

## **Formal minimum criteria for a cumulative dissertation in human geography**

### **Recommendation**

A cumulative dissertation is composed of a framing text as well as a set of articles in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals. In the framing text, the overall dissertation project should be described.

The following minimum criteria are recommended:

- The cumulative dissertation should include at least three articles of publishable quality.
- At least two of the articles need to be single-authored. Alternatively, at least two of the articles can be co-authored with the PhD candidate as first author.
- In case of a co-authorship, the specific contributions of the PhD candidate to each article must be clearly stated in a “co-author declaration” (see attachment), which needs to be signed by all co-authors.
- The articles should normally be written in English language. They need to be submitted to internationally recognized peer-review journals and should at least be under peer-review.
- Journals considered as internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals are journals listed in the SCI, SSCI or Scopus. After consultation with the supervisor(s), articles targeting journals listed by the VGDH can be part of cumulative dissertation, if the criteria of peer-review and English language are met.
- All considered articles must contribute to the overall dissertation topic.
- All papers have to be presented together with a framing text; published or submitted articles have to be attached in original format.
- The complete dissertation (framing text **and** attached articles) will be examined.

The framing text should comprise at least 25,000 words (approx. 50 pages) and should include the following elements:

- introduction to the topic and background information
- aims, hypotheses and research questions of the dissertation
- discussion of the theoretical / conceptual framework
- description of the research design (epistemological and ontological perspectives, methodology and methods)
- synthesis of the main results;
- all publications have to be correctly cited including own publications
- summary and overall conclusions
- outline of future perspectives in the respective research field