

Information Sheet on Reviewing a Habilitation Thesis

This information sheet complements the information sheet «Habilitation Procedure at D-GESS» of April 2012 and is sent to the reviewers together with the habilitation thesis to be reviewed.

Significance of a habilitation thesis

The habilitation thesis is evidence that the candidate has developed an independent and innovative research profile and is qualified to be appointed to a professorship.

The habilitation thesis corresponds to the «second book» requirement in the English-speaking academic world; it demonstrates an independent research effort and must be relevant to a research area that is clearly distinct from that of the PhD thesis. In terms of requirement standards, habilitation is equivalent to the status of an associate professor.

The habilitation thesis can be submitted in the form of a monograph or as a collection of publishable papers (cumulative habilitation). In the latter case, the various papers must be linked by a preface and/or a postscript and, if necessary, by other elements.

Assessment

The reviewers comment on the scholarly quality of the habilitation thesis. In particular, they examine the methodological-theoretical originality of the monograph or the papers as well as the relevance and contribution of the work to the chosen research area. They also take into account the candidate's previous research work.

In the case of a cumulative habilitation, they must also specifically examine whether the candidate's independent scholarly contribution is clearly identified and meets the quantitative requirements (at least five papers, at least three of which must be written by the candidate as sole author or as a clearly distinguished main author).

The habilitation thesis can only be assessed as «sufficient» or «insufficient». A qualified or conditional acceptance is not possible.

Recommendation

Based on the habilitation thesis, the reviewers make a clear pronouncement as to whether they recommend that the habilitation process be continued.

Adopted by the Professorial Conference on 17 April 2012.