
Publications that are already published (or accepted) in scientific journals can be summarized as a cumulative dissertation. Therefore, you have to stick to the following minimum standards:

- At least two papers (manuscripts/publications) are required.
- You have to be the first author of at least one of the publications. When cooperating with other groups a shared first authorship is accepted.
- At least one manuscript has to be already published or accepted by a journal. Manuscripts that have already published on bioRxiv (DOI number needed) are accepted too.
- Further results that are not yet included in a manuscript can be added.

The regulations for monographs which are based on publications are as follows:

- The publication has to be comprehensive, written as first author and already been published or accepted.
- Supplemental Material can be attached.

- Your dissertation has to meet the requirements of a self-reliant scientific doctor’s thesis, as stated in the doctoral degree regulations of July 10, 2003, §10 and of July 12, 2016, §11 respectively. In general, this applies to dissertations in which your contribution meets the mentioned requirements on its own.
- Your contribution to each manuscript/publication has to be stated separately and in detail, and must be listed in the dissertation: What was your contribution to planning? Which experiments were conducted by yourself? Which parts of the publication/manuscript were written by yourself? Which figures/tables were generated by yourself? State the percentages of your contribution concerning the following items: planning (P), experimental procedures (E), and writing the manuscript (M).
- If using figures in your dissertation which are based partly or completely on results from another person or originate from one of your former degree thesis projects (e.g. Bachelor or Master thesis), then you have to state this information clearly in the figure legend. For example "This figure was provided by XY." or “This figure derived from my own Bachelor/Master thesis.” This also applies to figures in publications which are included in cumulative dissertations.
- When submitting a cumulative Ph.D. thesis you additionally have to submit a statement from your first Ph.D. supervisor confirming that your dissertation meets the requirements of a self-reliant scientific doctor’s thesis, as stated in the doctoral degree regulations of July 10, 2003, §10 and of July 12, 2016, §11 respectively, and confirming that your contributions to the published papers and manuscripts are declared correctly (see separate form sheet on the internet).
- The dissertation has to contain an introduction, comprehensive discussion of results, and summary.

The dissertation can be written in German or English. In general, manuscripts must be written
in English. However, the title and summary must be written in both languages, German and English. You may write the introduction and discussion in German, even if the integrated publications in the dissertation are written in English.

Publications or accepted manuscripts and further results must be integrated into the dissertation in the results’ section. Further publications, manuscripts, or reviews can be integrated as an appendix.

- The text for the title page (German/English) is posted on the internet as sample title page.
- Your curriculum vitae and the authorship clause (see separate form sheet on the internet) also need to be integrated into the dissertation.

Layout rules: The thesis should be printed on the standard format DIN A4 paper, single sided, and hardback.

For further information please refer to the information sheets “Dissertation guidelines” and “Starting a Ph.D. graduation process”.