

## **Guidelines for the preparation of a publication-based dissertation in the Teaching Unit Geoecology of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Potsdam**

A cumulative dissertation is one in which the results of the doctoral thesis are not presented in the form of a continuous publication, but in the form of a collection of several manuscripts of scientific publications.

A cumulative dissertation should be identified as such on the title page.

A cumulative dissertation has at least three original articles (“manuscripts”) that have been accepted for peer review. At least one of these must have already been published or accepted for publication. Of the manuscripts in which the doctoral candidate was significantly involved, at least two must have been written under the leadership of the doctoral candidate.

In the case of several authors, the contribution of the doctoral candidate must be clearly stated. This must be explained on a separate page and also signed by the supervisor.

In the case of experimental studies, the explanatory documents or descriptions of the methods or procedures must be attached to the published articles, unless these are already comprehensively included in the publications.

For cumulative dissertations, the doctoral regulations also apply in full.

A cumulative dissertation must be submitted in bound form in DIN A4 page format and consists of the following parts:

- Cover page
- Table of contents
- List of abbreviations, if applicable
- Introduction (this should refer to all manuscripts and explain the overarching question of the doctoral thesis); overview of the manuscripts with a description of your own contribution to the individual publications
- Manuscripts (or publications)
- Discussion (this concluding discussion refers to all manuscripts and is intended to bring the individual results presented in the individual manuscripts into the context of the overarching research question; to explain how the results contribute to answering the research question and how they fit into the current state of knowledge on the topic); length 5-10 pages each
- Summary (refers to the overarching research question, the key results and their contribution to, or significance for, answering the research question)
- Bibliography for the citations in the introduction and discussion
- Optional appendix, possibly further original data or methods not documented in the manuscripts

The comprehensive introduction and the coherent overall discussion are of particular importance for the assessment of a cumulative dissertation. They must conclusively demonstrate how the manuscripts contribute to broadening scientific knowledge in the subject area of the doctorate.

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