

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREPARATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION

OPTION 1: MONOGRAPH

A monographic dissertation in German or English is a coherent self-contained piece of academic writing.

The usual structure is as follows:

1. Preface: Introduction to the topic, e.g. presentation of the framework and correlations, definition of hypotheses / questioning
2. Material & methods: when necessary, structured according to individual work stages (steps/approaches/questioning)
3. Results: where appropriate, structured according to individual work (steps/ approaches/ questioning)

4. Discussion

While the “Results” section is strictly factual, the discussion is based on analysis and interpretation. It should analyze, explore and contextualize the significance, importance and relevance of the data presented in the results section, e.g. by citing relevant sources. In addition, limitations of the work can be pointed out and recommendations for implementation and future research can be given.

5. Conclusion, if essential:

The conclusion is much shorter than the discussion. It consists of summarizing the research results, thus answering the main research question and giving perspectives based on the overall results.

6. Summary: in German and English
7. Bibliography
8. Appendix

The following examples correspond to the requirements of the examination procedures:

Mengel, F. 2023: Kosten- und Margenstrukturen von Weingütern, OPUS Geisenheim
<https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-eisenheim/frontdoor/index/index/searchtype/latest/docId/63/start/8/rows/10>

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

OPTION 2: CUMULATIVE (PUBLICATION-BASED) DISSERTATION

In a cumulative dissertation, the results of the doctoral project are not summarized and published in one scholarly work, but partial results are already published during the course of the doctorate as independent articles in scientific journals. These essays and papers are then compiled as individual chapters into one contextual work and submitted as the dissertation. In addition to the papers, the doctoral student is required to create an overarching argument that is to be presented in the dissertation's introductory and conclusion chapters.

The accepted or printed papers can be presented in their "original form", i.e. by embedding a pdf version of the original publication. The doctoral student's independence must always remain recognizable in a cumulative dissertation. Consequently, the contribution of each author to the respective publication as well as at the beginning of each individual chapter must be identified (generally by a footnote).

A cumulative dissertation is divided into:

1. Summary in German and English
2. General introduction: introduction to the topic, presentation of the framework and correlations, definition of the hypotheses/ questions and short presentation of the individual chapters/papers
3. **Author contributions (view page 7)**
4. Paper 1
5. Author contributions
6. Paper 2
7. Author contributions
8. Paper 3
9. General discussion of the findings from all three or more papers
The discussion chapter addresses the significance, importance and relevance of the results or findings. These are explained in detail and put into context, e.g. by citing relevant sources.
10. Conclusion/ Perspectives of the findings from all three or more papers and/or recommendations
The conclusion consists of summarizing the results of the work/ investigation, thus answering the main research question and giving perspectives based on the overall results.
11. References, if applicable only for chapters 2 and 9
12. Appendix

The introduction and discussion usually have a combined length of 15-30 pages.

The following examples correspond to the requirements of the examination procedures:

Strack, T. 2023: Comparison of terraced and steep slope vineyards emphasizing the impact of an altered viticultural system regarding physiology, health status and distinctive berry quality parameters of the grapevine, OPUS Geisenheim
<https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-hs-geisenheim/frontdoor/index/index/searchtype/latest/docId/73/start/2/rows/10>

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

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

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 dissertation option 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 differentiated chapters starting with an information about the contribution of the author followed by her/ his own introduction, material & methods, etc.(view last page). In contrast to cumulative dissertations, however, there are no minimum requirements for the number of accepted or submitted publications. 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 those of the cumulative dissertation.

The following examples correspond to the requirements of the examination procedures:

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

For options 2 and 3 please check publisher's copyright regulations!

INFORMATION ON THE SIMULTANEOUS PUBLICATION OF JOURNAL ARTICLES IN DISSERTATIONS

a) Using 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.”

b) Using 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".

c) Classification of “Acta Hort” articles by the International Society for Horticultural Science ISHS

A publication in Acta Hort should clearly be classified under “Conference Proceedings” and not as a “Journal Paper” or even a “peer reviewed journal paper”. Doctoral candidates who are writing a cumulative dissertation can therefore not include an Acta Hort. contribution as one of the three (2 accepted, one submitted) minimum required publications for a cumulative dissertation.

d) MDPI publications

MDPI publications (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute) should be recognizable as such in the application for opening the examination procedures.

It should be noted that publications in journals of this publishing house should not be used exclusively in a cumulative dissertation. The reputation of journals published by the MDPI is the subject of controversial debate within the scientific community.

It is therefore recommended to “diversify” the selection of journals in order to avoid possible difficulties, e.g. when applying for funding, where a list of publications must be submitted.

TEMPLATE FOR AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Template for author contributions:

Chapter x is based on the following peer-reviewed publication:

Mustermann, A., Musterfrau, B., (20xx). Titel. Journal, Volume, pages. <https://doi.org/...>

Please address the following categories for each author:

1. Concept, design and coordination of the study/ analysis including funding acquisition
2. Planning of the experiments and methodology design and development
3. Conducting the experimental work/data collection
4. Conducting the analysis of data
5. Evaluation, visualization and interpretation of results
6. Writing (original draft) of the article
7. Writing (review and editing) of the article

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Examples: Both options are acceptable.

1) A Mustermann carried out field and laboratory work, carried out the statistical analysis and led the writing. B. Musterfrau carried out field and laboratory work and contributed to writing the original draft. xx coordinated the study and contributed to writing, reviewing and editing the article. xx contributed to statistical analysis and to writing. xx coordinated the study and contributed to editing the article. A. Mustermann, B. Musterfrau and xx participated in the design of the study. All authors gave final approval for publication.

2) Alternative option:

Conceptualization: **AB**, CD, EF

Methodology: **AB**, CD, EF

Investigation, data collection: AB

Formal analysis: **AB**, CD

Visualization: **AB**

Funding acquisition: EF

Project administration: EF

Supervision: EF

Writing – original draft: **AB**

Writing – review & editing: **AB**, CD, EF