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Dean

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Dear Doctoral Candidates,

Welcome at the Faculty of Physics! I am happy that you have decided to pursue a doctoral degree in physics. The efforts of the doctoral candidates are essential for the excellence of research at our faculty and in Dresden in general.

The doctoral degree certifies your ability to do *independent* scientific research. Hence, I would like to encourage you to take your project into your own hands. In addition, I am convinced that broad knowledge and abilities are important, not only in your special field and not limited to physics. TU Dresden provides many opportunities in this regard.

In the following, I would like to give you a few important hints. I cannot cover all relevant aspects; the central sources for up-to-date information are the [web page of the School of Science on doctoral degrees](#) and the [web page of the Faculty of Physics on doctoral degrees](#). Please carefully read the information provided there, including the Regulations for Obtaining a Doctoral Degree, the Regulations for Doctoral Studies (please note that while a good effort has been made to translate these legal documents into English, the binding version is the German one), and the guidelines on good scientific practice. The [guidelines on good scientific practice for theses in physics](#) published by the Conference of Physics Departments are also pertinent.

In the course of doctoral studies, you need to take care of two important administrative steps: The *admission* as a doctoral candidate and the *opening* of the doctorate proceedings. Please apply for *admission* as soon as possible if you have not already done so. To that end, you first need to sign a supervision agreement with a professor of the Faculty of Physics. This professor assumes responsibility for your supervision but is not necessarily the person who advises you on a day-to-day basis. You then initiate the admission process in the on-line system [Promovendus](#). Please be aware that the membership in a structured doctoral program (e.g., an IMPRS) or the employment by TU Dresden or an external research institute does not imply admission as a doctoral candidate. Applications for admission can be rejected or granted subject to the fulfillment of additional conditions, which can take time.

With your admission you are also enrolled in the Doctoral Program of the School of Science. This allows you to take advanced courses but does not require you to do so. If you have participated in courses to the extent of at least 20 weekly teaching hours and have passed two exams on advanced topics with a grade of "satisfactory" or better by the time of the opening of doctorate proceedings (see below), then you can replace the Rigorosum as part of the final doctorate examination with these two exams.

The matriculation as a doctoral student of TU Dresden is an additional and voluntary step. Matriculation has the advantages brought by the student status, e.g., discounted prices in the Mensa and a ticket for public transport within Saxony. Matriculation can be applied for on the [web page of the Matriculation Office](#). If you have come to Dresden from abroad please also note the [web pages of the International Office of TU Dresden](#).

I would also like to recommend membership in the [Graduate Academy](#) of TU Dresden. Members can benefit from many offers, including training courses, one-to-one advice, and social events.

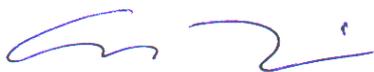
As a doctoral candidate, you have the right to participate in teaching. I am convinced that the ability to explain concepts well at an introductory level will be very valuable for your further career in research or elsewhere. Moreover, by teaching, you pass some of the education you have received on to the next generation. The Faculty of Physics expects you to teach for at least 4 weekly teaching hours in total (this amounts to two tutorial groups for one semester each, for example). This teaching is primarily to be performed in introductory lab courses or in tutorials for required lectures in theoretical physics. Details can be found on the [web page of the Faculty of Physics](#). The teaching assignments are organized with the help of an online OPAL course, which is linked to this web page. I suggest not to procrastinate but to sign up for teaching in this OPAL course as soon as possible.

You apply for the *opening* of doctorate proceedings when you hand in your thesis, at least one year after admission. More information can be found on the [web page of the Faculty of Physics](#).

If the information on the web pages leaves anything unclear please talk to your advising professor. Additional points of contact are listed on the [web page](#).

I wish you a pleasant time in Dresden, exciting research results, and the best of luck and success for the future.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carsten Timm', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. Dr. Carsten Timm