

**Legal basis:**

*Act of July 3, 2018 - Provisions introducing the Act - Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1669, as amended)*

*Act of July 20, 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science (consolidated text: Journal of Laws of 2023, item 742, as amended)*

*Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of October 11, 2022 on fields of science and scientific disciplines and artistic disciplines (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 2202)*

*Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of November 14, 2018 on the characteristics of second-level learning outcomes for qualifications at levels 6-8 of the Polish Qualifications Framework (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 2218) and resolution No. 976 of the UZ Senate of January 31, 2024 on the adoption of the Regulations on the procedure for awarding the doctoral degree at the University of Zielona Góra*

**Rules of Procedure for awarding the doctoral degree at the University of Zielona Góra****§1****GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Whenever the Rules of Procedure refer to the Act, it should be understood as the *Act of July 20, 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science*
2. The University of Zielona Góra conducts proceedings to award the doctoral degree to candidates applying for the doctoral degree in disciplines in which the university has appropriate authorizations. The doctoral degree may be awarded in a field. A degree in art is awarded in the field of Art and artistic discipline.
3. The doctoral degree is awarded to a person who meets the conditions specified in Art. 186 of the Act.
4. The doctoral dissertation is prepared in the course of formal instruction at a Doctoral School or externally by the candidate.
5. Consent to presenting the doctoral dissertation in a foreign language is granted by the Rector before the initiation of external proceedings.
6. In the proceedings for awarding the doctoral degree, among other resolutions, the Senate adopts the following:
  - a) refusal to initiate proceedings for awarding of the doctoral degree;
  - b) changing the supervisor or supervisors or supervisor and auxiliary supervisor;
  - c) appointing a committee for awarding the doctoral degree, hereinafter referred to as the "Awarding Committee", including the Chairman of the Awarding Committee;
  - d) appointing reviewers;
  - e) refusal to accept a doctoral dissertation to be publicly defended in doctoral examination;
  - f) refusal to organise a public doctoral examination;
  - g) refusal to award or awarding of the doctoral degree;
  - h) bestowing a doctoral dissertation with distinction;
7. Before initiating proceedings for an external candidate, among other resolutions, the Senate adopts the following:

- a) appointing a committee of a relevant scientific discipline council at the request of the relevant scientific discipline council for the verification of learning outcomes for qualifications at PQF level 8, hereinafter referred to as the "Verification Committee";
- b) appointing a supervisor or supervisors or a supervisor and an auxiliary supervisor.

## §2

### **INITIATION OF PROCEEDINGS FOR AWARDING THE DOCTORAL DEGREE**

1. A person applying for the doctoral degree (hereinafter referred to as the "Candidate") submits to the Rector's Office an application to initiate proceedings for awarding the doctoral degree, the template of which is attached as Annex No. 1 to the Rules of Procedure, addressed to the Rector. In the application, the Candidate indicates the field and discipline in which the doctoral degree is to be awarded. If the doctoral dissertation covers scientific issues from more than one discipline, the Candidate indicates one discipline in which the doctoral degree is awarded (interdisciplinary doctorate). If the doctoral dissertation covers scientific issues from more than one scientific discipline included in a given field of science and it is not possible to indicate the discipline in which the doctoral degree is awarded, then the doctoral degree is awarded in the field of science.
2. The procedure for awarding the doctoral degree is initiated at the request of a person who meets the requirements specified in Art. 186 section 1 points 1-3 or section 2 of the Act. The date of initiation of the proceedings is the date of delivery of the application referred to in § 2 section 1 to the premises of the University.
3. Together with the application to initiate the procedure for awarding the doctoral degree, the Candidate submits:
  - a) original or certified copy of an MA or MSc diploma or another document giving the right to apply for the doctoral degree in accordance with Art. 186 section 1 point 1 of the Act;
  - b) 5 printed copies of the doctoral dissertation meeting the conditions specified in Art. 187 of the Act and a copy of the doctoral dissertation with the same content in electronic version; the title page of the doctoral dissertation should include: the name of the university/institution awarding the doctoral degree, the field and scientific discipline/disciplines, the candidate's name and surname, the title of the dissertation in Polish and English, information about the supervisor(s), approval of the supervisor(s) and place and date. The title page template is attached as Annex No. 2 to the Rules of Procedure. Double-sided printing and soft binding of copies of the dissertation are recommended;
  - c) summary of the dissertation in English on paper (no more than 4 pages of a standardized typescript) and in an electronic version; in the case of a doctoral dissertation prepared in a foreign language, an abstract in English and Polish must be attached on paper (no more than 4 pages of standardized typescript) and in an electronic version, as well as an application for presenting the dissertation in a foreign language approved by the Rector; if the doctoral dissertation is not a written work, a description in Polish and English is attached;
  - d) positive opinion of the supervisor or supervisors on the doctoral dissertation;
  - e) a document confirming the appointment of a supervisor or supervisors or a supervisor and an auxiliary supervisor;

- f) biography and description of scientific or artistic achievements, including a list of publications; scientific or artistic work. The achievements should meet the conditions specified in Art. 186 section 1 point 3 letters a, b and c of the Act;
  - g) a document confirming the achievement of learning outcomes at PQF (Polish Qualification Framework) level 8. In the case of doctoral students at the doctoral school, a certificate of completion of education at the doctoral school, in the case of doctoral students of postgraduate doctoral university course, a certificate from the head of course attesting to the completion of the entire curriculum. In the case of candidates submitting their dissertation in the external mode, a resolution of the Verification Committee referred to in par. 3 section 6 point 1;
  - h) a document certifying command of a modern language other than the native language; language proficiency level of at least B2 - a diploma of completion of studies or a certificate confirming command of a modern language specified in Annex No. 13 to the Rules of Procedure. In order to verify the fulfillment of the requirement regarding the command of a modern foreign language in the case of a person applying for the doctoral degree who does not have an appropriate certificate or diploma of completion of a university course, at the Candidate's request, the University Language Education Centre of the University of Zielona Góra conducts an examination confirming command of a modern foreign language at B2 language proficiency level and issues a certificate;
  - i) substantive description of participation in a collective publication, a separate part of which constitutes a doctoral dissertation;
  - j) declarations of co-authors in the event that the doctoral dissertation constitutes an independent and separate part of a collective work and in relation to the achievements specified in Art. 186 section 1 point 3 letters a, b and c of the Act, specifying their individual descriptive and percentage contribution to the creation of the publication in accordance with Annex No. 3 a, b. If the collective work has more than five co-authors, the candidate must submit a declaration specifying his/her individual descriptive and percentage contribution to the creation of the publication, together with declarations of at least four other co-authors. The candidate is exempt from the obligation to submit a declaration in the event of a co-author's death or health impairment that prevents obtaining the required declaration;
  - k) a report confirming the verification of the doctoral dissertation by means of a Uniform Anti-plagiarism System, signed by the supervisor;
  - l) a statement about the course of the doctoral process or the procedure for awarding the doctoral degree, if the Candidate has previously applied or is currently applying for the doctoral degree from another institution;
  - m) an external Candidate's declaration regarding his/her financial obligation to cover the costs of the degree awarding proceedings.
4. In the case of doctoral proceedings in the disciplines of medical and health sciences, the Candidate must meet additional conditions set out in Annex 6 and attach documentation confirming their fulfillment.
5. The Candidate pays a fee to the University of Zielona Góra for conducting the procedure for awarding the doctoral degree. The fee covers flat-rate costs of the proceedings, including in particular the costs of remuneration of the reviewers, the supervisor or supervisors or the supervisor and auxiliary supervisor, as well as indirect costs, which cannot exceed the costs of the proceedings and which are specified in the contract drawn between the University of Zielona

Góra and the Candidate or an institution employing the Candidate. In justified cases, resulting in particular from the Candidate's life difficulties or financial situation, the Rector may exempt him/her from the paying fee in whole or in part. In the case of an academic teacher employed at the University of Zielona Góra, the costs of the proceedings are borne by the University of Zielona Góra. In the case of an academic teacher or researcher employed at another university, an institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a research institute or an international institute, the costs of the proceedings are borne by these institutions. The fee is not collected at the University of Zielona Góra from a Candidate who has completed education at the Doctoral School run by the University of Zielona Góra.

6. The subject of the doctoral dissertation is an original solution to a scientific problem, an original solution in the application of the results of one's own scientific research in the economic or social sphere, or an original artistic achievement.
7. A doctoral dissertation may be a written work, including a scientific monograph, a collection of published and thematically related scientific articles, a design, construction, technological, implementation or artistic work, as well as an independent and separate part of a collective work.
8. The Rector forwards the received documents to the Vice-Rector responsible for Science and International Cooperation, who forwards them to the chairman of a relevant council of the scientific discipline in which the Candidate is applying for the doctoral degree. In the case of an interdisciplinary doctorate, the discipline in which the Candidate is applying for the doctoral degree is indicated in the Candidate's application.
9. The chairman of the scientific discipline council forwards the application submitted by the Candidate along with attachments to the chairman of a relevant Doctoral Committee, which performs the activities specified in these Rules of Procedure for awarding the doctoral degree.
10. The Doctoral Committee is appointed by the Senate of the University of Zielona Góra. The relevant scientific discipline council adopts a resolution on the recommendation regarding the composition of the Doctoral Committee as a standing committee, for the entire term of office of the scientific discipline council or separately for each procedure awarding the doctoral degree. It is possible to appoint several permanent Doctoral Committees for one scientific discipline. The resolution also indicates proposals of candidates for the position of Chairman of the Doctoral Committee. In the case of an interdisciplinary doctorate, the Rector appoints a Disciplinary Council which is competent in adopting a resolution on the recommendation regarding the composition of the Doctoral Committee, even though some members of the Doctoral Committee represent other disciplines.
11. The Doctoral Committee consists of at least five members of the relevant scientific discipline council who are professors or associate professors, including the Chairman of the Committee. The secretary of the Doctoral Committee who is not a professor or associate professor may also be a member of a relevant scientific discipline council (in such a case, the secretary is not a member of the Doctoral Committee and does not have the right to vote).
12. The chairman of the scientific discipline council submits a request to the Chairman of the Senate to appoint a Doctoral Committee on the basis of the resolution of the scientific discipline council referred to in section 10 or indicates a previously established Doctoral Committee to conduct proceedings in a specific case.
13. In justified cases, the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee may request the chairman of the scientific discipline council to change the composition of the Doctoral Committee. In particular, the change is made in the case of an interdisciplinary doctorate, when some members of the

Doctoral Committee represent other disciplines. The composition of the Doctoral Committee is changed in accordance with the procedure specified in section 10 and 12.

14. The Doctoral Committee is authorized to:
  - a) verify documents attached to the application for initiating the procedure awarding the doctoral degree;
  - b) express refusal or consent to defend the doctoral dissertation in a foreign language;
  - c) propose candidates for reviewers;
  - d) express an opinion on the acceptance of the doctoral dissertation and its admission to the public doctoral examination;
  - e) set the date of the examination;
  - f) conduct a public doctoral examination (defense of the doctoral dissertation);
  - g) express an opinion on accepting the defense of the doctoral dissertation;
  - h) express an opinion on awarding the doctoral degree and/or awarding a distinction to a doctoral dissertation.
15. The Doctoral Committee adopts resolutions in a secret ballot by an absolute majority of votes in the presence of at least half of the total number of members. Resolutions of the Doctoral Committee are signed by the Chairman and the Secretary.
16. If the application for initiating proceedings for awarding the doctoral degree does not indicate the Candidate's address and it is not possible to determine this address on the basis of the available data, the application will not be considered. If the application for initiating the procedure for awarding the doctoral degree does not meet other formal requirements, the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee prompts the Candidate to remove the deficiencies within a specified period of time, no less than 7 days, with the instruction that failure to remove these deficiencies will result in the application not being considered.
17. The Senate adopts a resolution refusing to initiate the procedure awarding the doctoral degree if the Candidate does not meet the requirements specified in Art. 186 section 1 points 1-3 or section 2 or the requirements referred to in § 2 section 3 point d). A decision refusing to initiate proceedings may be appealed against to the Council for Scientific Excellence.
18. In the case a Candidate who is a doctoral student of the Doctoral School, the supervisor in the procedure awarding the doctoral degree is a supervisor appointed in accordance with the rules set out in the regulations of the relevant Doctoral School. The above applies *mutatis mutandis* to the auxiliary supervisor.
19. In the case of a Candidate submitting a dissertation as an external student, the supervisor or supervisors or the supervisor and auxiliary supervisor are appointed by the Senate before the initiation of the proceedings, on the basis of the application submitted by the Candidate to the Rector.
20. In particularly justified cases, it is possible to change the supervisor, supervisors or supervisor and auxiliary supervisor. The method of appointing and changing the supervisor is in accordance with Appendix No. 4.
21. After seeking the opinion of the supervisor or supervisors, the Doctoral Committee selects 3 candidates for reviewers who meet the conditions specified in Art. 190 section 2, 4 and 5 of the Act. The Doctoral Committee selects candidates for reviewers using the criteria of their current scientific or artistic achievements, recognized reputation and significant achievements in the field of issues related to the Candidate's achievements. The method of appointing reviewers is in accordance with Annex No. 5.
22. The Doctoral Committee prepares draft resolutions of the Senate on:

- a) refusal to initiate proceedings for the award of the doctoral degree;
  - b) changing the supervisor or supervisors or supervisor and auxiliary supervisor;
  - c) appointing 3 reviewers;
  - d) refusal to accept or acceptance of a doctoral dissertation to be publicly defended in doctoral examination;
  - e) refusal to accept or acceptance of a public doctoral examination;
  - f) refusal to award or awarding the doctoral degree;
  - g) bestowal of a doctoral dissertation with distinction.
23. Meetings of the Doctoral Committee may be conducted remotely, ensuring in particular:
- 1. real-time broadcast of the meeting between its participants,
  - 2. real-time multi-party communication during which the participants can express their views,
  - 3. voting in secret mode, while observing the necessary safety rules.

### §3

#### **THE EXTERNAL MODE – THE STAGE BEFORE INITIATION OF PROCEEDINGS**

- 1. A person applying for the doctoral degree on an extramural basis, hereinafter referred to as Applicant, submits an application to the appropriate scientific discipline council for verification of his/her learning outcomes for qualifications at PQF level 8 in the applicable discipline.
- 2. Together with the application referred to in section 1, the Applicant shall submit documents certifying the learning outcomes for qualifications at PQF level 8.
- 3. The council of the relevant scientific discipline applies to the Senate to appoint a Verification Committee.
- 4. The Verification Committee consists of:
  - a) the chairman,
  - b) 2 committee members.
- 5. The learning outcomes at PQF level 8 are verified by the Verification Committee on the basis of documents submitted by the Applicant and/or an examination (oral or written) in the discipline/topic covered by the doctoral thesis.
- 6. As a result of the verification of the learning outcomes, the Verification Committee adopts resolutions regarding:
  - 1) confirmation of the learning outcomes for qualifications at PQF level 8, or
  - 2) refusal to confirm the learning outcomes for qualifications at PQF level 8.
- 7. In the event of refusal to confirm the learning outcomes for qualifications at PQF level 8, the Applicant may reapply for confirmation of these outcomes no earlier than 6 months after the resolution specified in section 6 point 2 was delivered to the Applicant.
- 8. The Applicant who has obtained confirmation of his/her learning outcomes in accordance with section 6 point 1 above, may apply to the Rector to appoint a supervisor or supervisors or a supervisor and an auxiliary supervisor.
- 9. In the application for the appointment of a supervisor or supervisors or a supervisor and an auxiliary supervisor, the Applicant:
  - a) presents the topic of his/her doctoral dissertation and the planned date of its submission;

- b) attaches an outline of the dissertation or the current status of the manuscript and, in the case of such disciplines as musical arts, visual arts and conservation of works of art, the concept of the doctoral dissertation;
- c) proposes a supervisor or supervisors or a supervisor and an auxiliary supervisor, together with the consent of the proposed candidates expressed in writing and their declaration of meeting the requirements specified in Art. 190 section 4-6;
- d) presents current scientific achievements, in particular scientific publications or information about artistic work of significant importance for the disciplines of musical arts, fine arts and conservation of works of art, as well as a short presentation of his/her artistic achievements in an electronic version, not exceeding 30 MB in size;
- e) a document confirming foreign language proficiency at the B2 level specified in § 2 section 3 point g.
- f) a statement about the course of the doctoral process or the procedure awarding the doctoral degree, if the Candidate has previously applied at another institution.

#### **§4**

#### **FURTHER STAGES OF THE PROCEDURE AWARDING THE DOCTORAL DEGREE**

1. Immediately after appointing the reviewers, the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee sends them a copy of the Senate's resolution on their appointment, a copy of the doctoral dissertation, and copies of declarations referred to in § 2 section 3 point i.
2. The reviewer is obliged to prepare his/her review in paper and electronic form within two months from the date of the delivery of the doctoral dissertation in accordance with Art. 190 section 3 of the Act. The review should contain a conclusion clearly indicating whether it is positive or negative. A review that does not meet this requirement is returned to the reviewer for supplementation.
3. Immediately after receiving the complete set of reviews, after reviewing the doctoral dissertation and the opinion of the supervisor(s), the Doctoral Committee issues an opinion rejecting or accepting of the doctoral dissertation for public doctoral examination.
4. If the doctoral dissertation is accepted and allowed for public doctoral examination, the Doctoral Committee sets the date of the examination.
5. If at least two of the reviews are negative, the Doctoral Committee issues a refusal to accept the doctoral dissertation and admit it to public doctoral examination, together with justification. Based on the opinion of the Doctoral Committee, the Senate issues a resolution refusing the doctoral dissertation and its admittance to public doctoral examination, together with justification.
6. The Doctoral Committee's resolution to refuse the doctoral dissertation and not to admit it to public examination is signed by its Chairman on behalf of the Senate.
7. The resolution to refuse the doctoral dissertation and not to admit it to public examination is delivered to the Candidate in writing, informing him/her about the possibility of submitting a complaint to the Council for Scientific Excellence within 7 days from the date of the delivery of the decision.
8. No later than 30 days before the scheduled date of the doctoral examination, the University of Zielona Góra shall make the doctoral dissertation, which is a written paper together with its summary or a description of a doctoral dissertation which is not a written text, as well as the

accompanying reviews available in the Public Information Bulletin. Immediately after they are made available, these documents are published in POL-on, i.e. the Integrated Information System on Higher Education and Science, in accordance with Article 188 and Article 348 of the Act.

9. The doctoral examination is carried out in accordance with the procedure described in Annex 7 at an open meeting of the Doctoral Committee, with the participation of at least two reviewers and the supervisor or supervisors or the supervisor and the auxiliary supervisor (supervisor/supervisors/auxiliary supervisor without the right to vote).
10. The examination is accepted by the Doctoral Committee extended by reviewers at a non-public part of the examination. The Doctoral Committee expresses their opinion on the acceptance of the defense of the doctoral dissertation.
11. After the acceptance, the Doctoral Committee prepares a draft resolution of the Senate regarding the acceptance of the public defense and the awarding of the doctoral degree.
12. If the defense of the doctoral dissertation is not accepted, the Doctoral Committee prepares a draft resolution of the Senate on the rejection of the public defense of the doctoral dissertation together with justification.
13. The Senate adopts a resolution on granting or refusing to grant the doctoral degree, both being administrative decisions. If the supervisor or supervisors are members of the Senate, they do not participate in this vote.
14. Immediately after the completion of the procedure awarding the doctoral degree, appropriate information is entered into the POL-on system.
15. In its opinion on the acceptance of the defense of the doctoral dissertation, the Doctoral Committee may include a request for distinction of the doctoral dissertation, based on the reviewer's request included in the review or the request of a member of the Doctoral Committee.
16. The resolution on the refusal to award the doctoral degree shall be delivered to the Candidate in writing. The decision to refuse the doctoral degree includes information on the possibility for the candidate to submit an appeal against the decision to the Council of Scientific Excellence within 30 days from the date of the delivery of the decision.
17. The Senate forwards the appeal to the Council of Scientific Excellence along with its opinion and the case files within 3 months from the date of submission of the appeal.
18. In the event of refusal to admit a doctoral dissertation to a public doctoral examination, refusal to accept the defense of the doctoral dissertation or a decision to refuse to award the doctoral degree, the same dissertation cannot constitute a basis for reapplying for the doctoral degree.

## §5

### **ONLINE PUBLIC DOCTORAL EXAMINATION**

1. The decision to conduct an online public doctoral examination is made by the Doctoral Committee at the request of:
  1. the Candidate, addressed to the Rector, indicating the reasons why the Candidate is applying for online examination;
  2. the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee, addressed to the Rector, provided that the Candidate has consented to this form of examination.



2. Online doctoral examination may take place provided that the Candidate, supervisor or supervisors, members of the Doctoral Committee and the secretary have the technical ability to participate.
3. An invitation to an online doctoral examination, together with instructions for using a remote communication platform is sent by the Secretary of the Doctoral Committee to e-mail addresses of the Candidate, supervisor or supervisors and members of the Doctoral Committee.
4. Persons from outside the Doctoral Committee participating in the online meeting take part only in the public parts of the meeting, during which they also have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments using the indicated application. The link to the public doctoral examination is made available after interested persons have expressed their willingness to participate by sending a request to the address indicated in the notice of public doctoral examination.
5. Voting in the non-public part takes place during the meeting by means of IT tools indicated by the University of Zielona Góra.
6. The public and non-public parts of the doctoral examination may be recorded in the form of image and sound recordings. The examination may be recorded only with the consent of all participants. The recording should comply with applicable provisions on personal data protection and copyright.
7. The procedure for the online doctoral examination is as follows:
  - a) the secretary of the Doctoral Committee or another person designated by the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee responsible for the preparation and supervision of the technical side of the online doctoral examination organizes an online meeting using the indicated Google Meet application, giving it a unique name, and provides the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee with login details. It is recommended for the secretary or another designated person to organize an online test meeting before the examination in order to test the equipment (including the webcam, microphone and Internet connection) and software with the Candidate, the supervisor(s), members of the Doctoral Committee and the audience;
  - b) the course of the online doctoral examination is recorded by the secretary of the Doctoral Committee. The Secretary of the Doctoral Committee submits the recording to the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee, who keeps the recording for no less than three months from the date of the online doctoral examination, but no longer than one year. After this time, the recording is destroyed;
  - c) during the online doctoral examination, the Candidate stays in the University room indicated by the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee. At the Candidate's justified request, the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee may consent to the Candidate's stay in a place other than University premises;
  - d) The candidate has a camera turned on during the entire process, which ensures constant recording of his or her image, he or she must have a working microphone and the software used by the Candidate must enable screen sharing;
  - e) during the online doctoral examination, the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee establishes a connection with the members of the Doctoral Committee, the Candidate, the supervisor(s) and the audience. Participants should be logged in to the remote communication platform before starting the online doctoral examination;
  - f) the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee begins the meeting by checking the attendance list, determining the quorum and ensuring that the Candidate can participate in the meeting;

- g) During the entire process, there should be a constant possibility to transmit image and sound to the Chairman, members of the Doctoral Committee, the supervisor(s) and the Candidate;
  - h) After the public part of the examination is completed, a non-public part takes place, in which only persons entitled to vote and the secretary participate. Designated persons receive a link to the closed session by e-mail;
  - i) After voting, the participants of the closed part return to the open session again, using the link for the online doctoral examination. The Chairman of the Doctoral Committee makes information about the content of the resolution adopted by the Doctoral Committee public and closes the meeting of the committee.
8. In the event of a technical failure, unavailability of the service or a serious reduction in the quality of the connection on the part of the members of the Doctoral Committee, the supervisor(s) or the Candidate, which prevents the proper conduct of the examination, the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee may decide to:
- a) interrupt and continue when technical problems cease; there may be a need to reconnect,
  - b) interrupt and suspend - in this case, the undertaken procedures until the public online doctoral examination was interrupted/suspended remain effective. The chairman informs the members of the Doctoral Committee and other participants to continue the examination on a new date. This date is determined immediately in consultation with the Candidate, the supervisor(s) and reviewers. Information about the new examination date, along with a link to the session is provided by the secretary electronically to the members of the Doctoral Committee, the supervisor or supervisors and the Candidate and is posted on the institution's website.
- Activities related to the defense of the doctoral dissertation are automatically suspended in the event of a temporary loss of internet connection with the Chairman of the Doctoral Committee.
9. It is possible to conduct a doctoral examination when some of the meeting participants are in a University room and some participate remotely. It is then necessary to ensure that persons authorized to vote in the room are equipped with electronic voting devices.
10. All issues related to the organization of online doctoral examinations that are not covered by these Rules of Procedure are resolved on an ongoing basis by the relevant bodies of the University, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions and principles of scientific ethics.

## §6

### **PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE TRANSITION PERIOD**

- 1. Doctoral proceedings initiated and not completed before October 1, 2018 are carried out under the existing rules, however, if the degree is awarded after April 30, 2019, the degree should be awarded in fields and disciplines specified according to the new classification of fields and disciplines.
- 2. Doctoral proceedings initiated between October 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019 are conducted on the basis of existing regulations, except that at the University of Zielona Góra, activities related to the procedure for awarding a degree have been conducted by the Senate since October 1, 2019.

3. Proceedings for awarding the doctoral degree in accordance with the principles set out in the Act as well as in these Rules of Procedure may be initiated from October 1, 2019.
4. The proceedings initiated in accordance with the principles specified in section 3 in the period from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020 to the achievements referred to in Art. 186 section 1 point 3 letter a of the Act, also include:
  - 1) scientific articles published:
    - a) in scientific journals or peer-reviewed materials from international conferences, included in the list prepared in accordance with the regulations issued pursuant to Art. 267 section 2 point 2 letter b of the Act, before the date of publication of this list,
    - b) before January 1, 2019, in scientific journals that were included in part A or C of the list of scientific journals established on the basis of regulations issued pursuant to Article 44(1) 2 of the Act of April 30, 2010 on the principles of financing science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 87) and made public by the announcement of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of January 25, 2017, or were included in part B of this list, with scientific articles published therein being awarded at least 10 points;
  - 2) scientific monographs published by
    - a) a publishing house included in the list prepared in accordance with the regulations issued pursuant to Art. 267 section 2 point 2 letter a of the Act, before the date of publication of this list,
    - b) an organizational unit of the institution whose publishing house is included in the list prepared in accordance with the regulations issued pursuant to Art. 267 section 2 point 2 letter a of the Act.
5. Doctoral proceedings referred to in section 1 and 2, not completed by December 31, 2024, shall be cancelled or closed, respectively.
6. In the case of candidates who started their doctoral studies before the 2019/2020 academic year and apply for the award of the doctoral degree under the terms specified in the Act, the procedure for the award of the doctoral degree is initiated by submitting an application for the appointment of a supervisor or supervisors.
7. In the case of candidates who started their doctoral studies before the 2019/2020 academic year and apply for the doctoral degree under the terms set out in the Act, their learning outcomes in the field of command of a modern foreign language are confirmed under the existing rules.
8. The provisions specified in the Act. 182 section 4 of the Act shall apply accordingly to candidates who commenced doctoral studies before the 2019/2020 academic year and apply for the award of the doctoral degree under the principles.