

Minimum formal requirements for a cumulative dissertation:

The cumulative dissertation is intended to encourage doctoral candidates to make the results of their work available to the scientific public at an early stage. Here, the conditions are defined under which scientific articles can be reviewed as written doctoral work instead of a monographic dissertation. The evaluation of the overall performance in terms of content remains unchanged in the sense of the doctoral regulations.

- (1) As can be seen from the doctoral regulations, all articles must belong to the doctoral topic.
- (2) The doctoral candidate must submit the articles together with a framework ("envelope" with the introduction to the topic and an abstract).
- (3) Articles must be submitted to internationally recognized journals (peer-reviewed; the citation catalogues SCI, SSCI and Scopus as well as the official list of the VGDH* apply). The PhD committee may approve other journals.
- (4) A point system applies:
 - a. First author OR one equal (shared) first authorship = 1 point
 - b. Co-author with significant contribution = 0.5 points
 - c. simple co-author = 0.25 points
- (5) Notes on scoring:
 - a. The doctoral candidate must achieve a total of at least 2.5 points. Thereby
 - i. articles worth at least 1 point must have been printed or accepted for printing (purely digitally published journals according to (3) also apply).
 - ii. at least one article with first authorship must deal with core aspects of the dissertation topic.
 - b. A first author is a person who has contributed at least 50 % to an article. In the case of equal (shared) first authorship, this share is lower. However, shared first authorship means a leading participation in the conception, execution, analysis and writing of the published work, which must be explained separately. Significant co-authorship means a share of at least 30%.
 - c. The doctoral candidate's own contribution to each article must be declared by him/herself (in terms of content and %) and confirmed by the supervisor. If these assessments differ significantly, the doctoral candidate himself/herself should obtain the assessment of his/her share from the co-authors involved
 - d. In case of conflict, the doctoral committee decides.
- (6) Prior to submission of the cumulative dissertation, the submitted articles as well as the explanations required under point 5 must be submitted to the doctoral committee. With regard to the printing status, point (5)a.i. of the guideline is to be observed in particular.
- (7) The doctoral committee decides whether the submitted work according to (2) meets the formal requirements for a cumulative dissertation. It gives reasons for this decision and informs the candidate of it.

** Extract from the minutes of the meeting of the VGDH Advisory Board of 22.06.2007*

After lengthy deliberation, the Advisory Board considers the following journals to be relevant in the sense of scientifically pertinent (in addition to those already listed in the citation catalogues), taking into account the above aspects:

- Berichte zur Deutschen Landeskunde*
- Die Erde***
- Erdkunde***
- Geographica Helvetica*
- Geographische Zeitschrift***
- Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Geographischen Gesellschaft***
- Raumforschung und Raumordnung*

- Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie (Annals of Geomorphology) einschl. der Suppl.-Bände**
- Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftsgeographie

***in the meantime or since a long time included in the SCI*

It should be noted that this is a dynamic list that may be subject to change. All journals ranked in SCI (Science Citation Index), SSCI (Social Science Citation Index) or Scopus are automatically recognized.

Supplement/change in journal series for a cumulative dissertation dated 01.07.2015

The list of recognized journals (paragraph 3) of the formal minimum requirements for a cumulative dissertation of 31.01.2008 (FBR resolution of 6.2.2008) is supplemented with the journal series "Frontiers Journals" <http://www.frontiersin.org/AboutFrontiers.aspx?stage=journalseries>.

Furthermore, the following journals are admitted:

- Journal of Water Resource and Protection
- Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt
- Archäologische Informationen
- Prähistorische Zeitschrift

Supplement/change in journal series for a cumulative dissertation dated 07.07.2021

The list of recognized journals (paragraph 3) of the formal minimum requirements for a cumulative dissertation of 31.01.2008 (FBR resolution of 6.2.2008) is supplemented with the journal "GW-Unterricht".

Supplement/change in journal series for a cumulative dissertation dated 08.11.2023

The list of recognized journals (paragraph 3) of the formal minimum requirements for a cumulative dissertation of 31.01.2008 (FBR resolution of 6.2.2008) is supplemented with the journal "Environmental Data Science" of the Cambridge University press.