

# TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT ILMENAU

## **Statutes**

### **on Special Provisions for Studies, Examinations, and Doctorates due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic**

**- as amended by the Sixth Amendment Statutes of 11 November 2021-**

According to §§ 3 paragraph 1, 35 paragraph 1 No. 1 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act (Thüringer Hochschulgesetz (ThürHG)) of 10 May 2018 (GVBl. p. 149), as amended by Article 7 of the Act of 23 March 2021 (GVBl. p. 115, 118), the Technische Universität Ilmenau (hereinafter referred to as " university ") issues the following statutes on Special Provisions for Studies, Examinations, and Doctorates due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, published in the University's Official Gazette (Verköndungsblatt) 182/2020, last amended by the Sixth Amended Statutes of 11 November 2021, published in the University's Official Gazette 221/2021.

The Senate adopted the Statutes on Special Provisions for Studies, Examinations and Doctorates on 9 June 2020. The Rector approved them on 12 June 2020. The Senate adopted the Sixth Amendment Statutes on 9 November 2021 and the President approved the Statutes on 11 November 2021.

#### **I. General**

§ 1 Scope of the statutes

#### **II. Implementation of studies and examination procedures**

§ 2 Teaching and examinations using electronic communication

§ 3 Examinations - suspension of examination and re-examination deadlines, additional attempt

§ 5 Exclusion from participation in classes, examinations and from the submission of the final thesis

§ 6 Theses, time required for scientific work

#### **III. Doctoral studies**

§ 7 Doctoral committee, its meetings

§ 8 Scientific debate

#### **IV. Examinations and scientific debates by electronic means or by electronic communication**

§ 9 Regulations for conducting examinations and scientific debates by electronic means or by electronic communication

#### **V. Final provision**

§ 10 Validity

## I. General

### § 1 Scope of the statutes

(1) In deviation from the existing university regulations, these statutes contain special provisions for studies, examinations, and doctoral studies, which are necessary due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic to maintain the academic and doctoral system and to compensate for disadvantages that students and doctoral candidates may experience due to restrictions in the regular course of studies. Unless otherwise stipulated in these statutes, the existing regulations for studies, examinations, and doctoral studies - in particular enrolment regulations, examination and study regulations, and doctoral regulations - shall apply unchanged.

(2) The Presidential Board is authorized to decide at the end of the 2021/22 winter semester whether, due to continuing restrictions on the regular academic program due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the provisions of these statutes are to be extended to subsequent semesters or submitted to the Senate for a new resolution for adjustment.

(3) All references to persons and functions in these statutes shall apply equally regardless of gender.

## II. Implementation of studies and examination procedures

### § 2 Teaching and examinations using electronic communication

Unlike § 6a of the Examination and Study Regulations - General Provisions - for Degree Programs leading to a "Bachelor's", "Master's" and "Diploma" degree (PStO-AB), in the version of the Third Amendment Statutes, individual courses and examinations of a degree program may be offered in parallel to or instead of face-to-face forms using electronic communication facilities as distance learning and distance examinations ("Teaching and Examinations by Electronic Communication", § 6a PStO-AB). The responsibility for a suitable computer and Internet connection for participation in distance learning and distance examinations shall be the responsibility of the students. The specific technical requirements for participation in individual final examinations are to be announced with each specification of the form of examination; details are specified in § 3 paragraphs 3 and 4. Unless otherwise specified in these statutes, the regulations of § 11a PStO-AB apply accordingly to the implementation of teaching using electronic communication.

### **§ 3 Examinations - suspension of examination and re-examination deadlines, additional attempt**

(1) The deadlines for examinations (§ 10 PStO-AB) according to § 19 para. 2 sentence 1 PStO-AB (deadline for retaking examinations) as well as § 20 PStO-AB (deadline for first time examinations) are suspended for the winter semester 2021 / 2022. Accordingly, the winter semester 2021 / 2022 is not included in the determination of whether examinations were taken on time within the meaning of § 21 paragraphs 1 and 2 PStO-AB (free attempt (Freiversuch), grade improvement).

(2) In the winter semester 2021 / 2022, should students be prevented from participating in the teaching of one or more modules, each amounting to at least 50% of the total semester-related workload, due to pandemic-related reasons for which they are not responsible (e.g. quarantine, care of children due to day-care centre or school closures), they may, upon application and proof of the reasons, have the academic achievements completed in the winter semester 2021 / 2022 for these modules (§10 PStO-AB) recognized as not having been taken. This does not apply to examinations that have been assessed as "failed" due to cheating. The application must be submitted in writing to the examination office by the beginning of the next examination registration period (§16 paragraph 4 PStO-AB). A late application is to be accepted provided that the student has missed the application through no fault of his or her own and if the application is submitted immediately after the impediment has ceased to exist, together with the reasons for the failure. A retake of an examination according to sentence 1 is not to be counted in the total number of retakes allowed according to § 19 paragraph 1 PStO-AB.

### **§ 4 Examinations - suspension of admission requirements, change of form and organization**

(1) The organizational structure of the examination procedures shall ensure that, no matter what form the examination takes, imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic are adhered to protect health and reduce the risks of the pandemic.

(2) The module officers may suspend admission requirements defined in the module description for final examinations to be completed in the winter semester 2021/22 (§ 10 PStO-AB). The decision is to be announced in a suitable form and duly documented.

(3) Module officers may determine several possible forms for the completion of a module or course in accordance with 11 PStO-AB, whereby a regular form and, in the event that this cannot be adhered to due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic or technical-organizational measures,

alternative forms are to be determined. In variance to § 11 para. 2 PStO-AB, changes in the form of examinations are permissible by the module officer no later than two weeks after these Statutes become effective and must be announced in a suitable form and duly documented. The module officer shall make the decision on the specific form, taking into account the given circumstances and the principle of equal opportunities, no later than three weeks before the day of the examination. The decision shall be announced in an appropriate form and duly documented. The deadlines for the publication of the examination schedule as well as for the registration for examinations according to § 16 paragraphs 2 and 4 PStO-AB shall be waived and determined by the Academic Affairs Committee. The form of examinations during the semester must be announced in good time before the start of the final examination and must be duly documented. Notwithstanding § 16 para. 6 PStO-AB, deregistration from the attempt of the examination is permitted in the electronic system up to one day before the examination.

(4) Should it not be possible to carry out final examinations in the form specified in paragraph 3 due to imposed measures, including the requirements of the university's own infection protection concept, in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the module officers must redefine a form that differs from the module description - in the correspondingly necessary case also from § 11 para. 3 PStO-AB - while observing the principle of competence-oriented examination. The determination is to be announced in a suitable manner in good time - as a rule one week - before the day of the examination and duly documented. If the announcement of the changed form of the examination can only be made after the deadline for de-registration according to § 16 para. 6 PStO-AB, the deregistration is possible until the beginning of the examination. If students indicate that they are unable to participate in the final examination in the form specified in sentence 1 due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic virus, an individual regulation regarding the form of the final examination can be made by the responsible examination board upon individual application by students in agreement with the examiners and with due consideration of equal opportunities.

(5) In addition to § 28 para. 1 PStO-AB, individual regulations regarding the form of examinations may be made by mutual agreement between the examiner and the student within the framework of the compensation for disadvantages due to the special protection worthiness of the student to be examined in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. In accordance with sentence 1, the Examination Board shall make the decision.

(6) In deviation from § 54 para. 6 ThürHG, students who are not examination candidates may be excluded from attending oral final examinations, insofar as this is necessary to comply with imposed measures in the context of the SARS-

CoV-2 pandemic as well as to comply with the principle of equal opportunity, in particular the avoidance of attempted cheating.

(7) In deviation from § 18 (2) PStO-AB, the grading procedures for final examinations taken in the examination periods of the 2021 summer semester and 2021/22 winter semester must be completed no later than four weeks after the end of the respective examination period. When entered in the electronic examination administration, the grade is deemed to have been announced eight weeks after the end of the respective examination period.

### **§ 5 Exclusion from participation in classes, examinations and from the submission of the final thesis**

In respect of participation in the university's teaching program and graded/non-graded examinations, as well as the completion of the final thesis or parts thereof, § 22 of the Thuringian SARS-CoV-2-Infection Protection Measures Ordinance-ThürSARS-CoV-2-IfS-MaßnVO applies. The university's infection control concept must be observed. Students are responsible for providing proof of timely participation in a scheduled course. For deregistration or withdrawal from the attempt of a registered examination, §§ 16 and 22 PStO-AB are to be observed.

### **§ 6 Theses, time required for scientific work**

The processing period stipulated by the Examination and Study Regulations or Examination Regulations - Special Provisions (PStO-BB, PO-BB) for written scientific work in the context of final theses (§ 24 PStO-AB), which are prepared in the winter semester 2021/22, is to be extended once by six weeks upon application with justification of the prevention of processing due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic or other pandemic-related reasons beyond the student's responsibility. The extension in accordance with sentence 1 shall not be credited against the regularly permitted extension period according to § 24 PStO-AB.

## **III. Doctoral studies**

### **§ 7 Doctoral committee, its meetings**

Within the framework of § 7 para. 6 Doctoral Regulations - General Provisions of the University (PromO-AB), meetings of the Doctoral Committee may be held in video conferences for the purpose of complying with imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

## **§ 8 Scientific debate**

In the winter semester 2021/22, the scientific debate in accordance with §§ 9 and 10 PromO-AB for the purpose of compliance with imposed measures in the context of the virus SARS-CoV-2 pandemic can take place by means of electronic communication, e.g., video conferencing.

### **IV. Examinations and scientific debates by electronic means or by electronic communication**

## **§ 9 Regulations for conducting examinations and scientific debates by electronic means or by electronic communication**

(1) For graded/non-graded examinations according to § 10 PstO-AB in electronic form or by means of electronic communication, § 11a PstO-AB is to be observed.

(2) Section 11a PstO-AB shall be applied accordingly to the doctoral examination procedure, to the scientific debates pursuant to § 7.

### **V. Final provision**

## **§ 10 Validity**

The Statutes on Special Provisions for Studies and Examinations due to the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic are valid on the day following their publication in the University Gazette starting with the summer semester 2020, in the version of the Sixth Amendment Statutes as of the winter semester 2021/22.

Ilmenau, 12 June 2020

signed by

Univ.-Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil.

Dr. h. c. mult. Prof. h. c. mult. Peter Scharff

Rector