

## Online participation in PhD defence ceremonies

*Regulations established by the Doctorate Board, dated 26 June 2025*

PhD defence ceremonies are, in principle, held on-site and require the physical presence of all parties involved, in accordance with the UvA Doctorate Regulations.

- The defence ceremony will take place at a location determined by the Doctorate Board of the University (Article 32, paragraph 2);
- The doctoral candidate supervisor(s) and co-supervisor(s), members of the doctorate committee, possible guest opponents and the chairperson are all required to attend the ceremony (Article 35, paragraph 2,4, 6).

### Online participation in PhD defence ceremonies

In exceptional cases, online participation in the defence ceremony is possible. The Doctorate Board has laid down the following provisions and conditions.

#### *Online participation by the doctoral candidate (fully online defence)*

Only in highly exceptional circumstances may the doctoral candidate participate remotely.

Examples of such circumstances include: serious illness, hindering personal matters, (travel) restrictions due to the situation in the candidate's home country, in all cases of a severe and lengthy nature, or in case of force majeure.

In case an online ceremony is desired, the supervisor must submit a reasoned request to the dean as early as possible, and no later than one week in advance in the event of a sudden and qualifying situation. Upon approval, the dean will submit the request to the Doctorate Board for ratification ([CvP-bb@uva.nl](mailto:CvP-bb@uva.nl)).

When the candidate participates remotely (from a different location), the on-site ceremony will be cancelled. The defence will take place entirely online, and all parties involved must participate remotely.

#### *Online participation by supervisor or co-supervisor*

The supervisor or co-supervisor may participate online in the case of illness or hindering personal matters, in both cases of a severe and lengthy nature, or in case of force majeure.

*Online participation by members of the doctorate committee*

A member of the doctorate committee may participate online in the following cases:

- Serious illness or hindering personal circumstances, in both cases of a severe and lengthy nature, or in case of force majeure.
- When residing outside of the Benelux. In allowing this, the UvA seeks to balance the importance of physical presence with its commitment to sustainability and the reduction of unnecessary travel

As a rule, guest opponents may not participate online, as they are invited to replace a physically absent committee member to ensure the presence of at least five members during the ceremony. Online participation by a guest opponent can solely be allowed in cases of force majeure.

A request for online participation by a supervisor, co-supervisor, or committee member must be well-motivated and submitted in a timely manner, no later than 24 hours before the ceremony, to the beadle, with the chair of the ceremony and the faculty contact person in cc.