

# AWARD REGULATIONS<sup>1</sup> [PromO 17]

## for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) of the University of St.Gallen

dated 7 November 2016 (as of 1 August 2021)

pursuant to Art. 9 para. 1(a) of the Act on the University of St.Gallen dated 26 May 1988

the Board of Governors of the University of St.Gallen

hereby issues the following Award Regulations:

### I. General provisions

Art. 1 <sup>1</sup>These regulations govern the following aspects of Ph.D. studies at the University of St.Gallen:

Scope of application

- a) Ph.D. programmes;
- b) special academic bodies;
- c) admissions;
- d) programme structure;
- e) examinations and their grading;
- f) passes and repeats;
- g) the award of the degree;
- h) the rights and duties of supervisors and Ph.D. students;
- i) quality assurance;
- j) implementation of short-term (academic) programmes.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>The Senate Committee shall issue implementation provisions for these Award Regulations.

Art. 2 <sup>1</sup>During the Ph.D. study period, a research-related education shall be provided in the subjects of the relevant Ph.D. programme.

Ph.D. studies and graduation

<sup>2</sup>Graduation shall provide evidence of the ability to carry out independent academic work.

### II. Ph.D. programmes

Art. 3 <sup>1</sup>The Schools shall offer the following Ph.D. programmes:

The Ph.D. programmes

- a) Management (School of Management);
- b) Economics and Econometrics<sup>3</sup> (School of Economics and Political Sciences);<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Art. 123 of the University Statutes dated 25 October 2010 [sGS 217,15; US] only the German version of these regulations is legally binding.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 9 December 2019; in force as from 1 February 2020.

<sup>3</sup> The Ph.D. programme in Economics and Finance of the School of Economics and Political Sciences is offered to students already enrolled in this programme until the end of the spring semester 2031.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 8 March 2021, in force as from 1 August 2021.

- c) International Affairs and Political Economy (School of Economics and Political Sciences);
- d) Organizational Studies and Cultural Theory (School of Humanities and Social Sciences jointly with the School of Management);
- e) Law (School of Law);
- f) Finance (School of Finance);
- g) Computer Science (School of Computer Science).<sup>56</sup>

<sup>2</sup>For programmes that are offered jointly by two schools, the school mentioned first shall be responsible for coordination.

Art. 4 <sup>1</sup>The Programme Regulations for the degree programme shall specify the requirements for graduation from the relevant programme. It may define areas of specialisation.

Programme regulations

Art. 5 <sup>1</sup>The programme language shall be German and/or English.

Programme language

<sup>2</sup>The Programme Regulations shall define the programme language.

Art. 5<sup>bis</sup>. Short-term (academic) programmes can be offered.<sup>7</sup>

Short-term (academic) programmes

### III. Special bodies

Art. 6 <sup>1</sup>The School Conference of the School responsible for the Ph.D. programme shall appoint a Programme Committee for each Ph.D. programme.

Programme Committee

<sup>2</sup>The Programme Committee shall consist of:

- a) two to four full or associate professors, including one member who is the chairperson;<sup>8</sup>
- b) one representative of the non-tenured faculty;
- c) one Ph.D. student who is also employed by the University.

<sup>3</sup>The chairperson shall have the casting vote.

Art. 7 <sup>1</sup>The members under Art. 6(a) shall be elected by the School Conference, the members under Art. 6(b and c) by the body they represent.

Election of the Programme Committee

<sup>2</sup>When two schools offer a Ph.D. programme jointly, the members as defined in Art. 6 para. 2 (a) shall be approved by the School Conference of the other school.

<sup>3</sup>The term of office of members under Art. 6 para. 2 (a) shall be two years; the term for the other members shall be based on the regulations for the relevant body.

<sup>4</sup>Members may be re-elected.

Art. 8 <sup>1</sup>The Programme Committee shall manage the programme.

<sup>2</sup>In particular it shall

- a) define the content and organisation of the programme,
- b) advise the Dean of Studies in respect of admissions,

<sup>5</sup> Until the establishment of the School of Computer Science and the transfer of the Ph.D. programme to the school, the Ph.D. in Computer Science (DCS) will be associated with the School of Management.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 21 June 2019; in force as from 1 August 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 9 December 2019; in force as from 1 February 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 10 December 2018; in force as from 10 December 2018.

- c) recognise completed credits and examination results from other universities or comparable institutions,
- d) appoint the Thesis Committees for individual Ph.D. students;
- e) approve the final grade for individual doctorates,
- f) organise the quality assurance and development of the programme in consultation with the Quality Development division of the University,
- g) ensure the quality of supervision of Ph.D. students within their programme,
- h) monitor compliance with the programme regulations,
- i) ensure the independence of written thesis appraisals.

<sup>3</sup>The Programme Regulations may also assign further tasks to the Programme Committee.

Art. 9 <sup>1</sup>The Thesis Committee shall consist of at least the Supervisor and the Co-supervisor.

Thesis Committee

<sup>2</sup>The Programme Committee can appoint further members.

<sup>3</sup>At least one member of the Thesis Committee (the Supervisor or Co-supervisor) must be a full or associate professor at the University of St.Gallen.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>4</sup>The composition of the Thesis Committee must ensure expert and fair evaluation.

Art. 10 <sup>1</sup>The Thesis Committee must be appointed at the latest by the date on which the Ph.D. student submits their research proposal under Art. 28.

<sup>2</sup>This can be extended later during the Ph.D. study.

Art. 11 <sup>1</sup>The following members of the teaching staff may serve as thesis supervisors:

Supervisor

- a) a full or associate professor of the University of St.Gallen;<sup>10</sup>
- b) a member of the faculty with an established recognised (habilitation-equivalent) research record who at the time of the official start of the Ph.D. programme is working as a permanent lecturer at the University of St.Gallen or holds another permanent appointment at the University of St.Gallen;
- c) persons as defined in (a) and (b) of this provision who have reached the age limit<sup>11</sup> by the end of the semester during which they had their 67<sup>th</sup> birthday. The reference point for their appointment shall be the date of the official start of the student's Ph.D. studies or re-matriculation.

<sup>2</sup>The President shall approve any exceptions. The Supervisors referred to in (b) must be proposed by the relevant Programme Committee and approved by the School Conference.

<sup>3</sup>The School Conference shall define the maximum number of theses any of its members may supervise.

Art. 12 <sup>1</sup>The Co-supervisor shall be appointed by the Programme Committee.

Co-supervisor

<sup>2</sup>The Committee may, in addition to the categories listed in Art. 11 para. 1, appoint one of the following as Co-supervisor:

<sup>9</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 10 December 2018; in force as from 10 December 2018.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 10 December 2018; in force as from 10 December 2018.

<sup>11</sup> By analogy to Art. 45 of the University statutes

- a) visiting professors in residence;
- b) professors from other universities who are entitled to supervise theses at their home university;
- c) in individually justified cases, assistant professors, permanent lecturers, and part-time lecturers without an established recognised (habilitation-equivalent) research record but with a long teaching record at the University of St.Gallen.
- d) persons as defined in (a) to (c) of this provision who have reached the age limit<sup>12</sup> by the end of the semester during which they had their 67<sup>th</sup> birthday. . The reference point for their appointment shall be the date of the official start of the student's Ph.D. studies or re-matriculation.

<sup>3</sup>The Programme Committee may approve exceptions.

Art. 13 <sup>1</sup>The Supervisor or the Co-supervisor must belong to the School that offers the relevant programme.

Art. 14 <sup>1</sup>The following tasks shall be incumbent on the Thesis Committee:

Tasks of the Thesis Committee

- a) overall supervision of an individual thesis, with the personal supervision of the Ph.D. student being incumbent upon the Supervisor;
- b) the assessment of the research proposal and the organisation of the colloquium on the research proposal;
- c) assessment of the thesis;
- d) for research proposals and theses that require revision: defining the changes to be made;
- e) request for acceptance, referral for revision and resubmission or rejection of the thesis for the attention of the Programme Committee.

#### IV. Admission

Art. 15 <sup>1</sup>Admission to a Ph.D. programme must be granted to applicants who hold a relevant Master's degree from the University of St.Gallen, or an equivalent university degree that is in the same or similar subjects as the chosen Ph.D. programme.

Admission:

<sup>2</sup>The Programme Regulations of the respective Ph.D. programmes shall define what similar subjects are and what additional entry requirements may be imposed for admission to a Ph.D. programme.

<sup>3</sup>Admission shall be provisional until all additional programme-specific entry requirements have been satisfactorily completed, and the additional requirements must be completed before the research proposal is submitted.

<sup>4</sup>The President of the University may admit students of Master's programmes at the University of St.Gallen provisionally to the Ph.D. programme's coursework phase.

Art. 16 <sup>1</sup>Admission shall be contingent on:

Admission requirements

- a) a Master's degree with an average grade of at least 5.00;
- b) a letter of recommendation from the Supervisor;
- c) for applicants who did not complete their previous studies at the University of St.Gallen: official proof of qualification to

<sup>12</sup> By analogy to Art. 45 of the University statutes

commence Ph.D. studies from the university from which they graduated.

<sup>2</sup>The Programme Regulations for the relevant degree programme may impose further requirements for admission such as, for example, recognised international aptitude tests or proof of proficiency in the language of the programme.

Art. 17 <sup>1</sup>The Programme Regulations may provide an option for the Supervisor to submit a reasoned request to the Programme Committee in cases where the average grade for the applicant's completed studies is below 5.00.

<sup>2</sup>Instead of the letter of recommendation, the Programme Regulations may allow for confirmation by the Programme Committee; in this case the Programme Committee shall undertake to appoint a Supervisor within one year.

Art. 18 <sup>1</sup>Admission shall be granted to a specific programme under Art. 3 para. 1.

<sup>2</sup>If a request is submitted for a transfer, the admission requirements must be checked once again.

Art. 19 <sup>1</sup>The Dean of Studies shall make the final decision on admission after consultation with the Chairman of the relevant Programme Committee.

Change of programme

Final decision

## V. Programme structure

Art. 20 <sup>1</sup>The Ph.D. programme is split into a coursework phase and a research phase.

Programme structure:

Art. 21 <sup>1</sup>The coursework phase consists of:  
a) methodological and specialist courses;  
b) preparation of the research proposal;  
c) the colloquium on the research proposal.

a) Coursework phase

Art. 22 <sup>1</sup>The research phase consists of:  
a) the thesis-related seminars;  
b) writing the thesis;  
c) the thesis defence (including a possible pre-defence).

b) Research phase

Art. 23 <sup>1</sup>The thesis must be submitted at the latest 10 semesters after starting the Ph.D. programme (from the day of matriculation).

<sup>2</sup>The Dean of Studies may, if there are significant reasons, grant an extension in individual cases.

Limits on period of study

### a. Coursework phase

Art. 24 <sup>1</sup>During the coursework phase, courses must be taken for a total of at least 12 ECTS credits.

<sup>2</sup>A course shall earn either 4 or 6 ECTS credits.

<sup>3</sup>The Programme Regulations shall define the number and scope of the courses.

Courses:

a) Scope

Art. 25 <sup>1</sup>The Supervisor shall define which courses need to be taken in addition to the compulsory courses for the programme in consultation with the Ph.D. student.

b) Selecting courses

Art. 26 <sup>1</sup>Courses taken and passed at other universities, the methodology school of the University of St.Gallen or comparable institutions may in principle count as credits.

c) Credits

<sup>2</sup>The Programme Committee reviews the courses to see if they can be credited.

Art. 27 <sup>1</sup>Courses for Bachelor's and Master's degrees shall not be acceptable for credits at the Ph.D. level as a matter of principle.

<sup>2</sup>The Programme Regulations may define exceptions.

Art. 28 <sup>1</sup>In the research proposal, the plan for the thesis project and the methodological approach must be described and some initial, already completed, research work must be demonstrated.

Research proposal

<sup>2</sup>During the colloquium on the research proposal, Ph.D. students shall outline and justify their thesis project and provide reasons for their approach.

<sup>3</sup>The colloquium must take at least 30 minutes and shall not be public.

<sup>4</sup>The Thesis Committee shall decide whether to accept the research proposal.

Art. 29 <sup>1</sup>The courses in the coursework phase must be completed and passed within four semesters from the start of the Ph.D. programme.

Deadline

<sup>2</sup>The research proposal must be submitted within these four semesters.

<sup>3</sup>The Dean of Studies may grant an extension if there is a significant reason for doing so.

## **b. Research phase**

Art. 30 <sup>1</sup>The Programme Regulations may require thesis-related seminars, and discussion sessions or oral presentations (colloquia) to be held.

Research phase:

<sup>2</sup>A seminar or a colloquium shall earn 4 or 6 ECTS credits.

a) Seminars

<sup>3</sup>The thesis-related seminars or the colloquia must be completed before the thesis can be submitted.

Art. 31 <sup>1</sup>The thesis shall be an independent piece of academic work, in which the Ph.D. student provides proof of in-depth expertise in their subject and the ability to apply academic methodologies.

b) Thesis

Art. 32 <sup>1</sup>The thesis may be submitted in the form of a self-contained book (monograph) or as separate essays (cumulative thesis).

Forms of thesis:  
a) Monograph  
b) Cumulative

<sup>2</sup>The Supervisor and the Ph.D. student shall jointly define the form. This decision must be made before the colloquium on the research proposal.

Art. 33 <sup>1</sup>A cumulative thesis shall consist of at least three essays that meet the quality standards of leading international journals in the field.

<sup>2</sup>The individual essays may be prepared and written jointly with other authors (co-authorship).

<sup>3</sup>At least one contribution must be provided by the Ph.D. student

working on their own. This must represent a significant component of the overall thesis.

<sup>4</sup>The Programme Committee may issue detailed requirements and conditions for cumulative theses.

Art. 34 <sup>1</sup>The thesis must be written in German or English.

Language

<sup>2</sup>The Programme Committee may approve exceptions.

<sup>3</sup>A thesis must be reviewed by the Supervisor in terms of the quality of its language.

Art. 35 <sup>1</sup>The thesis must include a declaration that it was written by its author in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Code of Academic Integrity<sup>13</sup> and without illicit help.

Students' declaration that the thesis is their own work

<sup>2</sup>There must also be a declaration that the thesis has not been submitted previously for a degree at another university.

<sup>3</sup>For a cumulative thesis, it must be stated for each essay if and whether co-authors were involved. This information must also accompany any subsequent publications.

Art. 36 <sup>1</sup>The thesis shall be examined and graded by the Thesis Committee.

Thesis appraisal

<sup>2</sup>If the Supervisor or Co-supervisor is involved as a co-author of an essay and if this essay has not yet appeared in a peer-reviewed journal, then a third-party appraisal must be obtained for this part of the thesis (under Art. 8 para. 2 (i)).

Art. 37 <sup>1</sup>The thesis must be published after it has been accepted by the Programme Committee.

Publication

<sup>2</sup>The publication of excerpts from the thesis before it is finally submitted shall be permitted.

<sup>3</sup> The Dean of Studies may impose an internal blocking period on the publication of theses for a maximum of two years.

Art. 38 <sup>1</sup>During the thesis defence, Ph.D. students shall demonstrate that they have met the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Thesis defence

<sup>2</sup>The thesis defence may take place if the Thesis Committee recommends the acceptance of the thesis.

<sup>3</sup>The Thesis Committee shall conduct the examination and define the grade.

<sup>4</sup>The thesis defence shall take place on the premises of the University of St.Gallen, shall take at least 60 minutes and shall be open to the public.

<sup>5</sup>The Ph.D. candidate and at least the Supervisor must be present at the thesis defence.

Art. 39 <sup>1</sup>The Programme Regulations may require a pre-defence of the thesis.

Pre-defence

## VI. Examinations and their grading

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<sup>13</sup> "Code of Academic Integrity (Academic Integrity)" issued by the Senate Committee on 24 February 2015.

Art. 40 <sup>1</sup>The forms of examinations for individual courses shall be defined in the individual course fact sheets by the member of the teaching staff responsible for the course.

Types of examination

<sup>2</sup>The forms of examination and assessments stated in the course fact sheets are binding.

<sup>3</sup>The Programme Regulations define the forms of examination that are acceptable.

Art. 41 <sup>1</sup>The Programme Regulations define in Art. 24 ff. whether the courses are to be graded or whether they are to be assessed as "passed" or "not passed".

Grading of courses

Art. 42 <sup>1</sup>The results of courses under Art. 24ff, in conjunction with Art. 41 para. 1, the thesis and the thesis defence shall be graded using the following grades:

Range of grades

- 6.0 = excellent
- 5.5 = very good
- 5.0 = good
- 4.5 = satisfactory
- 4.0 = marginal
- 3.5 = unsatisfactory
- 3.0 = poor
- 2.5 = poor to very poor
- 2.0 = very poor
- 1.5 = very poor to useless
- 1.0 = useless

<sup>2</sup>Theses may be awarded quarter grades.

<sup>3</sup>The average grade for the courses required during the coursework phase shall be rounded to a quarter grade.

<sup>4</sup>Any element of examination that is awarded a grade below 4.0 is regarded as "failed".

## VII. Passes and repeats

Art. 43 <sup>1</sup>In order to be awarded a Ph.D. degree, students must pass all the constituents of the programme (courses, research proposal, thesis-related seminars, thesis and the thesis defence).

Pass conditions:

Art. 44 <sup>1</sup>Students who fail a course

a) Courses

- a) may repeat a compulsory course once;
- b) may repeat a compulsory elective, a non-compulsory elective course, or a seminar or replace it with another course, but there is no automatic right to repeat the same course.

<sup>2</sup> Students who fail two or more courses shall not be able to continue their Ph.D. programme at the HSG.

<sup>3</sup>Enrolment in a course shall be binding; students who fail to attend shall be deemed to have failed the course.

Art. 45 <sup>1</sup>The research proposal shall not be graded but must be accepted in order for the student to pass.

b) Research proposal

<sup>2</sup>The colloquium on the research proposal shall be deemed to have been passed by students if their research proposal is accepted.

Art. 46 <sup>1</sup>A research proposal that is not accepted the first time may



either be sent back for reworking or may be rejected.

<sup>2</sup>When submitted for a second time, the research proposal may not be returned again for reworking.

<sup>3</sup>A research proposal that is not submitted on time must be submitted within the following six months, but it cannot then be returned for reworking.

<sup>4</sup>A period of 12 months shall be allowed for reworking.

Art. 47 <sup>1</sup>Thesis-related seminars shall not be graded, but students must pass each and every one of them.

c) Thesis-related seminars

Art. 48 <sup>1</sup>If a thesis requires some minor amendments, the final acceptance of the thesis may be made contingent upon the student's making the required revisions.

d) Thesis

Art. 49 <sup>1</sup>A thesis that is not accepted the first time may either be sent back for reworking or may be rejected.

<sup>2</sup>If a pre-defence of a thesis is required, then after the final submission of that thesis, it can only be accepted or rejected.

<sup>3</sup>A thesis that is not submitted on time shall be deemed to have been rejected.

<sup>4</sup>When submitted for a second time, a thesis may not be returned again for rework. On second submission, the thesis may only be accepted or rejected.

<sup>5</sup>A period of 12 months shall be allowed for the reworking of the thesis.

Art. 50 <sup>1</sup>If the thesis defence is not successful, it may be repeated once.

e) Defence

Art. 51 <sup>1</sup>If the courses during the coursework phase are graded, then these shall account for 20%, the thesis for 70% and the thesis defence for 10%.

Overall examination:

<sup>2</sup>If the courses during the coursework phase are not graded, then the thesis shall account for 80% and the thesis defence for 20%.

a) Weighting

Art. 52 <sup>1</sup>The following levels of distinction shall be awarded:

a) with a grade average of 5.75 to 6.00: summa cum laude (with the highest distinction);

b) with a grade average of 5.50 to 5.74: magna cum laude (very good);

c) with a grade average of 5.00 to 5.49: cum laude (good).

b) Levels of distinction

<sup>2</sup>No level of distinction shall be awarded for average grades below 5.00.

Art. 53 <sup>1</sup>The Ph.D. examination shall be deemed to be failed definitively if:

a) two or more courses or seminars are failed or

b) the research proposal is rejected or

c) the thesis is rejected or

d) the thesis defence is not passed at the second attempt.

<sup>2</sup>Anyone who has failed to definitively pass the Ph.D. examinations will not be accepted for any further Ph.D. programme at the University of St.Gallen.

Art. 54 <sup>1</sup> Students who discontinue their Ph.D. studies voluntarily may be admitted to such studies a second time. They shall have to restart their Ph.D. programme from the beginning. Credits for courses taken during the coursework phase may be possible, but any other credits will not be accepted.

Interruption

<sup>2</sup>A second discontinuation shall be deemed a conclusive failure.

## VIII. Award of the degree

Art. 55 <sup>1</sup>Those who pass the Ph.D. examinations as defined in Art. 43ff. are awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Ph.D. degree

<sup>2</sup>Successful students of the Ph.D. programme in:

- a) Management shall be awarded the degree of "Doktor oder Doktorin der Wirtschaftswissenschaften" (Dr. oec. HSG) or a Doctor of Philosophy in Management (Ph.D. HSG);
- b) Economics and Econometrics<sup>14</sup> shall be awarded the degree of "Doktor oder Doktorin der Wirtschaftswissenschaften" (Dr. oec. HSG) or a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics and Econometrics (Ph.D. HSG);<sup>15</sup>
- c) International Affairs and Political Economy shall be awarded the degree of "Doktor oder Doktorin der Staatswissenschaften" (Dr. rer. publ. HSG) or a Doctor of Philosophy in International Affairs and Political Economy (Ph.D. HSG);
- d) Organizational Studies and Cultural Theory shall be awarded the degree of "Doktor oder Doktorin der Sozialwissenschaften" (Dr. rer. soc. HSG) or a Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Studies and Cultural Theory (Ph.D. HSG);
- e) Law shall be awarded the degree of "Doktor oder Doktorin der Rechtswissenschaft" (Dr. iur. HSG) or a Doctor of Philosophy in Law (Ph.D. HSG).
- f) Finance shall be awarded the degree of "Doktor oder Doktorin der Wirtschaftswissenschaften" (Dr. oec. HSG) or a Doctor of Philosophy in Finance (Ph.D. HSG).
- g) Computer Science shall be awarded the degree of "Doktor oder Doktorin der Wissenschaften (Dr. sc. HSG)" or a Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science (Ph.D. HSG).<sup>16</sup>

Art. 56 <sup>1</sup>The Senate shall award the degree at a formal ceremony. The President shall present the degrees.

Graduation ceremony

<sup>2</sup>It is mandatory for Ph.D. students to attend the graduation ceremony. In exceptional cases, the President may exempt a student from this duty.

Art. 57 <sup>1</sup>The degree may be used after it has been awarded.

<sup>2</sup>It may be quoted in its alternative language form; listing both forms side by side shall be forbidden.

Art. 58 <sup>1</sup>The Senate Committee may revoke the degree if it appears to the Senate Committee that the degree has been achieved

Revocation of the degree

<sup>14</sup> Students of the Ph.D. programme in Economics and Finance shall be awarded the degree of "Doktor oder Doktorin der Wirtschaftswissenschaften" (Dr. oec. HSG) or a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics and Finance (Ph.D. HSG) by the end of the spring semester 2031.

<sup>15</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 8 March 2021; in force as from 1 August 2021.

<sup>16</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 21 June 2019; in force as from 1 August 2019.

through deception or if essential prerequisites for its award were not satisfied.

Art. 59 <sup>1</sup>The Senate may award:

- a) the degree of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Management or Honorary Doctor in Philosophy in Economics and Econometrics or Honorary Doctor in Philosophy in Finance for outstanding services to economic studies or the practice of economics;<sup>17</sup>
- b) the degree of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in International Affairs and Political Economy for outstanding services to political sciences or to the public welfare;
- c) the degree of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Law for outstanding services to the law;
- d) the title of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Studies and Cultural Theory for outstanding service to the research of society or efforts to resolve social issues;
- e) the title of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science for outstanding services to computer science.<sup>18</sup>

Honorary doctorate

<sup>2</sup>The Senate shall decide to award honorary doctorates on the basis of a written reasoned proposal by a member of the Senate or a School.

<sup>3</sup>The President shall award honorary degrees as part of the University's *Dies academicus* celebrations or another ceremonial occasion at the University, by over the presentation of the Ph.D. diploma.

## IX. Rights and duties

Art. 60 <sup>1</sup>Ph.D. students shall be entitled to professional and competent supervision from their Supervisor and Co-supervisor. The evaluation of the thesis must be fair and unprejudiced.

Rights and duties:

<sup>2</sup>If the Ph.D. student changes the topic of their thesis, they may also request a change of Supervisor. In this case, the change of Supervisor must be approved by the Programme Committee.

a) Ph.D. students

<sup>3</sup>If the Ph.D. student requests an independent appraisal for good cause, then the Programme Committee shall appoint a new Thesis Committee.

<sup>4</sup>Ph.D. students shall be required to respect deadlines and to attend the selected courses and seminars.

Art. 61 <sup>1</sup>The Supervisor and Co-supervisor shall have a right to co-authorship under the present Code of Academic Integrity<sup>19</sup> if their personal contribution to a publication is significant.

b) Supervisors and Co-supervisors

<sup>2</sup>The Supervisor or Co-supervisor shall undertake to supervise the Ph.D. students professionally.

<sup>3</sup>If the Supervisor or Co-supervisor asks to be relieved of their responsibilities for good cause, then the Programme Committee shall make the decision in consultation with the Dean of Studies.

<sup>4</sup>The Supervisor shall notify the Ph.D. Office of upcoming thesis defences.

<sup>17</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 8 March 2021; in force as from 1 August 2021.

<sup>18</sup> Resolution of the Board of Governors of 21 June 2019; in force as from 1 August 2019.

<sup>19</sup> "Code of Academic Integrity (Academic Integrity)" issued by the Senate Committee on 24 February 2015.

Art. 62 <sup>1</sup>Until the date of graduation, the thesis and its constituent parts shall be university examination documents.

Intellectual property rights

<sup>2</sup>Otherwise, the provisions of Swiss intellectual property law shall apply subject to the restrictive provisions of the Award Regulations (PromO).

## X. Quality assurance

Art. 63 <sup>1</sup>The Programme Committee shall be responsible for quality assurance and the improvement of quality in the relevant Ph.D. programmes.

Quality assurance

<sup>2</sup>It shall monitor the academic progress of Ph.D. students, the quality of courses and seminars, the number and quality of supervised theses, the quality of supervision, the duration of Ph.D. studies and the opportunities for graduates on the job market.

<sup>3</sup>It shall take the measures it deems suitable for quality improvement.

<sup>4</sup>It shall ensure its accessibility to the students in the programmes.

Art. 64 <sup>1</sup>The Delegate for Quality Development shall monitor trends in the quality of the Ph.D. programmes, carry out regular programme evaluations and take suitable measures for improvement.

Quality improvement

<sup>2</sup>They shall work in coordination with the relevant Programme Committee.

## XI. Legal protection

Art. 65 <sup>1</sup>Decisions made by the Programme Committee or the Thesis Committee in the form of a provision shall be disclosed to students through a decree issued by the Dean of Studies.

Provisions

<sup>2</sup>The examination results shall be published once a semester.

<sup>3</sup>The responsible teaching staff may provide students with access to their examination scripts after the publication of grades.

Art. 66 <sup>1</sup>Personal details of Ph.D. students may be used to create statistical evaluations of both study behaviour and results across various dimensions, and shall be deleted after completion of the research.

Use of personal data

<sup>2</sup>Such deletion shall not include

a) grades and

b) data that were used in an anonymised form, the analysis of which can help to improve the Ph.D. programme.

<sup>3</sup>Persons who collect, evaluate and manage the data referred to in para. 1, shall be required to maintain confidentiality.

## XII. Final provisions

Art. 67 <sup>1</sup>These regulations shall come into effect as of 1 August 2017.

Date of application

<sup>2</sup>They shall apply to students who start a Ph.D. studies programme at the University of St.Gallen from Autumn Semester 2017 onwards.

<sup>3</sup>These regulations shall apply to all Ph.D. candidates from 1 August 2020.

Art. 68 <sup>1</sup>For students who started their Ph.D. studies before 1 August 2017, the Award Regulations dated 11 December 2006 (version of 7 May 2012) or those of 16 May 1994 shall apply until 31 July 2020.

Transitional rules

<sup>2</sup>Supervisors or Co-supervisors who started supervision before 1 August 2017 may continue to complete their supervision.

Art. 69 <sup>1</sup>The Award Regulations for Doctorates of the University of St.Gallen dated 16 May 1994 and 11 December 2006 (version dated 7 May 2012) shall be repealed as from 1 August 2020.

Repeal of currently applicable statutes

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the University of St.Gallen,

The President:  
Stefan Kölliker, Cantonal Minister of Education

General Secretary:  
lic. iur. Hildegard Kölliker, General Counsel