

DOCTORAL DEGREE REGULATIONS UTRECHT

(The texts printed in grey are articles from the Higher Education and Research Act (*Dutch abbreviation: WHW.*)

Section 7.19 WHW. Doctoral Degree Regulations; the honorary doctorate

1. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees shall draw up the Doctoral Degree Regulations with due observance of the provisions laid down in this Act. These Regulations shall provide for:
 - a. the procedures for obtaining a doctorate and for conducting a defence ceremony, including the responsibilities and powers of all those who are or may become involved in either the doctoral studies or the defence ceremony, and
 - b. the provisions for settling any disputes arising from either the doctoral studies or the defence ceremony.
 - c. the procedures relating to Section 7.18, Subsection 6, if applicable.
2. On the recommendation of the Executive Board of the Institution, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees is authorised to award honorary doctorates to natural persons in recognition of their outstanding merits.

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CHAPTER 1 DOCTORAL DEGREE

§ 1 GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Article 1 Doctoral Degree

1. Utrecht University offers Doctoral Degree programmes.
2. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees is authorised to award Doctoral degrees.
3. The chairperson of the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees is the representative of the Board in and out of court.

Article 1a Joint Doctorate

1. Utrecht University offers joint doctorates as referred to in Section 7.18, Subsection 6, WHW.
The joint doctorate can be obtained by defending the doctoral thesis in the presence of the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees or a separate committee appointed by this body.
2. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees is authorised to award the joint doctorate, together with a similar body of the partner institute or institutes.
3. A joint doctorate can only be pursued at Utrecht University if prior written permission has been obtained from the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees in conformity with the Regulations for Obtaining a Joint Doctorate. These regulations are appended to and an integral part of the Doctoral Degree Regulations.
4. The stipulations in the Doctoral Degree Regulations shall apply to the joint doctorates by analogy unless the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees gives permission to deviate from these stipulations on proper grounds.

Article 2

1. In these Regulations, the terms 'supervisor' and 'co-supervisor' shall include the plural forms in cases where two or more persons have been appointed supervisor or co-supervisor.
2. If the Rector Magnificus has been appointed supervisor or wishes to be a voting member of the Assessment Committee and/or the Doctoral Examination Committee, then the deputy chair of the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees carries out the responsibilities of the Rector Magnificus as described in these Regulations and as chairperson of the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees.
3. Those who participate in the deliberations as described in Articles 16, 17, and 25, as well as those involved in the procedures described in Subsection 7, are bound to secrecy.

Article 3 Instructions to the PhD candidate

In accordance with these Regulations, PhD candidates in the execution of their tasks shall observe the "Instructions to the PhD candidate" as laid down by the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees, and he or she shall make use of the forms specified by the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees.

§ 2 ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES; PHD CANDIDATES – SUPERVISORS – CO-SUPERVISORS

Section 7.18 WHW. Conferral of the degrees of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy; admission to the pursuit of a doctorate and structure of the process

1. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees of a research university, the Open University or a university set up on an ideological basis shall be authorised to confer the degrees of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy upon completion of the doctoral degree process. The degrees of Doctor and Doctor of Philosophy are equivalent.
2. The pursuit of a doctoral degree shall be open to anyone who:
 - a. has earned the degree of Master pursuant to Section 7.10a, Subsections 1 or 2.
 - b. has written a doctoral thesis to prove their competence for the independent pursuit of science, or, as the case may be, has manufactured a doctoral design, and
 - c. has satisfied the requirements set out in the regulations pertaining to the conferral of doctorates as referred to in Section 7.19.

3. In exceptional cases, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may grant admission to the doctoral degree process to persons who meet the second paragraph under *b* and *c* but do not meet that paragraph under *a*.
4. For each doctorate to be conferred, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees shall appoint a doctoral thesis supervisor. A professor or, provided it is someone on whom the degree of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy has been conferred, another member of staff of a research university, a university set up on an ideological basis or the Open University who, in the opinion of the doctorate board has sufficient competence to act as doctoral thesis supervisor, may be appointed as a doctoral thesis supervisor. The defence ceremony shall take place before this board or before a committee to be composed by the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees out of professors and other persons whom it deems to be sufficiently competent to sit on the committee, in compliance with the regulations pertaining to the conferral of doctorates referred to in Section 7.19.
5. For the purpose of the fourth paragraph, the professors occupying endowed chairs at a public university shall be counted as professors of that university.
6. An institution may confer the degrees of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy jointly with one or more Dutch or foreign institutions upon completion of the doctoral degree process. The first up to and including the fifth paragraphs shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The institutions may set down further arrangements with respect to the process within the stipulations set down in these Doctoral Degree Regulations.

Section 17a.18 WHW. Admission to doctoral studies for candidates possessing a diploma 'oude stijl' (i.e.: a diploma gained before the introduction of the Bachelor-Master structure)

Any person who, on 31 August 2002 or before, fulfilled the condition as referred to in Section 7.18, Subsection 2 under *a*, as this provision read on 31 August 2002, shall be considered equivalent to anyone who fulfils the condition as referred to in Section 7.18, Subsection 2 under *a*.

Section 7.18 WHW. Doctoral degrees; admission and graduation (as valid on 31 August 2002)

1. [...]
2. Admission to doctoral studies shall be granted to any person who:
 - a. has successfully completed a degree programme totalling at least 168 credit points or who, with regard to the programmes described in Section 7.4, Subsection 3, has successfully passed part of a programme totalling at least 168 credits.[...]

Article 4 Request for admission / Exemption

1. At the start of the research that will serve as the basis for their doctoral studies, PhD candidates shall submit to the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees a request for admission to the doctoral programme. This request may not be submitted without prior approval of the Dean.
2. At the applicant's request, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may grant admission to the doctoral programme to anyone who does not possess the required degree in order to be admitted, but who does fulfil the provisions of Section 7.18, Subsection 2 under *b* and *c* of the WHW., provided the applicant can clearly prove to have sufficient knowledge. This request shall be accompanied by a recommendation from a professor at Utrecht University.
3. A person who has been awarded a doctorate (or a foreign equivalent of this) shall not be re-admitted to the doctoral programme at Utrecht University. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may grant dispensation from this provision. The intended supervisor must submit a written and reasoned request for this to the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees, via the Dean.

Article 5 Supervision of PhD candidates

PhD candidates are always supervised by at least two people: the supervisor, the second supervisor and/or co-supervisor. The supervisors may not be partners of each other nor blood relatives or relatives by marriage up to the fourth degree, nor be in such a relationship with each other that they cannot be reasonably required to make an assessment.

Article 6 Appointment of supervisor

1. Together with the request for admission to the doctoral programme, the PhD candidate shall submit to the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees a request for the appointment of a supervisor (a full professor or an associate professor) who, in their opinion, is most suitable. The following persons are excluded from being appointed supervisor: the partner of the PhD candidate, blood relatives or relatives by marriage up to the fourth degree, and any other persons whose assessment of the PhD candidate cannot reasonably be required as a result of their specific relationship to the candidate.
2. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees, having received the request as referred to in Article 4, shall specify the academic area of the doctoral research, and shall appoint at least one but not more than two full or associate professors to act as supervisor, without prejudice to that stated in Article 7 Section 2 of these regulations.
3. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may appoint a full or associate professor from Utrecht University or from another Dutch or international university or institute of higher education to act as supervisor.
4. If the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees should appoint a supervisor from another higher education institute, a supervisor from Utrecht University will be appointed as well.

Article 7 Co-supervisor

1. At the request of the supervisor, and after approval by the Dean, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may appoint one or a maximum of two co-supervisors. In order to arrange this, the supervisor should first submit a written request to the Dean including the proposal to appoint a co-supervisor. After approval by the Dean the supervisor then submits the request to the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees.
Anyone who holds a doctorate, who is an expert in the relevant academic area and is not a professor, may be appointed co-supervisor. Co-supervisors should be involved in the daily supervision of the PhD candidate.
2. If co-supervisors are appointed as professors during the doctoral programme which they have been appointed to give daily supervision, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may appoint them as supervisor. If two supervisors have already been appointed, in very exceptional cases the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may appoint the professor as third supervisor.

Article 8 End of authorisation to award doctoral degrees

Professors and associate professors who are authorised to award doctoral degrees may continue to act as supervisor for PhD candidates to which they were appointed by the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees before their dismissal. This entitlement is for a maximum of five years after the honourable dismissal. The guiding principle is:

- i. in the event of emeritus status: the date upon which emeritus status commenced;
- ii. in the event of termination of professorship: the date of the termination of professorship;
- iii. in all other cases: the date of dismissal.

§ 3 DOCTORAL RESEARCH AND THESIS MANUSCRIPT

Article 9 Research conditions

1. The PhD candidate is responsible for ensuring that the research that will serve as the basis for the doctoral thesis shall fulfil the following conditions:
 - a. The PhD candidate makes an original contribution to academic research of a quality which stands up to peer review at the level usual in the Netherlands;
 - b. The PhD candidate has demonstrated their ability to independently apply the academic methods used in the discipline concerned for developing, interpreting and putting into practice new knowledge;
 - c. The PhD candidate has acquired and worked with a substantial body of knowledge which, at the very least, embraces the principles and methods of international academic practice and of theorisation, methodology and study in the discipline concerned;

- d. The PhD candidate possesses the ability to design and implement a substantial project for the purpose of developing new knowledge;
 - e. The PhD candidate is able to pass on knowledge and methods pertaining to their discipline or specialism in an effective way;
 - f. The PhD candidate is able to exercise social responsibility in the conducting, applying and making use of their own research.
2. The research is conducted in compliance with legal and university regulations and codes of conduct.

Article 10 Joint research

Joint research may serve as the basis for a doctoral thesis written by a maximum of three PhD candidates, provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a. Each of the PhD candidates contributes to the research independently and sufficiently, to the satisfaction of the supervisor.
- b. Each of the PhD candidates is author of a separate part of the thesis, while at the same time they are jointly responsible for the overall coherence of the thesis.

Article 11 Division of tasks between supervisors and co-supervisors

1. The supervisor and co-promotor shall coach the PhD candidate when writing their thesis, and shall arrange meetings on a regular basis.
2. The supervisors shall ensure that:
 - a. The doctoral research is conducted according to the rules of conduct for academic practice within Utrecht University and according to the rules of conduct and/or the professional code which applies to professional conduct for the relevant academic field;
 - b. If the doctoral research should necessitate research on or with human subjects, the doctoral research will be conducted with the consent of the parties involved or with the consent of a representative appointed by these parties;
 - c. In so far as the doctoral research involves laboratory animals, the appropriate rules will be observed, and
That, in so far as the doctoral research or part of the research is funded by third parties, as few restrictions as possible are imposed on the research, and, if limitations are imposed on freedom of publication of data and results of the research, these limitations do not contravene academic freedom.
3. Where two or more supervisors have been appointed, they shall divide the various tasks between them after consultation with the PhD candidate. They shall document this division of tasks if either of them or the candidate so requires.
4. Co-supervisors shall coach PhD candidates when writing their thesis, following instructions of the supervisor.

Article 12 Thesis manuscript assessment

1. PhD candidates may ask the supervisor to assess their manuscript in order to decide whether it meets the requirements of a thesis.
2. Supervisors shall assess all manuscripts submitted to them on the basis of at least the following criteria:
 - a. relevance of the subject;
 - b. formulation and distinctiveness of research subject;
 - c. originality of the academic discussion;
 - d. academic level of the structuring, analysis and processing of the research data;
 - e. methodological soundness of this analysis;
 - f. derivation of new insights and concepts;
 - g. critical confrontation between the candidate's conclusions and existing theories or concepts;
 - h. creativity of the candidate's approach to the academic area covered by the thesis;
 - i. level of restraint exercised in the production of the text;
 - j. well-balanced structure and clarity of style.The supervisor shall also assess whether the manuscript meets all other requirements laid down in the Doctoral Degree Regulations.
3. After consulting with PhD candidates and any co-supervisors, supervisors may instruct candidates to make certain alterations to the manuscript.

Article 13 Approval of manuscript

1. Following the PhD candidate's request, the supervisor shall decide if the manuscript merits approval on the basis of the criteria described in the Doctoral Degree Regulations.
2. Supervisors shall allow co-supervisors sufficient time to assess the manuscript. Co-supervisors shall supply their opinion in writing. Supervisors shall attach this assessment to their own assessment.
3. The supervisor shall decide on the request for approval within three months of receipt of the manuscript, unless the PhD candidate consents to a longer assessment term. If the assessment term stated in the first sentence is exceeded, PhD candidates may request the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees to instruct supervisors to make their decision before a specific date. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees shall decide within 30 days of receipt of this request.

§ 4 ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Article 14 Establishment

1. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees shall establish an Assessment Committee within two weeks of notification of approval of the thesis manuscript.
2. The committee members shall be recommended by the supervisor and approved of by the Dean. The following persons are excluded from the Assessment Committee: the partner of the PhD candidate, supervisor or co-supervisor, blood relatives or relatives by marriage up to the fourth degree of the PhD candidate, supervisor or co-supervisor, and any other persons whose assessment of the PhD candidate cannot reasonably be required as a result of their specific relationship to the candidate. Members of the Assessment Committee are also in principle not co-authors of an article that forms part of the thesis,
3. The supervisor shall ensure that both the chairperson and the members of the Assessment Committee receive copies of the approved manuscript.

Article 15 Committee members

1. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees shall appoint five members to be voting members of the Assessment Committee, of which at least four shall be authorised to award doctoral degrees, three of whom shall be professors of a Dutch or international university, or emeritus professors who are still authorised to award doctoral degrees. At least one of the voting members of the Assessment Committee shall be a professor not affiliated with Utrecht University. The members hold a doctoral degree and are experts either on parts of the doctoral thesis subject or the methodology used. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees ensures there is diversity of committee members.
2. The Rector Magnificus chairs the Assessment Committee and has an advisory role. The Rector Magnificus may be substituted by any professor who (i) is not a voting member, nor (ii) the supervisor. The chairperson represents the Assessment Committee in and out of court.
3. The supervisor and the co-supervisor are members of the Assessment Committee and both have advisory roles. The supervisor acts as the secretary of the Assessment Committee.

Article 16 Admission to the doctoral thesis defence

1. Within one month of receipt of the manuscript, the Assessment Committee shall decide whether the manuscript demonstrates the PhD candidate's capacity for the independent pursuit of research to such an extent that the PhD candidate shall be admitted to defend their thesis. In exceptional cases, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may extend this term by a specific number of days.
2. The decision whether to admit the candidate to defend their thesis is in principle unanimous. If during the voting procedure it turns out that one or more members intend to cast a negative vote regarding the proposed admission to the doctoral thesis defence, the Assessment Committee will consult the Dean prior to proceeding with the definitive vote. The Dean decides whether to grant admission to the doctoral thesis defence, to request that the manuscript be revised, or to refuse admission.
3. If one of the members of the Assessment Committee casts a negative vote, such members cannot for that reason be relieved of their membership of the assessment Committee.
4. In the event of a revision of the manuscript, the PhD candidate must submit the revised manuscript to the supervisor within one year of the instruction of the Assessment Committee. At the request of the supervisor, the chair calls the Assessment Committee to meet one more time to assess the revised manuscript. The previous points of Article 15

apply to this second assessment. If more than a year elapses before the revised manuscript is submitted for assessment, the appointment of the Assessment Committee expires automatically. The appointment of a new Assessment Committee may be requested as and when required.

Article 17 'Cum laude' doctorates (i.e. 'with distinction')

1. An excellent assessment of the doctoral thesis based on several of the criteria mentioned in Article 12 under 2 can allow for a 'cum laude' designation, if the quality of the thesis is among the top 3 to 5 percent in the relevant field of research worldwide. If this is the case, the Assessment Committee, after approval by the Dean, may recommend the Doctoral Examination Committee to confer upon the PhD candidate a degree with a 'cum laude' designation.
2. Before deciding on the recommendation, as referred to in point 1 above, the Dean shall seek the advice of at least two external experts in the relevant academic area who were not involved in the research that serves as the basis for the thesis. The Rector Magnificus shall be notified of the names of the experts at least four weeks before the graduation date. Such external experts may not have co-published with the supervisor or PhD candidate within five years of receiving the request for advice from the Dean. The Dean shall check the expertise and impartiality of the external experts.
3. The Assessment Committee's recommendation to award a degree with a 'cum laude' designation shall be made unanimously and with the supervisor's approval. Beforehand, the supervisor shall consult with the co-supervisor about this recommendation.
4. The Dean shall notify the Doctoral Examination Committee at least five working days before the graduation date of the proposal for awarding a doctorate with a 'cum laude' designation.

§ 5 DOCTORAL THESIS

Article 18 Academic content

1. The doctoral thesis shall either be an academic treatise on a particular subject, or a number of separate, sufficiently coherent academic treatises, all or some of which have already been published as articles.
2. An article written by more than one person may be accepted as part of the thesis if the candidate made a vital contribution to the article, as confirmed in writing by the supervisor.
3. A separate academic treatise, as referred to in Article 9, which has been written by the PhD candidate in cooperation with others, can be part of the thesis only if they have provided a significant contribution to the treatise and if the portion for which they are primarily responsible is clearly indicated in the thesis.
4. If a dissertation consists of a number of separate academic treatises, the candidates shall add either an introduction or a conclusion in which they explain the coherence between the various treatises.

Article 19 Technical requirements

1. The thesis shall be written in Dutch, German, English or French or, subject to the approval of the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees, in another language. If the thesis is written in Dutch, an English translation of the title and an English summary shall be appended. If the thesis is written in German, English or French, a Dutch translation of the title and a Dutch summary shall be appended. If the dissertation is written in a language other than Dutch, German, English or French, both Dutch and English translations of the title and Dutch and English summaries shall be appended.
2. The thesis shall contain a concise curriculum vitae of the PhD candidate.
3. The thesis shall contain a description of the composition of the Assessment Committee
4. The thesis shall be available both in print and in digital form for the purpose of the doctoral thesis defence ceremony and for public distribution according to the Instructions to the PhD candidates.
5. The thesis shall be made up and printed in compliance with the regulations in the Instructions to the PhD candidates as laid down by the Board for the Conferral of the Doctoral Degrees.
6. Subject to the approval of the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees, the thesis may include additions that strictly speaking fall outside the scope of an academic treatise.
7. In the case of a joint thesis, this article shall equally apply to each of the PhD candidates.

8. The thesis may not contain any advertising material.

Article 20 Postponement of the thesis defence ceremony

If the PhD candidate fails to submit their thesis in compliance with Article 19 and the Instructions to the PhD candidates, the chairperson of the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may decide to postpone the doctoral thesis defence ceremony.

§ 6 DOCTORAL THESIS DEFENCE CEREMONY

Article 21 Ceremony date

At the suggestion of the supervisor, the Rector Magnificus shall set the place, date and time of the doctoral thesis defence ceremony.

Article 22 Doctoral Examination Committee

1. The candidate shall defend their dissertation in the presence of a Doctoral Examination Committee, which shall be established by the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees.
2. The members of the Doctoral Examination Committee are appointed at the recommendation of the supervisor and with the approval of the Dean.
3. The Doctoral Examination Committee shall consist of:
 - a. at least three voting members of the Assessment Committee;
 - b. the supervisor(s) and, if applicable, the co-supervisor(s);
 - c. other professors and senior lecturers of Utrecht University, provided that, in addition to the chairperson and the supervisor, at least three members of the Doctoral Examination Committee are professors at Utrecht University. If the Assessment Committee has submitted a recommendation to award a degree with a 'cum laude' designation, at least five members of the Doctoral Examination Committee shall be professors at Utrecht University, in addition to the chairperson and the supervisor.
4. The Rector Magnificus chairs the Doctoral Examination Committee and has an advisory role. They may appoint predecessors, deans, former deans, or professors, to act as their deputy. The chairperson represents the Doctoral Examination Committee in and out of court.
5. The supervisor acts as secretary of the Doctoral Examination Committee. If there are two supervisors, they decide among themselves who should act as secretary.
6. Both emeritus professors and guests may be invited to become members of and advise the Doctoral Examination Committee.

Article 23 Objections

1. All members of the Doctoral Examination Committee have the right to raise objections. The supervisor shall ensure that a sufficient number of committee members have expressed their willingness to voice their objections.
2. Subject to the Rector's consent, anyone who holds a doctorate and is an expert in the subject area of the thesis is permitted to voice objections.
3. Subject to consent from the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees, recognised experts in the subject area of the thesis who do not hold doctoral degrees are permitted to voice objections.
4. Joint theses shall be separately defended by each candidate, if possible successively on the very same day.

Article 24 Graduation session

1. The chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee shall structure the discussion in such a way that the candidate is given the opportunity to respond each time an opponent has voiced their objections.
2. The session shall be adjourned 45 minutes after its commencement, unless the chairperson decides otherwise. The Beadle shall announce that the 45 minutes have expired by proclaiming 'Hora est' (*Latin: 'it is time'*). The chairperson thereupon adjourns the session, after which the Doctoral Examination Committee retires for closed-door deliberations.

Article 25 Deliberations

1. During the deliberations referred to in Article 24 under 2, the secretary and the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee shall present their findings, taking into account any minority opinions.

2. The Doctoral Examination Committee shall decide on the conferral of the doctorate, taking into account the candidate's defence of their thesis. If any member of the Doctoral Examination Committee so desires, a poll shall be taken. All committee members have voting rights. If the votes are equally divided, the doctorate shall not be awarded.
3. If the Assessment Committee has recommended to award a degree with a 'cum laude' designation, a poll shall be taken. If the votes are equally divided, the 'cum laude' designation shall not be awarded.
4. If the doctorate is awarded, both the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee and the supervisor shall sign the doctoral degree certificate. The co-supervisor also signs the certificate. The 'cum laude' designation, if awarded, shall be added to the certificate.

Article 26 Announcement of doctorate

1. After the deliberations referred to in Article 24 under 2 have been concluded, the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee shall reopen the session and announce the Committee's decision.
2. If the doctorate is awarded, the supervisor, under the authority of the chairperson of the Assessment Committee, shall confer on the candidate the doctoral degree and present them with the certificate as referred to in Article 25 under 4. If the 'cum laude' designation has been awarded, the supervisor shall announce this.
3. The supervisor or, subject to permission of the chairperson of the Doctoral Examination Committee, the co-supervisor, shall express their opinion about the thesis and, if desired, the academic qualities of the PhD candidate. The supervisor may add some words of appreciation.

§ 7 SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Article 27 Arbitration by the Dean

1. At the request of any of the parties involved in a dispute, the Dean shall offer to arbitrate if:
 - a. a potential supervisor refuses to accept their appointment as supervisor or withdraws their acceptance;
 - b. a dispute arises between the supervisors/co-supervisors or between the supervisor/co-supervisor and the candidate while the candidate is writing their thesis;
 - c. a dispute arises between the supervisors/co-supervisors or between the supervisor/co-supervisor and the candidate about the approval of the manuscript;
 - d. the Assessment Committee does not admit the candidate to defend their thesis.
2. If the Dean personally is the supervisor or a voting member of the Assessment Committee, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees shall appoint a professor to be arbitrator.
3. The arbitrator shall hear the parties involved, in order to reach an amicable solution. The arbitrator shall present their findings and reasoned conclusions in a written report, which they shall discuss with all parties involved. The arbitrator shall send a report and a written summary of this discussion to the parties involved and to the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees.

Article 28 Ruling by the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees

1. If arbitration, as referred to in Article 27, fails to settle the dispute within one month, either or both parties may submit a written request to the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees to settle the dispute.
2. Within one month of receipt of the request, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees shall establish an Advisory Committee to advise the Board on the presented dispute. The committee shall be composed of three professors who have not been involved in the doctoral research.
3. The Advisory Committee referred to under 2 shall hear all parties involved and is authorised to consult any experts. The committee shall present its findings in a written report.
4. Within two months of its establishment, the Advisory Committee referred to under 2 shall submit its recommendations to the Board of the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees in the form of a well-reasoned draft decision, accompanied by the report referred to under 3.
5. The Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees shall settle the dispute within one month of receipt of the recommendations referred to under 4.

CHAPTER 2 HONORARY DOCTORATE

Section 7.19 WHW. Doctoral Degree Regulations; honorary doctorate

1. [...]
2. On the recommendation of the Executive Board of the Institution, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees is authorised to award honorary doctorates to natural persons in recognition of their outstanding merits.

Article 29 Honorary doctorate

An honorary doctorate can be awarded to anyone:

- a. who has conducted research which proved to be of exceptional significance to the academic practice at the university or to science in general;
- b. who has made, either academically, culturally, or socially, an outstanding contribution, directly or indirectly, to academic education and research.

Article 30 Consultation with the Board of the University

1. If the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees intends to accept a recommendation to award an honorary doctorate as submitted by a Dean, it shall consult confidentially with the Executive Board.
2. Following notification by the Executive Board, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees decides whether the honorary doctorate shall be awarded.

Article 31 Decision on honorary doctorate

1. If the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees has decided to award an honorary doctorate, it shall also appoint one or more university professors to be supervisor/supervisors.
2. The candidate, the supervisor, and the Dean of the faculty concerned shall be informed of the Board's decision. This information is confidential.
3. The decision shall only be made public after the candidate has declared their willingness to accept the honorary doctorate.

Article 32 Public session

1. The honorary doctorate shall be awarded in a special public session of the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees.
2. By order of the Rector Magnificus, the supervisor shall award the honorary degree, while expressing words of praise and appreciation.
3. In evidence of the honours awarded, the honorary doctor shall receive a 'cappa' (*i.e. a small honorary gown*) and a degree certificate signed by the Rector Magnificus, the Dean of the faculty concerned, and the supervisor.

CHAPTER 3 OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 33

1. In all cases not covered by the Doctoral Degree Regulations, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees shall decide.
2. In exceptional cases, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may deviate from the Doctoral Degree Regulations.

Article 34

These regulations shall take effect on the date of adoption.

Article 35

For requests for admission to doctoral studies dated prior to 1 March 2020, the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees may deviate from the stipulations in these regulations, provided it acts in compliance with the regulations as it was in force between 22 November 2018 and 29 February 2020.

The Doctoral Degree Regulations take effect on 1 March 2020.
As laid down by order of the Board for the Conferral of Doctoral Degrees.

The official language of the Doctoral Degree Regulations is Dutch. In the event of discrepancies or ambiguity between the original Dutch version of these Regulations and this translation, the Dutch text shall prevail.

NB Where the Regulations refer to 'professor', this is intended to imply 'hoogleraar', which is the Dutch equivalent of full professor.