RUHR UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOSCIENCES (IGB)

Guidelines for a cumulative dissertation – PromO 2023 (Status 06.10.2026)

If significant results of the dissertation have already been published or accepted in peer-reviewed journals or are available as a manuscript, these 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 papers (manuscript or publication). In the case of shared first authorship, there must be equal shares.

    and
  - At least one paper has to be already published or accepted by a journal (first authorship or co-authorship). 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 in the appendix. They should be referred to in the introduction and/or discussion.
- Reviews do not count as relevant publications for a cumulative dissertation. They may be part of the introduction and/or included in the appendix. In both cases, the author's own contributions must be listed as described below. Parts used in the introduction must be marked as a citation.

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

- There must be **one, very extensive publication** that has been written as first author and that has already been published or accepted. Manuscripts that have already published on bioRxiv (DOI number needed) are accepted too. This publication must be included as a results chapter. No other chapters may be included in the results section.
- Supplemental material may be included as an appendix.
- The overall structure of a publication-based monography corresponds to the structure of a cumulative dissertation (introduction, overall discussion of results and summary, see below for further details).

- Your dissertation has to meet the requirements of a self-reliant scientific doctor´s thesis, as stated in the doctoral degree regulations of June 15, 2023, § 10. 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), writing the manuscript (M), information about the figures (F) and if necessary additional specification of the information).**
- 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 June 15, 2023, § 10, 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 title page and the summary must always be written in English and German. In general, manuscripts/publications are written in English. As a rule, the introduction and the comprehensive discussion of the results should also be written in English. Exceptions can be arranged with the first supervisor before the beginning of writing and the Dean's Office (igb@rub.de) has to be informed.
- The publications and/or the manuscripts must be integrated into the dissertation in the results' section. Further publications, manuscripts, or reviews can be integrated as an appendix. They should be referred to in the introduction and/or discussion.
- The text for the title page (English/German) 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 and hardback. Double-sided printing is possible.

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