SWISS TCM UNI
瑞士中医药大学

Study programs

- Doctor / PhD in TCM

This document is based on the study regulations for the Bachelor's, Master's/Master's+ and Doctor/PhD degree programs in TCM.

(For the sake of simplicity, the masculine form is used throughout the text; the feminine form is always included).

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I. General provisions

§1 Aim and form

[1] SWISS TCM UNI (STU) offers the degree programmes Doctor (Dr.) and Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) in TCM at the third cycle of studies in accordance with the Qualifications Framework for the Swiss Higher Education Area (nqf.ch-HS). This is a scientifically orientated path in which demanding research work in the field of basic and clinical research has to be carried out and which is completed with the title "Dr./PhD".

[2] Doctoral candidates at SWISS TCM UNI work at the interface between teaching and research. The core of the doctorate is the acquisition of scientific competence through a personal and original contribution to research. The acquisition of specialist, methodological and transversal knowledge and skills as well as scientific socialization and networking are central objectives of the doctorate.

[3] Interdisciplinary work should be promoted across institutional structures within the framework of the doctorate. This applies both between several universities (inter-university) and between several areas of a university (inter-institutional). The SWISS TCM UNI is involved in corresponding programs and activities that harmonize with its own strategy and planning.

[4] The independent doctorate is the classic form of doctorate and allows you to organize the time available to a high degree individually. It therefore requires a particularly high degree of independence and self-motivation.

§2 Indicative and maximum period of study and enrollment

[1] The duration of the doctorate is 3 to 5 years. The doctoral period may not last longer than 6 years without a valid reason and corresponding approval by the Promotion Committee, whereby the start of employment as a doctoral candidate or the date of registration as well as the date of registration for the doctoral degree are decisive as cut-off dates.

[2] The doctoral candidate must be enrolled at SWISS TCM UNI without interruption during the course of the program.

§3 Subject of the doctorate

3.1 Structure of the doctoral programs

[1] The structure of the Doctor / PhD programs is described below.

Doctor (Dr.) / Philosophiae Doctor / Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	
Course	Natural science and specialist modules ⩾ 20 ECTS
Dissertation	Independent scientific work
Topics	Basic or/and clinical research
Scientific activities	Scientific seminars, congresses, writing scientific reports, clinical activities
Doctoral colloquium	Dissertation defense

[2] Doctoral candidates must continue their education in their chosen subject area by attending compulsory and elective modules, which are specified individually in the doctoral agreement. At least 20 ECTS credits must be obtained through these modules.

[3] During the entire course of study, the doctoral candidate must submit certificates once a year for all courses, seminars, the clinical section, scientific activities and publications completed, as well as the previous work for the dissertation. These certificates must be submitted to the Promotion Committee and approved by the Promotion Supervisor.

3.2 Subject of the degree program

The subject to which the dissertation belongs is considered the main subject. The following can be chosen as the main subject:

[1] Human science

[2] Health culture

[3] History and literature

[4] Tuina acupressure

[5] Acupuncture

[6] Pharmaceuticals

[7] Internal medicine

[8] Gynecology

[9] Yangshen and rehabilitation

3.3 Choice of language for the dissertation

The dissertation languages are the national languages of Switzerland, English or Chinese (in accordance with the "Study Regulations for the Bachelor Master Master+ Doctor and PhD degree programs" §1.5 Language of instruction). The language choice made at the beginning must be retained for the entire dissertation.

§4 Admission requirements

4.1 Prerequisites for admission to the degree program

Admission to the programme is subject to the following requirements:

[1] Prior to the commencement of the doctoral project, the consent of a Promotion Supervisor must be obtained. For this purpose, the “Doctoral Agreement for the Preparation of a Doctoral Thesis at STU” must be concluded. The Promotion Supervisor must hold a valid doctoral supervision authorisation at STU or be deemed equivalent thereto.

[2] The applicant holds a Master’s degree from a university or an equivalent university-level institution in a field relevant to the doctoral programme.

[3] In duly justified exceptional cases, applicants without a university Master’s degree may be admitted provided that they can demonstrate, through additional academic qualifications and relevant research experience, a level of academic competence equivalent to that of a university Master’s qualification.

[4] There is no legal entitlement to admission to the doctoral programme.

[5] The decision on admission is taken on a case-by-case basis by the University Management.

4.2 Documents for admission to the degree program

A complete application must include the following documents in addition to the application form:

[1] complete proof of previous education with the relevant documents (original or officially certified copy)

[2] a passport photo

[3] proof of payment of the application fee

[4] a current extract from the criminal record or an equivalent document

[5] a medical certificate (see document “Medical certificate – template”), where applicable

[6] A personal assessment of the current situation with regard to career-relevant skills and career motivation

[7] other documents requested in individual cases.

[8] Further information can be found in the admission regulations of SWISS TCM UNI, §3.2 Documents.

§5 Supervision of the dissertation

[1] The Promotion Committee accompanies the dissertation project in terms of subject matter and content. It examines and assesses the dissertation project, monitors its progress, and recommends to the responsible body that the dissertation be admitted for examination. The actual execution of the examination procedure is the responsibility of the Doctoral Examination Committee.

[2] The decision-making authority regarding admission, continuation, or termination of the doctoral program lies with the University Management..

[3] The Promotion Supervisor may belong to the Promotion Committee and sits on the Doctoral Examination Committee without voting rights. The Promotion Committee is proposed by the doctoral candidate together with the Promotion Supervisor. The final composition is confirmed by the Promotion and Examination Committee

5.1 Requirements for the Promotion Supervisor

[1] As a rule, the Promotion Supervisor should have the right to award doctorates at SWISS TCM UNI or acquire the right to award doctorates before the doctoral candidate is admitted.

[2] The Promotion Supervisor can also be from outside SWISS TCM UNI or from another university:

[2.1] Active and retired professors

[2.2] Private lecturers

[3] In individual cases, academic staff can also be Promotion Supervisors. If a person from this group has been accepted as a habilitation candidate or has not (yet) been accepted as a habilitation candidate, they can apply for a doctoral authorization, which is decided on an individual basis by the university management. The application for such exceptional cases must be submitted to the university management. The application must include the following information:

[3.1] a confirmation issued by the head of the relevant department that the person has been assigned the independent performance of research and teaching duties

[3.2] proof that they have taught the examination subject independently for at least one year at a university

[3.3] proof that they have been accepted as a habilitation candidate or

[3.4] if you have not yet been accepted as a habilitation candidate, a good justification for SWISS TCM UNI's decision not to accept you as a habilitation candidate

[3.5] for persons working part-time: additional separate justification of the special qualification.

[4] Further information can be found in the document "Regulations on the granting and withdrawal of the right to award doctorates for professors at SWISS TCM UNI".

5.2 Supervision by the Promotion Supervisor

[1] Prior to the commencement of the PhD program, the doctoral candidate is assigned to a specific PhD project and a Promotion Supervisor. The doctoral agreement is concluded, and the dissertation topic is formally defined and approved before the start of the project.

[2] The composition of the doctoral program must be agreed and approved between the Promotion Supervisor and the doctoral candidate.

[3] The doctoral candidate receives professional supervision in regular meetings. The Promotion Supervisor receives regular feedback from the doctoral candidate on the quality and progress of the academic work.

[4] If there are disagreements between the doctoral candidate and the Promotion Supervisor, the Promotion Committee is involved as an arbitration body.

5.3 Promotion Committee (Composition and Responsibilities)

[1] At the beginning of the dissertation project, the doctoral candidate together with the Promotion Supervisor proposes a Promotion Committee consisting of at least two members. The members of the Promotion Committee must hold internal doctoral authorization at STU.

[2] The Promotion Committee shall consist of at least:

[2.1] A scientist (independent group leader or higher) from the same research field who is familiar with the subject area of the PhD project

[2 2] A (senior) scientist from a different research field whose expertise lies outside the main subject area but within the broader field of TCM

[3] The Promotion Committee shall evaluate and supervise the progress of the PhD project at regular intervals to ensure that defined milestones are achieved and that timely completion of the PhD is feasible.

[4] During the doctoral procedure, progress meetings generally take place at least once a year between the doctoral candidate, the Promotion Supervisor, and the Promotion Committee. These meetings serve the structured review of the dissertation project as well as the quality assurance of the doctoral progress. The Promotion Committee ensures that the doctoral candidate has the opportunity for a confidential conversation without the presence of the Promotion Supervisor if needed. Minutes must be taken of each meeting, which are to be signed off by the chairperson of the Promotion Committee and submitted to the responsible office no later than one year after the previous meeting. The first follow-up meeting takes place no later than one year after approval of the dissertation application..

[5] Based on the annual evaluation, the Promotion Committee decides whether the dissertation project should be continued as planned, adjusted in terms of content, or terminated in justified exceptional cases. The doctoral candidate and the Promotion Supervisor shall be heard in this process. .

5.4 Progress Meetings between the doctoral candidate, Promotion Supervisor and Promotion Committee

[1] The doctoral candidate's educational and research objectives are formulated for one year at a time, discussed annually and revised. In addition, the doctoral candidate is entitled to regular meetings with the Promotion Supervisor, in which the progress of the dissertation and any problems are discussed.

[2] In addition, the Promotion Supervisor, the doctoral candidate and the Promotion Committee meet annually for a progress meeting during the course of study. The first meeting between the doctoral candidate and Promotion Supervisor takes place no later than six months after the start of the program (research plan presentation), followed by meetings including the promotion committee at the end of each doctoral year.

[3] At the annual meetings with the Promotion Supervisor, the following topics, among others, are discussed with the doctoral candidate:

[3.1] Target agreements for the next assessment period

[3.2] Course and clinical section

[3.3] Scientific activities

[3.4] Dissertation

[3.5] Gender equality and family issues.

[4] The last meeting between the doctoral candidate and the Promotion Supervisor is also the final meeting before the dissertation is submitted.

§6 Doctoral agreement for the preparation of a doctoral thesis

6.1 Framework and objectives of the doctoral agreement

[1] The doctoral agreement sets out the framework conditions (form and duration of the doctorate, training, research and supervision objectives), eventually the clinical section and the intended academic achievements (academic activities and publications) to ensure optimal support for doctoral candidates. The doctoral agreement contains the necessary information that must be included in every doctoral agreement.

[2] In addition to individual supervision, formal training objectives support the professional competence as well as the research and publication work of the doctoral candidates. The Promotion Supervisors are free to credit such educational achievements as part of the degree program at SWISS TCM UNI.

[3] Doctoral candidates are expected to document the results of their dissertation project in writing on an ongoing basis with the support of their Promotion Supervisor, present them at national and international specialist conferences and prepare them for publication in specialist journals or monographs. In the case of collaborations, the dissertation must be recognized as an independent scientific achievement of the doctoral candidate.

[4] The doctoral agreement can be adapted to the academic work over time. This agreement is an aid and orientation tool that can be used to achieve the doctoral level in the best possible way.

6.2 Deadline and approval of the doctoral agreement

[1] The doctoral agreement, including the outline of the doctoral program, must be concluded and signed by the doctoral candidate and the Promotion Supervisor prior to the commencement of the PhD project . The signed doctoral agreement must be submitted to the Rector of SWISS TCM UNI before the official start of the doctoral studies.

[2] Within six months after the date of the doctoral agreement, the doctoral candidate shall submit a detailed research plan. The research plan must be presented in front of the Promotion Supervisor. The promotion committee should be informed of the approved research plan, though full convening is not required for this preliminary meeting.

[3] If the Promotion Committee deems the doctoral program mentioned in paragraph 1 to be "unsatisfactory", the doctoral candidate must revise the doctoral program within a period of 3 months and resubmit it to the Promotion Committee.

[4] Further information can be found in the template "Doctoral agreement for the preparation of a doctoral thesis".

§7 Course, clinical section, publications and scientific activity

7.1 Course and compulsory readings

[1] Each doctoral candidate works out an individual doctoral program together with the Promotion Supervisor of the dissertation, which is part of the doctoral agreement. The acquisition of ECTS credits is determined by the respective course in the doctoral program (see also point 3.1 Structure of the doctoral programs).

[2] In the Dr./PhD in TCM degree programme, students must complete scientific and specialist modules amounting to at least 20 ECTS credits.

[3] ECTS credits can be acquired through courses offered by SWISS TCM UNI as well as through external courses. If the latter is the case, this must be recorded as part of the doctoral program in a doctoral agreement, which must be approved by the Promotion Committee.

[4] ECTS credits that are earned alongside the doctoral program and are equivalent to it can be credited to a maximum of one third of the minimum number of credits for modules of the doctoral program if a corresponding application is submitted. Cooperation agreements with other universities may constitute exceptions to credit transfer.
[5] The Promotion Supervisor checks whether the credits earned are identical to the performance requirements of the doctoral program and meet all SWISS TCM UNI requirements.

7.2 Clinical section

The doctoral candidate may participate in clinical research work, summarize case studies and evaluate this work. This work is assessed by the Promotion Supervisor.

7.3 Preparation and publication of publications

In the case of a cumulative dissertation, the doctoral candidate is required to write at least two scientific papers. At least one of these papers must have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, and at least one additional paper must have been submitted for publication to a peer-reviewed journal.

7.4 Scientific activities

The doctoral candidate must actively participate in scientific seminars or congresses and contribute to scientific reports. Independently written scientific reports can be combined with the doctoral thesis.

II Dissertation

§8 Requirements for the dissertation

[1] The topic and structure of the dissertation must meet general university standards. The dissertation should make an independent, comprehensive and thorough research contribution to a topic that has not yet been worked on or a convincing correction of the results of a topic that has already been dealt with.
[2] The dissertation is a scientific research paper written by the doctoral candidate without any help from third parties during the course of study and demonstrates that the doctoral candidate can work scientifically and has sufficient knowledge in the relevant subject area.
[3] The dissertation must clearly recognize the academic achievement, the results and the doctoral candidate's own contribution. The argumentation and methodology must be in line with the current state of research. Quotations as well as content-related references are to be identified as such with precise references.

§9 Permitted formats of the dissertation

[1] The dissertation consists of a monograph or a cumulative dissertation.
[1.1] Monograph: The monograph consists of a general introduction and a discussion. It may include a collection of publications that have been published or accepted for publication. Co-authorships and works that have already been submitted for the acquisition of an academic degree are excluded.
[1.2] Cumulative dissertation:
a) At least two papers must be submitted as the sole, first or main author, which address an overarching issue and are internally consistent.
b) In addition to the papers, an introduction and a concluding discussion or synopsis must be written. This must explain the scientific context and the added value of the compilation.

c) If the cumulative dissertation contains contributions from several authors, the respective contribution to each contribution must be indicated by a declaration of independence and attached to the dissertation as a separate text.

d) The authors must confirm to the SWISS TCM UNI by means of a self-declaration that any rights to data among the authors have been clarified.

e) The corresponding appendix explains the subject-specific requirements.

f) If the subject-specific requirements are met, contributions that have not yet been submitted for publication may also be included in a cumulative dissertation.

[2] At least one publication must be an article with first authorship in an international scientific journal.

[3] If a dissertation is based on a Master's thesis, both the Master's thesis and the dissertation must be submitted as independent and self-contained works. Both the Master's thesis and the dissertation must comply with all regulations.

[4] Further information can be found in the document "Regulations on the forms of dissertations at SWISS TCM UNI".

§10 Condition for submitting the dissertation

[1] The dissertation must be started and completed at the SWISS TCM UNI.

[2] If a dissertation is started at SWISS TCM UNI but not completed there, the doctoral candidate can only submit the dissertation to SWISS TCM UNI if an application has been submitted to a department head at SWISS TCM UNI and the following conditions have been met:

[2.1] The institution in which the doctoral candidate completes his/her dissertation must confirm in writing to SWISS TCM UNI that the proper completion and publication of the dissertation is guaranteed.

[2.2] The host institution must confirm in writing to STU that access will be granted to the members of the Promotion Committee to monitor the research work as part of quality assurance. The Doctoral Examination Committee is exclusively responsible for the assessment of the submitted dissertation and the oral examination..

[2.3] It must also be confirmed in writing that the Promotion Supervisor agrees that the PhD can be successfully completed under his/her supervision.

III Doctoral degree

§11 Dissertation

11.0 Doctoral Examination Committee (Composition and Responsibilities)

[1] For the examination of the dissertation and the conduct of the doctoral colloquium, a Doctoral Examination Committee shall be appointed.

[2] The Doctoral Examination Committee consists of at least three members.

[3] At least one member of the Doctoral Examination Committee must hold external doctoral authorization from another university or an equivalent higher education institution.

[4] The Doctoral Examination Committee reviews and assesses the dissertation, conducts the doctoral colloquium, assigns grades, and makes binding decisions regarding pass or fail as well as any additional conditions.

11.1 Submission of the dissertation

[1] The student must submit a written application for assessment of the dissertation to SWISS TCM UNI. The application deadlines set by SWISS TCM UNI must be adhered to. Late or incomplete applications cannot be considered.

[2] The following documents must be attached to the application for assessment of the dissertation:

[2.1] the doctoral application form signed by the Promotion Supervisor

[2.2] the expert reports sealed in an envelope

[2.3] a printout of the dissertation

[2.4] proof of the ECTS credits earned by the doctoral candidate in accordance with the doctoral agreement

[2.5] a written and signed declaration with the following wording: "I declare that I have written the dissertation [...] only with the help indicated therein and that I have not submitted it to any other college or university." In the case of a cotutelle, the declaration reads: "I declare that I wrote the dissertation [...] only with the help specified therein and have not submitted it to any other higher education institution or university apart from the one specified in the contract."

[3] Once the application for assessment of the dissertation has been submitted, the Promotion Committee must send a written statement to STU within two weeks regarding the admission of the dissertation for examination. The assessment by the Doctoral Examination Committee can only take place after this statement has been submitted..

11.2 Assessment of the dissertation

[1] The dissertation must be accepted by the Doctoral Examination Committee. Acceptance is a prerequisite for admission to the doctoral colloquium.

[2] Each member of the Doctoral Examination Committee assesses and evaluates the dissertation individually with a grade according to the 2.301-R-O1-L1 Guideline for Studies in the BSc, MSc, Dr, and PhD Programs_EN, Section V. Assessment of Academic Performance. Following this assessment, a decision is made on the acceptance or rejection of the dissertation.

[3] If the dissertation shows deficiencies that must and can be remedied, the dissertation can be returned to the doctoral candidate twice for revision together with conditions. These conditions are added to the "Dissertation report"; the Promotion Supervisor checks the conditions. The dissertation will only be published once all conditions have been fulfilled.

[4] If the dissertation receives an "unsatisfactory" grade from a member of the Doctoral Examination Committee, the Doctoral Examination Committee may request an additional expert opinion before making a decision on the acceptance or rejection of the dissertation.

[5] If the grades assigned by the members of the Doctoral Examination Committee differ by a whole grade or more, an additional expert opinion must be obtained before a decision is made on admission to the doctoral colloquium.

[6] If the Doctoral Examination Committee approves the dissertation, it is deemed accepted.

[7] A revised dissertation is treated as a first submission in the assessment.

[8] If a revised dissertation is again assessed as "unsatisfactory" or "failed", this will result in de-registration from the degree program.

[9] If the Doctoral Examination Committee detects fraud in the dissertation (e.g. if the dissertation was written by a third party, incomplete or unmarked citations, falsification of research results, or comparable violations) or recognizes serious deficiencies in the execution of the research work, the dissertation will be assessed with a grade of 1, i.e., as "failed".. Any diplomas or titles already awarded will be withdrawn or revoked if an act of fraud is discovered at a later date..

[10] The expert opinion is prepared by the Promotion Supervisor and the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee.

[11] The doctoral candidate may lodge an appeal against the assessment of the dissertation in writing with the Appeals Committee within 30 days of notification of the assessment decision..

§12 Doctoral colloquium

12.1 Implementation of the doctoral colloquium

[1] If the dissertation is accepted by the Doctoral Examination Committee, the Committee simultaneously forwards the admission to the doctoral colloquium to the head of the department. The doctoral colloquium must be completed within 6 months. If this deadline cannot be met, a reasoned statement must be submitted to the Doctoral Examination Committee. If valid reasons exist, the Committee may grant an exception in individual cases.

[2] The purpose and objective of the doctoral colloquium is, on the one hand, to enable the doctoral candidate to verbally present and discuss scientific problems;, on the other hand, to prove that the dissertation and the scientific results discussed therein were actually developed by the doctoral candidate him/herself.

[3] The doctoral colloquium is public and lasts 45 minutes. Upon application to the Doctoral Examination Committee, the public may be excluded. It consists of a examination by the Doctoral Examination Committee and the presentation of the dissertation by the doctoral candidate.

[4] Following the doctoral colloquium, the Doctoral Examination Committee decides on the assessment of the colloquium as well as on any conditions.

[5] The presentation of the dissertation by the doctoral candidate comprises 3 parts:

[5.1] the public presentation of the research results of the dissertation

[5.2] the public discussion of the dissertation following the public presentation

[5.3] the non-public discussion of the dissertation with the Doctoral Examination Committee.

[6] The discussions relate to the content, scientific aspects and processing of the research work as well as to teaching-related knowledge acquired during the course of study.

[7] The examination record must be signed by all examiners. All improvements that need to be made to the dissertation are listed in this protocol. Improvements that are not listed in the protocol are not permitted. Once all agreed improvements to the dissertation have been made, the dissertation must be submitted to the Promotion Supervisor for examination.

12.2 Assessment of the doctoral colloquium

[1] The doctoral colloquium is assessed with a grade and evaluated overall as "passed" or "failed".

[2] The overall rating of the dissertation is determined as follows:

[2.1] the calculated average grade of the dissertation with double weighting

[2.2] the grade of the doctoral colloquium.

[3] In case of failure, the doctoral colloquium can be repeated once within 6 months.

[4] Failure to pass the three repeat examinations will result in de-registration from the degree program.

IV. Promotion

§13 Provisional doctorate and vow

[1] After the doctoral colloquium has been passed, the chairperson of the examination shall award the provisional doctorate and administer the vow to the candidate.

[2] The doctoral formula reads: "After you have passed the doctoral colloquium with the grade ... the SWISS TCM UNI will confer on you the title of Doctor/PhD, provided that you fulfill the remaining obligations."

[3] The vow reads: "As Deputy Rector, I ask you to promise and vow that you will always pursue academic work honestly and responsibly, that you will respect it as a serious task and that you will always act with conscientious thoroughness and impartial objectivity if your future work places you in the service of science." The candidate replies: "I promise and vow to do so."

[4] The provisional doctorate only becomes a legally binding full doctorate after publication of the dissertation - with any changes prescribed in the examination protocol - and the issue of the doctoral certificate in accordance with §16 Doctoral certificate and title. The provisional doctorate entitles the holder to use the title "Dr./PhD designatus/designata".

§14 Return of files and submission of the confirmation of passing the doctoral colloquium

[1] If the doctoral candidate has successfully passed the doctoral colloquium, he/she will receive the dissertation, a copy of the provisions for printing the dissertation, a diploma supplement, a certificate and a confirmation that the doctoral colloquium has been passed, which contains the following information:

[1.1] the title of the dissertation

[1.2] ECTS credits earned in the degree program

[1.3] If applicable, details of the doctoral program completed.

[2] All other documents remain with SWISS TCM UNI.

§15 Publication and deposit copies

[1] Each dissertation must be submitted to SWISS TCM UNI within 12 months of the doctoral colloquium in the form and number specified by SWISS TCM UNI.

[2] An extension of the deadline may be granted in exceptional cases if an application is submitted to the management of SWISS TCM UNI.

[3] If the dissertation is not submitted to SWISS TCM UNI by the specified deadline (see[1] and[2]), the requirements for the doctorate are deemed not to have been met and the doctoral candidate may no longer use the title "Dr. des." or “PhD des.”.

§16 Doctoral certificate and title

[1] Upon successful submission of the dissertation in accordance with §15, and if §14 Return of files and submission of the confirmation of passing the doctoral colloquium have been fulfilled, the university management of SWISS TCM UNI shall authorize the conferral of the degree in writing.

[2] Upon this authorization, the ordinary doctorate comes into force and the doctoral candidate receives a doctoral certificate from SWISS TCM UNI. This certificate contains the following information:

[2.1] the name of SWISS TCM UNI and the acting rector

[2.2] the name and signature of the head of department at the time the certificate is issued

[2.3] the name of the doctoral candidate

[2.4] the academic degree awarded

[2.5] the title of the dissertation

[2.6] the date of the doctoral colloquium, which is considered the date of the doctorate

[2.7] the distinction of a doctorate.

[3] The certificate is presented to the doctoral candidate after 6 weeks at the latest. Upon successful completion of the doctoral programme, STU confers the academic degree of Doctor (Dr.) or Philosophiae Doctor (PhD). Both degrees are equivalent and are assigned to the same qualification level.

§17 Honorary doctorate / Doctores honoris causa

[1] SWISS TCM UNI can award an honorary doctorate with the title "honoris causa" to outstanding personalities in the field of science or healthcare. A head of department must submit an application with sufficient justification to the university management. The university management decides on the award.
[2] The university management of SWISS TCM UNI may award an honorary doctorate with the title "honoris causa" to persons who have rendered outstanding services to the promotion of TCM.
[3] Further provisions on honorary doctorates can be found in the regulations for honorary doctorates.

§18 Unfair conduct

[1] If SWISS TCM UNI has evidence that the doctoral candidate has submitted the doctoral colloquium or the dissertation in a dishonest manner, SWISS TCM UNI will decide whether to declare the doctoral procedure null and void. During this time, the doctoral procedure is interrupted and the doctoral candidate can comment on the charges.
[2] If the SWISS TCM UNI determines that the doctoral candidate is guilty beyond doubt, the doctoral procedure is terminated and the doctorate is assessed as "failed".
[3] If the doctoral candidate already holds the title "Dr." or "PhD", SWISS TCM UNI is entitled to withdraw this title.

§19 Confidentiality

The exchange of scientific data and results between different institutes is important for the dissertation. In order to ensure that this knowledge does not reach third parties, the doctoral candidate is obliged to treat all data and results as strictly confidential. The confidentiality obligation is lifted as soon as the dissertation has been published. Data and results that could have a negative impact on SWISS TCM UNI or other participating institutes may not be used. Likewise, individual data and results may not be published prematurely, so that the right to protection of the intellectual property of SWISS TCM UNI or other participating institutes is guaranteed.

V. Transitional and final provisions, entry into force

§20 Transitional and final provisions

[1] This document is binding for all doctoral candidates at SWISS TCM UNI.
[2] In cases of hardship, deviating regulations may be made by the university management, insofar as this lies within its area of responsibility.
[3] The university management of SWISS TCM UNI decides on matters that are not clarified in this document.
[4] Appeals against study-related or examination-related decisions are governed by the university-wide provisions of the Study and Examination Regulations. The Appeals Committee is the competent authority.

§21 Entry into force

This document enters into force on 1.03.2026.

Management of the SWISS TCM UNI

Schematic representation of the dissertation process

