

Regulations
of the Bayreuth International Graduate School
of African Studies (BIGSAS)
at the University of Bayreuth
dated 30 March 2023

§ 1

Legal status

- (1) ¹The Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) is a central academic institution at the University of Bayreuth under the terms of § 29 para 5, para 6 sentence 1 BayHIG in conjunction with § 15 of the University of Bayreuth's Constitution dated 09 January 2023 (as amended). ²According to § 15 para 2 of the University of Bayreuth's Constitution dated 9 January 2023, it is part of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence.
- (2) As part of the implementation of the structural objectives given in § 3 of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence regulations dated 20 December 2018 for the support of early-career scholars in the field of Africa-related research, BIGSAS is incorporated into the Cluster in accordance with § 9 para 1 sentence 3 of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence Regulations.

§ 2

Objectives and tasks

- (1) ¹BIGSAS is anchored in the field of Africa-related research across faculties and subject areas. ²In line with § 9 para 2 of the Regulations of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, it is responsible for training doctoral researchers and for carrying out doctoral procedures.
- (2) ¹The aim of BIGSAS is to offer young scholars, in addition to their research work, an excellent education which enables them to meet future requirements in the various areas of Africa-related research and to contribute creatively to the further development of scientific concepts. ²BIGSAS offers close, structured supervision during the doctorate. ³This combines doctoral students' academic qualifications with the teaching of career-relevant skills.
- (3) ¹Within the scope of quality assurance, BIGSAS works towards the conclusion of and compliance with the individual target agreements laid down in the Individual Research and Training Plan, IRTP). ²In this way, it facilitates a high scientific level while at the same time streamlining the duration of the doctorate. ³In addition, BIGSAS offers events and measures which contribute, among

other things, to a better reconciliation of family and career, to equal opportunities, and to facilitating entry into the labour market.

- (4) The core tasks of BIGSAS include: the recruitment, selection, and admission of suitable applicants,
- the academic supervision of doctoral researchers,
 - the allocation of BIGSAS funds in all areas of structured doctoral training,
 - the admission of members,
 - the association of members,
 - administering doctorates,
 - public relations for BIGSAS in cooperation with the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence,
 - maintaining relationships with partner universities and national and international networking in coordination with the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence.

§ 3

Members

- (1) BIGSAS has members and associate members.
- (2) ¹Members are the founding members of BIGSAS who are eligible to administer examinations, as far as their membership has not ended according to the present regulations. ²Additional professors may become members of the BIGSAS that they are entitled to administer examinations in accordance with Art. 85 para 1 BayHIG in conjunction with § 4 HSchPrüferV (as amended). ³Membership is also open to outstanding scholars from all faculties of the University of Bayreuth who hold a doctoral title and supervise Africa-related doctorates. ⁴The Steering Committee (SC) makes decisions concerning applications for membership at the suggestion of the dean of BIGSAS.
- (3) The members are listed in an external directory of members which is not a part of the present regulations.
- (4) Membership includes
- the academic supervision of doctoral researchers,
 - involvement in and the right to vote in the committees of BIGSAS,
 - participation in the tasks of the Graduate School.
- (5) ¹The membership in BIGSAS ends when one leaves the University of Bayreuth or when one's entitlement to administer examinations ceases. ²It [membership] can also be revoked at the request of a member or can be revoked by the Steering Committee with a two-thirds majority if there are special reasons for doing so.

- (6) ¹Retired professors are considered associate members. ²The same applies to professors who retire during their membership.
- (7) ¹Associate members are, in addition to the retired professors according to para 6, additional scholars called in to supervise doctoral researchers. ²The prerequisite for associate membership is that a doctoral researcher must already be admitted to BIGSAS with a doctoral project and that the associated member must be entitled to administer examinations in accordance with Art. 85 para 1 BayHIG in conjunction with § 4 HschPrüferV (as amended). ³The association is decided by the Steering Committee at the request of a member and is limited by the duration of the supervisory relationship.
- (8) The associate members are listed in an external directory of members which is not a part of the present regulations.
- (9) Associate membership includes the academic supervision of doctoral researchers, participation in the activities of the Graduate School.

§ 4

Bodies within BIGSAS

BIGSAS has the following bodies:

1. Management (Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity and Deputy)
2. Steering Committee
3. Executive Committee
4. General Assembly
5. Advisory Board

§ 5

Management

- (1) ¹The management of BIGSAS is the responsibility of the Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity according to § 19 of the Regulations of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence. ²He or she shall endeavour to ensure that the provisions of the present regulations are complied with. ³He or she shall also chair the Steering Committee. ⁴With regard to matters that cannot be postponed, he or she is authorized make decisions on behalf of the Steering Committee. ⁵He or she must promptly inform the other members of the Steering Committee of any such decision - at the next meeting at latest. ⁶The Steering Committee may overrule urgent decisions made by the director analogous to Art. 30 para 4 sentence 3 BayHIG.
- (2) The dean is assisted by a vice dean.
- (3) The dean may, subject to revocation, delegate the performance of individual administrative tasks incumbent on him/her to the vice dean or to the academic coordinator of the Early Career and Equal Opportunity division in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence or to the coordinator of BIGSAS.

§ 6

Steering Committee

- (1) The Steering Committee makes decisions concerning the organisation of the Graduate School, the coordination of its activities, and the use of funds.
- (2) ¹The Steering Committee elects a vice dean of BIGSAS from among the members entitled to administer examinations. ²The term of office of the vice dean is three years. ³Reelection is admissible. ⁴The confirmation of the vice dean is made by the University Governing Board according to § 2 para 2 sentence 3 number 9 of the University of Bayreuth's Constitution dated 09 January 2023 (as amended).
- (3) ¹The Steering Committee makes decisions concerning the admission of members and associated members. ²It may decide by a two-thirds majority to exclude members or associate members if there are special reasons for doing so.
- (4) ¹It is also responsible for admitting doctoral researchers to BIGSAS for the purpose of a doctorate. ²It reviews their progress and decides on acceptance and admission to the doctoral examination process in accordance with the BIGSAS doctoral regulations as amended.
- (5) The Steering Committee is made up of
 - the dean as chairperson, who is elected for three years,

- four representatives elected by the members of BIGSAS who are entitled to administer examinations, one of whom is elected vice dean in accordance with § 6 para 2 of the present regulations,
 - a representative for one semester elected by the doctoral researchers admitted to BIGSAS or his/her deputy,
 - the director of the Gender & Diversity Office in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence or his or her deputy,
 - the academic coordinator of the Early Career and Equal Opportunity Office in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence,
 - the coordinator of BIGSAS,
- (6) ¹The Steering Committee meets once every quarter. ²The provisions in the University of Bayreuth's Constitution dated 09 January 2023 (as amended) also apply to the Steering Committee's course of business. ³In questions relevant to examinations, only the members entitled to administer examinations are entitled to vote.
- (7) The Steering Committee may delegate to the Executive Committee the performance of administrative tasks falling within the scope of § 6 paras 1 and 4, provided that they do not require fundamental decisions to be made.

§ 7

Executive Committee

- (1) The Executive Committee is made up of
- the dean,
 - the vice dean,
 - the academic coordinator of the Early Career and Equal Opportunity Office in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence,
 - the coordinator of BIGSAS,
 - the director of the Gender & Diversity Office in the "Africa Multiple" Cluster of Excellence or his or her deputy.
- (2) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened as necessary by the director; as a rule, it shall meet every 14 days.
- (3) The Executive Committee is responsible for the following tasks:
- implementing the decisions of the Steering Committee,

- quality assurance of doctoral training by monitoring compliance with individual target agreements (IRTP, see § 2 para 3 of the present regulations),
- ensuring the coordination of activities in the fields of public relations and national and international networking with the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence,
- the performance of tasks assigned to it by the Steering Committee in accordance with § 6 para 7.

§ 8

General Assembly

(1) ¹The following are members of the General Assembly of BIGSAS:

- the members under the terms of § 3 para 2 of the present regulations as voting members,
- the associate members under the terms of § 3 para 6 and para 7 of the present regulations as advisory members,
- the director of the Gender & Diversity Office in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence or his or her deputy,
- the academic coordinator of the Early Career and Equal Opportunity Office in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence,
- the BIGSAS coordinator in an advisory capacity.

²BIGSAS doctoral candidates participate in the General Assembly in an advisory capacity.

(2) ¹The BIGSAS General Assembly meets once a year at the invitation of the director of BIGSAS. ²The provisions the University of Bayreuth's Constitution dated 09 January 2023 (as amended) also apply to the General Assembly's course of business.

(3) The General Assembly is responsible for the following tasks:

- resolutions on the BIGSAS Regulations and the amendment of the BIGSAS Regulations,
- acceptance and discussion of the dean's report,
- the director of the Gender & Diversity Office in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence,
- acceptance of the report of the representative of the doctoral researchers,
- receiving other reports as appropriate,
- the election of the four representatives to the Steering Committee in accordance with § 6 para 5 of the present regulations.

§ 9

Advisory Board

- (1) ¹BIGSAS is supported by an Advisory Board as an advisory body. ²It is made up of
 - the Vice President for Research & Junior Scholars at the University of Bayreuth,
 - the director of the University of Bayreuth Graduate School,
 - the spokesperson of the Institute of African Studies,
 - the spokesperson of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence.
- (2) ¹The Advisory Board is invited to meetings by the dean of BIGSAS as required. ²The dean of BIGSAS may invite the members of the academic advisory board of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence to its meetings.

§ 10

Doctorate

- (1) Admission to a doctorate with BIGSAS enables the acquisition of the degree *Doktor / Doktorin der Geisteswissenschaften* (Dr. phil.) or *Doktor / Doktorin der Naturwissenschaften* (Dr. rer. nat.) on the basis of the BIGSAS doctoral regulations (as amended).
- (2) The basic prerequisites for acceptance for a doctorate in BIGSAS and the general procedure are governed by the BIGSAS doctoral regulations (as amended).

§ 11

Entry into effect and termination

¹The present regulations go into effect on 31 March 2023. ²They shall replace the Regulations of the Bayreuth Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) at the University of Bayreuth dated 25 February 2022.