

10 Responses to the most frequently asked questions

Are you interested in undertaking a PhD within the Spatial Planning Faculty?

We welcome you. You can graduate from the Spatial Planning Faculty 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 descriptions are intended to assist you during the initial steps:

1. 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. You may undertake your PhD at the Spatial Planning Faculty in either German or English.
3. 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. To commence your PhD you have to approach a potential supervisor from our faculty for your dissertation personally.

The supervisor/assessor must be a member of the Spatial Planning Faculty.

5. To apply for a PhD scholarship, written confirmation from the supervisor is generally sufficient; the admission procedure must not necessarily already be completed.
6. The PhD committee also comprises a second assessor/examiner, which can be selected at a later stage. 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 Spatial Planning Faculty and the range of professorships within the context of the chosen PhD topic, and that at least one active university lecturer is nominated as a member of the PhD committee.

7. 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. Ihre Unterla-

Your documents should be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to each meeting.

8. Should the PhD committee impose one or more assessment tests (max. 4 possible) within the scope of provisional application acceptance, these are to be perceived as in-depth discussions/interviews on the topic at hand. The objective of these discussions, pursuant to section 4 of the PhD Regulations, is to ascertain your level of knowledge, theoretical and methodical abilities with regard to spatial planning. Each discussion lasts 30 minutes and will be recorded in brief form as minutes. The discussion/s will be based around the topics of your intended PhD endeavours and your ability to convey your competence in the selected topics in relation to spatial planning. Hence, the discussion/s will address the professional environment of your selected topic and the related spatial planning sub-discipline. The assessment test/s will result in a pass or fail but will not be graded. A positive result can be furnished with recommendations concerning the subsequent attendance at certain lectures offered by the Spatial Planning Faculty. An assessment test may be repeated; as long as the test is passed by the time the PhD is commenced.
9. Should the PhD committee issue an assessment task (in the form of an essay), the objective will be to prove your ability to prepare scientific documentation on the research topics related to the intended PhD project. A conceivable essay topic would be, for example, the current state of research in the selected area. The essay should be approx. 30 pages in length. Recognition of the completed task will be issued by the assigned supervisor and at least one other university lecturer or authorised research scientist (in accordance with section 10 (3) of the PhD Reg.), both of whom belong to the Spatial Planning Faculty. As an alternative, a master's thesis (German/English) may also be submitted.
10. Once the PhD committee has processed your application, you will receive written confirmation of your admission/provisional admission/refusal.

Should you have any questions, please refer to

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signed

Dietwald Gruehn
University Professor / Doctor of Engineering
(Chair of the PhD Committee)