or may be rejected.
- **Inconsistent regulations:** Not all departments accept cumulative doctorates and regulations can vary.

Further information and assistance

1. **ULB website:** https://www.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de/forschen_publicizieren/publizieren/dissertation/dissertation_kum_pub_1.en.jsp
2. **Digital Publishing Team:** email: dpub@ulb.tu-darmstadt.de, phone: +49 6151 16-76217
3. **The 'Cumulative consultation hours'** take place once a month, alternating between German and English: https://www.ulb.tu-darmstadt.de/lernen_arbeiten/lehr_und_lernformate/publizieren_open_access/index.en.jsp