

Rules and Regulations of the Ph.D. program in Systems Neurosciences coordinated by the Center for Systems Neuroscience (CSN) of the Georg-August Universität, Göttingen

last updated: Jan. 19, 2009

The following rules and regulations for students of the Ph.D. program in Systems Neuroscience are established by the examination board. They are amendments to the respective GAUSS and GGNB rules.

Amendments to the respective paragraphs of the GAUSS Promotionsordnung:

§ 6 Examination board

- (1) The examination board for the Ph.D. examinations consists of the eight board members of the CSN plus two representatives for the scientists and students of the program.

The examination board ensures that examinations are carried out in a proper manner and that the rules as established by state law in Lower Saxony (Niedersächsisches Hochschulgesetz), the Georg-August-University School of Science (GAUSS), the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences and Molecular Biosciences (GGNB), and by this set of examination regulations are followed.

§ 7 Thesis Committee

The presence of the students' entire thesis committee at the annual progress report (Ph.D. seminar) is mandatory. This applies as well for all students in the CSN.

Amendments to the respective paragraphs of the GGNB Promotionsordnung:

§ 3 Requirements for the admission in the CSN

- (5) Alternatively to the three single application interviews with the intended members of the thesis committee the student may present her-/himself to the members of the examination board via a 20-minute-lecture with subsequent discussion. The anticipated members of the thesis committee and the current students in the program will be invited to attend the presentation. Directly after the talk the examination board will hold a meeting to decide about the qualification of the applicant. The decision will be recorded in written form.

§ 4 Structure and content of the Ph.D. program

- (1) Students must have completed 20 credits by the time of handing in their dissertation. Students carry out a scientific research project within one of the laboratories associated with the CSN.
- (3) Laboratory work is complemented by a Ph.D. curriculum that includes lectures, seminars, special courses and internships. A student can select courses which are suitable for her/his particular area of emphasis.

§ 5 Advisors and examiners

Each doctoral candidate will be advised and guided in her/his dissertation by a main advisor and at least two additional instructors familiar with the candidate's field of research. Two advisors have to be faculty members of the CSN, the third advisor should be a faculty member or an associate examiner in the CSN. Exceptions apply to advisors from outside of Göttingen. Additional scientists can be members of the doctoral committee in line with GAUSS and GGNB rules.

§ 6 Dissertation

- (2) A collection of scientific publications which have appeared in recognized journals (At least two first-author full-length papers have to be published or accepted for publication and a third paper submitted. Exceptions have to be approved by the examination board) can be accepted as the equivalent to a dissertation (cumulative track) if the advisor confirms that these publications indeed represent the essential part of the candidate's scientific work. Contributions of co-authors of the publications (concerning included experiments, analysis of data and writing of the manuscript) have to be explicitly acknowledged.

§ 7 Format of the thesis

Conventional thesis: – List of contents, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, Summary in both English and German, References

Cumulative thesis: – List of contents, General Introduction, Reprints of accepted papers, General Discussion, Summary in both English and German, References

- List of candidate's publications

- (1) Documents to be submitted with the thesis

In addition to the requirements for submission of the Ph.D. thesis to GGNB one firmly bound copy of the thesis and a PDF-file containing the final version of the thesis have to be submitted to the examination board of the CSN.

If a reviewer judges the thesis as outstanding, her/his written evaluation needs to contain a statement that the thesis qualifies for the final grade „summa cum laude“.