

Institute for Physics and Astronomy (version 5/2026)

Publication-Based (Cumulative) Dissertation

A cumulative dissertation is only possible if the academic quality of the candidate is proven by a sufficient number of peer-reviewed scientific papers. All papers must already be officially accepted by the respective journals².

For a successful cumulative dissertation, the following requirements must be met:

- At least 3 publications are included in the work, and these 3 publications were written by the candidate as the responsible (lead or corresponding) author;
- Alternatively, at least 4 publications in total, provided that only 2 of them were written as the responsible author (i.e., 2 as responsible author + 2 as co-author publications as a minimum).

In any case, the individual contribution for the respective publications must be outlined in the dissertation.

Additional Notes on Preparing a Monograph

If a cumulative dissertation is not being pursued, the doctorate is completed in the form of a monograph. In a monograph, a scientific research question is addressed comprehensively and in its entirety. It should be noted that simply reusing individual sections from one's own publications is not permitted. Care must be taken to avoid self-plagiarism. Therefore, all adopted text passages and figures must be identified with appropriate citations, even when they originate from the author's own previous work.

² This can be demonstrated either through references to the publications or, in case the article is during the proof stage, by presenting the acceptance letters.