

Preparation and structure of a doctoral thesis

Option 1: Monograph

In a monograph, you comprehensively present your doctoral thesis in German or English in a single complete work.

The usual structure:

1. Introduction to the topic, e.g. presentation of the organisms, definition of hypotheses/questions
2. Material & methods, if necessary structured according to individual work (steps/approaches/questions)
3. Results, possibly structured according to individual work (steps/approaches/questions)
4. Discussion, if necessary conclusion
5. Summary in German and English
6. Bibliography
7. Appendix

Examples:

Brandt, M. 2021: The influence of abiotic factors on the composition of berries, juice and wine in *Vitis vinifera* L. cv. Riesling, OPUS Geisenheim
https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-geisenheim/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/26/file/Dissertation_Brandt.pdf

Hendgen, M. 2021: Beeinflussung der Seneszenz bei Weinreben als Anpassungsstrategie an den Klimawandel, Geisenheimer Berichte Bd. 94, Bibliothek der Hochschule Geisenheim University

Zeng, L. 2021: Drivers and inhibitors of consumer adoption to a new product category in emerging market: the case of wine in China, OPUS Geisenheim.
https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-geisenheim/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/20/file/Thesis_Publication_Zeng.pdf

Laier, M. 2019: Analytical Characterisation and Properties of Innovative and Commercial Oenological Agents Based on Yeasts, Geisenheimer Berichte 91, Bibliothek der Hochschule Geisenheim University

Jung, C. 2012: Strukturen und Erfolgsfaktoren des Weinfachhandels in Deutschland. Geisenheimer-Bericht-Band-69, Bibliothek der Hochschule Geisenheim University

Molitor, D. 2009: Untersuchungen zur Biologie und Bekämpfung der Schwarzfäule (*Guignardia bidwellii*) an Weinreben, Geisenheimer Berichte Bd. 65, Bibliothek der Hochschule Geisenheim University

Variant 2: Cumulative doctoral thesis

In the case of a cumulative thesis, the results of the doctoral project are not summarised in a single work, but partial results are already published in the course of the doctorate in scientific journals in the form of independent texts. These essays and papers, which should be related in a meaningful way, are then combined as individual chapters for the thesis into a collective work and submitted as a dissertation. The accepted or printed papers can be presented in their "original form", i.e. by incorporating a pdf version of the original publication.

The doctoral student's independence must always remain recognizable in this form of dissertation. This also means that the contribution of each author to the respective publication and at the beginning of each individual chapter must usually be identified in the form of a footnote.

A cumulative dissertation is divided into:

1. Summary in German and English
2. General introduction: introduction to the topic, presentation of the organisms, definition of the hypotheses/questions/ short presentation of the individual chapters/papers
3. Paper 1
4. Paper 2
5. Paper 3
6. Conclusion/General Discussion/Perspectives: Summary and discussion of the findings from all three or more papers, derivation of recommendations/conclusions, if necessary taking up and discussing the hypotheses formulated in Chapter 1.
7. References, if necessary only for chapters 2 and 6
8. Appendix

Examples:

Tafel, M. 2021: Investigating the Characteristics and the Economic Impact of Tourism in German Wine Regions, OPUS Geisenheim,
https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-geisenheim/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/18/file/Dissertation_Endfassung_Abgabe.pdf

Dörr, O. 2020: Influence of artificial sunlight from a microwave plasma lamp on morphology and secondary metabolism of horticultural plants, OPUS Geisenheim,
https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-geisenheim/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/12/file/Dissertation_Doerr.pdf

Pabst, E. 2020: Effects of potential EU regulation on mandatory nutrition and ingredient labelling for wine OPUS Geisenheim,
https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-geisenheim/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/25/file/Dissertation_Pabst.pdf

Linck, H. 2019: Diagnosis, Transmission, and Management of Phytoplasmas Infecting Rubus Species, OPUS Geisenheim,
https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-geisenheim/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/10/file/Dissertation_Linck.pdf

Osidacz Williamson, P. 2017: The effect of communication and sensory properties on Chinese consumers' initial and repeated red wine choice
http://search.ror.unisa.edu.au/record/UNISA_ALMA11149726810001831/media/digital/open/9916160611401831/12149726800001831/13149726790001831/pdf

Harter, J. 2016: The role of microorganisms in the mitigation of nitrous oxide emissions from biochar-amended soil, <https://bibliographie.uni-tuebingen.de/xmlui/handle/10900/72610>

Hagemann, N. 2016: The impact of biochar on microbial nitrogen and carbon transformations in soil and aerobic composting of manure, <http://dx.doi.org/10.15496/publikation-16334>

Sylla, J. 2013: Phyllosphere of Organically Grown Strawberries,
https://pub.epsilon.slu.se/10895/1/sylla_j_131112.pdf (without original papers)

Mosner, E. 2012: Habitat distribution and population genetics of riparian Salix species in space and time, <https://d-nb.info/1023128411/34>

Option 3: Monograph consisting of several independent chapters (possibly already published)

This form of dissertation combines the characteristics of a monograph with those of a cumulative dissertation. This is a collection of contributions that have already been published, accepted for publication, submitted or planned for submission as part of a monograph. This means that the structure of the dissertation can be similar to that of a cumulative dissertation, i.e. individual thematically delimited chapters with their own introduction, material & methods, etc. In contrast to cumulative dissertations, however, there are no minimum requirements for the number of publications accepted or submitted. This type of dissertation is therefore particularly suitable if, for example, a paper has already been published

The structure and information regarding the doctoral student's contribution to the individual chapters/papers correspond to the cumulative dissertation.

Examples:

Uzman, D. 2020: Effects of landscape structure and farming type on biodiversity and ecosystem functions in vineyard ecosystems, OPUS Geisenheim,
https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-geisenheim/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/14/file/PhDthesis_DenizUzman.pdf

Bou Nader, K. 2019: Grapevine Age: Impact on Physiology and Berry and Wine Quality, OPUS Geisenheim,
https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-geisenheim/frontdoor/deliver/index/docId/8/file/KhalilBouNader_Thesis_HGU3.pdf

Hirsch, J. 2012: Otorhynchus spp. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) as pests in horticulture: genetics and management options with entomopathogenic fungi,
https://opus.uni-hohenheim.de/volltexte/2012/773/pdf/Dissertation_Jacqueline_Hirsch.pdf

Please check publisher copyright regulations for option 2 und 3!

Information on the simultaneous publication of journal articles in dissertations

a) Use of already published journal articles in dissertation papers

As a rule, there should be no problems with large journal publishers, as long as there is a clear reference to the publication in the corresponding journal. Possibly the journal formatting may not be used for the dissertation. The respective guidelines of the individual publishers should be observed.

Examples:

Elsevier: „The author retains the right to include the journal article, in full or in part, in a thesis or dissertation; ...”

Wiley Blackwell: „Final Published Version. Wiley-Blackwell hereby licenses back to the Contributor the following rights with respect to the final published version of the Contribution: [...]

Re-use in other publications. The right to re-use the final Contribution or parts thereof for any publication authored or edited by the Contributor (excluding journal articles) where such re-used material constitutes less than half of the total material in such publication. In such case, any modifications should be accurately noted.“

Springer: „The Author retains the right to republish the Contribution in any collection consisting solely of the Author's own works without charge and subject only to notifying Springer in writing prior to such publication of the intent to do so and to ensuring that the publication by Springer is properly credited and that the relevant copyright notice is repeated verbatim.”

c) Use of parts of a dissertation for later publication as journal articles

Again, there will usually be no problems, but the conditions of the copyright transfer should always be observed.

Examples:

Elsevier: „Doctoral theses are usually not written in a style suitable for publication in Animal Behaviour. Chapters from theses will therefore normally need to be condensed, reformatted and revised substantially before being submitted as manuscripts. References in journal manuscripts should usually not be cited as exhaustively as they are in doctoral dissertations. Prior to submission, inexperienced authors are especially advised to give a manuscript to friends and colleagues for comment.”

Springer: „Submission of a manuscript implies: that the work described has not been published before (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture, review, or thesis); ...”

It is important for later publications in journals that all copyrights remain with the author when the dissertation is published, as otherwise the chances of the contribution being accepted in a journal may decrease. This means that the following sentence should be included in the contract conditions:

"All other rights for the exploitation of the work remain with the author".