

Regulations of the PhD Programme in Environmental Informatics (PEI)

This English translation has no legal binding. The German regulations are obligatory in all instances.

Approved by the Board of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science on 02 Sept., 2005. Approved by the Board of the Centre for Informatics on 31 Aug., 2005.

The PhD programme in environmental informatics of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science has the international title "PhD Programme in Environmental Informatics" (acronym: PEI). It can confer the German title of *Doktor der Naturwissenschaften (Doctor rerum naturalium)*, abbreviated as Dr. rer. nat., or the English equivalent doctor of philosophy (scientific division), abbreviated as PhD (*philosophiae doctor*).

§ 1 Aims and Area of Validity

PEI is aimed at providing a PhD education in environmental informatics with a high level of mandatory standards.

PEI is an interdisciplinary PhD programme of the Mathematics and Natural Sciences PhD College at the Georg-August University Göttingen (acronym: GAUSS).

The programme is governed by the joint doctoral degree regulations of the mathematics and natural sciences faculties of the GAUSS. In the amendment of § 2 section 1 of the doctoral degree regulations, admission to the PhD programme requires the successful completion of a degree course of studies in the natural sciences and mathematics or of one in either the fields of agriculture or forestry that has an emphasis on informatics and the natural sciences.

§ 2 Participating Institutions

Taking part in PEI are institutions involved in PhD education in informatics (core computer science and applied informatics). Other institutions can be included in PEI on application to the PEI Management Board. Inclusion in PEI does not have any effect on the participation in other PhD programmes. PEI membership ceases when the leader of an institution sends a letter tendering its withdrawal from the programme to the PEI Management Board. At the time of the programme's foundation, the following institutions became PEI members:

- The Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Sciences
- The Centre for Informatics
- The faculties and institutions involved in the bioinformatics, ecoinformatics and geoinformatics MSc. programmes at GAUSS.

§ 3 Duties and Responsibilities

PEI has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Promotion of new generations of scientists.
- Coordination of course contents in the PEI institutions.
- The setting up and maintenance of a data bank with relevant data about the courses of studies, doctoral students, dissertation topics, PEI supervisory teams, duration of dissertation, etc.
- Coordination and support of research projects in interfaces and applications in the field of informatics.
- Acquisition and administration of interdisciplinary third-party-funded projects.
- Support of its members in international co-operations (e.g. in cotutelle/joint/double-badged doctoral agreements).

§ 4 Membership

The authorised examiners in the participating institutions are members of PEI.

Other individuals can be given PEI membership by the PEI Management Board in agreement with the GAUSS Board of Directors, if they are proposed by the PEI speaker. This type of membership is of limited duration, though it can be prolonged in agreement with the GAUSS Board of Directors.

General meetings are to be called by the PEI Speaker at least once a year or more frequently if the majority of the members call for this.

PEI membership expires when a member tenders his/her withdrawal in writing to the PEI Management Board.

§ 5 Management Board

The PEI is administered by a management board composed of the following:

- Dean of Students responsible for informatics in the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, *ex officio*.
- The Speaker for the Centre for Informatics, *ex officio*.
- Another authorised examiner and member of the Centre for Informatics nominated by the Centre for Informatics.

The duration of office of the *ex officio* members of the PEI Management Board is predetermined according to their office; the other types of membership last for two years.

The members of the PEI Management Board vote for a speaker from amongst their number, whose term of office is two years. The speaker chairs the board meetings.

The Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science and the leaders of the three subsidiary programmes (Bioinformatics, Ecoinformatics and Geoinformatics) take part in the board meetings in an advisory position.

The board meetings occur at least once a semester.

§ 6 Administration

The review of the students' applications is undertaken by the institutions belonging to PEI.

The selection of the doctoral students is undertaken by the PEI Management Board according to standard procedures. With respect to all dissertation projects in the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, it should be ensured that a consent of supervision is present and that the funding has been assured. In doubtful cases, the PEI Management Board will make a decision based on the doctoral degree regulations.

The Dean's Office arranges for the assessment of each dissertation project, candidate by candidate, after one year or ensures that such an assessment has been made. This task is undertaken by the Centre for Informatics.

The data bank mentioned in §3 has been set up and is administrated by the Centre for Informatics.

The administration of the examinations has been delegated to the Central Examination Office [*Prüfungsamt*] responsible for the mathematics and natural sciences faculties.

§ 7 Ratification

These regulations will come into force once they have been approved by the Board of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science.