

Regulation on Obtaining the Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (*Doctor medicinae veterinariae*) at the Vetsuisse Faculty of the Universities of Bern and Zurich

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The Vetsuisse Council,

based on Article 6, paragraph 3, item e, of the Agreement between the Cantons of Bern and Zurich on the Vetsuisse Faculty of the Universities of Bern and Zurich (*Vereinbarung der Kantone Bern und Zürich über die Vetsuisse-Fakultät der Universitäten Bern und Zürich*) dated 16 November / 6 December 2005 as well as the joint Faculty Regulations dated 6 March 2013 (*Fakultätsreglement der Vetsuisse-Fakultät, Universitäten Bern und Zürich*),

hereby issues on 11 March 2009 the following Regulation on Obtaining the Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine:

Amendments were approved on 26 February 2015 and 24 November 2016 by the Vetsuisse Faculty Assembly and enacted on 26 June 2015 and 16 December 2016 by the Vetsuisse Council

The term "location" refers to the particular institution of the Vetsuisse Faculty, i.e. the institution in Bern or in Zurich.

§ 1 Basic Principles

¹The Vetsuisse Faculty of the Universities of Bern and Zurich, hereafter referred to as the Vetsuisse Faculty, may confer the title of "*Doctor medicinae veterinariae*" (Dr. med. vet.) to a candidate on successful completion of the candidate's thesis.

²The title corresponds to the English title "Doctor of Veterinary Medicine" (Dr. med. vet.) [*Version of 26 Feb 2015*]

§ 1a Cross-university and cross-faculty degree programs [*Version of 26 Feb 2015*]

¹The two Faculties may take part in cross-university or cross-faculty degree programs.

²They create the legal bases required at the respective location and may set up part-

nership agreements for this purpose.

§ 2 Thesis and Supervision

¹A thesis is defined as a scholarly study compiled and written by the candidate.

²Every thesis must be represented by a specialist from the Vetsuisse Faculty (privatdozent, professor), hereafter referred to as thesis supervisor, vis-à-vis the Faculty Assembly of the individual location.

³An agreement is concluded between the candidate and the thesis supervisor to define the procedures, targets, and general conditions of the program as well as to name contact persons (in particular for expert supervision). The agreement is not to be regarded as a contract.

§ 3 Admission and Matriculation

¹Candidates from Switzerland must have proof of a university degree at Master's level in Veterinary Medicine. [*Version of 26 Feb 2015*]

²In the case of candidates from the EU, bilateral agreements on the mutual recognition of university degrees are respected. All other cases are decided upon by the Vetsuisse Teaching Commission on request.

³Candidates must be matriculated for the entire thesis period until all required documents for attaining the degree have been submitted in full, in accordance with the terms defined by the relevant Vetsuisse location.

⁴Admission requirements of either the University of Bern or the University of Zurich are applicable, depending on where admission takes place. [*Version of 26 Feb 2015*]

§ 4 Submission of Documents for the Degree

¹The petition to obtain the degree "Doctor of Veterinary Medicine," including the thesis and required documents for attaining the degree, may be submitted in writing at any time to the Office of the Dean of the relevant location.

²In addition, the Swiss Federal Diploma in Veterinary Medicine must be presented. Degrees are recognized on the basis of § 3 paragraph 2. [*Version of 26 Feb 2015*]

³The application is not processed until all required documents have been submitted. Details are available in the Guidelines for Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (*Leitfaden für Doktorierende*), hereafter referred to as Guidelines.

⁴The thesis and all required documents for attaining the degree must be held for at

least four weeks in the Office of the Dean of the relevant location. Appeals may be submitted during this time.

⁵Any scientific work that has already been submitted to the University of Bern or the University of Zurich or another university in Switzerland or abroad for the purpose of earning an academic degree is not accepted. *[Version of 26 Feb 2015]*

§ 5 Language and Layout

¹The thesis may be written in German, French, Italian, or English.

²An abstract of the thesis must be included at the start of the thesis, below the table of contents.

³If the thesis is not written in English, the title, summary, and key words must be supplied in English.

⁴Details regarding the title page, format and text layout, table of contents, bibliography, CV, and acknowledgments are given in the Guidelines.

§ 6 Format and Authorship

¹A thesis may be presented in the form of a monograph, or as a submitted or accepted manuscript for publication (journal article).

²In the latter case, the candidate must be the lead author.

³Details on the form and number of documents to be submitted can be found in the Guidelines. The Guidelines for Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine are updated by the Office of the Dean of both locations. *[Version of 26 Feb 2015]*

§ 7 Expert Opinion and Public Defense

¹To be submitted to the Office of the Dean at the same time as the thesis are: A written opinion by the thesis supervisor (Art. 2.2), a written opinion by a co-expert, and a confirmation by the thesis supervisor that the work was presented by the candidate on the occasion of a specialist conference or a public Vetsuisse oral examination.

²The co-expert is proposed by the thesis supervisor and must have a habilitation or equivalent academic qualification; the co-expert must furthermore be familiar with the subject area of the thesis.

³If the thesis is submitted in the format of a manuscript that has been accepted by a peer-reviewed specialist journal or in the form of a manuscript that has already been printed, a second opinion (co-expert) is not required.

§ 8 Deposit Copies

¹The number and date on which the bound deposit copies and electronic documents are to be submitted to the library is determined by the relevant location.

²Information on this subject is available in the Guidelines or at the Offices of the Deans at each location.

§ 9 Conferral of the Degree and Diploma

¹Upon fulfillment of all the formal criteria (in particular, Art. 7) and after the period for objection has passed (Art. 4.3.), the Faculty Assembly of the relevant location decides on whether to accept or reject the thesis. *[Version of 26 Feb 2015]*

²The decision is communicated in writing to the candidate by the Dean of the relevant location, with a copy sent to the executive board of the relevant university. *[Version of 26 Feb 15]*

³The written communication approving the thesis entitles the candidate to hold the title of Doctor (Dr. med. vet)

⁴The diploma is issued by the university at which the candidate is matriculated. It bears the signatures of the persons responsible in accordance with the rules defined by the relevant university. *[Version of 26 Feb 2015]*

⁵At the University of Zurich, the diploma is issued in German; at the University of Bern, the diploma is issued in German, French, or English. At the University of Zurich, an English translation of the diploma is issued. *[Version of 26 Feb 2015]*

§ 10 Re-Submission

A rejected thesis may be re-written and re-submitted once. *[Version of 26 Feb 2015]*

§ 11 Fee

The fee for obtaining the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine is set by the Vetsuisse Faculty Assembly. The payment process is managed by the Office of the Dean of each location.

§ 12 Final Provisions

Amendments to the Vetsuisse Regulation on Obtaining the Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine require a resolution of the Vetsuisse Council.

§ 13 Transitional Provisions

Theses that have already been started when this new ordinance takes effect may be submitted according to the previous Guidelines of the relevant location.

§ 14 Entry into Force

¹This regulation enters into effect with the resolution of the Vetsuisse Council.

²It replaces the Regulation on Obtaining the Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine of the Vetsuisse Faculty (*Promotionsreglement der Vetsuisse-Fakultät*) of the University of Bern in the version dated 30 July 1993, and the Guidelines on Obtaining the Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine of the Vetsuisse Faculty (*Promotionsrichtlinien der Vetsuisse-Fakultät*) of the University of Zurich in the version dated 23 August 2007, as well as the Regulation on Obtaining Degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine of the Veterinary Medicine Faculty (*Promotionsordnung der Veterinärmedizinischen Fakultät*) of the University of Zurich (No. 415.443) in the version dated 25 November 2002.

Bern, 16 December 2016

President Vetsuisse Council:

Vice President:

Prof. Dr. Christian Leumann
Rector of the University of Bern

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