

Formal minimum criteria for a cumulative dissertation in

Physical Geography

Recommendations

A cumulative dissertation is composed of a framing text as well as multiple research papers and/or a review paper in international recognized peer-reviewed journals. In the framing text, the overall dissertation project has to be described.

The following minimum criteria are recommended:

- The cumulative dissertation should include at least **three articles worthwhile a publication**.
- The PhD student should be a single author or the first author of minimum **two of these research papers**.
- In case of a co-authorship the specific contributions of the PhD student in the corresponding article must be documented and all co-authors have to sign the “**co-author declaration**” (see attachment).
- The articles should be written in English language and be submitted to international recognized peer-reviewed journals. **One article has to be “accepted”** and the other **two papers have to be at least “under review”**.
- Journals considered as international recognized peer-reviewed journals are listed in the **SCI, SSCI or among Scopus ranked journals**. After consultation with the supervisor journals listed by the VGDH as well as contributions in edited volumes can be part of a cumulative dissertation, if the criteria for peer-review and English language are met.
- Alternatively to all publications in scientific journals, **one of the three publications can be a book chapter or part of a “Conference Proceedings”**. However, in both cases an international peer-review has to be ensured.
- All considered publications must **contribute to the overall dissertation topic**.
- All publications have to be presented within **a framing text**. Published or submitted articles have to be attached in the original format in the appendix.
- The **complete dissertation will be evaluated**, thus the framing text and all publications included in the appendix.

The cumulative framing text should comprise **at least 50 pages with approx. 400 words per page**. The word count includes the bibliography, figures and tables sized half a page are counted as 200 words, when filling a whole page tables and figures are counted as 400 words. Further, the cumulative written thesis should include the following aspects:

- introduction to the topic and background information
- aims, hypothesis and research questions of the dissertation
- discussion of the theoretical-conceptual frame of the work
- description of the research design (epistemological and ontological perspectives, methodology and methods)
- presentation of the main results as a summary, while all publications have to be correctly cited including own publications
- summary and overall conclusions
- future perspectives of the corresponding research fields