



Landshut, 14. August 2024

Experience report on a cooperative doctorate and rigorosum

**Doctoral candidate: Julia Straub**

Faculty: Interdisciplinary Studies

Examination committee: Prof. Dr. Claudia Doblinger (Technical University of Munich, Chair), Prof. Dr. Cordt Zollfrank (Technical University of Munich, 1<sup>st</sup> reviewer), Prof. Dr. Diana Hehenberger-Risse (Landshut University of Applied Sciences, 2<sup>nd</sup> reviewer)

PhD topic: "Development of a sustainability assessment system for wastewater treatment plants and the disposal path of sewage sludge using the example of the Bavarian-Czech border region"

Doctoral degree: **Dr. rer. nat.**

"In July 2024, my doctoral journey came to a successful end with my rigorosum, i.e., the oral examination to obtain my doctorate. After receiving the certificate, I can call myself Dr. rer. nat.! Various stops finally led me to this goal. My cooperating graduate center was the Technical University of Munich (TUM) Straubing Campus for Biotechnology and Sustainability, which was a perfect match for me and my research.

Thanks to the cooperative structure of my doctorate, I received valuable input from both, my supervisor at TUM, Prof. Dr. Cordt Zollfrank, and my supervisor at Landshut University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Dr. Diana Hehenberger-Risse.

My path into science started at the Technology Center for Energy (TZE), where I conducted research in the *greenIKK* project. I then moved on to Landshut University of Applied Sciences, where I was able to deepen my knowledge in the *DENU* project. Giving lectures at the Faculty of Mechanical and Civil Engineering enriched me personally and was a lot of fun.

Support, both professional and personal, is key in a doctoral project. I was lucky to benefit from established networks and professional expertise through my membership in the BayWISS Consortial Doctorate for Life Sciences and Green Technologies. Thanks to a doctoral scholarship from LaKoF, I made rapid progress with my research. In the end, the rigorosum was a challenge, both professionally and personally, and I am happy to have mastered it.

Ultimately, my time at the TZE and Landshut encouraged me to stay true to research, which has now led me to the Fraunhofer IGCV in Augsburg as a scientist."

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Photos: Private

