

Access with doctoral preliminary examination - Promotionsvorprüfung (less than 10 semesters of study - Integrated Master)

After a study course with a total of less than five-year official length of program studies, e.g. a 3-year Bachelor degree and a one-year Master degree ("Integrated Master"), the admission to our faculty is linked to a doctoral preliminary examination.

The doctoral preliminary examination is an oral examination. It covers one major subject (the field of the PhD research) and two minor subjects. In the minor subjects, the candidate must demonstrate in-depth knowledge in at least some areas. The main subject is the subject area of the PhD thesis. Major subjects can only be chosen from our faculty fields of research (according to § 1). Minor subjects can be all taken from the fields from the faculties of Biology, Geosciences, Mathematics as well as Physics. Other minor subjects can be admitted by the Dean as an exception.

No examiner may examine in more than one subject. The doctoral preliminary examination lasts about one hour in the major subject and about half an hour in each of the two minor subjects. The essential course of the doctoral preliminary examination is to be recorded in a protocol.

The examination board consists of 3 examiners: the chairperson (usually the doctoral supervisor of the faculty) and two other examiners, who should be professors or at least PDs (Privatdozenten). The invitation to the preliminary doctoral examination will be sent to the candidate and to the examination board at least 8 days before the examination date.

The performance of the candidate in the single subjects shall be valued by the examination board as "passed" or "failed". The preliminary doctoral examination is not passed if it is "not passed" in one of the subjects.

A failed preliminary doctoral examination may be repeated once upon application. The repetition is limited to the failed subjects. The application for admission to the repeat examination must be submitted to the dean within one year after the notification of the preliminary doctoral examination's failure. If the candidate fails the re-examination or does not make use of the possibility of re-examination within the deadline, the doctoral pre-examination is definitively failed.

Documents:

In addition to the previous documents required for the "normal" registration, your application letter for admission to the Promotionsvorprüfung is also needed *after having received* the Dean's letter, which allows you to step forward for it. Your letter should contain following information:

- your PhD major and name of your supervisor;
- a statement if you have already made a similar examination at any other university or faculty;
- In which language the examination should be carried out (German or English);
- A suggestion for the name of the examiners and their examination majors.