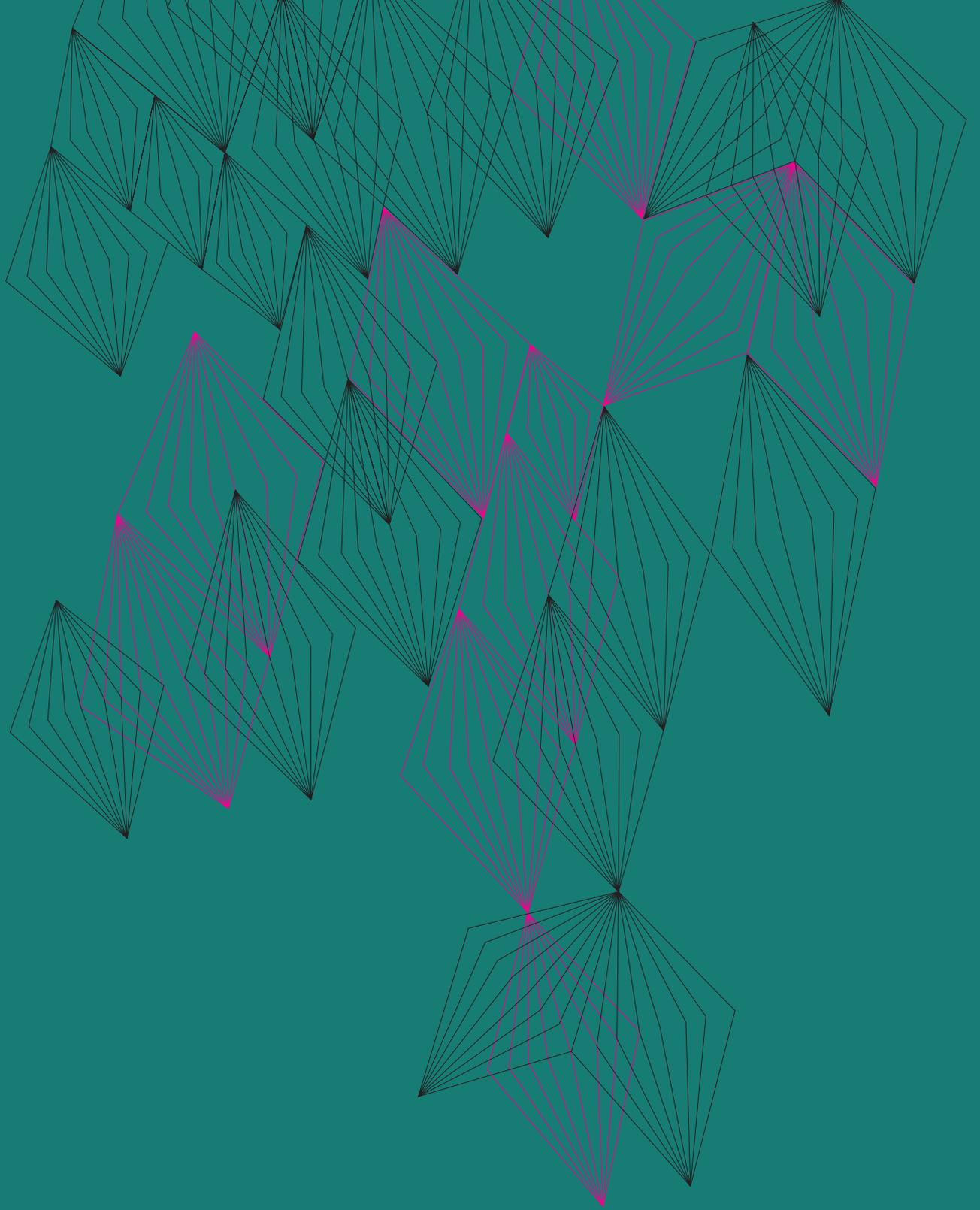


DOCTORAL REGULATIONS

1 JANUARY 2026

UNIVERSITY
OF TWENTE.



Adopted by the Doctorate Board on 17 September 2025;
amended on 29 January 2026.

DOCTORAL REGULATIONS

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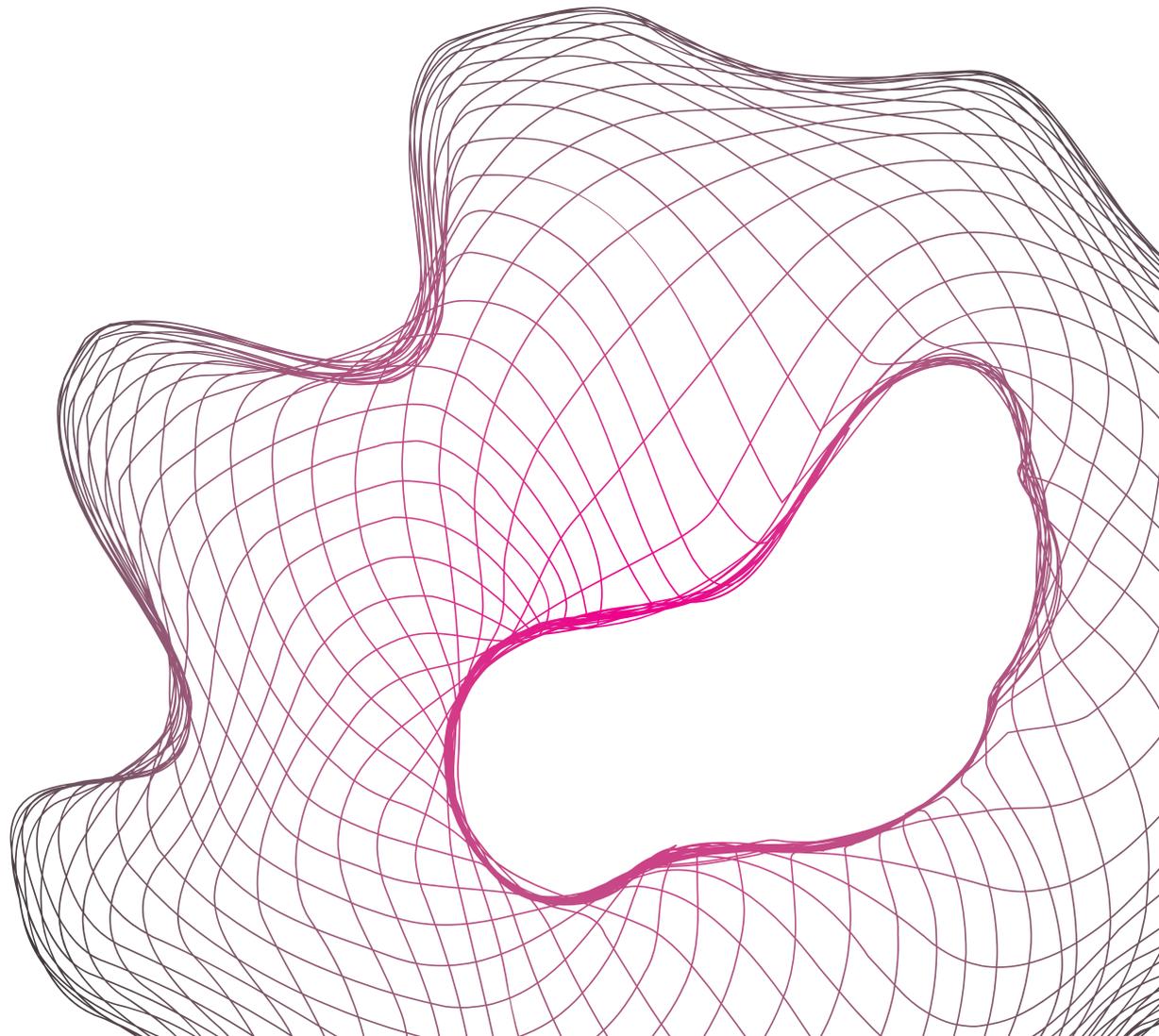
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PREAMBULE

PREAMBLE ON THE VALIDITY OF THE REGULATIONS

1. These Doctoral Regulations of the University of Twente and the [Charter for Doctoral Candidates](#) together fulfil the Doctorate Board's obligation to adopt its own regulations, as referred to in Section 7.18 and 7.19 of the Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek – WHW*).
2. These Doctoral Regulations apply to all types of PhD candidates at the University of Twente.





SECTION 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The terms used in these Doctoral Regulations have the same meaning as those used in the Higher Education and Research Act (*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek – WHW*). [Annex 1](#) contains the relevant sections of the Higher Education and Research Act. The terms and their definitions are as follows:

BEADLE

The person who, on behalf of the University's Rector Magnificus, supervises and conducts the doctoral procedure and other academic ceremonies.

CHARTER FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Regulations for the research and education programme for PhD candidates intended to lead to a doctoral degree, including provisions on registration, training and supervision.

CONFERRAL OF DOCTORAL DEGREE

The point during the doctoral defence and ceremony at which the title of Doctor is conferred on the basis of the Doctoral Regulations.

CO-PROMOTOR

An expert appointed as such by the Doctorate Board who holds a PhD, has expertise in all or part of the field associated with the subject described in the doctoral thesis and contributes as a member of the supervisory team to the supervision of the PhD candidate in the production of the doctoral thesis.

DAILY SUPERVISOR

Member of the supervisory team who carries out the day-to-day supervision of the PhD candidate and is the first point of contact for the PhD candidate.

DEAN TGS

Dean of the Twente Graduate School.

DOCTORATE

The university degree as described in the Higher Education and Research Act.

DOCTORAL DEFENCE AND CEREMONY

The public defence of the doctoral thesis and the possible conferral of the doctorate.

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

Individual programme of a PhD candidate consisting of a research project that may result in a doctoral thesis and an education programme of, in principle, 30 ECs.

DOCTORAL THESIS

A scientific or academic treatise in monograph or article form or a technical design as referred to in [\(Section 7.18\(2\)\(b\)\)](#) of the Higher Education and Research Act which meets the requirements set out in these regulations and has been approved as such by the manuscript committee.

DOCTORATE BOARD

The University's Doctorate Board, which acts in matters concerning the conferral of doctoral degrees (cf. [Section 9.10](#) of the Higher Education and Research Act). The [Administrative and Management Regulations](#) of the University of Twente contain further details of the tasks, composition and method of appointment of the Doctorate Board.

DOUBLE DOCTORATE

Earning a doctorate based on a single doctoral thesis at the University of Twente and at one or two higher education institutions outside the Netherlands that have the statutory right to confer doctorates, leading to the issuance of two or three certificates.

FACULTY DEAN

Dean of a faculty of the University of Twente.

GRADUATION COMMITTEE

The committee established by the Doctorate Board to preside over the doctoral defence.

IUS PROMOVENDI

The right to act as a promotor as referred to in [\(Section 7.18 \(4\) of the Higher Education and Research Act](#) (the relevant criteria and procedure are set out in [Annex 2](#) to these regulations).

JOINT DOCTORATE

Earning a doctorate based on a single doctoral thesis at the University of Twente and at one or two other higher education institutions that have the statutory right to confer doctorates, leading to the issuance of a single certificate.

MANUSCRIPT COMMITTEE

The committee established by the Doctorate Board that decides in an objective and expert manner whether the PhD candidate's draft doctoral thesis can serve as proof of competence to conduct independent academic research and thereby allow admission to the doctoral defence.

PHD CANDIDATE

The person who, on fulfilling the requirements set out in these regulations, is entitled to be admitted to the doctoral defence and who has been admitted to the preparation of the doctoral defence by the Doctorate Board or the dean.

PROPOSITIONS

Defensible arguments that the PhD candidate wishes to defend along with the doctoral thesis.

PROMOTOR

A professor affiliated with the University of Twente or a member of the academic staff of the University of Twente having the right to confer doctoral degrees ([Section 7.18\(4\)](#) of the Higher Education and Research Act) who is appointed as such by the Doctorate Board and who, as a member of the supervisory team, is ultimately responsible for the supervision of the PhD candidate and the establishment of the doctoral thesis and to confer the degree of Doctor after the defence.

QUALIFIER

An assessment conducted in the second half of the first year of the PhD programme intended to lead to admission to the doctoral defence, as described in the Charter for Doctoral Candidates.

SPECIAL EXPERT AS OPPONENT

An expert (usually with a PhD) who, at the request of the promotor, participates in the graduation committee, takes part in the opposition during the doctoral defence and has an advisory vote on the conferral of the doctorate.

SUPERVISORY TEAM

A team consisting of one promotor and at least one and at most three co-promotors who are jointly responsible for supervising the PhD candidate during the PhD programme.

SUBSTITUTE MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

A professor or senior lecturer who, in the absence of a member of the graduation committee and at the invitation of the faculty dean, participates in the opposition during the doctoral defence and has an advisory vote on the conferral of the doctorate.

TECHNICAL DESIGN

One or more original and innovative technical designs developed in a way that is scientifically sound by processing and/or combining raw materials or by developing software. All of this must be documented and accompanied by a scientific justification.

TRAINING AND SUPERVISION PLAN (T&SP)

Training and supervision plan for a PhD candidate, as described in the [Charter for Doctoral Candidates](#).

TWENTE GRADUATE SCHOOL (TGS)

The part of the University responsible for the registration of PhD candidates, their education programme and their supervision. The TGS monitors the progress and quality of the PhD programme, coordinates the offering of generic courses (including their evaluation and further development), provides administrative support throughout the PhD programme and organises the doctoral defence ceremony. The TGS is led by the Dean TGS, who is accountable to the Doctorate Board.

UNIVERSITY

University of Twente.

WHW

The Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek).



ARTICLE 2 OTHER PROVISIONS

1. The doctorate is conferred by the Doctorate Board.
2. The doctorate may be obtained at the University on the basis of the doctoral defence.
3. Any academic or scientific field, or any part thereof, that the Doctorate Board deems to be within the remit of the University can be the subject of a doctoral thesis for a doctoral degree. The degree of Doctor is equivalent to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy as used in an international context.
4. Admission to the doctoral defence is open to anyone who:
 - a. has been awarded a master's degree in accordance with Section 7.10a(1), (2) or (3) of the Higher Education and Research Act,¹
 - b. has written a doctoral thesis or produced a technical design as proof of competence to conduct independent academic research, and
 - c. has fulfilled the requirements of these Doctoral Regulations.

In special cases, the Doctorate Board may grant admission to the doctoral defence to persons who fulfil 4b but not 4a or 4c, if it can be demonstrated that they meet these requirements on other grounds. A reasoned request to this effect must be submitted to the Doctorate Board: doctorateboard@utwente.nl.

In special cases the Doctorate Board can admit persons who have already obtained a doctorate to the doctoral defence. A reasoned request to this effect must be submitted to the Doctorate Board: doctorateboard@utwente.nl.

5. With regard to matters discussed in the non-public meetings as referred to in Sections 5 and 6 and during the disputes procedure as referred to in Section 9, all those present are bound by a duty of confidentiality.
6. Any reference in these Regulations to the Rector Magnificus (RM) should be deemed to refer to the Rector Magnificus or his or her deputy.
7. Requests to the Rector Magnificus or the Doctorate Board as described in these Doctoral Regulations should be addressed to doctorateboard@utwente.nl. Requests to the Doctorate Board Support Office should be addressed to promoties@utwente.nl.
8. Where these Regulations refer to a doctoral thesis, this should be read as doctoral thesis, technical design or scientific justification

¹ Corresponding certificates awarded under the predecessors of the Higher Education and Research Act are considered equivalent to these, insofar as they also entitle the holder to admission to the doctoral defence.



SECTION 2

THE PHD CANDIDATE

ARTICLE 3 APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

1. Anyone wishing to obtain a doctoral degree should register for a PhD programme in accordance with the procedure described in the [Charter for Doctoral Candidates](#).
2. After approval of admission by the faculty dean, the TGS will register the PhD candidate in the PhD monitoring system.

ARTICLE 4 REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORY TEAM

As soon as possible after registering for the PhD programme, but no later than three months thereafter, the PhD candidate must submit a request to the Doctorate Board using the appropriate form in the PhD monitoring system for the appointment of a supervisory team consisting of one promotor and at least one and at most three co-promotors (see [Section 3](#)).

ARTICLE 5 PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

1. As part of the progress assessment, the PhD candidate is assessed by means of the qualifier, as laid down in the Charter for Doctoral Candidates.
2. A positive assessment in the qualifier is required for continuation of the PhD programme. In the event of an insufficient assessment, the qualifier may be retaken once.
3. A second insufficient assessment in the qualifier will result in termination of enrolment in the PhD programme.

Further provisions are laid down in the [Charter for Doctoral Candidates](#).

ARTICLE 6 INDEPENDENT CONTRIBUTION

1. The PhD candidate must have completed the research described in the doctoral thesis (see [Section 4](#)) independently or have made a substantial contribution to it, and is responsible for the doctoral thesis as an academic work.
2. In the case of a technical design, this must also have been developed independently by the PhD candidate. The PhD candidate is personally responsible for the accompanying scientific justification.

SECTION 3

THE SUPERVISORY TEAM

ARTICLE 7 COMPOSITION OF THE SUPERVISORY TEAM

As soon as possible after enrolment in the PhD programme, but no later than three months thereafter (see Article 4), the Doctorate Board will appoint a supervisory team for the PhD candidate at his or her request, which will meet the following requirements:

- a. The supervisory team consists of one promotor and at least one and at most three co-promotors. Ideally, the supervisory team consists of two people.
- b. The promotor has the right to confer doctorates at the University of Twente.
- c. All members of the supervisory team are experts with PhDs.
- d. One of the members of the supervisory team is appointed as the daily supervisor. This person is the first point of contact for the PhD candidate.

The PhD candidate should use the form provided for this purpose in the PhD monitoring system. After the PhD candidate has submitted the request, the Doctorate Board will assess whether it meets the requirements of the Doctoral Regulations or whether there are any objections (from an employment law or education law perspective) to the appointment.

ARTICLE 8 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUPERVISORY TEAM

1. The supervisory team is responsible for supervising the PhD candidate during the PhD programme and will ensure that the PhD candidate conducts the research independently. The supervisory team will also ensure adherence to agreed or reasonable deadlines for assessing and discussing drafts.
2. The promotor bears responsibility for:
 - a. The training and supervision of the PhD candidate during the PhD programme.
 - b. Organising a qualifier meeting and annual progress interviews with the PhD candidate.
 - c. Accepting the doctoral thesis and ensuring that it meets the specified requirements.
 - d. Approving any propositions appended to the doctoral thesis.
 - e. Conferring the doctorate.

The promotor will be assisted in these duties by the other members of the supervisory team.

3. The supervisory team also ensures that the research is conducted:
 - a. In accordance with the code of conduct and/or professional code ensuring professional conduct in the relevant discipline.
 - b. In accordance with the [Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#)
 - c. In accordance with the applicable legislation and regulations on the protection of personal data, for the careful handling of research data and for research on and/or with test subjects.

ARTICLE 9 THE PROMOTOR

1. A professor affiliated with the University of Twente or a member of the academic staff of the University of Twente having the right to confer doctoral degrees (Section 7.18(4) of the Higher Education and Research Act) who is appointed as such by the Doctorate Board and who, as a member of the supervisory team, is ultimately responsible for the supervision of the PhD candidate and the establishment of the doctoral thesis and to confer the degree of Doctor after the defence.
2. A professor affiliated with the University of Twente or a member of the academic staff of the University of Twente who holds the degree of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy and who, in the opinion of the Doctorate Board, has sufficient competence to act as a promotor may be appointed as a promotor. The Doctorate Board will decide on this in accordance with the criteria and procedure as described in Annex 2.

3. Persons having a family relationship or other connection with the PhD candidate or any of the co-promoters that means they cannot be expected to form an independent judgement are not eligible as promoters.
4. Professors who have been honourably discharged from their duties retain the right to act as a promoter for five years after the date of discharge for candidates for whom they had already been appointed as a promoter at the time of discharge. Members of the academic staff who have been granted *ius promovendi* retain the right to act as a promoter for the duration of their employment. If the approval of the doctoral thesis and its defence have not taken place before the expiry of *ius promovendi*, the appointment will lapse and a new promoter must be appointed.
5. If the requirements set out in paragraphs 1 to 5 inclusive are no longer fulfilled, the PhD candidate must submit a reasoned request for a change of promoter to the Doctorate Board using the form provided for this purpose in the PhD monitoring system.
6. If the promoter is unable to perform his or her duties due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, the PhD candidate must submit a written request to the Doctorate Board to appoint a substitute. If a member of the supervisory team is entitled to confer doctorates, this person should preferably be appointed.
7. If the promoter accepts a professorship at another university, the PhD candidate must submit a written request to the Doctorate Board to appoint a substitute. If a member of the supervisory team is entitled to confer doctorates, this person should preferably be appointed as a substitute.
8. For a change of promoter, the PhD candidate must submit a written request to the Doctorate Board, stating the reasons and using the form provided for this purpose in the PhD monitoring system. The Doctorate Board will carefully assess the request and give the promoter concerned an opportunity to make his or her views known before reaching a decision.

ARTICLE 10 THE CO-PROMOTOR

1. At the request of the promoter, and following a hearing with the PhD candidate, the Doctorate Board will appoint at least one and at most three co-promoters. The promoter will ensure that each proposed co-promoter is willing and able to act in the required capacity. This appointment will take place as soon as possible after enrolment in the PhD programme, but no later than three months thereafter (see Articles 4 and 7).
2. An expert who holds a PhD, has expertise in all or part of the field associated with the subject described in the doctoral thesis and contributes as a member of the supervisory team to the supervision of the PhD candidate in the production of the doctoral thesis may be appointed as a co-promotor.
3. Persons having a family relationship or other connection with the PhD candidate that means they cannot be expected to form an independent judgement are not eligible as co-promoters.
4. Persons having a family relationship or other connection with the promoter that means they cannot be expected to form an independent judgement are not eligible as co-promoters.
5. If the requirements set out in paragraphs 1 to 4 inclusive are no longer fulfilled, the PhD candidate must submit a reasoned request for a change of co-promoters to the Doctorate Board using the form provided for this purpose in the PhD monitoring system. The Doctorate Board will carefully assess the request and give the co-promoter concerned an opportunity to make his or her views known before reaching a decision.



SECTION 4

THE DOCTORAL THESIS

ARTICLE 11 JOINT DOCTORAL THESIS

In the case of joint research or a technical design developed jointly, the result may qualify as a joint doctoral thesis or technical design produced by two people, provided that all the following conditions are met:

- a. each of the authors has made an independent, definable contribution that is sufficient for the doctoral defence, as assessed by the promotor;
- b. each of the authors accepts personal responsibility for both the designated part of the doctoral thesis and the coherence of the doctoral thesis as a whole;
- c. the doctoral thesis must include details of the shares of the individual authors in its production;
- d. each of the authors must append the required number of propositions (if this option is chosen) to the doctoral thesis.

ARTICLE 12 PROCEDURES FOR A JOINT DOCTORAL THESIS

In the case of a joint doctoral thesis as referred to in the previous article, all the procedures and provisions in these Regulations will apply to each PhD candidate individually.

ARTICLE 13 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONTENT AND FORM OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

1. The doctoral thesis will consist either of an academic treatise on a specific subject or a number of separate academic treatises which have already been published in their entirety or in part, provided that, in combination, they constitute a coherent contribution to the specific subject.
2. There are no requirements for the minimum or maximum number of chapters in the doctoral thesis, nor for the number of published chapters, as long as the content meets academic quality standards as assessed by the manuscript committee (see [Annex 6](#) for the assessment criteria and the assessment form).
3. If one or more articles have been written by several authors, only those articles in the doctoral thesis that can be sufficiently attributed to the PhD candidate according to an author's declaration appended to the doctoral thesis will be accepted (see [Annex 4](#) for a model author's declaration).
4. On the basis of the draft doctoral thesis and the author's declaration, the manuscript committee will assess whether the draft doctoral thesis demonstrates the PhD candidate's competence to conduct independent academic research.
5. If the doctoral thesis contains articles that have already been published, the period of time between the publication of those articles and the commencement of the doctoral procedure must not exceed seven years, unless the Doctorate Board grants an exemption from this condition on the basis of a reasoned proposal from the promotor.
6. If the Doctorate Board has granted an exception to the requirements specified for the doctoral thesis as referred to in paragraph 5, this approval must be stated in the doctoral thesis.
7. If the doctoral thesis is based on research data, a statement appended to the doctoral thesis must explain how the research data referred to in the doctoral thesis have been stored or archived and made available (see [Annex 5](#) for a model research data management statement).
8. The doctoral thesis must contain a table of contents and a list of the consulted literature.
9. The doctoral thesis must include a title and an abstract in Dutch as well as a title and abstract in English.
10. The inclusion of a brief curriculum vitae and, where possible, an index in the doctoral thesis is also recommended.

ARTICLE 14 LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The doctoral thesis and any appended propositions may be written in Dutch, English or, at the discretion of the Doctorate Board, in another language. If it involves a combination of academic treatises (articles), it may include a combination of languages.

ARTICLE 15 TITLE PAGE

1. The doctoral thesis must include a title page compliant with the model specified by the Doctorate Board (see [Annex 3](#)).
2. The reverse side of the title page must only include a statement that the promotor and co-promotors have approved the doctoral thesis (see Article 18(1)), together with details of the copyright holder and the year in which copyright was granted and the ISBN.

ARTICLE 16 PROPOSITIONS

1. A loose insert with a maximum of ten propositions may be added to the doctoral thesis. At least four of these must relate to the doctoral thesis. Of the remaining propositions, at most two may be of a general nature, with the remainder being of an academic nature.
2. Propositions
 - a. relate to the subject of the doctoral thesis or the associated discipline;
 - b. include the author's own addition; and
 - c. can be defended with academic arguments.
3. The propositions must be approved by the promotor before the doctoral thesis can be printed. The promotor will assess whether the propositions meet the requirements of paragraphs 1 and 2.

ARTICLE 17 SUBMISSION OF DRAFT DOCTORAL THESIS

The PhD candidate must present the doctoral thesis in its entirety or in parts to the promotor, make the agreed amendments and then submit the draft doctoral thesis to the promotor for approval.

ARTICLE 18 APPROVAL OF DRAFT DOCTORAL THESIS AND PROPOSITIONS

1. If the promotor judges that the draft doctoral thesis meets the requirements, can be attributed to the PhD candidate and can be deemed to constitute proof of the candidate's ability to conduct independent academic research, they will approve the draft doctoral thesis after canvassing the views of the co-promotors.
2. The promotor will decide on the approval of the draft doctoral thesis within two months of receiving it and will enter it in the PhD monitoring system.
3. As soon as possible following the approval as referred to in paragraph 2, the PhD candidate must submit any propositions as referred to in Article 15 for assessment by the promotor through the PhD monitoring system. After noting the views of the co-promotors, the promotor will assess whether the propositions are sufficiently
4. If the promotor declines to approve the doctoral thesis, the Doctorate Board may, at the request of the PhD candidate and having consulted the latter and the promotor, appoint an alternative promotor.

ARTICLE 19 PROCEDURE AFTER APPROVAL OF DRAFT DOCTORAL THESIS

1. After the draft doctoral thesis has been approved by the promotor, after noting the views of the co-promotors (see Article 18(1)), and the reports of the qualifier and annual performance appraisal interviews and the educational programme followed as described in the training and supervision plan have been approved by the Dean TGS, the promotor must submit a proposal for the establishment of a manuscript committee (see Section 5) through the PhD monitoring system.
2. The provisional date of the defence can be set once the promotor, after noting the views of the co-promotors, has approved the draft doctoral thesis in the PhD monitoring system (see Article 18(1)).
3. The provisional date of the defence must be set at least 14 weeks in advance.
4. The provisional date of the defence will lapse if the draft doctoral thesis has not been approved by the manuscript committee six weeks before this provisional date.
5. The PhD candidate must not make copies of the doctoral thesis without permission from the manuscript committee and approval of the title pages by the Doctorate Board Support Office. There is a prescribed model for title pages (see also Article 14 and [Annex 3](#)).

ARTICLE 20 FORM OF PUBLICATION OF DOCTORAL THESIS

1. The doctoral thesis may be printed or reproduced by other means, provided that reasonable standards of legibility are met.
2. The PhD candidate must ensure that the design of the doctoral thesis is in line with prevailing conventions. It must be produced in a convenient format in a stitched or brochure form.

ARTICLE 21 SUPPLY OF PRINTED COPIES OF DOCTORAL THESIS

Two weeks before the defence, the PhD candidate must provide a number of printed copies of the doctoral thesis, including the accompanying propositions, free of charge, as indicated below:

- a. 12 copies for the Beadle²;
- b. two copies for the university library.

ARTICLE 22 SUPPLY OF DIGITAL COPIES OF DOCTORAL THESIS

1. A digital version of the final doctoral thesis must be supplied to each member of the graduation committee no later than two weeks before the doctoral defence (see Article 26).
2. A digital version of the final doctoral thesis must be submitted to the university library no later than two weeks before the doctoral defence.
3. The university library will widely publicise the existence of the doctoral thesis and the information on the availability of the underlying data.

² The remaining theses for the Beadle (12 copies) will be returned to the graduate following the completion of the doctoral defence and ceremony.



SECTION 5

THE MANUSCRIPT COMMITTEE & THE GRADUATION COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 23 ESTABLISHMENT OF MANUSCRIPT COMMITTEE

1. As soon as possible after receiving the approval from the promotor as referred to in Article 18(1), the Doctorate Board will establish a manuscript committee. This committee will assess in an objective and expert manner whether the PhD candidate's draft doctoral thesis can serve as proof of competence to conduct independent academic research and thereby allow admission to the doctoral defence.
2. The manuscript committee will be formed on the proposal of the promotor after the approval of the dean of the faculty concerned. The promotor will ascertain whether the candidates are willing to serve as members of the committee and attend on the day of the doctoral defence. The dean will assess the independence and subject-matter expertise of the proposed manuscript committee.

ARTICLE 24 COMPOSITION OF THE MANUSCRIPT COMMITTEE

1. The following points must be taken into account in the composition of the manuscript committee:
 - a. The manuscript committee consists of four core members and, if necessary, a fifth member.
 - b. All members must be experts with PhDs in the field of the doctoral thesis.
 - c. Of the four core members, two must be affiliated with the University of Twente and two with a university (academic educational institution with the right to confer doctorates) other than the University of Twente.
 - d. Any fifth member must also be an expert with a PhD and may be affiliated with a university, but this is not a requirement.
 - e. Members of the supervisory team are not eligible for appointment.
 - f. The composition of the manuscript committee must be balanced and, where possible, diverse.
2. When forming the manuscript committee, the faculty dean, taking into account the relationships and interests of the individual members, will consider whether each member of the manuscript committee should be deemed capable of making a decision without undue pressure or undue influence. A person who co-authored an article forming part of the doctoral thesis must not be appointed.
3. The faculty dean acts as independent secretary of the manuscript committee. The secretary of the manuscript committee has no voting rights and is not a member of the manuscript committee. If the faculty dean is a member of the supervisory team or the manuscript committee, the rector will act as secretary of the manuscript committee.
4. Once the manuscript committee is established, the secretary will notify the members of their appointment through the PhD monitoring system. The secretary of the manuscript committee also informs the PhD candidate of the establishment of the manuscript committee and the appointment of its members through the PhD monitoring system.
5. Members of the manuscript committee are not permitted to withdraw for reasons other than illness or force majeure.

ARTICLE 25 ASSESSMENT BY THE MANUSCRIPT COMMITTEE

1. As soon as possible after receipt of the draft doctoral thesis, but no later than six weeks thereafter, the manuscript committee will issue its judgement on whether the draft doctoral thesis has provided sufficient proof of competence to conduct independent academic research in order to enable the PhD candidate to be admitted to the defence of the doctoral thesis (see [Annex 6](#) for the assessment criteria and the assessment form). The PhD monitoring system is used for this purpose. If the manuscript committee considers that proof of competence has been provided, the draft doctoral thesis is adopted as a doctoral thesis.
2. If any members of the manuscript committee make recommendations for minor changes or additions to the draft doctoral thesis, the promotor will decide whether the modifications are of such magnitude that the other members of the manuscript committee should be informed.
3. If the manuscript committee has not made its assessment within the six-week deadline, the provisional date for the defence will lapse.
4. The manuscript committee will vote in writing through the PhD monitoring system on the admission of the PhD candidate to the defence. If one member of the manuscript committee gives a negative judgement, all committee members will be notified by the secretary of the manuscript committee and consultation will take place between that member and the secretary. If this consultation does not produce a solution, the secretary will present the criticism to the other committee members and request them to indicate whether the defence should be postponed. If the other committee members indicate that they do not deem this necessary, the PhD candidate will be admitted to the defence and the member with serious objections will be requested to discuss the matter with the candidate during the defence.
5. If two or more members of the manuscript committee give a negative judgement, a decision will be made to adjourn the procedure, after consultation between the secretary of the manuscript committee and the promotor. The PhD candidate will be given one opportunity to make improvements to the draft doctoral thesis and to resubmit it to the same manuscript committee for assessment within one year.
6. If in the second assessment the manuscript committee again decides that proof of competence has not been provided, the draft doctoral thesis cannot be resubmitted for assessment, even to a manuscript committee with a different composition. In that case, enrolment in the PhD programme will be terminated.
7. The secretary of the manuscript committee will ensure that an immediate written notification of the admission or non-admission to the defence is sent to the PhD candidate and the supervisory team as well as to the Doctorate Board Support Office through the PhD monitoring system.

ARTICLE 26 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GRADUATION COMMITTEE

1. Once the manuscript committee has approved the PhD candidate's admission to the defence, the graduation committee will be established to preside over the doctoral defence. This graduation committee consists of the members of the manuscript committee, supplemented by a chair, the supervisory team and, if necessary, special experts as opponents (see paragraph 2).
2. At the request of the promotor, the Doctorate Board may include special experts as opponents in the graduation committee. Such experts will have practical or other subject-matter expertise relevant to the defence. They will hold a doctorate, unless the chair of the Doctorate Board deems this unnecessary in an individual

case. They will participate in the opposition and have an advisory vote in the deliberations on the conferral of the doctorate.

3. The faculty dean acts as an independent secretary to the graduation committee. The secretary to the graduation committee has no voting rights and is not a member of the graduation committee. If the faculty dean is a member of the supervisory team or the graduation committee, the rector will act as secretary to the graduation committee. The roles of chair and secretary may be combined in one person.
4. The following points must be taken into account in the composition of the graduation committee:
 - a. The graduation committee consists of the members of the manuscript committee, supplemented by a chair, the supervisory team and, if necessary, special experts as opponents (see paragraph 2). The maximum number of members, including the chair, is ten.
 - b. The chair of the Doctorate Board acts as chair of the graduation committee. In the event of absence or impediment, the chair of the Doctorate Board will be replaced by the faculty dean or, if the dean is unavailable, by another professor designated for the purpose by the chair of the Doctorate Board.
 - c. With the exception of the chair and the supervisory team, all members of the graduation committee may act as opponents during the doctoral defence.
 - d. If a member of the manuscript committee is unable to attend the doctoral defence due to unforeseen circumstances, they will not be replaced. If circumstances are such that, in the opinion of the secretary to the graduation committee, the size of the graduation committee in attendance is too small to form a worthy opposition, the secretary to the graduation committee may invite another professor or senior lecturer to pose questions. This substitute opposition member takes part in the opposition and has an advisory vote in the deliberations on the conferral of the doctorate.
 - e. If an exceptional situation as referred to in point d arises, the secretary to the graduation committee will record this as soon as possible in the PhD monitoring system. The entry will record the absence of the member of the graduation committee and, if applicable, the name of the substitute opposition member.
 - f. If unforeseen circumstances result in two or more members of the manuscript committee being unable to attend the defence, the chair of the Doctorate Board will decide whether the defence will proceed, what arrangements will be made or whether a new date will be set for the defence.
5. The Doctorate Board will establish the graduation committee and appoint its members no later than four weeks before the date of the doctoral defence. The graduation committee will be formed on the proposal of the promotor, through the PhD monitoring system, after the approval of the dean of the faculty concerned. The promotor will ascertain whether the candidates are willing to serve as members of the graduation committee and attend on the day of the doctoral defence.
6. Once the graduation committee is established, the secretary will notify the members of their appointment through the PhD monitoring system. The secretary to the graduation committee will also inform the PhD candidate of the establishment of the graduation committee and the appointment of its members through the PhD monitoring system.



SECTION 6

THE DOCTORAL DEFENCE AND CEREMONY

ARTICLE 27 TIME AND PLACE OF THE DOCTORAL DEFENCE AND CEREMONY

1. The doctoral defence is held in public in the presence of the graduation committee appointed by the Doctorate Board at a location, date and time to be determined by the chair of the Doctorate Board.
2. The doctoral defence takes place on the campus of the University, unless the chair of the Doctorate Board has acceded to a request for the doctoral defence to take place elsewhere or online.
3. A maximum of four doctoral defences and ceremonies are held per day. The first starts at 10:30 am, the second at 12:30 pm, the third at 2:30 pm and the fourth at 4:30 pm. Half an hour before the start of the doctoral defence, a closed preliminary meeting takes place between the members of the graduation committee (see [Annex 7](#) for the protocol of the doctoral defence and ceremony).
4. If the defence takes place elsewhere or online, the provisions of these regulations will apply in full.
5. A request as referred to in paragraph 2 must be submitted in writing to the Doctorate Board Support Office: promoties@utwente.nl

ARTICLE 28 DEFENCE OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

1. The PhD candidate will defend the doctoral thesis and any associated propositions for 45 minutes against the objections of the graduation committee appointed by the Doctorate Board. Before the defence, the PhD candidate will provide a summary of the doctoral thesis and any propositions lasting a maximum of 12 minutes in the presence of the graduation committee.
2. Other holders of doctorates attending the doctoral defence may also participate in the opposition from the floor, provided they have submitted a written request to that effect to the chair of the Doctorate Board at the latest one week prior to the doctoral defence and have obtained permission to participate in the opposition. The opposition from the floor is not included in the number referred to in Article 26(4).
3. If the doctoral thesis has been written by two people, it will be defended by each of them separately on the basis of the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2.
4. The opposition and the defence will take place in Dutch or English, or in another language at the discretion of the chair of the Doctorate Board.
5. Partly in order to promote sustainability, one or more of the parties involved may, upon request, question the PhD candidate and participate in the deliberations remotely by audiovisual means.
6. One hour after the start of the public session, the Beadle enters the hall to announce the end of the defence, saying: "Geachte rector, de tijd is verstreken" ("Esteemed Rector, the time has elapsed").
7. Requests as referred to in paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 must be submitted in writing to the Doctorate Board Support Office: promoties@utwente.nl.

ARTICLE 29 DECISION ON CONFERRAL OF DOCTORATE

1. The decision on the conferral of the doctorate will be taken by the graduation committee in closed deliberations after the adjournment of the public session. Members of the supervisory team and special experts (see Article 26(2)) have an advisory vote in the deliberations on the conferral of the doctorate.
2. The deliberations are closed and the parties involved must maintain strict confidentiality. No record is made of the deliberations.
3. During the deliberations, the promotor may be asked for information about the progress of the scientific research and about the personal or other qualities of the PhD candidate during the research, in order to assist the decision-making process.
4. A reasoned decision to refuse to confer a doctorate on the grounds of the defence must be based on the unanimous negative opinion of the voting members of the graduation committee.
5. If the graduation committee has decided that a doctorate cannot be conferred, the PhD candidate will be given one opportunity to defend the doctoral thesis again before the same committee within a reasonable period set by the graduation committee.
6. If the graduation committee decides in the second assessment that a doctorate cannot be conferred, no further defence can take place. In that case, enrolment in the PhD programme will be terminated.

ARTICLE 30 ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE

1. After reconvening the session, the chair of the graduation committee will announce the result of the deliberations referred to in Article 29 and invite the promotor to speak.
2. As evidence of the conferral of the doctorate, the new doctor will receive a certificate in English or Dutch, signed by the Rector Magnificus, the chair of the committee and the promotors and co-promotors and bearing the seal of the University of Twente. The certificate states the full names, place of birth and date of birth of the PhD candidate.³
3. The certificate is accompanied by a statement in English containing its text (or a translation thereof) and a reference to the Higher Education and Research Act (see [Annex 8](#)). The statement is signed by the Rector Magnificus. The TGS educational certificate is also issued together with the certificate.⁴
4. In special cases, the Doctorate Board may permit a statement to be included on the certificate indicating that the research was conducted in collaboration with other academic institutions in the Netherlands or abroad (see [Section 7](#)).

³ The PhD candidate may indicate a preference to receive a certificate in Dutch or in English. If the PhD candidate does not indicate a preference, the certificate will be prepared in English. In both cases, the degree of Doctor will be mentioned, unless an agreement (for example in the case of a joint doctorate) stipulates that the degree of Doctor of Philosophy must be mentioned. The English translation states that the degree of Doctor is equivalent to Doctor of Philosophy.

⁴ PhD candidates who started before 1 January 2014 will only receive a TGS education certificate if it is applicable to them.

SECTION 7

DOUBLE DOCTORATE AND JOINT DOCTORATE

ARTICLE 31 DOUBLE DOCTORATE

1. A double doctorate is a PhD programme in which a PhD candidate obtains a doctorate on the basis of a single doctoral thesis from the University of Twente and from one or two foreign universities having the right to confer doctorates. This results in the issuance of two (or three) individual certificates.
2. A double doctorate may be conferred if a formal agreement is concluded for that purpose with one or two foreign universities before the start of the PhD programme.
3. The double doctorate agreement must include provisions concerning the location of the defence ceremony, the alignment of the universities' regulations, the composition of the manuscript committee, the promotor and the supervision of the PhD candidate. These details must comply fully with the content and quality requirements of these Regulations and the [Charter for Doctoral Candidates](#), and in principle half but at least a third of the time must be spent at the University of Twente.
4. The title page to be approved by the Doctorate Board Support Office must bear the name of the foreign university/universities. The PhD candidate will receive two (or three) certificates. The certificate will mention the collaboration with the other university/universities in accordance with Article 30(4).

ARTICLE 32 JOINT DOCTORATE

1. A joint doctorate is a PhD programme in which a PhD candidate obtains a doctorate based on a single doctoral thesis from the University of Twente and from one or two higher education institutions having the right to award doctoral degrees, leading to the issuance of a single joint certificate.
2. In the case of a joint doctorate, a joint doctorate supervision agreement will be concluded prior to the start of the PhD programme based on an existing joint doctorate consortium agreement with one or two universities in the Netherlands or abroad.
3. The joint doctorate consortium agreement must specify how the universities' regulations are aligned. For each PhD candidate, the supervision agreement will include details of the location of the defence ceremony, the composition of the manuscript committee, the names of the promotor and how the supervision of the PhD candidate is to be structured. These details must comply fully with the content and quality requirements of these Regulations and the [Charter for Doctoral Candidates](#), and in principle half but at least a third of the time must be spent at the University of Twente.
4. The title page to be approved by the Doctorate Board Support Office must include the name of the other university/universities. The PhD candidate will receive one certificate bearing the logos of the participating universities and signed by the Rector Magnificus, the secretary of the Committee and the promotor and co-promotor, as well as by the representatives of the institutions involved.

SECTION 8

THE HONORARY DOCTORATE

ARTICLE 33 HONORARY DOCTORATE

1. The Doctorate Board is entitled, on the recommendation of the institutional administration, to award the honorary doctorate to natural persons on the grounds of outstanding merit ([Section 7.19\(2\)](#) of the Higher Education and Research Act).
2. The Doctorate Board will determine in a separate procedure the way in which the recommendation referred to in paragraph 1 will be made, taking due account of the above provisions.



SECTION 9

COMPLAINTS AND DISPUTES

ARTICLE 34 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

1. The provisions of the General Administrative Law Act apply.
2. The Doctoral Regulations do not apply to disputes on legal status.

ARTICLE 35 PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF A COMPLAINT OR DISPUTE DURING THE PHD PROGRAMME

1. PhD candidates can submit complaints about conduct, as referred to in the complaints procedure, to the secretary of the complaints committee.
2. In the event of a dispute, employee PhD candidates and employees conducting doctoral research can submit a petition to the Disputes Committee, as referred to in the [University's disputes procedure](#).
3. If a decision is taken by or on behalf of the Doctorate Board under these regulations, the interested party may lodge a notice of objection with the Doctorate Board. The provision in Article 36 of these Doctoral Regulations applies.



ARTICLE 36 PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF A DISPUTE ON APPROVAL OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

1. If the promotor withholds approval of the doctoral thesis or if a dispute arises following the promotor's approval of the doctoral thesis, the procedure described in this article will apply.
2. The dean of the faculty concerned will mediate in the event of a dispute. If this mediation does not lead to agreement within six weeks, either party may refer the matter to the Rector Magnificus in his or her capacity as a member of the Doctorate Board.
3. The Rector Magnificus may assume responsibility for the mediation or place the matter in the hands of the Doctorate Board, requesting the establishment of a Disputes Committee.
4. This Disputes Committee will consist of three persons, including one member representing each party and a third member appointed by these two members.
5. The Disputes Committee will consult all parties involved and issue its recommendation to the Doctorate Board within four weeks. This recommendation will take account of the specific responsibility of the promotor and the interests of the PhD candidate.
6. The Doctorate Board will take a decision on the dispute no later than six weeks after receiving the advice referred to in paragraph 5. Deviations from the advice will only be made for compelling reasons.
7. The parties involved will be notified of the decision and the reasons for it.

SECTION 10

FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 37 APPLICABILITY OF THE DOCTORAL REGULATIONS

1. In the event of discrepancies between the Charter for Doctoral Candidates and these Doctoral Regulations, these Doctoral Regulations will prevail.
2. These Doctoral Regulations have been translated into English. In the event of a conflict, the Dutch text will prevail.

ARTICLE 38 ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION

1. Changes to the content of the Doctoral Regulations will be adopted by the University's Doctorate Board.
2. These Doctoral Regulations will be published on the University's website.

ARTICLE 39 DEVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE DOCTORATE BOARD

1. In cases not covered by these Regulations or where any article may be interpreted in different ways, the Doctorate Board will have the final decision.
2. In exceptional cases, the Doctorate Board may authorise departures from the provisions of these Regulations. A request to this effect must be submitted in writing and must always include the reasons.

ARTICLE 40 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. These Doctoral Regulations, adopted at the meeting of the Doctorate Board of 17 September 2025, will enter into force on 1 January 2026, simultaneously cancelling the Doctoral Regulations of June 2023.
2. In the case of PhD programmes that started before 1 January 2026 and for which the promotors and co-promotors had been appointed on that date as referred to in Articles 23(1) and 28(1) of the 2023 Doctoral Regulations, the decisions taken on the basis of the 2023 Doctoral Regulations for the appointment of promotors and co-promotors will remain in force.
3. In the case of PhD programmes that started before 1 January 2026 and where the draft doctoral thesis had already been submitted to the promotor on that date as referred to in Article 5 of the 2023 Doctoral Regulations, decisions taken under the 2023 Doctoral Regulations will remain in force.
4. In the case of PhD programmes that started before 1 January 2026 and for which a graduation committee had been established on that date as referred to in Section 7 of the 2023 Doctoral Regulations, decisions taken under the 2023 Doctoral Regulations will remain in force.
5. In the case of PhD programmes that started before 1 January 2026 and where a proposal had been made on that date for the conferral of the doctorate "cum laude" as referred to in Section 4 of the 2023 Doctoral Regulations, decisions taken under the 2023 Doctoral Regulations will remain in force.



TWENTE.



SECRETARIE
RECHTSGANG

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. V.', written over a faint, illegible printed name.

PROFESSOR

SECRETARIE

ANNEX 01

RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACT

SECTION 7.18. CONFERRAL OF THE DEGREES OF DOCTOR OR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY; ADMISSION AND ORGANISATION OF THE DOCTORAL DEFENCE

1. The Doctorate Board of a university, the Open University or a faith-based university is authorised to confer the degrees of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy on the basis of the doctoral defence. The degrees of Doctor and Doctor of Philosophy are equivalent.
2. Admission to the doctoral defence is open to anyone who:
 - a. has been awarded a master's degree in accordance with Section 7.10a(1) or (2); and who
 - b. has written a doctoral thesis or produced a technical design as proof of competence to conduct independent academic research, and
 - c. fulfils the requirements laid down in the Doctoral Regulations referred to in Section 7.19.
3. In special cases, the Doctorate Board may grant persons who fulfil 2b and 2c but not 2a admission to the doctoral defence.
4. For each doctoral defence, the Doctorate Board appoints a promotor. A promotor can be a professor or, insofar the person in question has been awarded the degree of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy, another employee of a university, a faith-based university or the Open University who, in the opinion of the Doctorate Board, has sufficient competence to act as a promotor. The doctoral defence will take place in the presence of this Board or a committee formed by the Board from professors and other persons whom it considers to have sufficient competence to sit on the committee, in accordance with the Doctoral Regulations referred to in Section 7.19.
5. For the application of paragraph 4, endowed professors at a public university will be deemed to be professors of that university.
6. An institution may award the degrees of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy based on a doctoral defence jointly with one or more Dutch or foreign institutions. Paragraphs 1 to 5 apply mutatis mutandis. The institutions may agree separate arrangements to fulfil the provisions of the Doctoral Regulations.

SECTION 7.19. DOCTORAL REGULATIONS; HONORARY DOCTORATE

1. The Doctorate Board will adopt the Doctoral Regulations in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Act. The following matters will be covered by these Regulations:
 - a. the procedure concerning the preparation of the doctoral defence and concerning the doctoral defence itself, including the duties and powers of anyone that is or may be involved in the doctoral defence,
 - b. the provisions regarding the settlement of disputes that may arise in relation to the preparation of the doctoral defence and the doctoral defence itself, and
 - c. where appropriate, the procedure relating to Section 7.18(6).
2. The Doctorate Board is authorised, on the recommendation of the institutional administration, to confer an honorary doctorate on individuals for outstanding merit.

SECTION 7.22. DESIGNATION OF THE DEGREES OF DOCTOR, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY OR DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA

1. Anyone who has been awarded the degree of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy on the basis of the doctoral defence referred to in Section 7.18 or who has been awarded the degree of Doctor honoris causa on the basis of Section 7.19(2) is entitled to use the degree in their name.
2. Anyone who is entitled to use the degree referred to therein in their own name in accordance with the first subsection is also entitled to carry the title of Doctor or Doctor of Philosophy.
3. The degrees referred to in the first subsection will be designated as D or PhD, written after the name. The titles referred to in the second subsection are placed before the name and abbreviated to Dr, or after the name and abbreviated to PhD.
4. The individual concerned will choose between including the degree in his own name, as referred to in the first subsection, and carrying the titles, as referred to in the second subsection.

SECTION 9.10. DOCTORATE BOARD

1. A university has a Doctorate Board consisting of professors.
2. The Doctorate Board hears the views of the Executive Board on the conferral of the degree, as referred to in Section 7.19(2).
3. The Administrative and Management Regulations set out further details of the tasks, composition and method of appointment of the Doctorate Board.

SECTION 9.19. RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF PROFESSORS

1. The staff of the university include at least the professors. The appointment decision will specify the scientific discipline in which the professor's teaching and research duties are to be performed.
2. Professors bear particular responsibility for the development of the scientific discipline assigned to them, as well as for the content of the teaching to be provided in that discipline, without prejudice to the authority of the programme's board, as referred to in Section 9.17.
3. Professors who have been honourably discharged from their duties will retain the right to act as promotors for five years following their discharge.
4. Professors are entitled to use the title of professor. Former professors who have been granted honourable discharge as professors for health reasons, due to voluntary early retirement or after reaching the statutory retirement age applying to public service will also be entitled to use this title.

ANNEX 02

CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING IUS PROMOVENDI FOR NON-PROFESSORIAL STAFF

Adopted by the Doctorate Board on 2 April 2025

This annex describes the criteria and procedure for obtaining *ius promovendi* at the University of Twente as adopted by the Doctorate Board of the University of Twente on 2 April 2025. *Ius promovendi* confers the right to act as a promotor.

The Higher Education and Research Act states: “For each doctoral defence, the Doctorate Board appoints a promotor. A promotor can be a professor or, insofar the person in question has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, another employee of a university, a faith-based university or the Open University who, in the opinion of the Doctorate Board, has sufficient competence to act as a promotor.” (Section 7.18.4)

According to the Higher Education and Research Act, in addition to professors, members of university staff holding doctorates can also be appointed as promotors, provided that the Doctorate Board of the University of Twente considers them sufficiently competent. The Doctorate Board defines ‘capable’ as proven competent in both PhD supervision and research. Therefore, the Doctorate Board states that associate professors (levels 1 and 2), given their senior academic position, extensive experience of education and research, demonstrable leadership qualities and track record in publications and fundraising, meet this requirement. Provided they have a permanent employment contract with the University of Twente, they can therefore obtain *ius promovendi* and be appointed as a promotor. They can also act as academic supervisors for engineering doctorate candidates.

In very exceptional cases, *ius promovendi* can also be granted to experienced assistant professors, level 1, with an employment contract at the University of Twente. Since this is a more junior academic position in which extensive experience of PhD supervision and research cannot be presumed, they must explicitly and demonstrably perform at the level of associate professors with regard to their research, as described in the [Talent Map 3.0](#).

The *ius promovendi* – for associate professors level 1 and 2 and in very exceptional cases for assistant professors level 1 – is awarded for the duration of the employment contract and applies to all future PhD candidates. In order to be appointed as promotors for PhD candidates who have already begun their PhD programme, a reasoned request must be submitted to the Doctorate Board at doctorateboard@utwente.nl.

On termination of employment, *ius promovendi* lapses and existing PhD programmes can only be continued with a new promotor. In the event of employment law objections regarding performance, conduct, attitude or employment relations, or if a person no longer fulfils the criteria for *ius promovendi*, the Doctorate Board may decide to discontinue the appointment of the person concerned as a promotor for new PhD programmes. This is at the discretion of the Doctorate Board, in consultation with University of Twente as the (formal) employer. Prior to this decision, the Doctorate Board will give the person concerned an opportunity to submit his or her view.

Procedure for obtaining *ius promovendi* for level 1 lecturers

In very exceptional cases, experienced assistant professors, level 1, with an employment contract for an indefinite period with the UT, who have demonstrated competence as researchers and as supervisors of PhDs, may be eligible for the *ius promovendi*. The dean or vice-dean for research recommends such lecturers to the Doctorate Board.

The nomination should include a motivated request to obtain the *ius promovendi* of an assistant professor, Level 1. This request must demonstrate that they have extensive experience in PhD supervision and that, regarding their research, they explicitly and demonstrably function at the level of associate professors, as described in the [Talent Map 3.0](#). A recent CV and any other supporting documents should be attached to this request. These documents must be submitted to the registrar of the Doctorate Board at griffiercyp@utwente.nl. The registrar will check whether all required information has been supplied and ensure that the request is discussed at a meeting of the Doctorate Board.

The Doctorate Board evaluates the submitted applications and assesses whether the assistant professor, level 1 meets the criteria for the *ius promovendi*. The registrar will provide feedback and any points for improvement to the prospective promotor. In the event of a negative assessment, a new request can be submitted after one year. In the event of a positive assessment, the Doctorate Board grants *ius promovendi* and records this as an official decision.

Administrative processing

- 1. For associate professors levels 1 and 2, with an employment contract for an indefinite period with the UT, who do not yet have the *ius promovendi*.** The coordinator of professorial appointments prepares a letter. This letter, signed by the rector as chair of the Doctorate Board, informs the staff members it concerns about the immediate granting of the *ius promovendi*, referencing the Doctorate Board's decision. The letter is sent to the staff members in question by the coordinator of professorial appointments. A copy of this letter is shared with the dean and the faculty HR manager, and the granting of the *ius promovendi* is registered in the HR system.
- 2. For newly hired associate professors levels 1 and 2 with an employment contract for an indefinite period with the UT (after the date of this decision).** The coordinator of professorial appointments receives the employment contract from the faculty HR manager and follows the same steps as above.
- 3. For assistant professors, level 1.** The registrar of the Doctorate Board informs the coordinator of professorial appointments when the Doctorate Board has decided to grant the *ius promovendi* to an assistant professor level 1. This coordinator follows the same steps as above.

An up-to-date list of staff members with *ius promovendi* can be requested at any time through the personnel information system. The Doctorate Board determines who has access to this list.

Implementation, communication and evaluation

This policy is implemented by the coordinator of professorial appointments in collaboration with the registrar of the Doctorate Board and the HR managers of the faculties. This includes the preparation of the grant letters, registration in the personnel information system and the updating of the list of staff members with *ius promovendi*. This policy is communicated by email to the faculty deans, vice-deans for research, the coordinator of professorial appointments, HR managers of the faculties, HR Services and through the HR departments in the faculties to all lecturers and senior lecturers. In addition, the policy is shared on the University of Twente website.

This policy will be evaluated by the Doctorate Board at the end of 2026.

ANNEX 03 PRESCRIBED MODEL FOR TITLE PAGES OF A DOCTORAL THESIS

(for English version, see translation of the Doctoral Regulations)

TITLE (CAPITAL LETTERS)

Name

(Page two is blank)

TITLE (CAPITAL LETTERS)

DOCTORAL THESIS

to obtain
the degree of Doctor at the University of Twente,
on the authority of the Rector Magnificus,
Prof. A. Veldkamp,
in accordance with the decision of the Doctorate Board
to be publicly defended
on ...day XXXX (month) 20XX at.....am/pm

by

Name (first names in full)

This doctoral thesis has been approved by:
the promotor ("promotors" if there are two or more):
Prof. (correct title, initials and last name)
the co-promotor ("co-promotors" if there are two or more):
Dr (correct title, initials and last name)

Cover design:
Printed by:
Layout:
ISBN (print):
ISBN (digital):
URL: <https://doi.org/10.3990/1.97890365XXXXX>

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MANUSCRIPT COMMITTEE:

Chair/secretary	(in all cases the dean of the faculty, although he or she may be replaced during the session by another professor)
Promotor	Prof. (University of Twente)
Co-promotor	Dr
Members	Prof. etc.

Indicate for each person the correct title, initials and last name plus affiliation

ANNEX 04

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

Purpose of the author's declaration

The author's declaration is submitted to the manuscript committee as an annex to the draft doctoral thesis, to enable the members to assess the PhD candidate's contribution to the doctoral thesis or to chapters within it. PhD research is a learning process, so the PhD candidate is not expected to do everything completely by himself or herself. For example, the promotor may have conceived the research question, suggested the research approach or suggested improvements to the text. An MSc student may have performed an experiment under the supervision of the PhD candidate. On the basis of the doctoral thesis and the author's declaration, the manuscript committee will assess whether the doctoral thesis demonstrates the PhD candidate's competence to conduct independent academic research.

The author's declaration focuses on the candidate's own contribution

Although it may be necessary to mention other people's contributions to a chapter, particularly if the PhD candidate is not the first author of a chapter, the declaration should focus on the PhD candidate's own contribution. The text is therefore to be written in the first person.

The text should be concise and should not exceed one A4 page, equivalent to around 500 words. If there are authorship statements for chapters that have already been submitted or published as scientific articles, these can be reused in this author's declaration.

Contributions to the various research chapters typically concern the educational question, the methodology, the research and data collection, the data analysis, the creation of tables and figures, the writing of the text and the provision of feedback on these elements. For other sections or other types of research, it may be relevant to describe other aspects in the author's declaration.

The author's declaration also addresses the use of artificial intelligence tools

When including a statement on the use of AI in the author's declaration, it must be made clear whether and for what purpose artificial intelligence tools have been used, for example to improve the text or to generate tables or images. Name the specific AI tools or services used. Indicate that the content has been reviewed and edited, and that full responsibility is assumed for the content of the work. Be transparent about how artificial intelligence tools have been used, for example by listing prompts and applications in footnotes to images. If no artificial intelligence tools have been used, this must also be stated.

Example of an author's declaration

Declaration on the candidate's own contribution

Section 1 Introduction

Example: The research question and the scientific approach were proposed by my promotor in the grant application (Grant provider ref. no. XXX) on the basis of which I was appointed. I refined the research question, described how it fills a gap in the academic literature and described its potential societal impact. I rewrote the text twice following feedback from my promotor and co-promotors.

Section 2

Section 3 title

Example: I proposed the research question and devised the design and execution of the experiment. I supervised BSc student X in carrying out the measurements. I collected the data, conducted the data analysis and wrote the first draft of this chapter. The tables and figures were created by BSc student X under my supervision. My co-promotor X provided feedback on the interpretation of the results. I rewrote the text twice following feedback from my promotor and co-promotors.

Section 4

Section 6 Conclusion

Example: I incorporated the findings from the previous chapters, developed the main points of the conclusion and wrote the discussion. I have also made recommendations for further research and practical recommendations. The promotor and co-promotor provided critical feedback on the content, asked me to refine the scientific impact of the doctoral thesis and made suggestions for streamlining the text. I rewrote the text twice following feedback from my promotor and co-promotors.

Statement on the use of artificial intelligence tools

Example: In the preparation of this work I used Copilot to translate and rewrite the texts and to correct grammatical errors. I also used DALL-E to generate the images. Usage logs, including dates, are available on request.

Or

In the preparation of this work I did not use any artificial intelligence tools.

I take full responsibility for the content of this doctoral thesis:

Name of PhD candidate

Date:

Signature of PhD candidate

ANNEX 05

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

The research data management statement is submitted to the manuscript committee as an annex to the draft doctoral thesis.

The research data management statement below serves as a template and is intended to be supplemented with information specific to the research project.

In this document, the terms research data and research software are used in accordance with the definitions included in the University of Twente policy for [Research Data Management \(RDM\)](#) and [Research Software Management \(RSM\)](#). Secondary research data are pre-existing data, often obtained from sources such as other researchers, public and private institutions, companies, the internet or online databases, including data repositories. Secondary data may also include data collected by the researcher himself or herself, but for a different purpose, or data from other projects within his or her research groups.

Explanatory remarks are shown in *italics* for support purposes and should be deleted from the final version, whereas text in **bold** should be retained without modification.

Example of a research data management statement

This research was conducted in accordance with the applicable ethical standards and relevant national and international legislation and regulations, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), as well as the codes of conduct and policies of the University of Twente.

In accordance with the regulations of the University of Twente, all data and software-related materials on which this doctoral thesis is based will be retained for at least 10 years after completion of the research, unless specified otherwise by legal or contractual restrictions.

1. Storage and sharing of research data and software after the research

This is a mandatory part of the research data management statement and must not be deleted. This describes where the research data, software and any related materials underlying the doctoral thesis are stored and can be accessed. The content should be adapted to accurately reflect the specific characteristics of the research.

Select and adapt the relevant points from the list below depending on the specific research context.

- *If no data or software have been collected, used, reused or generated in all or part of the doctoral thesis, this must be stated explicitly.*
- *If the research is based on existing/secondary data or software, or has generated original research data and/or software, either complete the table below for each relevant research file or provide an equivalent descriptive overview.*

Chapter	Type output	Repository/archival location	Title & version	DOI	Licence	Access conditions*

**If applicable, state the reason for the restriction and/or only archiving.*

2. Ethical and legal considerations

This section contains information on any ethical and/or legal aspects associated with the collected, used and/or generated research data, software or related materials. This may include details concerning, for example, ethical approvals, informed consent, data protection measures and medical device regulations, where relevant.

Select and adjust the relevant points from the list below, depending on the specific research context. Please note: the list below is not exhaustive. Include any other ethical and/or legal considerations relevant to the research in the doctoral thesis.

- *If details of the ethical assessment of all or part of the research (possibly involving humans/animals) are included in the main text of the doctoral thesis, state clearly where.*
- *If all or part of the research has been subject to an ethical assessment, provide the relevant details.*
- *If all or part of the research involved human participants, indicate how the privacy of the participants was guaranteed.*
- *If all or part of the research involved sensitive or confidential data, state the reason and whether access was restricted to authorised persons only.*
- *If all or part of the research involved the development of open-source research software, describe any ethical or legal considerations, as well as the associated licence in connection with compatibility issues.*
- *If the developed research software qualifies as an AI system, include a statement describing the associated risks and compliance requirements, in accordance with the [EU AI Act](#).*

ANNEX 06

MANUSCRIPT COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT FORM

At the University of Twente, draft doctoral theses are evaluated on the basis of five criteria using a standard evaluation form and rubric specifying what the draft doctoral thesis should demonstrate for each criterion. This provides clarity for PhD candidates, supervisors and assessors about what is expected of a doctoral thesis at the University of Twente.

The criteria on which the draft doctoral thesis will be assessed are as follows:

1. Original contribution to the discipline
2. Academic quality of the research chapters
3. Written work meets the standards for national or international academic publication
4. Reflection on the societal and academic relevance of the research as presented in the introduction and general conclusion
5. Quality of the written work

Members of the manuscript committee are asked to assess the draft doctoral thesis with regard to each of the five criteria. In addition, they are asked to explain their assessment for each of the five criteria in 10 to 100 words, comparing the draft doctoral thesis with the rubric descriptions. A draft doctoral thesis may receive different scores for different criteria; for example, it may be rated “unacceptable” for one criterion and “good” for another. If a draft doctoral thesis receives an “unacceptable” assessment for any of the criteria, it is considered indefensible and detailed feedback must be provided to help the candidate revise it.

Anonymised reporting of evaluations

- The anonymised evaluation report will be shared with the supervisory team and the PhD candidate after the defence.
- If the draft doctoral thesis is deemed “unacceptable”, the report will be shared to allow for improvement and revisions.

Recommendations for minor corrections

If the draft doctoral thesis is considered defensible, only minor corrections (grammatical, formatting, etc.) may be suggested. After approval of the draft doctoral thesis, these suggestions will be shared with the PhD candidate and the supervisory team.



Enschede, 24 May 2024
**Marina van Damme
Scholarship 2023**
Shira van Lohuizen MSc.

In Miriam Lubink
Chair Twente University Board
UFS twente university fund
est. 1996

Enschede, 24 May 2024
**Professor de Winter
Award 2023**
Dr. Mariana Belgiu

In Miriam Lubink
Chair Twente University Board
UFS twente university fund
est. 1996

OVERI
A cheque of
€ 5
Presented to
Meike Nau
winner of t
provin

	Unacceptable	Acceptable
1. Original contribution to the discipline	The contribution of the research is negligible. It is either very similar to other existing work or it is trivial.	The contribution is modest. It covers an interesting aspect, but formulates minor and traditional questions that are of interest to those who work in the same discipline, but not outside it.
2. Academic quality of the research chapters See footnotes 1, 2 and 3	<p>The research chapters are incoherent and choices and interpretations are not always convincing.</p> <p>The research chapters do not demonstrate a clear understanding of the core concepts and theories in the discipline.</p> <p>The research chapters do not answer the research questions.</p> <p>Methods are inappropriate or not well used. The analysis is inadequate. Results are not reproducible.</p>	<p>The research chapters are sufficiently coherent and the choices and interpretations are mostly convincing.</p> <p>The research chapters demonstrate a basic understanding of the core concepts and theories in the discipline.</p> <p>The research chapters provide an appropriate answer to the research questions.</p> <p>The methods are appropriate and properly used. The analysis is adequate. Results are reproducible.</p>
3. Written work meets the standards for national or international academic publication	<p>In the case of a collection of articles, the work is not publishable in a peer-reviewed journal or conferences within the discipline. The work is not expected to be cited or to have any academic impact.</p> <p>In the case of a monograph, it is unlikely to be cited or to have any academic impact.</p>	<p>In the case of a collection of articles, the work is publishable in peer-reviewed journals or conferences within the discipline. The work is expected to be cited according to the usual practice in the discipline (or disciplines) concerned and to have an average academic impact.</p> <p>In the case of a monograph, it is likely to be cited according to the usual practice in the discipline (or disciplines) concerned and to have at most an average academic impact.</p>
4. Reflection on the societal and academic relevance of the research as demonstrated in the introduction and general conclusion	<p>There is insufficient explanation of the contribution of the results to existing knowledge (including knowledge of the discipline) or no explanation is provided.</p> <p>There is no convincing explanation of the contribution of this research in societal terms.</p>	<p>There is an adequate explanation of the contribution of the results to existing knowledge (including knowledge of the discipline).</p> <p>The societal relevance is adequately explained.</p>
5. Quality of the written work	<p>Does not write clearly and concisely.</p> <p>The presentation of the tables and figures is unsatisfactory.</p> <p>The draft doctoral thesis is poorly structured, with information often missing or appearing in the wrong place.</p>	<p>Mostly writes clearly and concisely.</p> <p>The presentation of the tables and figures is satisfactory.</p> <p>The main structure of the draft doctoral thesis is correct, but the various sections are not always logically positioned and structured.</p>
6. General assessment	If you consider any of the five criteria to be “unacceptable”, the PhD candidate cannot be permitted to defend the doctoral thesis without significant revision. In that case, you should enter “unacceptable” here.	If “acceptable” is the most common assessment, you should enter “acceptable” here as the overall assessment. If the assessments are evenly spread, you can enter the general assessment that you as the assessor deem most appropriate.

1. The precise criteria for assessing quality may vary depending on the discipline and type of research. Accordingly, quality criteria may relate to the use of theory, research design, data collection and analysis methods, modelling, validation and conclusion. More general quality criteria related to such areas include depth of argumentation, justification of choices, creativity, clarity, depth and level of coherence throughout the work.

2. In the case of a design, assess the originality of the design and its contribution to technology. Assess the candidate’s technological competence, application of design methodologies and analytical and integrative skills.

3. If the research chapters have co-authors, it is important to consider the candidate’s contribution to each chapter, especially if they are not the primary author. For this purpose, an author’s declaration by the candidate has been appended to the draft doctoral thesis.

Good	Excellent
<p>The research makes a substantial contribution to the discipline. It addresses new and relevant questions or offers a new approach that others in the discipline and in other disciplines consider relevant.</p>	<p>The research makes a major contribution to the discipline. It addresses new and highly relevant questions in a brilliant, innovative way or offers a new approach that others in the discipline and in other disciplines consider highly relevant.</p>
<p>The research chapters are highly coherent and convincing, and some parts are innovative and inspiring.</p> <p>The research chapters demonstrate a good understanding of the core concepts and theories in the discipline.</p> <p>The research chapters provide a thorough answer to the research questions.</p> <p>The methods are new, appropriate and properly applied. The analysis is thorough. The results are reproducible.</p>	<p>The research work is highly coherent and convincing, and some parts of it are groundbreaking.</p> <p>The research chapters demonstrate a deep and comprehensive understanding of the core concepts and theories in the discipline.</p> <p>The research chapters provide an extremely thorough answer to the research questions.</p> <p>The methods are new, highly appropriate and very well applied. The analysis is extremely thorough and leaves no relevant aspect uninvestigated. The results are reproducible.</p>
<p>In the case of a collection of articles, the work is publishable in peer-reviewed journals or conferences within the discipline. The work is expected to be cited to a higher degree than usual in the discipline (or disciplines) concerned and to have a higher-than-average academic impact.</p> <p>In the case of a monograph, it is likely to be cited to a higher degree than usual in the discipline (or disciplines) concerned and to have a higher-than-average academic impact.</p>	<p>In the case of a collection of articles, the work is publishable in peer-reviewed journals or conferences within the discipline. The work is expected to be cited to a significantly higher degree than usual in the discipline (or disciplines) concerned and to have a significantly higher-than-average academic impact.</p> <p>In the case of a monograph, it is likely to have a significantly higher-than-usual degree of citation in the discipline (or disciplines) concerned and to have a very high academic impact.</p>
<p>There is a convincing explanation of the contribution of the results to existing knowledge (including knowledge of the discipline).</p> <p>A convincing argument is presented as to why the research is relevant in societal terms.</p>	<p>There is a convincing and original explanation of the contribution of the results to existing knowledge (including knowledge of the discipline).</p> <p>A convincing and original argument is presented as to why the research is societally relevant.</p>
<p>The writing is clear and concise.</p> <p>The layout, tables and figures are functional, clear and error-free.</p> <p>The main structure of the draft doctoral thesis is clear and correct, and almost all sections are well positioned or well structured.</p>	<p>The writing is crystal clear and convincing.</p> <p>The layout, tables and figures are easy to understand, very clear and error-free.</p> <p>The draft doctoral thesis is very well structured, with each chapter and each section having a clear function and being presented in a logical sequence.</p>
<p>If “good” is the most common assessment, you should enter “good” here as the overall assessment. If the assessments are evenly spread, you can enter the general assessment that you as the assessor deem most appropriate.</p>	<p>If “excellent” is the most common assessment, you should enter “excellent” here as the overall assessment. If the assessments are evenly spread, you can enter the general assessment that you as the assessor deem most appropriate.</p>

ANNEX 07

PROTOCOL FOR THE DOCTORAL DEFENCE AND CEREMONY

GENERAL MATTERS

The University strives to provide the most dignified doctoral defence and ceremony possible, in which newly developed ideas and concepts are publicly discussed and defended at a high level, preferably in an international context, between emerging and established academics.

The PhD candidate may be accompanied by a maximum of two paranympths during the ceremony. These ceremonial assistants provide practical support for the PhD candidate, for example by reading out one of the propositions upon request.

ATTIRE

During the doctoral defence, the chair, the promotor, the members and guests of the graduation committee will wear the attire described by protocol. All members of the graduation committee wear a gown and a cap. Under the gown, a white shirt or blouse should be worn with dark trousers, a dark skirt or a dark dress, with dark shoes.

Members of the graduation committee affiliated with a university other than the University of Twente are invited to wear their own gown and cap. The University also makes available a limited number of gowns and caps. Under the gown, a white shirt or blouse should be worn with dark trousers, a dark skirt or a dark dress, with dark shoes.

The attire of the PhD candidate and any accompanying paranympths is expected to reflect the value attributed to the ceremony by the University. The PhD candidate and any paranympths should wear appropriate clothing, preferably a dark suit or tailcoat, formal dark dress or white shirt or blouse with dark trousers or a dark skirt. PhD candidates may wear appropriate traditional dress from their country of origin during the defence.

FORMS OF ADDRESS

The PhD candidate must use the following forms of address:

The chair of the graduation committee (the Rector Magnificus or deputy)	Highly esteemed Rector
Promotor	Highly learned Promotor
Professors in the opposition	Highly learned Opponent
Members / guests holding doctorates	My learned Opponent

CLOSED SESSION OF THE GRADUATION COMMITTEE

The graduation committee meets half an hour before the defence in the Senate Chamber, where the chair explains the procedure and discusses the opposition themes, propositions, time schedule and sequence of the opposition. At 10am, 12 noon, 2pm or 4pm, the chair opens the meeting of the graduation committee.

HALL

The defence starts at 10:30am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm or 4:30pm.

The PhD candidate, any paranympths and the opponents who are not members of the graduation committee take their seats in the front row of the hall.

CEREMONY

The graduation committee makes its way to the hall, preceded by the Beadle (taking the central aisle towards the podium).

After the committee members have taken their seats and the members of the

graduation committee have removed their caps, the Chair opens the public session: *I hereby open this public session of the Doctorate Board of the University of Twente. (Strikes the gavel) I welcome you to the public defence of the doctoral thesis of..... My name is, and I am deputising for the Rector Magnificus today.* The chair then also welcomes the guests of the graduation committee.

Then they ask the PhD candidate, accompanied by the paranymphs, to take their positions behind the lectern and asks the PhD candidate: *"Dear candidate, could you please give us a brief summary of your thesis?"* After the PhD candidate's summary of the doctoral thesis, lasting a maximum of 12 minutes, the chair gives the floor to the first opponent.

The PhD candidate is then called to respond. The Chair then gives the floor to the other opponents in the previously agreed order. The opponent who is speaking dons the cap and keeps it on, even while the PhD candidate is responding to the question. Once the response is sufficient and the Chair deems it to be so, the opponent again removes the cap.

At 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm or 5:30pm, the Beadle announces that the time has elapsed. (*"Geachte rector, de tijd is verstreken"*).

The Chair now invites the PhD candidate to return to his or her seat in the hall, saying: *"I request the candidate and the paranymphs to return to their seats in the hall."*

When the PhD candidate has taken his or her seat in the hall, the chair says: *"I hereby adjourn this public session of the Doctorate Board of the University of Twente."* (Strikes the gavel)

The members of the graduation committee don their caps and leave the hall, preceded by the Beadle.

MEETING

After the graduation committee has decided to confer the doctoral degree, the Beadle prepares the certificate, which is then signed by the chair, the secretary of the committee and the promotors and co-promotors, after which the Beadle makes a record of the signed certificate.

HALL

The committee then returns to the hall, preceded by the Beadle, with the promotor carrying the certificate and the education certificate in the folder intended for that purpose. Everyone sits. The members of the graduation committee keep their caps on. The chair reopens the meeting: *I hereby reopen this public session of the Doctorate Board of the University of Twente.* (Strikes the gavel)

The chair then invites the PhD candidate to come to the committee table: *May I ask the PhD candidate and his (or her) paranymphs to stand at the committee table?*

Standing up, the Chair addresses the PhD candidate as follows: (all others remain seated)

The Doctorate Board of the University of Twente, represented by us, has examined your doctoral thesis/technical design (together with the propositions) and has heard your defence.

In accordance with Section 7.18 of the Higher Education and Research Act, the Doctorate Board has decided to confer upon you the degree of Doctor. I call on the promotor to perform the task with which they have been charged.

The members of the committee stand.

The promotor speaks:

“Under the authority assigned to us by law and on behalf of the Doctorate Board, I grant you (name) the degree of Doctor and all the rights that are attached to this degree. As evidence of this, I present to you this diploma, signed by the Rector Magnificus, the secretary of the graduation committee, the promotor(s) and co-promotor(s), and validated with the seal of the University of Twente.”

The chair then speaks:

“Learned Dr (....name....)

Let me be the first to congratulate you on behalf of the University on the honour you have attained. From now on you have the right to use the title of Doctor. This title implies that society can rely on the quality of your judgement, that you will act with integrity and transparency and that you will communicate independently about the results and societal relevance of your work. Value the doctoral degree as an honourable distinction and a well-deserved prerogative, but always remember the obligations it imposes on you towards the scientific community and society. I have spoken.”

The members of the committee, with the exception of the promotor, take their seats.

There then follows a brief congratulatory speech by the promotor, adapted to the circumstances and lasting a maximum of seven minutes.

The chair asks the new doctor and the paranymphs to return to their seats in the hall:
May I request the new doctor and his (or her) paranymphs to take their seats in the hall?

The chair makes a final housekeeping announcement regarding the order of exiting the hall: The new doctor, paranymphs, family in the front row, other family members and other guests will leave the lecture hall by the central aisle, preceded by the Beadle.

Finally, the chair closes the ceremony with the words:

I hereby close this public session of the Doctorate Board of the University of Twente.
(Strikes the gavel)

ANNEX 08 ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE CERTIFICATE

TRANSLATION OF THE DOCTORAL CERTIFICATE:

THE DOCTORATE BOARD OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE BY VIRTUE
OF ITS AUTHORITY UNDER THE DUTCH
LAW ADMITS

<Name>

born on <date>, in<place, country>

to the degree of Doctor, equivalent to Doctor of Philosophy,
pursuant to "*de Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek*"
(the law on Higher Education and Scientific Research), articles 7.18 and 7.22

having heard the defence on<date> of the thesis entitled:

<Title>

Chair of the Doctorate Board,

.....<signature>

Enschede, <date>

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