

# PhD Committee

10 Responses to the most frequently asked questions

## Are you interested in undertaking a PhD within the Department of Spatial Planning? We welcome you!

You can graduate from the Department of Spatial Planning with a PhD in engineering or economics & social sciences. Within the PhD Regulations (PhD Reg.) you will find formal guidelines concerning the prerequisites and PhD procedure.

The following frequently asked question responses are intended to assist you during the initial steps:

### 1. Can I undertake the PhD if my previous studies were not in spatial planning?

Section 4 of the PhD Reg. states the prerequisites which must be fulfilled in order to enrol. These do not necessarily concern only city and/or developmental planning, but also comprise related areas such as geography and architecture. However, your studies should exhibit a clear and concise reference to spatial planning.

### 2. In what language can I write my PhD dissertation?

You may undertake your PhD at the Department of Spatial Planning in either German or English.

### 3. What should I submit to communicate my PhD research idea?

For your selected field, you should have already prepared an initial concept (approx. 10 pages), which clearly defines your focal area, key research questions and the underlying methodical approach. Furthermore, you should have also developed an initial concept for a time schedule and work plan.

### 4. How do I find a supervisor?

To commence your PhD you have to approach a potential supervisor from our department for your dissertation personally. Consider your initial concept document described in Q3 as the first point of discussion between yourself and a potential supervisor. The supervisor/assessor must be a member of the Department of Spatial Planning.

### 5. Can I apply for scholarships before official enrolment?

To apply for a PhD scholarship, written confirmation from the supervisor is generally sufficient; the admission procedure must not necessarily already be completed.

### 6. Do I need more than one advisor?

The examination board usually consists of the chairperson and two other members. The supervisor should be a member of the examination board, but should not chair it. The chairperson should belong to the Department of Spatial Planning. The examination board may include external members from domestic and foreign universities. The second advisor can be selected at a later stage after enrolment.

Should the focus of your intended dissertation be located abroad, please be aware that at least one member of the PhD committee must be familiar with the regional/cultural learnings of the relevant country/countries. The supervisor will advise the PhD candidate about the composition of the PhD committee to the effect that it is representative of the interdisciplinary nature of the Department of Spatial Planning and the range of research groups within the context of the chosen PhD topic. There needs to be at least one active university lecturer nominated as a member of the PhD committee.

**7. What documents do I need to apply, and when should I send them?**

Please refer to section 5 of the PhD Regulations for a list of the documents required for the formal application process. Please note that the PhD committee only meets twice per semester. Meetings are generally held at the beginning and at the end of each semester (October, February, April, July; the exact dates are published on the website). Your documents should be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to each meeting.

**8. How will I know if I am accepted?**

Once the PhD committee has processed your application, you will receive written confirmation of your admission/provisional admission/refusal.

**9. When do I have to enroll?**

Admitted applicants must register as doctoral candidates and prove this to the doctoral committee in accordance with the requirements of doctoral regulations, by submitting a certificate of enrolment from the student secretariat. Pursuant to § 67 para. 5 HG ("Hochschulgesetz"), enrolment requires an assessment of the admission requirements for doctoral studies, which only takes place within the framework of admission to doctoral studies by the doctoral committee. For this reason, the doctoral regulations have been aligned to the doctoral framework regulations. At present, enrolment in the doctoral programme at TU Dortmund University usually takes place when a doctoral relationship between a supervisor and the doctoral candidate is agreed upon. According to §5 Para.1 PromO, proof of enrolment must be submitted to the doctoral committee no later than 3 weeks after admission.

**10. In the case of a cumulative dissertation, do the articles have to be submitted individually or as a complete dissertation?**

In the case of a cumulative dissertation, according to §10 para. 3 c), the individual articles are connected by a text documenting the thematic context, which means that an overall document must be submitted.