

Official Announcements

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Regulations for Research Centers
of the Faculty of Arts (Center Regulations)

at the University of Bonn

As of January 16, 2025

Please note that the following translation is provided for information purposes only and is not legally valid. For the lawfully valid version, please refer to the official German document ([Amtl. Bek., 55. Jahrgang, Nr. 6](#)).

Note on the obligation to give notice of defects:

According to § 12, Section 5 of the Higher Education Act of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz - HG), a violation of procedural or formal provisions of the Higher Education Act or of the regulatory or other autonomous law of the University of Bonn can no longer be asserted after the expiry of one year from the date of publication of the regulation, unless

1. the regulation has not been duly published,
2. the Rectorate has previously objected to the decision of the body adopting the regulation, or
3. the formal or procedural defect has previously been reported to the university, specifying the violated legal provision and stating that it results in the defect.

**Regulations
for Research Centers of the Faculty of Arts
(Center Regulations)
at the University of Bonn**

As of January 16, 2025

Based on §§ 2 Section 4, 29 Section 1 Sentence 1 of the Higher Education Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz – HG) from September 16, 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547), last modified by Article 1 of the Law for the Introduction of the Integrated Bachelor's Degree in Law with the First Examination and concerning the integrated degree programs as well as the modification of the Law for the Training of Lawyers from October 29, 2024 (GV. NRW. p. 699 to 712), the Faculty of Arts of the University of Bonn has issued the following Center regulations:

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§ 1

Scope

These regulations apply to all research institutions of the Faculty of Arts that include the term “Zentrum der Philosophischen Fakultät” or “Center of the Faculty of Arts” in their name (Centers) and that are established after these regulations come into force.

§ 2

Legal Status

- (1) Centers are temporary research institutions per § 20 Section 1 of the Faculty Regulations. They are established by the Faculty Council at the recommendation of at least five professors from different subject areas, following a recommending statement and proposal by the Dean's Office.
- (2) The Faculty Council shall decide to change or abolish a Center at the suggestion of the Dean's Office.

§ 3

Tasks and Objectives

- (1) Centers serve to interlink the disciplines in a research- and transfer-oriented, topic-related, and interdisciplinary manner. They can work on further topics in addition to their core research topic.
- (2) The work of the Centers has the following objectives in particular:
 1. transfer, reinforcement, interdisciplinary networking, and further development of research on topics that shape the profile of the Faculty,
 2. creating an environment for developing new research topics and for preparing and applying for promising third-party funded projects in the Center's thematic area,
 3. increasing the visibility of an interdisciplinary research topic at the Faculty, both nationally and internationally,
 4. actively promoting young researchers,
 5. supporting research-related teaching.
- (3) The Dean's Office agrees on objectives with the management of a Center.

§ 4

Membership

- (1) Membership is possible in the form of a full membership with voting rights and in the form of an associated membership without voting rights. The members jointly contribute to the fulfillment of the tasks and objectives of the Center.
- (2) Full membership is open to full-time researchers at the faculty level who hold a doctorate, can demonstrate relevant research achievements in topics relevant to the Center over the last five years, and can be expected to provide dedicated research assistance for the duration of their membership. Proof of research achievements is to be provided by the successful acquisition of third-party funded projects or by publications in renowned national or international journals (if applicable, with peer review) or by other recognized publications, such as monographs and editorships, or by other outstanding research achievements. In addition, innovative research projects that are brought into the Center or planned scientific projects that serve the fulfillment of the Center's goals and tasks in a special manner can be considered as criteria for the admission as a full member.

(3) Associate members can be accepted without having to fulfill the requirements for full members if they support the work and objectives of the Center in a special manner. Associate membership is particularly open to young researchers or retired researchers at the Faculty of Arts and external experts. The prerequisite is that the interest in membership is justified or that the scientific qualification for membership is proven, for example, by a corresponding doctoral project or relevant research.

(4) Members are proposed to the Center Council by the spokesperson upon request and appointed by the Center Council in the form of an election by a simple majority for three years. Membership begins with informal notification of the appointment. Reappointment is permissible if the member has demonstrably contributed to the tasks and objectives of the respective Center. Membership ends if a member leaves the Faculty or resigns from membership in writing to the spokesperson.

§ 5

Establishment Period, Evaluation

(1) The Centers of the Faculty are established for a period of six years.

(2) At the end of the fifth year, an external evaluation must be carried out, which is initiated by the Dean's Office. The Vice Dean for Research coordinates the evaluation process in consultation with the Dean's Office. The evaluation of Centers shall focus in particular on the objectives and tasks set out in these regulations, as well as any other target agreements that have been concluded, implementation and cooperation, control and quality management, and the use and development of resources.

(3) The Dean's Office will appoint an evaluation committee to carry out the evaluation. It consists of the Vice Dean for Research and one or two external university professors who are experts in the Center's subject area. Suggestions from the Center's management for the composition of the committee should be taken into account. The Center will be informed of the names of the committee members after they have been appointed.

(4) At the request of the Dean's Office, the Center submits a self-report on its past activities, citing further development strategies in the areas mentioned in § 5 Section 2 Sentence 3. After evaluating the self-report, the commission conducts discussions with the Center's management, with members of the Center, and with the Dean's Office as part of an on-site visit. Based on the self-evaluation report and the on-site visit, the committee prepares a written report and makes a reasoned recommendation regarding the extension of the funding period. The report should include suggestions for the further development of the Center. The management of the Center may comment on the report.

(5) Based on the self-evaluation report, the Committee's report, and any statement under § 5 Section 4 Sentence 5, the Dean's Office determines the result of the evaluation. The strategic and profile-building significance of the Center for the Faculty as a whole shall also be taken into account in the decision-making process. If it is determined that the evaluation was successful, the establishment period shall be extended by a further six years in each case; § 5 paragraph 2 Sentence 1 shall apply accordingly. If it is determined that the evaluation was not successful, the Center shall expire at the end of the initial term.

§ 6

Structure, Management

(1) The Centers consist of an Executive Committee and members. The members meet in the form of a Center Council.

(2) The Center is managed by an Executive Committee (spokesperson, deputy spokesperson, third member). The members of the Executive Committee must be full members of the Center and are elected by the Center Council for a period of three years. Re-election is permitted. A managing director appointed by the Center Council is a member of the Executive Committee without voting rights.

(3) The tasks of the Executive Committee include in particular:

1. Strategic leadership in alignment with the tasks and objectives of the Center,
2. convening and chairing the Center Council,
3. preparing the annual report,
4. representing the Center,
5. being responsible for the Center's finances and resources, as well as those contributed by its members,
6. deciding on the creation and provision of funding instruments.

§ 7

Center Council

(1) The Center Council consists of the full members with voting rights and the associated members, who do not have voting rights. It meets at least once a year.

(2) The Center Council has the following tasks in particular:

1. Election of the Executive Committee,
2. If necessary, dismissal of the Executive Committee with a 2/3 majority by simultaneously electing a new Executive Committee,
3. Appointment of the members of the Center at the request of the spokesperson
4. Discussion and adoption of the annual report,
5. Discharge of the Executive Board,
6. Planning of joint activities of the Center,
7. discussion and debate on the tasks and goals and further development of the Center.

(3) The Center Council is convened and chaired by the spokesperson with a notice period of two weeks.

§ 8

Constitution

When the Dean's Office decides to establish a Center, it appoints a founding spokesperson who simultaneously becomes a full member of the Center and heads the Center until the election of an Executive Committee. The founding spokesperson proposes candidates for full membership to the Dean's Office for appointment. They convene the constituent Center Council and chair it until the spokesperson is elected.

§ 9

Commencement

These regulations come into force on the day after their publication in the Official Announcements of the University of Bonn.

Issued based on the resolution of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Bonn dated November 27, 2024.

Bonn, 16 January 2025

M.Hoch

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