



Office of the Rector
Secretariat Doctorate Board

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Subject
Transitional arrangement, Summary of changes and FAQs

The University of Amsterdam 2020 Doctorate Regulations will enter into force on 1 September 2020, on which date the 2014 Doctorate Regulations will cease to be effective.

This means that from 31 August 2020 actions regarding new as well as current doctoral trajectories will fall under the new regulations.

A decision taken by the Doctorate Board before 1 September 2020 (according to the 2014 Doctorate Regulations) will remain valid. The same applies to a request signed by the Dean before 1 September 2020, but which results in a decision after this date.

Transitional arrangement from old to new Doctorate Regulations

The Doctorate Board may accept a deviation from the 2020 Doctorate Regulations regarding a request for admission or appointment of the doctorate committee which has been signed by the Dean *before 1 October 2020*. The conditions are that the request corresponds with the 2014 Doctorate Regulations as valid until 1 September 2020, and reasons for the deviation have been explained in writing.

Summary of the main changes to the 2020 Doctorate Regulations

1. Section I. General provisions
 - a. The provision regarding prohibited relationships has been tightened up (Article 4).
2. Section II. Conditions for admission to the doctoral programme
 - a. The provision on excluding a second (or parallel) doctorate has been tightened up (Article 6 and Article 9, paragraph 9, under c.);
 - b. The procedure of the 'learned discourse' has been clarified (Article 8, paragraphs 3 and 4).

3. Section III. Admission to the doctoral programme
 - a. The possibility by which a professor affiliated to a Dutch university is appointed as a supervisor together with a co-supervisor affiliated to the University of Amsterdam has been abolished (Article 10, paragraph 3 in the old regulations);
 - b. A supervisor affiliated to a foreign academic institution should hold a position comparable to that of a full professor or associate professor in possession of the *ius promovendi* at the University of Amsterdam (Article 10, paragraph 3);
 - c. The extension of the *ius promovendi* by five years following an honourable termination of appointment now also applies to non-professors in possession of the *ius promovendi* (Article 10, paragraph 6);
 - d. At least two individuals are appointed to provide supervision for the doctoral candidate: either two supervisors, or one supervisor and one co-supervisor. The possibility of granting an exemption, referred to in the old Doctorate Regulations, has been abolished (Article 11, paragraphs 1 and 2).

4. Section IV. Preparing the thesis manuscript
 - a. Article 15, paragraph 2 has been reformulated. Any research that has not been conducted largely under the direct supervision of a supervisor cannot in principle serve as the basis for a doctoral thesis (Article 13, paragraph 3). However, the Dean may still grant an exemption for this.
 - b. The authority to make exceptions to the maximum length of 70,000 words no longer lies with the supervisor, but with the Dean (Article 15, paragraph 2).

5. Section VI. Doctorate Committee
 - a. The validity of decisions on appointments to Doctorate Committees has been extended to two years (Article 19, paragraph 8);
 - b. The majority of Doctorate Committee members are full professors or UvA employees in possession of the *ius promovendi*, supplemented by doctorate holders (Article 20, paragraph 3);
 - c. The Dean ensures that the composition of Doctorate Committee is as diverse as possible (Article 20, paragraph 5).

6. Section VII. Assessment of the thesis manuscript and admission to the thesis defence
 - a. The criteria for assessing doctoral theses have been altered (Article 22, paragraph 3, and appendix A);
 - b. The procedure in cases of refusal of admission to the defence ceremony has been clarified (Article 22, paragraph 6);
 - c. The supervisor informs the dean by e-mail as soon as the doctorate committee has approved of the thesis manuscript. The Dean confirms his/her agreement to the admission of the doctoral candidate to the defence ceremony in a written statement. The use of the draft title page which needs to be signed by the promotor is discontinued (Article 25, paragraph 3).

7. Section VIII. Cum laude
 - a. The 'cum laude' classification may be granted if the doctoral candidate has shown that he/she has achieved an exceptional level of competence vis-à-vis the criteria referred to in Article 22, paragraph 3 (Article 27, paragraph 1).
8. Section IX. The doctoral thesis
 - a. The doctoral candidate supplies three (was twelve) printed or copied versions of the thesis to the Office of the Beadle (Article 30, paragraph 2);
 - b. The Dean of the faculty determines whether the thesis should be submitted on paper or electronically to the parties mentioned in this paragraph (Article 30, paragraph 5).
9. Section XI. Joint doctorate
 - a. The provisions regarding the joint doctorate have been incorporated into one section.
10. Section XII. Arbitration Procedure
 - a. The formulation of the procedure has been revised.

FAQs

Q I have been working on my doctoral research for quite some time now but have not applied for admission yet. Am I subject to the old Doctorate Regulations?

A No, your doctoral programme is covered entirely by the new 2020 Doctorate Regulations.

Q I have a decision on my admission but my supervisor has not yet applied for the appointment of a doctorate committee. Am I subject to the old regulations or the new regulations?

A Your admission decision remains valid. If you do not have your request for appointment of the committee signed by the Dean by 1 September 2020, the committee shall be subject to the new regulations.

Q A Doctorate Committee has already been appointed by the Doctorate Board. Do I still need to meet the requirements of the new Doctorate Regulations?

A Your admission and doctorate committee decision remain valid. Other actions to be taken are subject to the new 2020 Doctorate Regulations. If your manuscript has been approved by your supervisor after 1 September 2020, the supervisor shall provide the doctorate committee with the new assessment form (appendix A in the new regulations). An eventual cum laude procedure to be started after 1 September shall take place according to the new regulations.

Q How many copies of the paper version of my doctoral thesis should I give to the Office of the Beadle and the faculty?

A Because of the measures taken in response to the coronavirus crisis, it is now usual to give only three paper copies to the Office of the Beadle. This will be the standard under the new Doctorate Regulations. The Dean of the faculty in which the doctoral degree is being taken decides how the thesis should be given to other recipients.