

**Regulations of the  
Bayreuth International Graduate School of  
African Studies (BIGSAS)  
at the University of  
Bayreuth  
dated 30 August 2019**

**§ 1  
Legal status**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) is a central academic institute at the University of Bayreuth under the terms of § 19 para 5, para 6 sentence 1 BayHSchG in conjunction with § 15 of the University of Bayreuth's Constitution dated 25 June 2007 (as amended). <sup>2</sup>According to § 15 para 2 of the Constitution in the version of the Eleventh Set of Amendments dated 5 April 2019, it is part of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence.
- (2) In the course of the implementation of the provisions of § 3 of the Regulations of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence dated 20 December 2018 for the support of early-career scholars in the field of Africa-related research, BIGSAS was incorporated into the Cluster in accordance with § 9 para 1 sentence 3 of the present regulations.

**§ 2  
Objectives and tasks**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>BIGSAS is anchored in the field of Africa-related research across faculties and subject areas. <sup>2</sup>In line with § 9 para 2 of the Regulations of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, it is responsible for the training of doctoral researchers and for carrying out doctoral examination procedures.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>The aim of BIGSAS is to offer young scholars, in addition to their research work, an excellent education that 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. <sup>2</sup>BIGSAS offers close, structured supervision during the doctorate. <sup>3</sup>This combines doctoral researchers' academic qualifications with the teaching of career-relevant skills.

- (3) <sup>1</sup>Within 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). <sup>2</sup>In this way, it facilitates a high scientific level while at the same time streamlining the duration of the doctorate. <sup>3</sup>In addition, BIGSAS offers events and measures that contribute *inter alia* 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) <sup>1</sup>Members are the founding members of BIGSAS who are eligible to administer examinations, as far as their membership has not ended according to these rules. <sup>2</sup>Additional professors and retired professors may become members of the BIGSAS, provided that they are entitled to administer examinations in accordance with Art. 62 para 1 BayHSchG in conjunction with Art. 62 para 1 BayHSchG. § 4 HSchPrüferV (as amended). <sup>3</sup>Membership is also open to outstanding scholars from all faculties of the University of Bayreuth who hold a doctoral title and supervise Africa-related doctorates. <sup>4</sup>The 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 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) 1Associate members are other scholars who are involved in the supervision of 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 is entitled to administer examinations in accordance with Art. 62 para 1 BayHSchG in conjunction with § 4 HSchPrüferV (as amended). 3Associate membership is limited to the duration of the supervision relationship.
- (7) The associate members are listed in an external directory of members, which is not a part of the present regulations.
- (8) 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) <sup>1</sup>The 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. <sup>2</sup>He or she shall endeavour to ensure that the provisions of the present regulations are complied with. <sup>3</sup>With regard to matters that cannot be postponed, he or she is authorized make decisions on behalf of the Steering Committee. <sup>4</sup>He or she must promptly inform the other members of the Steering Committee of any such decision - at the next meeting at latest. <sup>5</sup>The Steering Committee may overrule urgent decisions made by the Dean analogous to Art. 20 para 4 sentence 3 BayHSchG.
- (2) The Dean is assisted by a Deputy Head.
- (3) The Dean may revocably delegate the performance of individual administrative tasks incumbent on him/her to the Academic Coordinator of Early Career and Equal Opportunity 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) <sup>1</sup>The Steering Committee elects a Deputy Head of BIGSAS from among its members entitled to administer examinations. <sup>2</sup>The confirmation of the Deputy Head is made by the University Governing Board according to § 2 para 2 sentence 2 number 9 of the University of Bayreuth's constitution dated 25 June 2007 (as amended).
- (3) <sup>1</sup>The Steering Committee makes decisions concerning the admission of members and associated members. <sup>2</sup>It 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 procedure in accordance with the BIGSAS doctoral regulations as amended. 3If there are special reasons for doing so, it may decide to exclude doctoral researchers by a two-thirds majority at the request of the supervisor.
- (5) The Steering Committee is made up of
- the Dean,
  - four representatives elected by the members of BIGSAS who are entitled to administer examinations, one of whom is elected Deputy Head in accordance with § 6 para 2 of the present regulations,
  - a representative 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,
  - the Academic Coordinator of Early Career and Equal Opportunity in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence,
  - the Coordinator of BIGSAS,
- (6) 1The Steering Committee meets once every quarter. 2The rules in the University of Bayreuth's constitution dated 25 June 2007 (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 Deputy Head,
  - the Academic Coordinator of Early Career and Equal Opportunity 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.
- (2) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened as necessary by the Dean; as a rule, it shall meet every 14 days.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall be 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) The 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 of the present regulations as advisory members,
  - the Director of the Gender & Diversity Office in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence in an advisory capacity,
  - the academic Coordinator of Early Career and Equal Opportunity in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence in an advisory capacity,
  - the Coordinator of BIGSAS in an advisory capacity.

- 2BIGSAS doctoral researchers participate in the General Assembly in an advisory capacity.
- (2) 1The BIGSAS General Assembly meets once a year at the invitation of the Dean of BIGSAS.  
2The rules in the University of Bayreuth's constitution dated 25 June 2007 (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,
  - acceptance and discussion of the report of the Director of the Gender & Diversity Office in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence,
  - acceptance and discussion of the report of the representative of the doctoral researchers,
  - acceptance and discussion of further reports as appropriate,
  - the election of the four representatives to the Steering Committee in accordance with § 5 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 Dean 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

### Doctoral Research

- (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, termination

1These regulations go into effect on 31 August 2019. 2They will replace the regulations on the management and committees of BIGSAS contained in the Regulations of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at the University of Bayreuth dated 5 March 2015.