



Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin expressly welcomes external doctoral dissertations, as they expand the experiences of the young scholars conducting them and tie scientific institutions into research work.

"External" means dissertations which are conducted for the purpose of obtaining a doctoral degree and which are proposed and supervised outside of the university, for example at non-university research institutes or in private industry.

When conducting an external dissertation, respective partners must be aware of the following:

Topic Selection

The external supervisor coordinates the subject of the dissertation with the Humboldt-Universität faculty member. The topic of the thesis is confirmed by the university in the form of written commitment from the supervisor to the doctoral candidate.

It is recommended that specific agreements be made between the supervisors which include the following:

- a thesis exposé with a time plan
- possibly a confidentiality agreement
- specifications regarding possible industrial or intellectual property rights
- the rights of all participants to the results of the work
- a detailed listing of all participants at both institutions
- specific details of how the university is to be tied into the project (for example work periods at the university, consultations, continuing education, etc)
- an explanation of how the doctoral period will be financed (for example, a scholarship or work contract)
- the time allowed for the review of the dissertation, once submitted.

University Requirements for Admission to a Doctoral Program

Before beginning work on the dissertation topic, the candidate must apply for acceptance by a doctoral program. The application must be filed with the appropriate faculty. The necessary documentation is listed in the rules relating to the granting of doctoral degrees (Promotionsordnung):
http://forschung.hu-berlin.de/wiss_nachw/wn_prooord_html

The decision of the doctoral committee regarding the acceptance of the candidate to the doctoral program is based upon the appropriate admission criteria. There is no fundamental right to the supervision or validation of works which are conducted at external institutions or companies.



Quality Control

The university faculty member must ensure that the research subject meets the academic standards of Humboldt-Universität. Adequate supervision at the institution outside the university must also be ensured for the entire period required to complete the dissertation.