



Regulations for the doctorate
at the protestant theological
university

REGULATIONS FOR THE DOCTORATE AT THE PROTESTANT THEOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Chapter 1 – General Definitions

Article 1.1

In these regulations the following terms are understood to mean:

university	Protestant Theological University (PThU)
law	law(s) relating to higher education and academic research (WHW)
management regulations	regulations required by article 9.4 of the law and ordinance 13-7-4 of the church order of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands
doctoral examination board	board indicated in article 5.14 of the management regulations; all members are qualified supervisors
examinations committee	the committee indicated in article 5.8 of the management regulations
candidate	the person who satisfies the requirements of these regulations and who by virtue of articles 7.18-2 and article 7.18-3 of the law is admitted to the doctoral examination or is in process of writing his doctoral thesis
supervisor	the professor appointed by the board of professors by virtue of article 7.18-5 of the law and by articles 5.3 and article 5.4 of the management regulations
second supervisor	the professor who is appointed by the Doctoral Examination Board in accordance with article 5 of these regulations, who assists the supervisor in the supervision of the candidate
co-supervisor	the expert in the field who has already gained a doctorate and is appointed by the Doctoral Examination Board in accordance with article 5 of these regulations, who assists the supervisor in the supervision of the candidate
assessment committee	committee which assesses whether the submitted manuscript is to be accepted as a doctoral thesis
doctoral thesis	the academic treatment in book or article form as intended in article 7.18-2-b of the law
propositions	the assertions accompanying the thesis that the author wishes to be regarded as true
doctoral oral examination	the ceremony in which the public defence of the thesis with its propositions takes place and which entitles the candidate to be granted the doctorate once the relevant requirements have been met

Article 1.2

1. At the university the doctorate can be obtained on the basis of the doctoral examination. These regulations are the doctoral examination regulations indicated in article 5.15 of the management regulations.
2. The doctoral examination regulations, in accordance with the relevant law, were accepted by the doctoral examination board on 1 September 2016.

Article 1.3

In the event that any of the functions mentioned in these regulations is (also) held by a woman, the masculine references should be read as feminine gender as well.

Article 1.4

1. Where in these regulations mention is made of the supervisor and/or co-supervisor and in the event of more than one indication being made, this should be read as supervisors, or co-supervisors.
2. In the absence of the rector, or in the event of the rector being appointed as supervisor or as a member of the assessment committee, another professor of the university is authorized by the rector to replace him.
3. All persons present at discussions in the non-public meetings as stipulated in article 6.2-4 and article 8.7-4, as well as discussions during an appeal procedure are required to refrain from divulging any part of the contents of the discussions to third parties.

Article 1.5

The regulations for the doctorate of the PThU apply to all doctoral examinations of the university and – taking into account the stipulations in chapters 12 and 13 - to those that are conducted elsewhere between the university and other institutions of academic education, in as far as no deviating conditions have been made when these arrangements were made.

Article 1.6

The candidate, the supervisor and co-supervisor are held to observe the standards of academic integrity, as formulated in the Dutch Code of Conduct for Academic Practice.

Article 1.7

1. Neither the partner of the candidate, nor any person in a blood-relationship to the candidate in the first or second degree, nor any person whose relationship with the candidate is such that they should not assess the candidate's work, may function as supervisor, co-supervisor or member of the assessment committee.
2. The partner of the supervisor and – where applicable – the partner of the co-supervisor may not function as a member of the assessment committee.

Chapter 2 – admission to doctoral study

Article 2.1

1. Admission to the doctoral study is granted by the Doctoral Examination Board on request of the candidate.
2. Candidates for the doctoral study are admitted
 - according to article 7.10a-1 or article 7.10a-2 or 7.10a-3 of the law on the basis of their master degree or on the basis of a certificate from a foreign institution of tertiary education equivalent to the master degree.
 - if they satisfy the other demands of these regulations.
 - if they can present an approved research proposal with attached education and supervision plan
 - once they have signed the Dutch Code of Conduct for Academic Practice.
3. The intended supervisor may propose that a supplementary course of study may be required by the Doctoral Examination Board before admittance to doctoral research.
4. The examinations committee assesses the equivalence of the foreign academic certificate sub 2 in relation to the master degree, as intended in article 7.10a sub 1, 2, 3 of the law.

Article 2.2

1. In the event of a candidate not possessing a degree certificate as intended in article 2.1-2, the Doctoral Examination Board may at the candidate's request exempt candidates with a comparable level of knowledge from this obligation.
2. In the case of such a request for admission, a statement should be issued by the examinations committee, indicating the equivalence of the candidate's education with a master diploma of the university.

Article 2.3

Person who have already acquired a doctor's degree or equivalent, cannot be admitted to the doctoral research, unless they intend to obtain a doctor's degree based on research in a different domain of knowledge than their earlier dissertation.

Article 2.4

1. An admission request consists of the admission form, accompanied by the documents as intended sub 2 and is signed by the candidate and supervisor, and is submitted to the Rector of the university, attn. the Official Secretary of the Doctoral Examination Board.
2. The request for admission is only acceptable if:
 - a. there is a written statement of one of the professors in active service, as intended in articles 5.3 and 5.4 of the management regulations, in which he confirms his willingness to act as thesis supervisor, and of a professor or senior lecturer in active service of this university or another institution of academic education, in which he

confirms his willingness to act as second supervisor or co-supervisor.

- b. an education and supervision scheme has been submitted, established by the intended supervisor and the Ph.D. candidate, with positive advice of the Research Committee. The scheme specifies periodical consultations between supervisor and candidate and written reports of these discussions.
3. The admission form sub 1 mentions the name and address of the candidate, the type, place and date of the examination on the basis of which the certificate under 2.1 sub 2 was obtained, the subject of the dissertation, and also the name, address and teaching appointment of the intended supervisor.
4. The research proposal and accompanying education and supervision plan are assessed by the Research Committee and with their advice established by this committee.
5. The age of the candidate is no impediment to admission.

Article 2.5

1. The Doctoral Examination Board decides on admission of the candidate to the doctoral research. On behalf of the rector as president of the Doctoral Examination Board, the applicant receives written confirmation of the decision of admission to the doctoral studies. The decision mentions which professor is assigned by the Board as supervisor and where applicable as co-supervisor. A copy of the decision is conveyed in writing to the supervisor, co-supervisor where applicable, and the Head of the Graduate School PThU.
2. The candidate receives together with the written confirmation of admission:
 - a. a copy of these doctoral dissertation regulations;
 - b. a document, as established by the Doctoral Examination Board, stating the mutual rights and obligations of candidate and supervisor;
 - c. a copy of the *Nederlandse Gedragscode Wetenschapsbeoefening* (VSNU 2012) [Dutch Code of Academic Conduct]

Chapter 3 – The candidate

Article 3.1

1. Before starting to write a thesis, or at an early stage in his research for the thesis, the candidate approaches the professor who he considers to be the most appropriate to discuss his research.
2. At his request the candidate receives the professor's written agreement as intended supervisor, as intended in article 2.4 sub 2a.
3. The professor concerned has the right to withdraw his agreement in writing, motivating the reasons for the withdrawal.
4. The candidate has the right to appeal to the Doctoral Examination Board in the event of a decision sub 3.

Article 3.2

1. The candidate submits to the Doctoral Examination Board a request for admission to doctoral research and/or appointment of a supervisor. The request must be made before starting the research, or at least six months before the intended graduation date.
2. The candidate makes the request indicated sub 1 on a registration form obtainable from the university office accompanied by the documents mentioned in 2.4 sub 2.
3. Only in special cases may the Doctoral Examination Board accept a request that is submitted less than six months before the intended graduation date.

Article 3.3

1. The candidate submits the manuscript in its entirety or in parts to the supervisor and co-supervisor and adjusts the manuscript on the basis of changes agreed.
2. After having adjusted the manuscript, the candidate submits the entire manuscript to the supervisor and requests acceptance of the dissertation in writing, taking into account his responsibilities as outlined in article 7.1 sub 7.

Article 3.4

The candidate does not proceed to making copies of the manuscript as a thesis until he has received admission to the defence of his thesis from the Doctoral Examination Board, as laid down in article 6.2 sub 7.

Chapter 4 – The supervisor

Article 4.1

1. The Doctoral Examination Board appoints as supervisor one of the professors in active service, as laid down in articles 5.3 and 5.4 of the management regulations on the basis of a suggestion made by the person who has expressed willingness to act as thesis supervisor in conformity with article 2.4 sub 2.
2. The Doctoral Examination Board appoints for each candidate a second supervisor or co-supervisor on the basis of a suggestion by the person who has expressed willingness to act as thesis supervisor in conformity with article 2.4 sub 2.
3. In case two supervisors are appointed, the regulations relating to the supervisor hold for both supervisors.
4. Professors of other Dutch universities or equivalent foreign institutions of academic education may act as supervisors at the university. Professors of foreign institutions of academic education may act as supervisors if they have this competence at their institution abroad and if for their appointment similar procedures have been followed as for the appointment of professors at Dutch universities.
5. A professor as intended sub 4 can be assigned as second supervisor if he is actively working on the subject treated in the dissertation or on a subfield.
6. Neither the partner of the candidate can function as supervisor, nor a blood relative or kindred of the candidate in the first or second degree, nor any other person whose relation to the candidate is such that no assessment should be demanded from them.
7. At a motivated request from the candidate the Doctoral Examination Board may, after having heard the supervisor's case, appoint in his place another supervisor than defined in article 3.1-2 during the course of the doctoral research.
8. At a justified request from the supervisor the Doctoral Examination Board may, having heard the candidate's case, appoint as supervisor another professor than defined in article 4.1-1 instead of the professor appointed in the first place during the course of the doctoral research.
9. For each doctoral supervision only two supervisors can be appointed. If more than one supervisor has been assigned, the supervisors determine their tasks in mutual consultation, having heard the candidate.

Article 4.2

1. Professors who have resigned from the university retain the right to function as supervisor for a period of five years after their resignation. In the event of a professor resigning after having been appointed as supervisor, the candidate must be allowed to defend his thesis within five years from the date of the said resignation. An extension of the five year period can only be granted by a decision of the Doctoral Examination Board
2. Honorary professors and professors in temporary service are voting members of the Doctoral Examination Board. At the request of the Doctoral Examination Board their membership of the board may be extended until five years after the date of their departure.
3. If this decision is not made within the period stated sub 1, the appointment is annulled and the Doctoral Examination Board, after hearing the candidate's case, appoints another supervisor.

Article 4.3

1. The supervisor assumes responsibility for the supervision of the candidate's production of the thesis, in accordance with the education and supervision scheme of article 2.4 sub 2b.
2. During the supervision and production of the thesis, the supervisor and the candidate periodically arrange meetings, as agreed in the education and supervision plan. The supervisor discusses changes in the manuscript that he deems necessary with the candidate and where applicable with the second supervisor or co-supervisor.
3. The supervisor's guidance entails:
 - a. that the candidate carries out the research independently;
 - a. that the dissertation research is conducted in accordance with the codes of academic conduct of the university and the professional codes and codes of conduct for acting professionally in the research discipline;
 - b. that, if (part of) the research is funded by third parties, as few limitations as possible will be imposed on the research, and that, if the freedom of publications of data and results of the research is restricted, these will not be incompatible with academic freedom.
4. The supervision as intended sub 1, 2 and 3 aims at advancing that the dissertation is rounded off within the period established in the education and supervision plan.
5. The thesis supervisor sees to it that the dissertation is in line with the requirements as outlined in these regulations.

Chapter 5 – Co-supervisor

Article 5.1

1. The supervisor may suggest to the Doctoral Examination Board to appoint a second supervisor and if necessary two supervisors.
2. A co-supervisor is a university lecturer having a doctorate and being in active service at an institution of academic education within the Netherlands or abroad and who is actively engaged in (a part of) the subject dealt with in the thesis. In special cases an expert doctor who is not (any longer) in active service at an institution of academic education may be appointed as co-supervisor.
3. The supervisor checks if the person in question is willing to accept appointment as co-supervisor.
4. As a rule co-supervisors may function as such until five years after the ending of their active service.

Article 5.2

1. The co-supervisor assists the supervisor as defined in article 4.1 in the supervision of the candidate.
2. The co-supervisor or second supervisor indicates in writing to the supervisor what his assessment is of the quality of the manuscript of the thesis which has been presented to him.
3. In the event that the co-supervisor or second supervisor is from another Dutch university or from an institution of academic education in another country, it is expected of the supervisor from this university that he helps the external co-supervisor or second supervisor, wherever necessary, to understand what the requirements of these regulations are.
4. The supervisor and co-supervisor determine in mutual consultation with the candidate in what way the co-supervisor will be engaged in the periodical meetings between supervisor and candidate, as intended in article 4.3 sub 2.

Chapter 6 – The Assessment Committee

Article 6.1

1. Within four weeks of receipt of the supervisor's approval as mentioned in article 7, the Doctoral Examination Board appoints an assessment committee consisting of at least five voting members. The following conditions for the appointment of this committee apply:
 - At least three professors of the university or of another Dutch university or foreign institute of higher academic education;
 - At least one and at the most two members of the academic staff of the university, of which no more than one is connected to the research group of the supervisor;
 - At least three members of the committee are employees of a university different from the university granting the degree;
 - Members of the committee may not be co-authors of articles included in the candidate's thesis.
2. The members of the committee have obtained a doctor's degree and/or hold the *ius promovendi*. The majority of the assessment committee are professors.
3. The assessment committee is presided over by a professor employed by the university. The rector appoints one of the members of the assessment committee as president. The president of the assessment committee reports to the Doctoral Examination Board on behalf of the committee.
4. The rector, supervisor and co-supervisor cannot be appointed as members of the assessment committee.
5. The rector appoints the members of the assessment committee on the basis of a written suggestion of the supervisor. The supervisor has checked if the prospective members are willing to accept the appointment to the committee. The proposal is made by means of a form to that purpose. It is the competence of the rector of the university to discharge the members of the assessment committee from their duties.
6. The rector may deviate from the proposal of the supervisor as intended sub 5 after consultation with the Doctoral Examination Board. After checking if the prospective members are willing to accept appointment as members of the assessment committee, the rector communicates the names of the members assigned to the supervisor.
7. It is the supervisor's responsibility to provide a copy of the manuscript to each of the members of the assessment committee on time.

Article 6.2

1. Within six weeks of receipt of the manuscript the assessment committee makes its argued decision as to whether the candidate has shown sufficient evidence of competence in the independent practice of scholarship to be allowed admission to the defence of his thesis. In exceptional circumstances the Doctoral Examination Board may extend this period once by 30 days.
2. It is the task of the assessment committee to assess the manuscript qualitatively in conformity with sub 1, on the basis of the explanatory problem statement agreed between candidate and supervisor. The assessment committee checks the manuscript for the final objectives as intended in article 7.2 of these regulations.
3. The individual members of the committee are free to make suggestions and/or recommendations accompanying their positive or negative judgment.
4. The members of the assessment committee send their assessment in writing to the president of the committee. In case of a negative assessment by one member of the assessment committee, the president calls a meeting behind closed doors before establishing the assessment of the committee in writing in conformity with sub 5. A valid decision requires at least four votes, not necessarily in writing. The assessment committee makes a decision after their deliberations in favour or against acceptance by common majority of vote. Each of the five members has one vote. In the case of a tie the committee will be considered to have pronounced a negative judgment.
5. The president of the assessment committee lays down the assessment in writing on behalf of the committee. The written establishment of the assessment of the committee by the president, is based on the judgments of the members of the committee and is in concordance with the decision of the assessment committee if deliberations in a meeting have been discussed. The assessment thus established is either positive or negative. The president forwards the assessment to the Doctoral Examination Board attn.. the rector.
6. In case the assessment of the assessment committee is positive, the Doctoral Examination Board, or by proxy the rector as president of the Board, having read the assessment of the assessment committee, decides to admit the candidate to the doctoral defence. The rector conveys his decision on behalf of the Doctoral Examination Board to the supervisor, where appropriate the co-supervisor, the assessment committee and the candidate.
7. In case the assessment of the assessment committee is negative, the Doctoral Examination Board, or by proxy the rector as president of the Board, having read the assessment of the assessment committee, decides not to admit the candidate to the doctoral defence. The rector conveys his decision on behalf of the Doctoral Examination Board to the supervisor, where appropriate the co-supervisor, the assessment committee and the candidate.
8. The decision of the Doctoral Examination Board as intended sub 7 may be appealed in writing by the candidate in accordance with the stipulations of article 11.2 of these regulations.

Chapter 7 – The Thesis

Article 7.1

1. Admitted to the doctoral examination are those:
 - who as proof of their competence in independently practising academic research have written a doctoral thesis;
 - who has received a positive decision from the Doctoral Examination Board as intended in article 62 sub 7 or article 11.6 sub 1;
 - who have satisfied the other demands of these regulations.

Those who have been rejected by one of the Dutch universities to proceed to a doctorate, are not admitted to this university for the duration of the rejection.

2. An academic treatise about a certain subject or a written report of academic research may serve as a thesis as well a collection of separate academic articles, which have all or partly been made public, lest they display sufficient coherence in relation to a particular issue.
3. In case the dissertation consists of a collection of articles as described sub 2, the required coherence of these articles is explained in the introductory and/or concluding chapter.
4. In case the dissertation consists of a collection of articles as described sub 2, the individual contribution of the candidate needs to be indicated for each article. The supervisor presents the assessment committee, as intended in chapter 6, with a written declaration showing that the contribution of the candidate is an essential component of the research at hand, on the basis of which the candidate has sufficiently demonstrated his capacity to carry out academic research independently.

5. Academic articles already published, which are to be collected to constitute a dissertation, need to have been published within a period of five years prior to the admittance for the doctorate.
6. In so far as the academic articles, as intended sub 2, have been written in co-operation with other authors, the candidate needs to present the supervisor with a written declaration of these other authors, showing that the publications may be used for the doctoral thesis.
7. The research which forms the basis of the thesis must satisfy the following requirements:
 - the candidate has conducted the research independently, or has provided an essential contribution to it;
 - the research has been conducted in accordance with the behavioural or professional code which applies to professional acting in the academic field in question and as this is expressed in the *Notitie Wetenschappelijke Integriteit. Principes van goed wetenschappelijk onderwijs en onderzoek* (VSNU May 2012) [Memorandum on Academic Integrity. Principles of suitable academic education and research].
 - The candidate is responsible for the thesis as an academic contribution.

Article 7.2 Final Objectives

1. By means of original research the candidate has contributed to the innovation of knowledge, by a substantial amount of work which passes the tests of peers.
2. The candidate has shown to understand a substantial domain of knowledge systematically and to have mastered the skills and methods of research in this domain.
3. The candidate has shown to be able to design, develop, execute and adapt a substantial research programme.
4. The candidate is capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas.
5. The candidate communicates with fellow scholars and the wider academic community on the domain of knowledge of his expertise.

Article 7.3 Assessment of the manuscript by supervisor and co-supervisor

1. The supervisor assumes responsibility for the assessment of the manuscript as doctoral thesis. The supervisor assesses if the candidate has complied with the final objectives as laid down in article 7.2 by testing the manuscript presented to him minimally on the following criteria:
 - a. the relevance of the subject;
 - b. the relevance of the explanatory problem statement and clear-cut profiling of the statement;
 - c. the originality of treatment;
 - d. the academic level of the ordering, analysis and processing of the material;
 - e. the clarity of the methods used for this analysis;
 - f. the derivation of new insights and views;
 - g. a critical confrontation of the personal conclusions with existing theories or opinions;
 - h. a creative approach to the academic domain pertaining to the thesis;
 - i. limiting oneself with respect to text production;
 - j. balance in the build-up of the thesis and clarity of style.

Article 7.4

1. The candidate's request to approve the manuscript as doctoral thesis is decided on by the supervisor once the candidate has fulfilled the requirements mentioned in these regulations.
2. The supervisor provides the co-supervisor on time with the opportunity to assess the manuscript at hand for approval as a doctoral thesis. The co-supervisor responds in writing. The supervisor does not approve the manuscript before having received the assessment of the co-supervisor. The supervisor includes this assessment in his decision on approval of the manuscript to the candidate.
3. The supervisor decides on approval of the manuscript as doctoral thesis within two months after receipt, unless the candidate agrees to a longer term. The supervisor sends his assessment on the approval of the manuscript in writing to the candidate and sends a copy of his decision to the Doctoral Examination Board.
4. If the term mentioned sub 3 is not met, the candidate has the right to request the Doctoral Examination Board to demand from the supervisor to make a decision for approval before a specific date. The Doctoral Examination Board decides with thirty days after receipt of the request.
5. After approval has been obtained from the supervisor, the manuscript is presented to the members of the assessment committee for assessment, as intended in article 7.1 of these regulations.

Article 7.5

Should a supervisor withhold approval of the manuscript as a doctoral thesis, the candidate may request the Doctoral Examination Board to assign another supervisor in conformity with article 4.1 and after having heard both candidate and supervisor.

Article 7.6.

1. Each manuscript which is submitted as a thesis at the examination, must be in a printed format – i.e. a bibliographically traceable version.
2. It is the candidate's responsibility to multiply and deliver the doctoral thesis.
3. At the latest four weeks before the defence of the dissertation, the candidate delivers forty copies of the thesis and the propositions to the University Office.
4. A digital version of the thesis is made public by the library of the university at least four weeks after the doctorate has been granted. In case the thesis is entirely or partly under embargo, digital publication is restricted to those parts without embargo, and also the cover, title page, table of contents and the summary of the doctoral thesis in Dutch and English. The parts under embargo are published after the embargo has been lifted.
5. For the purpose of digital publication of the thesis, as mentioned sub 4, the candidate delivers a digital version of the thesis at least four weeks before the defence of the dissertation in a digital format as determined by the librarian of the university.
6. For the purpose of the digital version of the doctoral thesis sub 5 the following holds:
 - a. At least four weeks before the defence of the thesis, the candidate provides the university with a licence for non-exclusive publication of the thesis in digital format, where required under temporary embargo;
 - b. The candidate is obliged to sign the standard licence agreement as established by the Executive Board before providing this licence;
 - c. The licence agreement provides for financial compensation to the candidate for the digital version of the thesis in conformity with sub 3 and 4.
7. The rector may exempt the candidate from what has been stated sub 1, under the condition that a printed version of the doctoral thesis is published at the latest within two years. Such a request needs to be accompanied by a written statement of a publisher.
8. A dissertation may consist of a number of articles already published. In advance a formal outline needs to be submitted to the Doctoral Examination Board, showing evident coherence between the articles or component parts of the thesis.

Article 7.7

1. The thesis must contain at least ten propositions.
2. At least four of the propositions referred to sub 1 should deal with the content of the thesis; at least four should relate to other areas of theology, and at most two propositions may deal with a subject/subjects chosen by the candidate.

Article 7.8

The thesis and the propositions are written in Dutch, German, English or French, or - with the approval of the Doctoral Examination Board – in another language.

If the thesis is written in Dutch, a translation is added of the title and a summary of the content in German, English or French in all cases.

If the thesis is written in German, English or French, a translation is added of the title and a summary of the content in Dutch in all cases.

If the thesis is written in another language than Dutch, German, English or French, a translation is added of the title and a summary of the content in Dutch, as well as a translation of the title and a summary of the content in German, English or French in all cases.

Article 7.9

1. The thesis contains:
 - A title page in accordance with the model included in these regulations, containing the registered forename(s), surname, the title and sub-title of the thesis and the date of the examination;
 - A contents page;
 - The necessary registers. If the supervisor agrees that the thesis does not need to contain an index, an exhaustive contents page should be included.

2. On the reverse side of the title page only the following should be entered:
 - The name of the supervisor and his function;
 - The name of the co-supervisor and his function;
 - The CIP Reference Code Koninklijke Bibliotheek Den Haag [Royal Library The Hague].At the bottom of this page the name of the authority may be mentioned that has enabled the realisation of the research and/or thesis financially or otherwise.
3. The title page and its reverse side should be submitted to the president of the doctoral examination board for approval.
4. The length of the thesis must not exceed 100,000 words, including footnotes, exclusive of bibliography and appendices. On the written request of the supervisor, the Doctoral Examination Board may allow this limit to be exceeded.

Article 7.10

1. A brief curriculum vitae of the candidate is included in the thesis.
2. This curriculum vitae contains at least:
 - date and place of birth;
 - record of years of preparatory and higher academic or comparable education of the candidate and the names of the institution(s) where this took place;
 - any special distinctions awarded with degree certificates;
 - where applicable details of professional practice after completion of higher academic education;
 - where applicable details of the institution where the doctoral research was carried out.

Chapter 8 – The doctoral oral examination

Article 8.1

1. The doctoral oral examination takes place in an extraordinary meeting of the Doctoral Examination Board.
2. The supervisor, the co-supervisor and members of the assessment committee who are not members of the Doctoral Examination Board, are added to the Doctoral Examination Board for the occasion.

Article 8.2

1. The Doctoral Examination Board is charged with the task of preparing the opposition. The Doctoral Examination Board or, if they see fit, the supervisor, sees to it that a sufficient number of opponents take part in the examination.
2. All members of the Doctoral Examination Board have the right to put forward challenges. The members of the assessment committee, including the advisory members, are invited to join the opposition as well.
3. By permission of the rector others may take part in the opposition. Eligible are:
 - those who are doctors themselves and experts in the field treated in the thesis,
 - in exceptional cases those who do not have a doctor's degree, but are recognised experts in the field treated in the thesis.

Article 8.3

1. The members of the opposition it are required to present relevant and academically sound challenges.
2. The content of the proposed opposition is announced in time to the rector.
3. The candidate may not be informed about the content of the opposition in advance.

Article 8.4

1. The examination takes place in public. The time and place of this public assembly are decided by or on behalf of the rector, in consultation with the supervisor and candidate.
2. The rector arranges for publication of the date and place of the defence at least three weeks in advance. This is done by displaying the title page and the propositions on the university notice board, or in a similar way.

3. The rector is the president of the public assembly referred to sub 1. In the absence of the rector, or if the rector is appointed as supervisor, his function as president will be taken over by another professor of the university, appointed for the occasion by the rector.
4. The thesis is defended by the candidate for an academic hour, being 45 minutes, against the challenges by members of the Doctoral Examination Board, especially by the members of the assessment committee as defined in article 6.1, as well as by anyone who has been given permission by the rector to do so in accordance with article 8.2.

Article 8.5

1. The protocol for this public assembly, as well as the formula for the defence, the formula after the defence and the examination formula are decided by the Doctoral Examination Board, and are added as an appendix to these regulations. The Doctoral Examination Board is entitled to varying regulations per location.
2. The defence is preferably held in Dutch. The supervisor may request the rector to waive this rule for a defence in the language in which the thesis is written.
3. The rector's permission is required for audio-visual and sound recordings. Permission should be requested at least three working days before the examination.

Article 8.6

1. The president opens the public assembly, prays the academic prayer and invites the opponents in a previously agreed order to speak on behalf of the opposition.
2. The president ensures that the candidate has the opportunity to answer each challenge in turn. In doing this the president sees to it that the opposition does not take up a disproportionate amount of time for its argumentation.
3. After forty-five minutes the public assembly is suspended. This is announced by the usher with the words 'hora est'.
4. The Doctoral Examination Board withdraws for deliberation.

Article 8.7

1. The deliberation referred to in article 8.6-4 is not public.
2. The thesis and the propositions together with the defence are assessed by the Doctoral Examination Board and the added members in accordance with article 8.1-2.
3. In the deliberation referred to sub 1 the supervisor and the president of the Doctoral Examination Board report their findings and make a recommendation about awarding the doctorate. Other members of the Doctoral Examination Board and added members may address the meeting if they wish.
4. The Doctoral Examination Board, of which each member present has a vote, awards the candidate the title of doctor of theology by a majority of votes. The supervisor and where applicable the co-supervisor have an advisory vote with regard to the decision to award the doctorate. Voting takes place by means of those present expressing their approbation, also taking into account the candidate's defence of the thesis. In the event of a tie the doctorate is not awarded.
5. On awarding the doctorate the degree certificate is signed by the rector of the university and the supervisor.

Article 8.8

1. After concluding the deliberation referred to in article 8.6-4 the president of the Doctoral Examination Board resumes the public assembly and announces the board's decision.
2. In the event of the doctorate being awarded, the president assigns the supervisor to invest the candidate with the title and to present him with the degree certificate.
3. The rector then pronounces the Gloria and closes the assembly.

Chapter 9 – The ‘cum laude’ distinction

Article 9.1

1. If the supervisor or co-supervisor are of the opinion that the candidate has shown exceptional competence in his thesis, he is required to submit a motivated written request to the rector for awarding the ‘cum laude’ distinction at least 60 days before the examination. A request of this nature may be submitted by any member of the assessment committee within the specified time limit.
2. If the ‘cum laude’ distinction is proposed, the rector forwards this request without delay to the members of the assessment committee. The committee will assess if the following criteria have been met over and above the conditions stipulated in article 7.2:
 - a. Excellent academic quality and originality, by national and international standards;
 - b. Demonstrably added value to the field with respect to theory formation and genuinely new insights;
 - c. High degree of independence in carrying out the research;
 - d. Excellent written presentation.
3. The assessment committee advises the rector on the request to award the ‘cum laude’ distinction in writing within fourteen days. If more than one member of the assessment committee votes against, the advice will be to refrain from awarding the ‘cum laude’ distinction.
4. If the assessment committee advises positively on awarding the ‘cum laude’ distinction, the rector assigns two external referees without delay. The supervisor suggests four eligible names, from which the rector chooses two.
5. The referees are professors or senior university scholars and experts in the field of the dissertation. The referees are neither members of the assessment committee, nor of the Doctoral Examination Board.
6. The referees are asked to advise the rector in writing.
7. If the assessment committee has advised positively on awarding the ‘cum laude’ distinction and this advice of the assessment committee is supported by the external referees, the rector requests the Doctoral Examination Board in writing to award the ‘cum laude’ distinction. Together with the rector’s request the members and additional members of the Doctoral Examination Board receive copies of the request and the advice.

Article 9.2

1. If the Doctoral Examination Board receives a proposal as intended sub 7 of article 9.1, it holds a meeting prior to the public defence of the thesis.
2. During the meeting as intended sub 1 the Doctoral Examination Board takes notice of the request to award the ‘cum laude’ distinction and the advice received.
3. A final decision on awarding the ‘cum laude’ distinction is made during deliberations as intended in article 8.7 sub 4. During these deliberations the oral defence of the dissertation is taken into account in the final decision.
4. The ‘cum laude’ distinction is not assigned if more than one person of the members and additional members present at the oral defence examination opposes it. The supervisor and co-supervisor have an advisory vote with regard to awarding the ‘cum laude’ distinction.
5. A final decision to assign the ‘cum laude’ distinction is made during the deliberations referred to in article 8.7-4. The final decision also takes into account the oral defence of the thesis.
6. If the ‘cum laude’ distinction is added to the doctorate, the rector announces this after the resumption of the public assembly referred to in article 8.9.

Chapter 10 – The honorary doctorate

Article 10.1

1. The Doctoral Examination Board has the right to propose granting a honorary doctorate, after a nomination of a member of the Board of Professors and having heard the Executive Board.
2. This doctorate, in accordance with article 7.19 of the law, may be granted to a Dutch citizen or a citizen from abroad who satisfies one or more of the following criteria:
 - who has contributed a professional scholarly achievement without formal academic recognition, as evidenced in publications of generally recognized high quality;
 - who has carried out multidisciplinary academic research, as evidenced in publications of generally recognized high quality, in invited contributions at international academic meetings and academic institutions;

- who has accomplished activities of societal and/or cultural significance befitting the special nature of the Protestant Theological University, or whose activities reflect the special nature of the university, which can be confirmed and tested on the basis of oral and written work;
- who has made an exceptional contribution to the church and theology.

Article 10.2

1. If the Doctoral Examination Board intends to make a proposal as indicated in article 10.1-1, the opinion of the Executive Board is confidentially heard. The Doctoral Examination Board may appoint an ad hoc committee in preparation of this to write an argued proposal, indicating at least why honouring the person concerned with a doctorate is desirable.
2. After receiving advice from the Executive Board, the Doctoral Examination Board makes a decision on awarding the honorary doctorate.
3. In voting on awarding the doctorate, all members of the Doctoral Examination Board have the right to vote. Only when at least all but one members present return a positive vote, can the decision to award the honorary doctorate be made.

Article 10.3

1. If the Doctoral Examination Board decides to award the honorary doctorate, it appoints a professor of the university to act as supervisor.
2. A confidential report is made of the decision referred to in article 10.2-3 to the candidate, the supervisor, the Executive Board and the Board of Trustees.
3. The decision is not made public until the candidate has declared himself willing to accept the honorary doctorate.

Article 10.4

1. Awarding the honorary doctorate takes place in a public, extraordinary meeting of the Doctoral Examination Board. On behalf of the board the rector sends out the invitations for attendance at the ceremony.
2. Commissioned by the rector, the appointed supervisor communicates the reasons for awarding the honorary doctorate and invests the candidate with the title.
3. A special text is composed for awarding the degree certificate. The certificate is embellished with the university wax seal.
4. A hood is presented to the honorary doctor, to which a medal is attached. The hood is furnished in the colours of the university identity. The medal bears the same image as the university seal.

Chapter 11 – Regulations for disputes

Article 11.1 Applicability of regulations for disputes

1. Interested parties may request the Doctoral Examination Board for mediation or dealing with complaints in case of a controversy over acts or decisions of supervisors, co-supervisors, the Doctoral Examination Board itself or persons acting on behalf of the Doctoral Examination Board.
2. The conditions of the General Administrative Law apply.
3. The president of the Doctoral Examination Board consults with the applicant of the request to reach appropriate mediation or treatment of the complaint, based on chapter 9 of the General Administrative Law.
4. These regulations for the doctorate are not applicable in case of legal disputes.

Article 11.2 Appeal

An interested party may object to decisions made by or on behalf of the Doctoral Examination Board by launching a written and argued appeal with the Doctoral Examination Board within six weeks of the day of the written announcement of the decision.

Article 11.3 Advisory Committee for disputes

1. The Doctoral Examination Board appoints an advisory committee within four weeks of receipt of the appeal at the latest.
2. The advisory committee consists of two members of the Doctoral Examination Board and a president who is not a member of the Doctoral Examination Board, nor working under its responsibility. The members of the advisory committee have not been involved in the doctoral educational trajectory of the contested decision.

3. The secretary of the Doctoral Examination Board is appointed as secretary of the committee.

Article 11.4 Procedure advisory committee for disputes

The advisory committee for disputes acts in accordance with article 7.13 of the General Administrative Law. The advisory committee for disputes may hear the parties concerned and is entitled to obtaining any information required for dealing with the dispute in an appropriate manner.

Article 11.5 Advice advisory committee for disputes

The advisory committee for disputes reports its argued advice in writing to the Doctoral Examination Board within four weeks after the committee was appointed by the Doctoral Examination Board. The committee's advice contains at least a report of the hearings with the parties concerned.

Article 11.6 Decision Doctoral Examination Board

1. The Doctoral Examination Board reports its argued decision with respect to the appeal in writing to the applicant of the appeal and other parties concerned within four weeks of receipt of the advice of the advisory committee for disputes, but at any rate within ten weeks of receipt of the appeal.
2. The reported decision of the Doctoral Examination Board includes a copy of the written advice by the advisory committee for disputes.
3. In case the decision with respect to the appeal deviates from the advice of the advisory committee for disputes, the reported decision lists the reason for this deviation.

Article 11.7 Appeal

A decision as intended in article 11.6 may be appealed in court by the interested party within six weeks of the day of announcement of the decision to the applicant of the appeal.

Chapter 12 – Joint doctorate

Article 12.1 Definition

1. Arrangements may be made between the PThU and other institutions of academic education in the Netherlands or abroad, about the conditions for institutions to grant a joint doctorate on the basis of a thesis that conforms to the stipulations of this chapter.
2. The arrangements sub 1 are established in a formal agreement with the cooperation partner.

Article 12.2 Approval Doctoral Examination Board

1. A joint doctorate is granted by the Doctoral Examination Board, together with a similar body at the institution of academic education in the Netherlands or abroad, with which arrangements have been made as intended in article 12.1.
2. A joint doctorate can only be granted at the university after written permission of the rector, obtained before the educational dissertation trajectory.
3. In case of a joint doctorate the supervisor submits a written request for a joint doctorate to the rector. The request documents the content and composition of the joint dissertation trajectory, and shows that the thesis is being prepared in formal cooperation with the partner institution(s). The partner institution(s) contribute(s) substantially to the dissertation trajectory.
4. The joint dissertation is bound by the rules and regulations of the institution where the thesis is defended. If the defence is held at the PThU, these regulations for the doctorate apply integrally.
5. The doctor's degree is granted by the Doctoral Examination Board, together with a comparable body of the (foreign) institution with which the arrangement for a joint doctorate has been made.

Article 12.3 Supervisors' responsibility

1. For a joint doctorate the research is carried out under the responsibility of a professor of the PThU and a professor of any of the partner institutions that take part in the cooperation arrangements as intended in article 12.1. Both professors are assigned by the Doctoral Examination Board.
2. The professor of the partner institutions abroad with which arrangements have been made as intended in article 12.1 and under whose responsibility the research is carried out, satisfies the conditions set out in article 4.1.4.

Article 12.4 Joint doctorate with foreign partner

If the research concerns a joint doctorate with one or more partners abroad, the candidate will spend at least six months at the partner institution(s) to carry out research for the thesis. A statement to this effect will be submitted to the Doctoral Examination Board.

Article 12.5 Approving the thesis

1. A joint doctorate requires the approval of an assessment committee, to be appointed in consultation with the partner institution(s). At least one professor of this committee is a member of the Doctoral Examination Board of the PThU.
2. The thesis must be in accordance with the requirements of these regulations for the doctorate, irrespective of the conditions of this chapter.

Article 12.6 The defence ceremony

The defence ceremony is partly or entirely held in the language of at least one of the countries of the foreign institution of academic education as intended in article 12.1.

Article 12.7 Degree certificate

In evidence of being conferred the joint doctorate, the candidate receives a certificate. The type and content of this certificate is decided on in consultation with the cooperation partner(s).

Chapter 13 – The simultaneity doctorate**Article 13.1 Definition**

By a simultaneity doctorate is understood the simultaneous attainment of the degree of doctor at the university and at another institution of academic education in the Netherlands or abroad.

Article 13.2 Approval Doctoral Examination Board

1. A simultaneity doctorate at the university can only be obtained after written permission from the rector in advance.
2. The request for a simultaneity doctorate is submitted by the supervisor to the rector in writing. The request should demonstrate that the thesis is being prepared in formal cooperation on the basis of arrangements made between the two institutions.

Article 13.3 Supervisors' responsibility

1. For a simultaneity doctorate the research is carried out under the responsibility of a professor of the PThU and a professor of any of the partner institutions that take part in the cooperation arrangements as intended in article 13.1. Both professors are assigned as supervisors by the Doctoral Examination Board.
2. The professor of the partner institutions abroad with which arrangements have been made as intended in article 13.1 and under whose responsibility the research is carried out satisfies the conditions set out in article 4.1.4.

Article 13.4 Approving the thesis

1. A simultaneity doctorate requires the approval of an assessment committee, to be appointed in accordance with chapter 7 of these regulations and with the thesis assessment committee or similar body of the foreign institution of academic education respectively.
2. The thesis has to be in accordance with the requirements of these regulations for the doctorate, irrespective of the conditions of this chapter.

Article 13.5 The defence ceremony

1. The defence ceremony at the PThU takes place in accordance with the conditions in chapter 8 of these regulations.
2. The formal arrangement, as intended in article 13.1, specifies that the simultaneity doctorate is awarded at the PThU first and subsequently at the institution of academic education abroad.
3. The thesis is defended at the university and at the institution of academic education abroad within a period of four months.

Article 13.6 degree certificate

In case of a simultaneity doctorate the certificate lists on the reverse side a reference to the certificate of the institution with which the formal arrangements as intended in article 13.1 have been made.

Chapter 14– Other provisions

Article 14.1

Where these regulations make no provision, the Doctoral Examination Board decides.

Article 14.2

These regulations are operative from the date when they were established.

Article 14.3

Decisions concerning amending these regulations are made by the Doctoral Examination Board by common majority vote.

Article 14.4

Requests to be admitted to the doctorate educational trajectory dated before 1 September 2016, will be dealt with in accordance with the regulations as last amended on 1 July 2013.

Regulations for the Doctorate PThU

February 2017

DISCLAIMER

Although every care has been taken to translate the texts of the Dutch regulations accurately, the original texts in Dutch are binding in case of differences in interpretation.