

Disclaimer

This English version of the doctorate regulations is a translation. The Dutch version of the doctorate regulations is leading. In case the Higher Education and Research Act, or simply, the Act is mentioned, it refers to the Dutch Wet op het Hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderwijs (WHW).

Doctorate Regulations of the Open Universiteit

Chapter I General provisions

Article 1

1. For the purposes of these regulations, the following definitions apply:
 - a. Assessment Committee: the committee that is charged on behalf of the Doctorate Board with deciding whether the PhD candidate has provided such proof of competence by means of the Dissertation that he can be admitted to the defence of the Dissertation.
 - b. External PhD candidate: someone who conducts PhD research without an employment contract at the Open Universiteit.
 - c. Executive Board: the Executive Board of the Open Universiteit.
 - d. Doctorate Board: the Board referred to in Chapter 11, Article 10 of the Act. For the composition of the Doctorate Board, reference is made to the current Administrative and Management Regulations (*Bestuurs- en beheersreglement*) of the Open Universiteit.
 - e. Co-supervisor: the person who, as an expert in (part of) the field of the subject described in the Dissertation, assists the Supervisor in supervising the PhD candidate.
 - f. Cum laude: predicate for a PhD candidate who has defended a Dissertation that, in the opinion of the Defence Committee, is of excellent scientific quality.
 - g. Dean: the Dean of the Faculty in which the PhD program is being followed, who is also the process coordinator.
 - h. DOI: Digital Object Identifier; a unique, permanent (digital) identification code.
 - i. Assessment criteria: description of the knowledge and skills of the PhD candidate that emerge from the Dissertation and testify to his ability to practice science independently.
 - j. Expert: a subject matter expert who, on the basis of relevant work experience and/or achievements, has additional expertise that is insufficiently present in the scientific Assessment Committee.
 - k. Faculty: the faculty where the PhD program is followed at the University.
 - l. Certificate: the written evidence showing that the degree of Doctor has been awarded to the PhD candidate.
 - m. Professor: a lecturer of highest rank at the University.
 - n. Honoris Causa: an honorary Doctorate, which is awarded to persons who have made an exceptional achievement.
 - o. Ius promovendi: the right to act as a Supervisor.
 - p. Joint doctorate: a PhD program as referred to in Article 7.18 paragraph 6 of the Act, which takes place as a result of a partnership between the University and one or more (foreign) universities, whereby a joint degree is awarded.
 - q. Manuscript: the draft of the Dissertation
 - r. Beadle: official who is involved in all academic ceremonies of the University and in particular in arranging matters relating to the PhD Defence Ceremony. The beadle can be reached via pedel@ou.nl.
 - s. Dissertation: one or more scientific treatises, as referred to in Chapter III of these regulations.
 - t. PhD: the awarding of the degree of Doctor after passing an aptitude test, consisting of the creation of a Dissertation and the public defence of it.
 - u. Defence Committee: the committee established by the Doctorate Board pursuant to Article 7.18 paragraph 4 of the Act that has the task of assessing the Dissertation and before which the PhD Defence takes place.
 - v. PhD research: the scientific research that forms the basis of the Dissertation.
 - w. PhD program: the period from the start of the PhD research up to and including the PhD Defence Ceremony, or early termination in accordance with Chapter VIII of these Regulations.

- x. PhD Defence Ceremony: the ceremony in which the Dissertation is defended in public before the Defence Committee.
 - y. Supervisor: the person who supervises the PhD candidate in the creation of the Dissertation.
 - z. PhD candidate: the person who has been granted access to the PhD program.
 - aa. Rector Magnificus: the member of the Executive Board as referred to in Article 9.3(1) of the Act, who is also the Chair of the Doctorate Board
 - bb. Step-by-step plan PhD Defences: description of the deadlines during the PhD program, which can be consulted via MijnOU for employees.
 - cc. Associate professor: a lecturer at the Open Universiteit who teaches and conducts research.
 - dd. Act: the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW)
2. Wherever in these regulations 'he', 'him' or 'his' arises in relation to persons, this also includes 'she', 'her', 'who' or 'them'.
 3. The PhD candidate, the (co-)supervisor(s), the members of the Defence Committee and the Doctorate Board observe the standards of good research practices and scientific integrity as expressed in the current Dutch Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and the General Data Protection Regulation and are accountable for them.
 4. These regulations also apply to PhD defences of External PhD candidates of the Open Universiteit, unless otherwise stated.

Chapter II Conditions for admission

Article 2

1. The Doctorate Board decides on the admission of the prospective PhD candidate to the PhD program. According to Article 7.18 of the Act, the following persons are admitted to the PhD program:
 - a. to whom, on the basis of Article 7.10a(1) or (2) of the Act, the degree of Master has been awarded after completion of a master's program or post-initial master's program in university education or higher professional education or who has successfully passed a corresponding examination at a foreign institution of higher education;
 - b. who has written a Dissertation as an aptitude test for the independent practice of science;
 - c. who has written (a maximum of 10) statements, of which a maximum of four may be directly involved with the content of the thesis; and
 - d. who has met the other requirements set out in these regulations.
2. Persons will not be admitted to the PhD program if they have already obtained their PhD at the Open Universiteit or at another university. The Doctorate Board will only agree to a second PhD program in very exceptional cases if:
 - a. someone intends to obtain a PhD on a Dissertation that is based on research in a different scientific domain than that on which the previous Dissertation was based, to be assessed by the Doctorate Board.
 - b. a second PhD program makes an essential contribution to the research profile of the Open Universiteit, in particular to the multidisciplinary research programme, to be assessed by the Doctorate Board.

Chapter III The Dissertation

Article 3

The following can serve as a dissertation:

- a. a scientific treatise on a particular subject.
- b. a number of separate scientific treatises, which have already been published (in part), provided that they show sufficient coherence with regard to a certain subject and are provided with an introduction that indicates this connection.

Article 4

1. The Dissertation is written by one person.
2. Persons who, before the date of adoption of these regulations, have started the process in which the Dissertation is written by two people, are allowed to complete the PhD program under the following conditions:
 - a. Every person who wants to obtain a PhD in this way must have made a recognizable (independent, sufficient for obtaining a PhD) contribution and take personal responsibility for a part of the dissertation written as such, as well as for the coherence of the parts. The provisions of these regulations apply correspondingly to the relevant part of the Dissertation;
 - b. The Doctorate Board has given prior permission for two people to write one dissertation. Any further requirements set by the Doctorate Board regarding the Dissertation written by two persons must be taken into account.

Article 5

1. The Dissertation and the statements attached to it are written in Dutch or in English. The Doctorate Board may allow the dissertation to be written in another language.
2. If the Dissertation is written in Dutch, a translation of the title and a summary of the content in English are added. If the Dissertation is written in English, at least the title and a summary of the content in Dutch will be added.
3. If a Dissertation is written in a language other than Dutch or English, the title and a summary of the content in Dutch, as well as a translation of the title and of this summary in English, will be added to it.

Chapter IV The Supervisor

Article 6

1. Professors have the *ius promovendi* at their disposal during their professorship and, provided that they have been honorably discharged, for five years after the end of the professorship.
2. A professor who has been granted an honourable discharge will no longer be appointed as a Supervisor for new PhD programs.
3. On the recommendation of the Doctorate Board, the Open Universiteit can also award the *ius promovendi* to an Associate Professor who is employed by the Open Universiteit. In principle, the *ius promovendi* is awarded for an indefinite period.
4. Associate professors who are employed by another university can only be appointed as Co-supervisors at the Open Universiteit.
5. The Doctorate Board may decide, whether or not at the request of the Executive Board, not to appoint a Professor or an Associate professor as a Supervisor or as a member of the Defence Committee or to revoke such a designation, if the Doctorate Board deems that the appointment cannot reasonably be expected of the Open Universiteit. Such a decision shall be made in writing and shall state the reasons for the decision.

Article 7

1. The PhD candidate applies for the PhD program by means of a procedure to be determined by the Doctorate Board. The application will be confirmed by the Supervisor(s) and any Co-supervisor(s). This ratification means that (Co-)Supervisor(s) also confirms that the PhD candidate can be admitted to the formal PhD program and that they are willing to take on the supervision.

2. The Doctorate Board appoints at least one Professor or Associate professor of the Open Universiteit as Supervisor. The Doctorate Board may also appoint a Professor from a Dutch university or from a foreign university as Supervisor. As a rule, no more than two Supervisors are appointed. In the event that more than one Supervisor has been appointed, the term 'Supervisor' in these regulations shall be read as 'supervisors'. In the event that more than one Supervisor has been appointed, one or the Supervisor affiliated with the OU will be appointed as 'coordinating Supervisor'.
3. The Supervisor ensures that regular consultations about the Dissertation take place with the PhD candidate. In any case, the agreements and evaluation points made between the Supervisor and the PhD candidate will be put in writing, for the purpose of monitoring progress.
4. The Doctorate Board may also appoint a Co-supervisor who assists the Supervisor in supervising the PhD candidate. By ratifying the application, referred to in the first paragraph, the person concerned accepts the appointment as Co-supervisor. The Doctorate Board appoints a maximum of two Co-supervisors.
5. The Co-supervisor must be at least an Associate professor and have a PhD. In special cases, the Doctorate Board may also appoint persons with other qualifications as Co-supervisors.
6. In addition to the (coordinating) Supervisor, a second Supervisor and/or a Co-Supervisor are always involved in obtaining a PhD. The supervision of a PhD program by one Supervisor without a second Supervisor, or one or more Co-Supervisor(s), is not permitted. In exceptional cases, the Doctorate Board may decide otherwise.

Article 8

1. The Dissertation is subject to the approval of the Supervisor, who examines whether the Dissertation can be regarded as an aptitude test for the independent practice of science. The statements require a statement from the Supervisor that he considers scientific defence possible.
2. The Supervisor informs the Doctorate Board in writing of the approval of the Dissertation.
3. If a Professor appointed as Supervisor is honourably discharged after his appointment, the approval of the Dissertation must in any case take place within five years of the dismissal. If the approval has not been made within that period, the Doctorate Board will revoke the designation and, after hearing the PhD candidate, will appoint another Supervisor, unless, in the event that more than one Supervisor has been appointed, it is of the opinion that a new appointment is not necessary.
4. In the event of a Supervisor's refusal to approve the Dissertation, the Doctorate Board may, at the request of the PhD candidate, after hearing the PhD candidate and the Supervisor, appoint another Supervisor, unless it is of the opinion that a new appointment is not necessary in the event that more than one Supervisor has been appointed.

Article 9

Close family members of the PhD candidate or other persons who are in such a relationship with the PhD candidate that no opinion should be asked of them are not eligible for the position of Supervisor or Co-Supervisor.

Chapter V The Assessment Committee

Article 10

1. After the Supervisor has announced the approval of the Dissertation, the Doctorate Board will set up an Assessment Committee on the recommendation of the Supervisor and with the approval of the relevant Dean. The members of the Assessment Committee will inform the process coordinator, i.e. the Dean of the Faculty concerned, of their decision as to whether the PhD candidate can be admitted to the defence of the Dissertation in writing. The Dean informs the Supervisor when all members have given their response. If the Dean is one of the Supervisors, another Professor from the faculty concerned will be asked to act as process coordinator.

2. The Assessment Committee consists of a maximum of six members. The Assessment Committee consists of at least four members, including at least three Professors. At least two members, including at least one Professor, are not affiliated with the Open Universiteit. At least one Professor is affiliated with the Open Universiteit. The members of the Assessment Committee who are not Professors must have a PhD. In some cases, the Doctorate Board may decide differently about the size of the Assessment Committee. The (Co)-Supervisors are not part of the Assessment Committee. The process coordinator ensures that foreign Professors who are members of the Assessment Committee have the *ius promovendi*. It is possible to add an external Expert as an additional member to the committee. To this end, the Dean or process coordinator submits a motivated request to the Doctorate Board. In the case of a Dissertation consisting of articles, only one article may have been written with the involvement of one of the members of the Assessment Committee.
3. The Assessment Committee decides in favour if there is no more than one vote against. If the committee comes to a positive opinion with one vote against, the committee will be mentioned in its entirety in the Dissertation. It is not possible for the member who has given a negative opinion to withdraw from the Assessment Committee.
4. The opinions of the members of the Assessment Committee and the reasoning thereof are made available to the members of the Assessment Committee by the process coordinator. The Supervisor then makes these available to the PhD candidate.
5. In the event of more than one dissenting vote, the Dissertation is deemed not to contain such proof of competence that the PhD candidate can be admitted to the defence of the Dissertation. The process coordinator informs the Doctorate Board and the Supervisor about this and the Supervisor informs the PhD candidate.
6. If the circumstance referred to in Article 10 paragraph 5 occurs, the PhD candidate will be given one opportunity to adjust the Dissertation, taking into account the opinions and argumentation received. The PhD candidate is given a period of six months to rectify the Dissertation and submit it to the Assessment Committee again. The original composition of the Assessment Committee may be deviated from by changing one member.
7. It is not possible to impose conditions on the assessment. Each member comes to a positive or negative opinion about the present Manuscript.
8. In the event of disagreement or deviations from this procedure, the dispute will be submitted to the Rector Magnificus.
9. The Assessment Committee must assess the Dissertation within six weeks. The Assessment Committee will send the assessment to the Dean or the process coordinator in accordance with the deadlines for the intended PhD Defence Ceremony date (Article 15 of these regulations) specified in the Step-by-step plan PhD Defences. The Dean or process coordinator will send the decision to the Beadle in accordance with the deadlines for the intended PhD Defence Ceremony (Article 15 of these regulations) specified in the Step-by-step plan PhD Defences.

Chapter VI The Defence Committee

Article 11

1. If the Assessment Committee is of the opinion that the PhD candidate can be admitted to the defence of the Dissertation (see Article 10), the process coordinator will inform the Doctorate Board and the Supervisor of this. The tasks of the Assessment Committee will then be terminated. A Defence Committee takes the place of the Assessment Committee. The public defence of the Dissertation will take place in front of the Defence Committee. The Assessment Committee has decided to award the PhD after completion of a public defence. The Defence Committee can only deviate from this if there are strong suspicions of violations of the Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

2. The Defence Committee consists of a maximum of ten members, including the chairman, the Supervisor and Co-supervisors, and is chaired by or on behalf of the chair of the Doctorate Board. The Defence Committee consists of the chair, the (Co-)Supervisor(s) and the members of the Assessment Committee. The Doctorate Board may, on the proposal of the Supervisor, admit more members to the Defence Committee. These other members must have a PhD and preferably be Professors. In the case of a Dissertation consisting of articles, only one article may be written with the involvement of one of the members of the Defence Committee. This provision does not apply to the (Co-)Supervisor(s). The Defence Committee, including the chairman, consists of a maximum of ten members. In some cases, the Doctorate Board may decide differently about the scope. A member of the Assessment Committee who (in accordance with Article 10(3) of these regulations) did not consider the Dissertation defensible can also sit on the Defence Committee. Members of the Defence Committee, who were not part of the Assessment Committee, are expected to consider the thesis defensible.
3. The chair of the Defence Committee acts as technical chair. The chair does not have the right to vote when it comes to awarding the PhD (see Article 16, paragraph 1 of these Regulations), awarding a Cum laude (Article 17, paragraph 5 of these Regulations) or writing a letter in accordance with Article 18 paragraph 1 of these Regulations.
4. With regard to the matters discussed in non-public meetings mentioned in these regulations, confidentiality is mandatory.

Chapter VII Dissemination of the Dissertation

Article 12

1. After the Assessment Committee has decided that the PhD candidate can be admitted to the defence of the Dissertation, the Dissertation will be multiplied. The following requirements apply:
 - a. The title page of the Dissertation states the title as well as any subtitle and is arranged in a form determined by the Doctorate Board.
 - b. The title page of the Dissertation states who is/are the copyright holder(s) of (the articles of) the Dissertation, in compliance with the provisions of Article 13.
 - c. Furthermore, the Dissertation must contain the name of the (Co-)Supervisor(s) and the members of the Assessment Committee on the back of the title page.
 - d. On the cover of the Dissertation, a word mark is used to indicate that the Dissertation is defended at the Open Universiteit, this also applies to any commercial edition of a Dissertation.
 - e. The title page and the back of the title page will be submitted to the Doctorate Board for approval. The Doctorate Board may decide to deviate from the provisions under a.
 - f. The DOI, as referred to in Article 13 paragraph 4 of these regulations, will be included in the colophon of the Dissertation.
2. Five hard copies as well as a digital copy of the Dissertation must be made available to the Doctorate Board in accordance with the period specified in the Step-by-step plan PhD Defences.
3. With regard to a Dissertation that is published, in whole or in part, in a commercial edition, the publication of the commercial edition may not take place prior to the award of the PhD.

Article 13

1. In principle, the PhD candidate is the copyright holder of the Dissertation, except in cases where the copyright has been transferred by the PhD candidate to a third party (e.g. a publisher).
2. The basic principle is that the Dissertation is accessible in open access, except in cases where the transfer of copyrights stands in the way of an open access publication.
3. Contrary to the second paragraph and only with the approval of the Doctorate Board, a Dissertation can be placed under embargo for a maximum of one year.

4. A digital version of the Dissertation will be produced, and will be made available to the Beadle (via pedel@ou.nl) by the PhD candidate three weeks before the date of the defence for the purpose of placing it in the institutional repository of the Open Universiteit. Through this repository, the Dissertation is also visible and accessible to third parties outside the Open Universiteit. The Dissertation is assigned a DOI for the purpose of general findability. This DOI is created by the repository team and communicated to the PhD candidate.

Chapter VIII Early termination of the PhD program

Article 14

1. The PhD program ends prematurely:
 - a. By termination by the PhD candidate
 - b. By termination by the Doctorate Board.
2. If a PhD candidate wishes to terminate the PhD program, the PhD candidate will notify the Supervisor in writing. The Supervisor will notify the Beadle of the termination.
3. The Doctorate Board may terminate the PhD program prematurely if:
 - a. The PhD candidate, after having been repeatedly reminded to do so in writing, does not comply with the interim agreements of the Supervisor.
 - b. The interim evaluations of the progress repeatedly show that the progress of the PhD candidate is not such that the PhD candidate can submit a Manuscript that meets the Assessment criteria applicable to a Dissertation, according to the Supervisor.
 - c. The PhD candidate has not responded to repeated requests from the Supervisor for substantive consultation about the content and progress of the Manuscript during the period of at least six months.
 - d. After a final negative assessment of the Manuscript by the (Co-)Supervisor(s) or the Defence Committee.
 - e. If the Doctorate Board, whether or not on the recommendation of the Supervisor, judges that the Open Universiteit cannot reasonably be expected to continue the PhD program.

Chapter IX The PhD Defence

Article 15

1. In accordance with the deadlines mentioned in the Step-by-step plan PhD Defences, the Supervisor takes an option with the Beadle on two dates/times for the promotion. The option has a validity of two weeks. Within these two weeks, the Supervisor will notify the secretary's office of the preferred day and time. To this end, all parties involved (PhD Candidate, (Co-)Supervisors and members of the Assessment Committee) will be approached by the Supervisor.

The Supervisor reports the approval by the Assessment Committee to the Beadle, after which the day and time of the PhD Defence are determined. The PhD Defence is at least four weeks after the day and time have been determined. In special cases, after hearing the PhD candidate, the Doctorate Board may deviate from the four-week period.

2. The PhD Defence will take place in public in front of the Defence Committee. The Defence Committee meets half an hour before the PhD Defence in order to determine the order of opposition and to avoid overlapping questions.
3. (Co-)Supervisors do not act as opponents during the PhD Defence Ceremony.
4. Third parties who wish to raise objections to the Dissertation and/or the propositions during the PhD Defence ceremony must have prior permission to do so. A request for permission, accompanied by a clear argument, can be submitted to the chair of the Defence Committee up to two weeks before the PhD Defence Ceremony.
After consulting the Doctorate Board, the Doctorate Board will decide whether the objections can be

expressed during the PhD Defence Ceremony.

5. Professors, who do not sit on the Defence Committee, can walk in the cortège in gowns. The Dean of the Faculty will report this to the secretary's office of the Doctorate Board at least one day before the PhD Defence Ceremony. They take their seats in the room and leave the room with the Defence Committee when the committee holds its deliberations, but do not take part in the deliberations.
6. Associate professors who act as Supervisor do not wear a gown during the PhD Defence Ceremony, but do participate in the cortège.
7. The PhD Defence Ceremony consists of a brief presentation by the PhD candidate of the content of the Dissertation that covers approximately ten minutes, but no more than fifteen minutes. The PhD candidate will then defend the Dissertation and the statements against objections of the Defence Committee for 45 minutes.
8. Objections and defence will be conducted in Dutch, unless the PhD candidate or one or more members of the Defence Committee do not have a sufficient command of the Dutch language. In that case, the English language is used.

Article 16

1. The PhD is awarded by the Defence Committee after it has established that a public defence has taken place. The substantive assessment of the Assessment Committee is decisive (see also Article 10 of these regulations).
2. When awarding the PhD, the Supervisor requests the PhD Candidate on behalf of the Defence Committee to promise that he/she will observe the principles of scientific integrity in his/her research.

Article 17 Cum Laude

1. Based on the responses received from the members of the Assessment Committee, the Supervisor may propose to the members of the Assessment Committee that the Defence Committee should in due course award the PhD with the designation of 'Cum Laude'.
2. The decision on a proposal as referred to in paragraph 1 shall be taken by the Assessment Committee with no more than one vote against (or one abstention). A positive decision in this regard will be reported by the Supervisor to the Rector Magnificus. The members of the Assessment Committee will also be informed by the Supervisor about the positive or negative decision.
3. In order to qualify for the designation 'Cum Laude', a Dissertation must, in the opinion of the committee members, belong to the 10% best Dissertations of the cohort.
4. The Supervisor will ensure that the members of the Defence Committee are informed of this proposal. The Supervisor also provides the argumentation that made the Assessment Committee decide to open up the possibility of Cum Laude.
5. The Defence Committee will decide on the proposal by written vote after the defence has been completed, after the decision to award the PhD has been taken. The quality of the defence is also taken into account in this decision. The designation is awarded with no more than one vote against or one abstention. The chairman does not have the right to vote.

Article 18

1. At the request of the Supervisor and with the approval of the Assessment Committee, the Doctorate Board may draw up a letter stating that the Dissertation and its defence were of good quality.

2. Such a letter will only be written for candidates from countries in which the granting of *judicia* is customary, but which are not eligible for a 'Cum Laude' under Article 14. A request for the issuance of such a letter must be submitted to the Rector Magnificus no later than four weeks before the date of the PhD defence, who will forward the request to the members of the Defence Committee without delay.

At the same time, the Doctorate Board will be asked to assess whether the candidate can qualify for such a letter on formal grounds. The substantive assessment is done by the Defence Committee.

3. The Defence Committee will decide on the letter in question by written vote after the defence has been completed, after the decision to award the PhD has been taken. The quality of the defence is also taken into account in this decision. A positive decision is taken with no more than one vote against or one abstention. The letter is signed by the chair of the Defence Committee as well as by the Rector Magnificus and the Supervisor(s).

Article 19

1. To prove that the PhD has been awarded, the PhD candidate receives a Certificate, signed by the chair of the Doctorate Board or a substitute to be appointed by him or her and the (Co-)Supervisor(s). At the request of the PhD graduate, he or she will be provided with a translation of the certificate in German, French or English.
2. A predicate granted as referred to in Article 17, paragraph 1, shall be stated on the Certificate.

Article 20

1. PhD Defence Ceremonies are held at the Open Universiteit in Heerlen (in the Pretoria building), subject to the exception referred to in Article 21 paragraph 8. This can only be deviated from in very specific, special cases. In the event of a request to the Doctorate Board for a PhD Defence at a different location, the Supervisor must provide convincing substantive arguments. These are assessed by the Doctorate Board. Arguments of a logistical and/or practical nature are not sufficient in themselves.
2. The Doctorate Board may impose further requirements on PhD Defence Ceremonies to be held elsewhere.

Chapter X Joint doctorate and double doctorate

Article 21

1. A double or a Joint doctorate can be obtained at the University.
2. The PhD is awarded by the Doctorate Board, together with a comparable body to the partner institution(s).
3. A double or a Joint doctorate can only be obtained after written permission from the Rector Magnificus, after hearing the Doctorate Board. To this end, the prospective Supervisor and the Dean of the Faculty in which the Supervisor has been appointed must submit a written request for a double or Joint doctorate to the Doctorate Board.
4. This request documents the content and composition of the track of the double or Joint doctorate, and demonstrates that the Dissertation is being prepared in a formal partnership (laid down in a collaboration agreement) with the partner(s). The partner(s) contribute substantially to the PhD program.
5. In the case of a double or Joint doctorate, the PhD candidate will carry out the research under the responsibility of a Supervisor at the Open Universiteit and of a Supervisor from each separate partner institution with which the partnership referred to in the previous paragraph exists.
6. The double or Joint doctorate takes place in accordance with the respective regulations of the partner institutions.

7. In the case of a double or Joint doctorate, the Dissertation requires the approval of a Defence Committee that is composed in consultation with the partner(s). At least one Supervisor from each of the collaborating universities is a member of this committee.
8. At the start of the double or Joint doctorate trajectory, it is determined where the PhD Defence Ceremony will take place. The PhD Defence Ceremony will be based on the applicable rules of the partner where the ceremony will take place.
9. As proof of the award of the double or Joint doctorate, the PhD recipient receives one (or two in the case of double) certificate(s). The form of this certificate is discussed with the partner(s).

Chapter XI Dispute resolution

Article 22

1. With regard to the settlement of disputes, the provisions of the General Administrative Law Act (*Algemene wet bestuursrecht*) apply.
2. If a specific procedure is provided for the nature of the dispute, the parties will turn to this specific procedure.
3. If, during the implementation of the provisions of these regulations, a dispute arises regarding a decision of the Doctorate Board, an interested party may submit a reasoned objection to the Doctorate Board within six weeks after the decision has been notified to him. No objection can be made to an opinion of knowledge or ability on the basis of Article 8:4 of the General Administrative Law Act. An interested party can only object to procedural inaccuracies.
4. The Doctorate Board will notify the submitter of the objection and other parties involved in writing and stating the reasons for its decision no later than six weeks after receipt of the notice of objection. The Doctorate Board may postpone the decision on the objection for a maximum of six weeks.
5. An interested party may lodge an appeal with the District Court of Limburg (NL) against a decision of the Doctorate Board on the objection submitted within six weeks after the decision has been notified to the submitter of the notice of objection.

Chapter XII Degree of doctor Honoris causa

Article 23

The Honoris causa doctorate will be awarded by and before the Doctorate Board in a manner to be determined by this Board.

Chapter XIII Final and transitional provisions

Article 24

In all cases not provided for in these regulations, the Doctorate Board decides.

Article 25

1. These regulations enter into force on January 20, 2025 and replace the regulations with reference U2024/1884.
2. Adopted on January, 20 2025 by the Doctorate Board of the Open Universiteit.