

# HOW-TO

## Information about Thesis Submission and Defense Examination

### Required Documents:

Forms can be found on our website: [https://www.bio.uni-heidelberg.de/fakultaetbio/en/phd\\_submission](https://www.bio.uni-heidelberg.de/fakultaetbio/en/phd_submission)

### One day before thesis submission:

- **Email your Summary** (German or English) as a PDF (the PDF should not exceed one page, including your name, the title of your thesis, and the name of your Faculty supervisor (former "Erstgutachter")) to: [dekanat-bio@urz.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:dekanat-bio@urz.uni-heidelberg.de) **one day** before you submit your thesis and your application for defense.

**Additionally** include in your email text the **CURRENT email addresses of all four members of your examination commission**, and that of their secretaries and specify the chairperson.

### What you need to submit:

- **2 issues of your thesis** (bound, no spiral binding, duplex print should be considered):  
**These issues will not (NOT!) be handed over to your examiners.** You need to supply your reviewers and examiners with additional copies of your thesis.  
The thesis has to be written in German or English and **must mandatorily be written in first person singular form**. Cumulative theses are not allowed (Doctoral Degree Regulations, Anlage 2 Biowissenschaften zu § 7 (2))  
A German **and** an English summary have to precede the actual text (§ 7(3) Doctoral Degree Regulations).  
Do not use the official seal of the Heidelberg University anywhere in your thesis or on the cover. Do not include your CV in your thesis. You must use the required **format of the first two pages** of your thesis (model 1st and 2nd page are on the webpage).
- **Completed form „Antrag auf Zulassung zum Prüfungsverfahren“** (Application for Admission to Defense). **Indicate** the **Chairperson** of the Examination Commission („Vorsitz“).
- **Confirmed Date of Defense.** Please arrange and confirm the date of your oral examination with all four members of your Examination Commission **BEFORE** submitting your thesis to the PhD Office.
- **Examination Commission Form (“Zusatzblatt zur Prüfungskommission”)** signed by both your reviewers / referees.
- **Regular CV** - including your citizenship, date and place of birth, current date, all schooling and academic education and your original signature.
- **Proof of attendance of the PhD Program** („Blue Sheet“, stamped and signed by the person in charge)
- **Eidesstattliche Versicherung / Sworn Affidavit** (signed) **and Belehrung / Instruction** (signed)
- **CD** containing your complete thesis in PDF format.
- **Proof of Publication / „Veröffentlichungsnachweis“** **must not be submitted with your application.**  
Note: If you have submitted a paper for publishing that has been accepted, you may bring the acceptance letter with you. If it hasn't been accepted yet, but is accepted before your examination, take the acceptance letter with you to the exam and hand it over to the Chair of the examination commission.

## Additional Information:

- **Submission of your thesis with the above mentioned documents should be done at least 8 weeks before your date of oral examination**, so that there is sufficient time for all concerned to complete the required procedures in preparation of your Defense Examination, including the issuance of the evaluations (Gutachten (4 weeks)) of your thesis and compliance with the period for perusal (Auslagefrist, at least 3 weeks), which starts 15 workdays before your Exam. **Submission of your thesis with incomplete, missing or unacceptable documents is not possible.**
- **PhD oral exam (thesis defense):** Your thorough planning is required if you plan on having your defense during the non-lecture-period. In all cases, please check the website for times the PhD office is closed. Holidays and vacation times are regularly posted on our homepage and have to be added to the 8 week advance submission of your thesis.
- **Publishing your dissertation is mandatory within two years of your defense examination. Unless you publish your thesis, you will forfeit your doctoral degree and title.**
- Fulfilling the publication requirement is done **AFTER** your successful Defense Examination. You have to pick up the stamped issue ("Original") of your thesis at the PhD office. You will need it for publication at the library.
- The various options for publication are self-explanatory in the form **Veröffentlichungsnachweis / Proof of Publication** (there is an English version mock-up form with instructions on our website).
- Information on how you will get your Certificate, participation and opting in/out from the PhD Celebration will be given to you when submitting your thesis and can be found on our website (Official PhD Celebration [https://www.bio.uni-heidelberg.de/fakultaetbio/en/phd\\_celebration](https://www.bio.uni-heidelberg.de/fakultaetbio/en/phd_celebration) )

To make sure you got it all together, use the checklist below:

### Quick Checklist:

- Email with summary with thesis title (PDF attached) and email addresses of commission members + chairperson + secretaries (in the email text, not in the summary!) is sent one day before submission
- 2 bound issues of my thesis, written in the first person singular form.
- Application for Defense Form (Antrag)
- Examination Commission Form (Zusatzblatt)
- CV (Lebenslauf)
- BLUE SHEET - proof of attendance of the PhD Program (signed and stamped)
- Eidesstattliche Versicherung (Sworn Affidavit) and Belehrung (Instruction) – correctly filled in and signed (Note: You must choose between the two options in point 3 of the Sworn Affidavit ! )
- CD with PDF of my thesis