



Dissertation Agreement

between

Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM)
Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg
Carl-von-Ossietzky-Str. 9-11
26111 Oldenburg

represented by the Coordinator the Integrated Research Training Group (IRTG)

and

The ICBM and the PhD student agree on the compilation of a doctoral dissertation to be prepared and defended under the authority of the ICBM according to the following conditions:

1. The student who prepares the PhD thesis work:

Name _____

Date/Place of birth _____

2. The research topic of the PhD thesis:

3. The primary supervisor of the PhD student:

Name _____

University _____

Faculty _____

Institute _____



At German universities and research institutions, freedom of science in research, teaching and studies is guaranteed. But this freedom is associated with responsibility for fostering the fundamental values and norms of good scientific practice, for realizing them in his/her own daily activity and for defending them.

1. Good scientific practice

The successful application of the principles of good scientific practice is a prerequisite for the high standard of achievement in the scientific system. The recommendations on fundamentals for good scientific work are as follows:

1.1. Awareness of principles of good scientific practice

Honesty and truth obtain absolute priority in scientific work. The PhD student should be aware of all principles of good scientific practice. The knowledge can be obtained through the participation at an adequate course offered by the Research Training Group of the SFB/TRR 51 or the Graduate School of Faculty V and the daily activities of the research group.

1.2. Observing professional standards

The PhD student agrees on considering the rules when performing his/her thesis work at the research institute. This includes:

- appropriate usage of protective equipment and clothing
- safe handling of materials in laboratories
- safe operation of equipment
- safe disposal of materials
- safety management and accountability
- hazard assessment processes
- safe transportation of materials between laboratories
- safe design of facilities
- emergency responses
- safety education of all personnel before entering the laboratory
- applicable government regulations

1.3. Cooperation and leadership responsibility in working groups

Each PhD student is personally responsible for his/her own work.

A working group or unit usually has one head. He/She carries responsibility for the work and the conditions for facilitating an effective cooperation and coordination of the members.

All members of a working group must be able to rely on each other since mutual trust is the basis for the conversations, discussions and even confrontations.

Cooperation in scientific working groups must allow the findings to be communicated, critically discussed and integrated into a common level of knowledge and experience.

1.4. Supervision

The education and support of young scientists is a major concern of universities and research institutions.

The primary supervisor is responsible for arranging a workplace, advising and supporting the independent scientific work of the PhD student. But the work of the doctoral student should not only be supervised by the primary supervisor. A **thesis committee** including the primary supervisor and two additional senior scientists who meet once a year facilitates the progress of the thesis work by discussing the experiments, results and time line. The PhD student is responsible for compiling a written summary outlining his/her work and for writing a report of each meeting. Both documents will be filed in the Office of the SFB/TRR 51 (s. SFB/TRR 51 Guidelines: PhD Thesis Committee).

1.5. Mentorship for young scientists and scholars

Working groups usually consist of older and younger, experienced and less experienced scientists. Younger members of the group should receive adequate mentorship of the senior scientist(s). The latter also should mediate in conflict situations.

1.6. Documenting results

Experiments and numerical calculations can only be repeated if all important steps are reproducible. For this purpose, they must be recorded in a clear and comprehensive manner. Therefore, the PhD students should securely store methods and primary data as the basis for



publications for at least ten years in a durable form (e.g. CD-ROM) in the institution of origin. If the PhD students or PhD responsible for generating the data moves to another institution, the original records remain in the laboratory of origin, but duplicates may be made or rights of access specified.

1.7. Scientific misconduct

Misconduct, including the production and use of incorrect data, neglecting intellectual property rights and affecting of others' research activities, must be completely avoided. The Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg has appointed two confidants as contact persons to express the allegation and the "Commission for impact assessment and ethic" to inquire the misconduct. Rules of procedures and time limits for inquiries and investigations to ascertain the facts and rights of the involved parties to be heard are also defined. The sanctions depend on the seriousness of proven misconducts and include consequences for the employment, civil implications or penal consequences of the misconducting scientist(s).

(s. "Verfahren bei Verdacht auf wissenschaftliches Fehlverhalten – Verfahrensordnung" vom 26.01.2000, Amtliche Mitteilungen/19. Jahrgang: 39-42).

1.8. Scientific publications

The PhD student publishes a new finding together with his/her supervisor(s) in scientific media. He/She is or they are jointly responsible for the content. Simultaneously, the author(s) acquire documented rights of intellectual property (e.g. copyright). The date of publication is important in the sense of documenting priority.

Author(s) of an original scientific publication shall be all those who have made significant contributions to the conception of the studies, the generation, analyses and interpretation of the data, and the preparation of the manuscript.

A so-called "honorary authorship" is inadmissible. Adequate mention of contributors is recommended e.g. in footnotes or acknowledgements.

1.9. External funding

Correct statements are required in proposals. Therefore, previous work must be presented specifically and completely, publications must be precisely cited and unpublished manuscripts clearly identified as "in press in ...", "accepted in ..." or "submitted to ...". It is necessary to describe the intended project in the best knowledge of the applicants and cooperation are only taken into account when the relevant partners have declared their willing to cooperate.

The misuse of grant money has to be avoided.

This agreement is valid after the coordinator or co-coordinator of the Integrated Research Training Group (IRTG) of the CRC Roseobacter, the primary supervisor and the candidate for conducting the PhD thesis work provided their signatures.

Coordinator of the IRTG _____

Primary supervisor _____

PhD student _____

Date, Place _____