

***This translation is provided solely as a courtesy to international students and applicants.
Reliance in law may only be placed upon the official German version of these Regulations.***

**Regulations governing the qualifications for entry
for the doctoral degree programme in "Theology"
at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**

§ 1 Scope and start of programme

(1) The University executes an autonomous procedure for determining the entry qualifications for all university places to be filled up in the doctoral degree programme in theology in accordance with the following provisions.

(2) The doctoral degree programme starts every winter semester and summer semester.

§ 2 Selection committee

(1) In order to prepare the selection decision, the Faculty of Theology of the University shall form the selection committee for this degree programme.

(2) ¹The selection committee is composed of the Dean of Studies, three members of the professorial group and a PostDoc as well as a doctoral student in the degree programme in an advisory capacity. ²The members of the professorial group, the PostDocs and the student body as well as their deputies will be appointed by the respective group representatives on the faculty council at the Faculty of Theology. ³The tenure of the members is two years, while that of the student member is one year. ⁴Reappointment is possible. ⁵The selection committee holds a quorum if at least three members eligible to vote are present.

(3) The tasks of the selection committee are:

- a) Review of the incoming admissions applications for formal correctness,
- b) Review and assessment of the qualifications for entry, if necessary,
- c) Decision on acceptance or rejection of the applicant.

§ 3 Qualifications for entry

(1) ¹Applicants must submit at least the degree certificates as proof of successful completion of at least a Master, Diplom or Magister degree programme, an equivalent degree programme leading to a State Examination, or an equivalent course of study at a university belonging to a Bologna signatory state; these degrees must be in theology or in a closely related subject according to section 2. ²The standard course length of the prior degree programme must be at least eight semesters; a consecutive master degree programme or equivalent course of study must last at least one year and produce an aggregate course length of no less than eight semesters. It must also involve the completion of at least 240 credits in total. ³Unlike in sentences 1 and 2, candidates that can demonstrate successful completion of the first theological examination in a member church of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD) shall also satisfy the entrance requirements. ⁴Degree examinations that are equivalent to the qualifications under sentence 1 and have been passed in a country other than the Bologna Signatory States require the assessment of equivalence in consideration of the proposals by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) at the office of the permanent conference of the federal ministers of cultural affairs in Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) for the accreditation and assessment of foreign proof of academic qualification that are laid down at the URL <http://anabin.kmk.org>. ⁵The grades of the foreign degree certificates are to be converted to the German grading system. ⁶The selection committee shall be responsible for the assessment of degree equivalence as specified in sentence 1.

(2) ¹The decision whether a degree is closely related (subject relevance) in the meaning of section 1 sentences 1 and 4 is made by the selection committee. ²The specialist relevance shall be predicated upon proof of completion of examination prerequisites in the research area in a scope of at least 98 credits, including prerequisites in each of the following research areas:

1. Old Testament;
2. New Testament;
3. Church history;
4. Systematic theology;

5. Practical theology / religious education;

6. Ecumenical theology / intercultural theology / religious studies;

³The selection committee may require the completion of pending examination components under sentence 2 within five semesters for assessing the subject relevance; in this case, assessment of subject relevance as well as notification of admission are subject to repeat until proof of the pending examination components, which should be submitted within five semesters from the time of enrolment at the University (closing date), has been provided. ⁴If the proof of the as yet incomplete examination components is not submitted within the deadline, the assessment of the subject relevance and a related letter of entry will become ineffective. ⁵Confirmation of subject relevance shall not be possible if the pending examination components under sentence 2 have a rating of more than 30 credits.

(3) ¹Applicants who neither have a German university entrance qualification nor a bachelor or master degree or an equivalent degree from a German University in a degree programme completed in the German language, must provide proof of adequate proficiency in the German language. ²Proof hereof is demonstrated through a test with the grade point average DSH-2 in accordance with the examination regulation for the German language test for university admission of foreign prospective students (DSH). ³The obligation to take the test need not be met by applicants who are exempted from the German language test for admission to colleges and universities according to the examination regulations for the German language test for the admission of foreign students to colleges and universities (DSH) at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen; this applies especially to those applicants, who have proven the required German language skill through the "Test of German as a Foreign Language" (TestDaF) with at least four-times TestDaF grade level 4 (TDN 4) or the "German examination module" of the assessment test during the preparatory course.

(4) ¹Another entrance requirement is that the degree as defined in section 1 was completed with a final grade of at least "good" (2.5). ²Notwithstanding sentence 1, the entrance requirement shall also be satisfactory in the case of candidates who possess a degree as defined in section 1 and have also demonstrated their particular suitability for the doctoral degree programme. ³In this case the applicant shall prove particular suitability by submission of an exposé. ⁴The ruling shall be issued thereon by the selection committee on the basis of a written review completed by a reviewer; said person shall not be the supervisor for the applicant. ⁵The statement and decision shall be made based on the following criteria for suitability:

- a) Identification and drafting of a research deficit with the background of the object of research,
- b) Review of relevant literature and summary of prior insight in the research field,

- c) Feasibility of the pursued advancement in knowledge as part of the research project,
- d) Appropriateness of the methodological approach for processing the research problem,
- e) Completeness of the stages of work and a realistic schedule.

(5) ¹Applicants must have adequate Latin, Greek and Hebrew language skills. ²The proof is shown during application through completion of the Latinum, Graecum or Hebraicum or an equivalent language qualification. ³Notwithstanding sentence 2, the required language skills should be proven before completion of the fifth subject semester following enrolment in the doctoral degree programme; the enrolment is subject to termination until proof of academic achievement. ⁴The selection committee decides case-by-case on the accreditation of equivalent language skills.

(6) ¹Applicants must belong to an evangelical church. ²Notwithstanding sentence 1, persons, who are affiliated to a church or denomination that belongs to the ecumenical council of churches, can be allowed in cases, in which the research projects helps to promote evangelical and theological research, especially in its ecumenical relations; the decision is made by the selection committee.

(7) ¹A further precondition is at one written declaration by an authorised examiner in the intended subject area of the doctorate that he or she shall, in the event of admission as doctoral candidate, accept and supervise said person and that proper supervision can be guaranteed, if necessary with consultation provided by an advisor (confirmation of supervision). ²Furthermore, qualification for entry exists only if

- a) no agent was appointed for locating doctoral opportunities subject to a fee,
- b) in the context of the doctoral process and its preparation, neither fees have been paid, charged credits obtained nor services that are contrary to the meaning and purpose of an examination procedure have been claimed free-of-charge,
- c) there are no reasons that may form the grounds for withdrawal of the doctoral degree, and this is declared by the applicant as defined in the appendix.

(8) The general provisions of the enrolment regulation of the university governing enrolment at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen shall otherwise remain notwithstanding.

§ 4 Qualifications for entry

(1) ¹The application for entry should be submitted in writing along with the application documents required under section 2 to the Dean's Office in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Göttingen and should have been received before 15 March for the summer semester or before 15 September for the winter semester. ²This applies only to the award of university places for the respective summer or winter semester. ³The university is not obligated to review the details of the applicants as a matter of course.

(2) The following documents should be enclosed with the application:

- a) Proof of the entry requirements as specified under § 3 section 1; a translation in either English or German at applicant's discretion must be enclosed with each certificate that is not in the English or German language;
- b) Statement on whether the applicant has successfully, unsuccessfully completed until now or not completed or is expected to complete a doctoral programme or doctoral process;
- c) A tabular personal curriculum vitae compiled in German and specifying the date and place of birth, nationality and the chronological scientific education of the applicant;
- d) Proof of sufficient German language skills in accordance with § 3 section 3;
- e) For candidates according to § 3 section 4 sentence 1 also an outline of the research project, for candidates according to § 3 section 4 sentence 2 an exposé according to § 3 section 4 sentence 3;
- f) The acquired proof of sufficient knowledge of the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages according to § 3 section 5 and a declaration of which language skills have not yet been acquired, as applicable;
- g) A declaration of church membership according to § 3 section 6;
- h) Confirmation of supervision as specified under § 3 section 7 sentence 1;
- i) A declaration according to § 3 section 7 sentence 2 as defined in the appendix.

(3) ¹Applications that are not submitted complete or in the due form shall be excluded from the further procedure. ²The documents submitted remain with the university.

(4) Should an applicant determine that he or she is disadvantaged in the selection procedure with respect to other applicants due to a handicap, a suitable compensation for said disadvantage is to be granted by the selection committee upon request.

§ 5 Letter of entry, letter of rejection

(1) ¹The applicants eligible for entry receive a written letter of entry. ²This letter specifies the deadline within which the applicant should declare in writing whether he or she accepts the university place. ³The letter of entry becomes ineffective if this declaration is not received by the Dean's Office at the Faculty of Theology in due form and time. ⁴These legal consequences should be pointed out in the letter of entry.

(2) ¹Applicants who have not proven their right to entry receive a rejection letter. ²This should be communicated in writing with reasons and instruction on legal recourse.

(3) ¹Letters as specified under sections 1 and 2 shall be issued by the Dean of Studies or the authorised representative of the Dean of Studies. ²The letter of entry serves equally as verification of eligibility for enrolment.

§ 6 Entry into Force

(1) ¹This regulation enters into force the day after its promulgation in the official bulletin I of Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. ²It applies for the first time to the awards procedure in the summer semester 2016.

(2) At the same time the regulations concerning the assessment of special suitability for the doctoral degree programme in "Theology" at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in the version of the announcement dated 11.09.2009 (official bulletin no. 20/2009, p 1834) shall cease to apply.

Appendix (cf. § 3 section 7 sentence 2)

**Declaration by the doctoral candidate
at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**

Name
(Surname, First Name)

Address
(Country / Postcode / Place)

I intend to produce a thesis on the topic of
at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. In this, I shall be supervised by Prof.
.....

I submit the following declaration:

- 1. The opportunity for the existing doctoral project was not made commercially available to me. Especially, I have not engaged any organisation that seeks thesis advisers against a fee for the preparation of thesis or performs my obligations with respect to examination components entirely or partly.

- 2. I have until now and shall in future accept the assistance of third parties only in a scope that is scientifically justifiable and compliant with the legal statutes of the examinations. I shall specifically complete all parts of the thesis myself; I have neither, nor will I, accept unauthorised outside assistance either free of charge or subject to a fee.

Furthermore, I am aware of the fact that untruthfulness with respect to the above declaration re-peals the admission to complete the doctoral studies and/or subsequently entitle termination of the doctoral process or withdrawal of the title attained.

....., the
(Place) (Date)

.....
(Signature)