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Guidance Document: Experience in Doctoral Supervision

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The supervision of a doctorate is essentially characterized by three phases:

1. support and advice during the research phase up to the completion of the doctorate
2. review of the dissertation
3. participation in the disputation/examination

Support and advice during the research phase is of the greatest importance for the success of the doctoral procedure.

Extensive supervisory experience for the supervision of doctoral procedures at PK NRW

The "extensive experience in independent doctoral supervision" required according to Framework Doctoral Degree Regulations § 7 (2) is fulfilled if the assessment and examination have been completed at least once (not necessarily in the same procedure) and at least one doctorate has been supervised until completion of the doctorate. Experience abroad that is comparable to German doctoral procedures will be taken into account. Attending a training course on supervision, assessment and examination is recommended, but cannot replace the above-mentioned experience.

The regulation in the RPO ensures that at least one person in the supervisory team is familiar with all phases and also enables associate professors to gain extensive supervisory experience.

Appropriate supervisory experience for professorial membership of PK NRW

The "appropriate experience in doctoral supervision" required for professorial membership according to Membership Regulations § 3 (3) is generally met if all three phases have been completed at least once (not necessarily in the same procedure). Experience abroad that is comparable to German doctoral procedures is taken into account. Membership is also possible if a doctoral candidate has been supervised at least once for at least two years in the active doctoral phase and proof of training in supervision, assessment and examination can be provided, the scope of which depends on the respective experience. Supervision experience may also have been acquired as an associate professor responsible for supervision.

This last regulation makes it possible for associate professors within the PK NRW to acquire the requirements for membership, as they are excluded from assessment and examination according to the RPO. Otherwise, we would expect the universities to admit this group of people for assessment and examination, even though we ourselves do not.