

The following rules supplement the new version of the doctoral regulations for the Technische Universität Berlin dated 18 November 2020 and 12 May 2021 (AMBl. TU 12/2021 p. 132 ff.), which came into force on 25 June 2021, as well as the implementation regulations of Faculty IV (Guidelines for Writing Dissertations at Faculty IV) dated 07.07.2021.

Beschluss FKR IV 3/26-15.09.2021 (12 : 0 : 0)

In justified exceptional cases (if the doctoral candidate is not able to attend in accordance with the doctoral regulations and implementation regulations), members of the doctoral examination board and the doctoral candidate may participate in the scientific defense via video conference. The following conditions must be fulfilled in this case

1. With the consent of the doctoral candidate and the other members of the doctoral examination board and in agreement with the dean, external reviewers can be connected via video conference.
2. If the doctoral candidate or member of the doctoral examination board are unable to attend the scientific defense due to force majeure, the chairperson of the doctoral examination board may, in agreement with the doctoral candidate and the dean, provide for participation by video conference.
3. If the entire doctoral examination board is unable to attend the scientific defense due to force majeure, the chairperson of the doctoral examination board may, with the consent of the doctoral candidate and the other members of the doctoral examination board and in agreement with the dean, provide for the scientific defense to take place as a virtual defense via video conference.
4. The connected person(s) must be made aware of compliance with the data protection rules (for example, no persons may be present in the room who are not allowed to take part in the scientific defense according to the doctoral regulations).
5. The external person(s) should have access to all data material used in the scientific defense before the scientific defense (including backup slides, etc.).
6. An alternative telephone number of the absent person(s) must be available and tested prior to the scientific defense.
7. A technically experienced person must be present in the room or be called in within minutes in order to be able to restore a failed video conference. This person shall not be the candidate or a member of the doctoral examination board.
8. The videoconference must be designed in such a way that the candidate and the slides are clearly visible. Furthermore, the audio quality must be sufficient for following the presentations. The questions of the reviewers must be audible to all present people.
9. The connection must be established before the beginning of the scientific defense and must be stable during the presentation [otherwise the examination performance "talk" cannot be evaluated].
 - a. Should the connection fail during the talk, the talk will be interrupted.
 - b. If it is not possible to restore the video conference within 15 minutes, the talk will be cancelled and - if all participants and rooms are available - restarted (from the beginning) after the connection has been re-established.

- c. If the videoconference can no longer be set up or the availability of the participants is less than 2 hours, the scientific defense will be completely cancelled and postponed to a date still to be found. In this case, the talk must also be held again (from the beginning) at the new date.
 - d. A connection failure during the questions/discussion is tolerable up to 33% (estimated value) of the available time, since the absent reviewer(s) still has enough time for own questions. The chairperson must record all questions and answers during the absence and inform the absent reviewer(s) during the review. Should the downtime of the primary and secondary connections lasts longer than 30 minutes, the scientific defense will be cancelled and completely repeated on a new date.
 - e. If the primary and secondary connections fail during the review, the review will be interrupted. If no connection is established within 15 minutes, a new date will be set for the finding of the overall result.
10. The final decision about continuation or cancellation and postponement of the scientific defense will be made by the chairperson.