**RTG Supervision Agreement**

**This agreement is between**

Click here to enter text Doctoral Candidate (RTG member)

Click here to enter text Primary Supervisor (RTG member)

The primary supervisor and the doctoral candidate agree on the preparation of a doctoral thesis, which is to be prepared and defended under the authority of the faculty VI and in accordance with the following conditions:

1. **Thesis**a) The provisional title and planned research topic of the doctoral thesis is:  
     
   Click here to enter text   
     
     
     
   The thesis will be written in  English or  German. It is envisaged that the doctorate will be completed as a  publication-based dissertation or  monograph. The doctoral project is described in detail in the thesis concept paper, which is appended to this agreement.

**Enrolment at the University of Oldenburg:**

The doctoral candidate is enrolled at the University of Oldenburg.

The doctoral candidate will enrol at the University of Oldenburg after admission to the doctorate by the doctoral degree board of the faculty.

**Enrolment PhD programme:**

The candidate will enrol in the doctoral program *Medicine and Health Sciences* and will participate in the course within an appropriate time frame (according to the letter of acceptance, 30 credit points are generally expected within the doctoral project),

The doctoral candidate wishes to be accepted as an associated member of the OLTECH (exception for members of the “Department for Informatics/DfI”),

b) It is agreed that the thesis is to be written within the following time frame:

Start date [MM, YYYY]: Click here to enter text

Submission date [MM, YYYY]: Click here to enter text

(usually 3 years)

Within the framework of the RTG, this time frame may be extended by a maximum of 12 months. The final decision on granting a fourth year of funding for individual students will be made after 2.5 years by the RTG steering committee following the recommendation of the thesis committee.

The doctoral project will be supervised by a supervisory/thesis committee (in accordance with § 11 (2) of the schools [II / V / VI] doctoral regulations and the RTG regulations). The thesis committee is not the same as the examination committee (see § 6 of the doctoral regulations of the schools [II / V / VI]) and the assessors (see § 7 of the doctoral regulations of the schools [II / V / VI]).

**Members of the supervisory/thesis committee are:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Click here to enter text | Primary Supervisor (RTG member) |
| 1. Click here to enter text | Secondary Supervisor (RTG member) |
| 1. Click here to enter text | External Supervisor (non-member) |
| 1. Click here to enter text | Further member of the supervisory/thesis committee (if applicable) |
| 1. Click here to enter text | Further member of the supervisory/thesis committee (if applicable) |

1. **Supervision**
   1. **Responsibilities:** It is the responsibility of the primary supervisor to provide the doctoral candidate with an adequately equipped (laboratory) work space and to accompany and support the candidate's independent research. The primary supervisor will support the career of the doctoral candidate, be available on a regular basis and ensure the quality and progress of the doctorate project. The supervision of the doctoral candidate is expected to be not solely in the hands of the primary advisor. The supervisory/thesis committee contributes to the progress of the doctorate by the discussion of the methodology, the results and the timeframe of the doctoral project. It also supports the personal and academic development of the doctoral candidate. The supervisory/thesis committee shall consist of the persons mentioned above, i.e. the primary supervisor and one or more other supervisors, who are eligible according to the doctoral regulations of the faculty V / VI. The supervisory/thesis committee meets at least twice a year to discuss the doctoral project. At these meetings, the doctoral candidate must provide an update on the project status and take minutes of the meeting. Both documents have to be sent to the members of the supervisory/thesis committee and the coordinator of the RTG.
   2. **Notification of changes:** The doctoral candidate must notify the first supervisor and the doctoral degree board of the faculty of any changes to the topic of the dissertation or their postal address.
   3. **Timelines and reports:** At the start of the doctorate, the doctoral candidate and primary supervisor will develop a project plan, which is also the planned timing of the project on a timeline. This is to ensure a successful processing of the doctoral project within the planned total period. The doctoral candidate must document the course of the project in regular reports to the thesis committee (bi-annually); as described in section 2.a., each report must be accompanied by an updated timeline.
2. **Good scientific practice** 
   1. German universities and research institutions guarantee scientific independence in research and teaching. This freedom and independence is coupled with the individual responsibility to implement, keep and defend, if necessary, the fundamental values and standards of good scientific practice. The successful implementation of the principles of good scientific practice is a prerequisite for a high level of scientific standards.
   2. The signatories agree to comply with the principles of good scientific practice. The current guidelines of good scientific practice at the University of Oldenburg and the recommendations of the DFG (German Research Foundation) on the principles of good scientific practice can be viewed on the Internet at any time:  
      https://uol.de/en/academic-research/graduate-academy/doctoral-candidates/legal-and-financial-issues/good-academic-practice  
      https://www.dfg.de/en/research\_funding/principles\_dfg\_funding/good\_scientific\_practice/  
      https://uol.de/fileadmin/user\_upload/gremien/Regulations-governing-the-Principles-for-safeguarding-good-academic-practice.pdf
   3. **Awareness of and sensitivity to the principles of good scientific practice including the FAIR principles:** Honesty and truthfulness need to be absolute priority in scientific work. Doctoral candidates must know the principles of good scientific practice. Knowledge of good scientific practice is conveyed through guidance of the supervisor and the daily work in the working group. In addition, the visit of a course of at least one day on the subject is mandatory for doctoral candidates in this RTG. An introductory online course is freely available at: <https://uol.de/en/academic-research/graduate-academy/courses/good-research-practices-during-the-doctorate>  
      Supervisors will emphasise the importance of good data documentation for replicability of studies. They will encourage and support the sharing of raw data and analysis scripts in reliable repositories with high data persistence standards.
   4. **Cooperation and leadership responsibility in working groups:** Doctoral candidates are responsible for their own research work. The primary supervisor is responsible for creating a good cooperative working climate among the group members. The individual members of the working group have to trust one another to be able to work productively, because trust is the basis of an open discussion and communication culture. The cooperation within the work group must enable the presentation of scientific results, critical discussion and incorporation of this into the common pool of experience.
   5. **Publications:** In agreement with the primary supervisor, the doctoral candidates shall publish their new scientific findings, together with the primary supervisor, with others or alone in scientific journals, book chapters or conference journals. Multiple authors of the publications are jointly responsible for the contents of their publications. At the same time, all authors gain the rights to the common intellectual property (e.g. copyright). The publication date is important for documenting any claim. Publication requires the written consent of all authors to the final version. Implicit consent is not permitted if no response is received from the co-author after a deadline has been set. In the event that a co-author is unavailable (can no longer be contacted, "orphan data") or if data is actively abandoned by the co-author, the use of data is possible. In this case, the supporter must be named in the footnotes, in the preface or in the acknowledgement.  
      The authors of a scientific publication should be all those who have made a significant contribution to the concept, implementation, analysis and interpretation of a study as well as the writing of the manuscript. A so-called "honorary authorship" is not permitted. It is adequate to name supporters in the footnotes and acknowledgements.  
      Potential conflicts about authorship (e.g., author order) can arise. In such cases, the senior scientist of the project (the project leader) will invite all involved parties to a round table discussion of the disputed authorship issues. Here, all involved parties get a chance to voice their opinions. The goal of the round table discussion is to come to a mutual agreement between all authors about any disputed authorship issues that is in line with the rules of good scientific practice as defined above (§3b) and as laid out in the Recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/).
   6. **Scientific misconduct:** Scientific misconduct, as formulated in the DFG memorandum of good scientific practice, e.g. the production and use of incorrect data, the impairment of others’ research work, the disregard of the intellectual property rights of third parties must be avoided in any case (see also the recommendations of the DFG). The Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg has appointed two trusted third parties who can be contacted in cases of suspected scientific misconduct (https://uol.de/senat/kommission-fuer-gute-wissenschaftliche-praxis). Furthermore, the university’s Commission for Research Assessment and Ethics is entrusted with investigating suspected scientific misconduct (https://uol.de/en/senate/ethic). Rules of procedure and deadlines for the investigation of suspected cases have been established in order to define the rights of the involved parties. The type of sanction shall depend on the seriousness of the proven misconduct and includes consequences for the employment relationship, civil law penalties or fines for those responsible. The Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg has defined the procedures in cases of suspected scientific misconduct in a Code of Procedure (German only), which can be found in the official notices:  
      https://uol.de/uni/amtliche\_mitteilungen/dateien/AM2017-013\_Ordnung\_gute\_wiss\_Praxis.pdf
3. **Gender Equality and Family-Friendliness**The University of Oldenburg is certified as a family-friendly university. Gender equality is an important goal for the University of Oldenburg. More information on family-friendly university, including childcare or care of dependents, may be found on the university's website (German only - www.uni-oldenburg.de/familienservice/).  
     
   Doctoral candidates and supervisors agree that they will agree and implement family-friendly working hours, if the family situation of doctoral student requires it. Due to the special requirements of a scientific doctorate, any agreements on laboratory working hours are always individual agreements.
4. **Resolving conflicts**In the event of a conflict between the doctoral candidate and supervisor, both parties agree to calling in an additional third party, e.g. the coordinator of the doctorate programme, the director of the OLTECH Graduate School or an ombudsperson specified by the relevant doctoral degree committee.  
     
   In the event of a termination of the supervisory relationship, for which the doctoral candidate is not responsible, the faculty will seek an alternative, professionally appropriate supervisory relationship.
5. **Authorization**  
   The following formal requirements exist for the doctoral project:  
     
   **Ethics vote** in clinical trials on humans, epidemiological studies with personal data or examinations of human material with personal reference:  
    planned  requested [date: Click here to enter text ]  
    existing  not mandatory  
     
   **Genetic engineering permit** or notice:  
    planned  requested [date: Click here to enter text ]  
    existing  not mandatory  
     
     
     
   Additional **authorisation from other research institutions or companies** is necessary for the doctoral project.  
    planned  requested [date: Click here to enter text ]  
    existing  not mandatory  
   Names of the research institutions or companies: Click here to enter text   
     
   **Animal experiment permit** (please contact the responsible animal welfare officer in good time before starting work):  
    planned  requested [date: Click here to enter text ]  
    existing  not mandatory  
     
   Work on the doctoral project may only be started once the necessary authorisations have been obtained.

The first supervisor and the doctoral candidate are aware of the funds available for the doctoral thesis.   
The doctoral candidate and supervisor agree to consider the supervision agreement as binding, knowing that it is not a legally enforceable document. This agreement is binding after it has been signed by the persons listed below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Click here to enter text | (signature) | Doctoral candidate |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| (place, date) | (signature) | Primary Supervisor |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| (place, date) | (signature) | Secondary Supervisor |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Seen:  (place, date) | Click here to enter text  (signature) | Seen by (a representative from the faculty doctoral degree board or the *Grad. School Science, Medicine and Technology*, OLTECH) |

Doctoral candidate (place, date, signature)