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# UniReport



Goethe-Universität | Frankfurt am Main

Satzungen und Ordnungen

## Regulations of the Goethe Graduate Academy of Life and Natural Sciences (GRADE) at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

According to the determination of the senate on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and the approval of the presidium on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

### § 1 Purpose, Responsibilities, and Structure

(1) These bylaws regulate the organization of the Goethe Graduate Academy of Life and Natural Sciences (GRADE).

(2) The purpose of the GRADE is to work together with the departments of natural sciences and mathematics (departments 11 through 16) within the context of the current doctoral degree regulations to assure a high quality of doctoral student education while making a lasting contribution towards maintaining the university's academic focus.

(3) The responsibilities of the graduate academy include in particular:

- establishing minimum standards for the acceptance of doctoral students in the GRADE, taking the rights of the various departments into consideration;

- establishing a central service centre for all doctoral students in the departments mentioned above, particularly for doctoral students from abroad;

- guaranteeing a uniform and appropriate public portrayal of the post-graduate education in the departments of natural sciences and mathematics;

- assuring a subject-specific education, promoting interdisciplinarity and imparting "transferable skills";

- administrative support of the Graduate Centres (GC) and Graduate Programmes (GP);

- awarding scholarships and grants for outstanding achievements or for particular activities according to specified quality criteria.

(4) The GRADE forms the basis for the structured doctoral student education in the area of natural sciences and mathematics. The GRADE consists of a few middle to long-term GCs (§ 6) as well as many short to medium-term GPs (§ 7).

### § 2 Organs of the Goethe Graduate Academy of Life and Natural Sciences

The organs of the GRADE are the board of directors (§ 3) and the academic advisory board (§ 4). The work of the board of directors and the academic advisory board is assisted by a business office (§ 5).

### § 3 Board of Directors

(1) The GRADE is managed by the board of directors. The board consists of a director (German: Direktor/in), a vice director (German: stellvertretenden Direktor/in), a speaker from each of the GCs, two

doctoral students, and a representative of the junior researchers with doctorate degrees. A vice president and the managing director are advisory members.

(2) The representatives of the doctoral students and the junior researchers with doctorate degrees are elected by the group of doctoral students and the group of junior researchers, respectively. The speakers of the GCs are recommended by the GPs; the GCs and GPs also recommend the director and his/her vice director. The presidium of the university appoints the board of directors. The term of office of the board members is two years. Reappointment is possible.

(3) The board of directors decides in all matters of general and fundamental importance regarding the organization and strategic direction of the GRADE. This includes in particular:

- determining central quality standards in supervision and education in agreement with the departments involved;

- assisting the presidium in establishing interdisciplinarily oriented GCs;

- determining the framework for the education offered;

- determining the framework for the quality criteria for scholarships and grants.

(4) The director (German: Direktor/in) communicates all relevant information to the university community as well as the public outside the university. He or she acts in close collaboration with the managing

director. Once a year, he or she provides the senate with an annual report.

(5) Details are regulated in the GRADE rules of operation.

#### **§ 4 Academic Advisory Board**

(1) The academic advisory board consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of five voting members from varying disciplines who are not university employees. They are recommended by the director and appointed by the presidium. The term of office is four years and reappointment is permitted.

(2) The academic advisory board advises the GRADE board of directors in all significant academic and organisational questions. It is independent in its advisory activity, convenes annually, and compiles its suggestions in the form of a written report.

#### **§ 5 Business Office**

The GRADE is supervised by a business office led by a managing director and his/her second-in-command. The managing director conducts business according to the decisions of the board of directors in close collaboration with the director and assists the academic advisory board. Details are specified in the GRADE rules of operation.

#### **§ 6 Organs and Responsibilities of the Graduate Centres**

(1) The GC board of directors consists of a speaker appointed by the participating programmes and the speaker's second-in-command, the speakers from the participating programmes, and a doctoral student.

(2) The GCs combine thematically related areas. Preferably, the work in the GCs is to be carried out in an interdisciplinary manner. Each GC has its own GPs.

(3) Recommendations for GCs are supported by the departments' academics, developed by the GRADE

board of directors, and lastly enacted by the presidium. In contrast to the GPs, the GCs have a longer-term perspective. They reflect the university's main areas of research.

(4) Details are regulated in the Graduate Centres' own bylaws.

#### **§ 7 Organs and Responsibilities of the Graduate Programmes**

The GPs are responsible for the subject-specific education of the doctoral students. In contrast to the GCs, the GPs are organized to be short-term, depending on the sponsored third-party funding or project duration.

#### **§ 8 Evaluation**

The graduate academy is evaluated every five years by an external evaluation committee. The presidium reports the results of the evaluation to the university senate.

#### **§ 9 Provisional Regulation**

In the foundation phase of the GRADE, the director (German: Direktor/in) and his/her vice director (German: stellvertretenden Direktor/in) are appointed by the presidium. The GC speakers are appointed by the director and his/her vice director.

#### **§ 10 Enactment**

These bylaws come into effect on the day after they are published.

Please note that this English version is only a translation of the original German regulation which you will find on <http://www.satzung.uni-frankfurt.de/index.html>.

#### **Impressum**

UniReport Satzungen und Ordnungen erscheint unregelmäßig und anlassbezogen als Sonderausgabe des UniReport. Die Auflage wird für jede Ausgabe separat festgesetzt.

Herausgeber Der Präsident der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main