1. TAC Committee Composition:

The Thesis Advisory Committee (hereafter referred to as TAC) shall consist of three experienced scientists, including the doctoral student's main advisor, who will serve as the first thesis reviewer. In addition to the main supervisor, the two remaining TAC members must be affiliated with research groups outside the student's own and must not include any co-supervisors, in order to ensure interdisciplinarity. At least one of the two additional TAC members must hold a Dr. rer. nat. degree and be eligible according to §2 of the ordinance PromoA.

- It is not a requirement that all of the members of the TAC hold the position of professor. However, please keep in mind that the first and second thesis reviewers should have a habilitation.
- TAC members should be willing to remain on the TAC for the duration of the student's studies, when possible.
- All TAC members and thesis co-supervisors should be present at each TAC meeting.
- The 1st TAC member (= main supervisor) serves as the first reviewers/examiners for the doctoral thesis on the evaluation board for the thesis defense.
- The TAC has to be approved by the Dr.rer.nat. study board of the Medicine of faculty prior to the 1st TAC meeting.

2. TAC Responsibilities:

- The TAC exists to assist doctoral students by monitoring the pace and progress of a student's work and advising the student about the development of their research project, hereby complementing the role of the student's direct supervisor. This should occur on a yearly basis and include evaluating whether and to what extent the scientific approach, the scope of the proposal, and the research topic(s) are sufficient and suitable for a doctoral thesis project.
- With respect to the above mentioned evaluations and assessments, the TAC can (and is encouraged to) recommend changes to a student's proposal, and may also recommend a timeline for accomplishing defined goals necessary for completing the thesis research in time.
- Additionally, the TAC may advise students with regards to career planning and professional development.
- Members of the TAC may eventually mediate discussions between students and supervisors.

The TAC is asked to evaluate the candidate's work based on the following criteria:

1. Quality and Scope of the Research Work (incl. scientific rigor, originality, and significance of the research; consider the coherence and depth of the research questions, methodologies, and conclusions)
2. Publications and Research Output (published, accepted, submitted, or in preparation; comment on the candidate's contribution to each publication)
3. Overall Scientific Achievements (assess the candidate's development as an independent researcher; consider technical competence, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills; evaluate contributions to collaborations, presentations at conferences, and participation in scientific discussions)
4. Readiness for Thesis Submission (discuss whether the body of work is sufficient in depth and completeness for a doctoral thesis; confirm that the candidate is ready to proceed to thesis writing and defence)
5. Recommendations (clearly state whether the TAC recommends that the candidate proceeds to thesis submission; optionally, provide advice on thesis structure, remaining tasks, or areas requiring attention during writing)